

Orlando City Council - Workshop  
Council Chambers, City Hall  
400 South Orange Avenue  
April 18, 2016

In attendance:

Mayor Buddy Dyer  
Commissioner Jim Gray, District 1  
Commissioner Tony Ortiz, District 2  
Commissioner Robert F. Stuart, District 3  
Commissioner Patty Sheehan, District 4  
Commissioner Regina I. Hill, District 5  
Commissioner Samuel B. Ings, District 6  
Mayanne Downs, City Attorney  
Amy Iennaco, Interim City Clerk  
Police Officer Joseph Lundy, Sergeant at Arms  
Police Officer Christopher Realin, Sergeant at Arms

Mayor Buddy Dyer called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. and asked Chief Assistant City Attorney Kyle Shephard to start off the 2016 Legislative Session Review Workshop. Mayor Dyer also recognized State Representative Mike Miller, District 47, for his important contributions many of this session's successes for the City of Orlando.

Mr. Shephard reviewed the number of bills filed, passed by both chambers and vetoed by Governor Scott. Mr. Shephard indicated that funding for the downtown UCF/Valencia campus was the City's and Intergovernmental Relations Director Kathy Russell's top legislative priority. With support and assistance from Kathy DeVault, City Director of Strategic Partnerships, the legislative team was successful in securing \$20,000,000 in state funding for the campus. Other successes for the City during the session included securing \$5,000,000 in funding for phase II of Dr. Phillips Performing Arts Center, \$283,333 for Parramore Kidz Zone and \$10,000,000 in funding for the Florida Communities Trust with such funding designated to be used for urban parks throughout Florida, not only in Orlando.

Mr. Shephard also gave several examples of attempted preemption of local government regulations that failed to pass the legislature through education efforts of the City's legislative team and other local governments. He also noted one preemption that did pass regarding use of polystyrene materials which the City was able to amend to allow us to control its use in our own parks and venues.

Commissioner Regina I. Hill left the meeting at 10:08 a.m. and returned at 10:10 a.m..

John Wayne Smith of Peebles-Smith provided an overview of the budget adopted by the legislature. Mr. Smith also noted the funding for education, mental health, Florida Communities Trust, and SHIP allocations.

Robert Stuart, Jr. of GrayRobinson reported on economic development related funding from this year's session. Mr. Stuart led a discussion including questions from Commissioners regarding the future of Enterprise Florida given its failure to get the funding it had requested for quick action closing funding.

Representative Mike Miller outlined his successful legislative efforts regarding homelessness, including unanimous passage through the Florida House of a bill regarding the Florida Housing Finance Corporation. The legislation has several advantageous changes including changing formulas based on population and allowing for more localized control on use of funds and allowing 25% of SHIP funds to be used for rent to help prevent families from becoming homeless. Mayor Dyer thanked Rep. Miller for his leadership.

Chris Dudley from Southern Strategy Group outlined what happened on transportation in the 2016 legislative session. Mr. Dudley noted that for the third year in a row, the House of Representatives passed a red light camera repeal bill, but it did not pass the Senate. He predicted the same issue will arise again next session. Similarly, he said that no bills passed regarding Uber, but that topic is also likely to return next session. A bill modifying the Central Florida Expressway Authority passed overwhelmingly. Specifically, the ownership of the roads will remain with the CFEA even after the bonds have been paid off. Mr. Dudley also highlighted a major Florida Department of Transportation bill that passed which will save an estimated \$75,000,000 as well as encouraging small business development through participation in FDOT projects. Another transportation bill altered allowable spending of state infrastructure banks to include natural gas as well as roads, included Chloe's law (by regarding placement of roadside barriers), and megacycles among other topics.

Former Florida Speaker Dean Cannon of Capitol Insights spoke concerning three specific utility related pieces of legislation. Successes included keeping the status quo regarding payment of utility relocation costs, defeat of a bad bill which would have made Florida municipal power agencies subject to PSC regulation and impaired their ability to purchase wholesale power and protecting their information technology from public records disclosure.

Sean Pittman spoke concerning gaming. This was the first year that any gaming legislation was voted out of committee. The bill in question took on several forms over the course of the session and ultimately did not pass. Mr. Pittman noted how helpful Senator Thompson was in passing Lynx-related legislation.

Commissioner Regina I. Hill thanked all the presenters and spoke passionately about her interest in a bill that did not pass this year that would prevent disclosure of the names of witnesses to murders and felonies. Commissioner Hill asked for the support of the Council and the legislative team in getting it passed next session.

Commissioner Patty Sheehan agreed that the witness bill should be prioritized, especially given the as yet unsolved murder this past weekend in Orlando's Parramore neighborhood. Comm. Sheehan also explained why polystyrene is a big deal for our environment, especially the lakes that she sees during her clean-ups with EcoAction.

Commissioner Robert Stuart praised Rep. Miller on his efforts on obtaining more money for homelessness and specifically preventing homelessness. Comm. Stuart asked several questions of the legislative team regarding the allocation of funding for housing and use of Sadowski funds. Commissioner Stuart also thanked the team for its efforts to obtain the downtown UCF/Valencia campus funding this year.

Commissioner Samuel B. Ings also thanked the team for its presentation and thanked Rep. Miller for his efforts on behalf of our community. Commissioner Ings asked a question regarding funding for the movie industry. Mr. Robert Stuart Jr. indicated that a bill for additional funding for it did not pass, so for now, the status quo is in effect for the movie industry. Rep. Miller agreed that it is a very important industry and noted that he had filed a funding bill.

Mayor Dyer thanked the entire legislative team for their presentations and at 11:08 a.m. the Workshop was adjourned.

Amy T. Iennaco, Interim City Clerk