

Orlando City Council - Workshop
Council Chambers, City Hall
400 South Orange Avenue
April 9, 2012

In attendance:

Mayor Buddy Dyer
Commissioner Phil Diamond, District 1
Commissioner Tony Ortiz, District 2*
Commissioner Robert F. Stuart, District 3**
Commissioner Patty Sheehan, District 4
Commissioner Daisy W. Lynam, District 5
Commissioner Samuel B. Ings, District 6
Mayanne Downs, City Attorney
Alana C. Brenner, City Clerk
Officer Eddie Rosado, Sergeant at Arms

*Commissioner Ortiz entered the meeting @ 10:11 a.m.

** Commissioner Stuart left the meeting at 10:58 a.m.

Mayor Dyer called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. The subject of the workshop was Legislative Update. The Mayor introduced Kathy Russell, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, who introduced the lobbying team members as they presented their specific topics as outlined below.

Mr. Shawn Pittman discussed the state budget, redistricting, gaming legislation, PIP reform, prison privatization, University of Florida self-insurance and secondary metal recyclers legislation. Mr. Pittman also introduced Mr. Philip Singleton, who was also present from his office. Next, Mr. Bill Peoples complimented the expert work of Kathy Russell and reiterated how fortunate the City is to have her on staff. He then reviewed tax issues including a bill that would have eliminated the local business tax, a bill exempting online travel companies from paying tourist development tax (TDT), and an attempt to create a super homestead exemption. All of these were defeated. He also explained changes were passed regarding the communication service tax and this will result in a modest reduction in revenues to governments. Finally, he discussed attempts to sunset Community Redevelopment Authorities (CRAs) and the inclusion of two Florida Health Science Incubators in the state budget.

Ms. Russell then acknowledged Oscar Anderson of Southern Strategies who was present in the audience and she then introduced Mr. Chris Dudley who covered transportation issues including red light cameras, Expressway consolidation, regional transportation authority and the Department of Transportation package. Finally, Mr. Robert Stuart, Jr. discussed urban administration issues including proposed changes to firefighter pensions, ticket scalping, the Neighborhood Improvement district bill, and economic development issues.

At approximately 10:59 a.m., Mayor Dyer opened up the session for questions and discussion ensued. The workshop was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Alana C. Brenner, City Clerk