

MINUTES



CITY COMMISSION BUDGET WORKSHOP

Wednesday, August 5, 2020, 9:00 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER - Acting Mayor (A/Mayor) Green called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

Deputy City Clerk Patricia Staples called the roll. Present were A/Mayor Tom Green, Commissioner Julie Carson, Commissioner Gary Resnick, and Commissioner Paul Rolli. Also in attendance were Assistant City Manager Pamela Landi and City Attorney Kerry Ezrol.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - None.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Assistant City Manager Pamela Landi provided a presentation on the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic on Wilton Manors, as well as the steps staff is taking to mitigate that impact. A copy of the full report is posted on the City's website.

Assistant City Manager Landi reviewed a list of updated Broward County information:

- The County curfew has expired
- Circumstances in which facial coverings are required or excepted
- Broward County demographics of COVID-19 cases
- Case data per ZIP codes 33305 and 33311, with no demographic information available
- Government data on the number of cases in Wilton Manors, which remain relatively stable at approximately 250

Assistant City Manager Landi also reviewed operational impacts:

- Operations are substantially but temporarily affected when potential exposure occurs, as the exposed employee must self-quarantine
- While City Hall remains closed to the public, essential operations are ongoing
- City Parks are open for passive use, although no programming is available
- The City has collaborated with neighboring municipalities for food distribution at Mills Pond Park, now with primarily volunteer support rather than Staff support
- Code Compliance is working to enforce social distancing, sanitation, and facial covering guidelines, including night and weekend hours; the team has also visited vacation rental

properties to ensure compliance with Emergency Orders

- The Broward County Code Enforcement team is assisting the City in ensuring compliance, and the State Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco has assisted on some nights as well
- Complaints regarding violations may be submitted to the County Enforcement Website and the violation- resolutions can be reviewed there

The City has spent approximately \$52,000 related to COVID-19 through July 2020. The City now has access to two sources of federal funding:

- Emergency supplemental funding from the State, for which the City has submitted an application for reimbursement of \$52,000
- Broward County allocation of \$102 million, or 30%, of the total \$341 million the County received from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act for municipal programs; distribution methodology was determined by a County Task Force

The funding methodology of CARES Act dollars falls into four categories:

- Public health expenses
- Payroll expenses
- Compliance facilitation expenses
- Economic support

The Economic Support category includes roughly \$5 million for non-entitlement cities such as Wilton Manors, based upon a formula established for the distribution of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. Programs will go before the Broward County Board of County Commissioners in late August or early September 2020. Congressman Ted Deutch and the National League of Cities are advocating for direct funding to cities in the next supplemental funding bill. This category of funding will address new programs for residential, rental/mortgage, and small business assistance.

Regular messaging across all City platforms has been robust since the beginning of the pandemic. E-blasts have increased to three times per week to ensure dissemination of the most up-to-date information to residents and other stakeholders. The City website has a page dedicated to coronavirus information. The top three performing platforms during the pandemic have been E-blasts, Twitter, and Facebook. In addition to digital messaging, information is also posted in the *Town Crier*, and “Code Red” calls are made under certain circumstances.

Commissioner Resnick noted that with minor exceptions, the Broward County School Board has determined schools will reopen virtually rather than in-person. He requested that when the City receives information on these plans, it is relayed to residents. It was clarified that charter schools may decide for themselves regarding the resumption of classes online or in person. The City will request information on the charter school’s status as well.

Commissioner Resnick asked if the schools are continuing a grant program that provides funding for School Resource Officers (SROs), as classes are being held virtually. Assistant Chief of Police Gary Blocker advised that this contract has not yet been signed, although the Police Department plans to place an SRO in Wilton Manors Elementary School, where a number of

students with special needs will be in attendance. He will seek additional information from the SRO Chief.

Commissioner Resnick requested an update on a lawsuit filed against the City and other parties regarding closures. City Attorney Kerry Ezrol reported that the plaintiff's attorney has advised that they will seek damages. Representatives of the Governor's Office and Broward County appeared at the hearing to defend their Emergency Orders. The litigation is expected to continue.

Commissioner Carson requested additional information on the economic support available to Broward municipalities for the creation of new programs. Assistant City Manager Landi advised this is a total of \$5 million to be distributed among 19 entitlement cities. It will be distributed in the same fashion as CDBG funds.

A/Mayor Green noted that while no complaints in Wilton Manors were listed among County citations, one business was closed for 24 hours. Assistant City Manager Landi advised that complaints may be submitted using Broward 3-1-1, the County Enforcement Website, the non-emergency Police line, or the City's website.

Code Compliance Supervisor Julio Davila further explained that specific violations are labeled as resolved for cities that do not issue citations. If a business has been closed, these are identified on the website dashboard as resolved.

The Commissioners agreed by consensus to meet every two weeks in workshop format to further discuss business related to the pandemic.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 a.m.

These minutes were approved by the
City Commission on Tuesday, October 13th, 2020.


Faith Lombardo, City Clerk

10/20/20
Date Signed