Pinellas County

333 Chestnut Street, Palm Room
Clearwater, FL 33756

Minutes - Final

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

2:00 P.M.

Hybrid In-Person and Virtual Regular Meeting

Public Hearings at 6:00 P.M.

Board of County Commissioners

Brian Scott, Chair
Dave Eggers, Vice-Chair
René Flowers
Chris Latvala
Vince Nowicki
Kathleen Peters
Chris Scherer

ROLL CALL - 2:02 P.M.

Present: 7 - Commissioner Brian Scott, Chair Dave Eggers, Commissioner René Flowers, Vice-Chair Chris Latvala, Commissioner Vince Nowicki, Commissioner Kathleen Peters, and Commissioner Chris Scherer

Others Present: Barry A. Burton, County Administrator; Jewel White, County Attorney; Derelynn Revie, Board Records Manager; and Tammy Burgess, Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION by Commissioner Peters

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Commissioner Nowicki

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

1. Citizens To Be Heard - Public Comment.

Timothy Ewing, Largo (spoke on behalf of others in attendance)
Mary Jo Santoro, Largo
Darryl Henderson, Largo
Ron Walker, Largo
David Ballard Geddis, Jr., Palm Harbor
Harley Baker, Largo
Greg Pound, Largo

During public comment, and in response to a query by Commissioner Latvala, Mr. Ewing provided brief comments regarding a County permit application, which was filed in April for trimming and maintenance of mangroves near the Shipwatch Yacht and Tennis Club in Largo; whereupon, he described various challenges related to the application process. Responding to comments and queries by Mr. Ewing, Mr. Burton indicated that the permit application has been dormant since September; and that Deputy County Administrator Jill Silverboard and Public Works Director Kelli Hammer Levy are available to provide clarity regarding the permit application.

CONSENT AGENDA - Items 2 through 24 (Item Nos. 15, 18, and 22 addressed under Regular Agenda)

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Commissioner Latvala, that the Consent Agenda items be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Scott, Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

2. Minutes of the regular meeting held October 21, 2025.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

3. Vouchers and bills paid from October 26 through November 15, 2025.

Period - October 26 through November 1, 2025
Accounts Payable - $55,176,597.15
Payroll - None

Period - November 2 through November 8, 2025
Accounts Payable - $69,595,936.36
Payroll - $4,936,890.58

Period - November 9 through November 15, 2025
Accounts Payable - $16,708,759.62
Payroll - $11,615.69

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

Reports received for filing:

4. Quarterly Donation Listing of $1,000 or Greater for the quarter ending September 30, 2025, Resolution No. 21-117/Donation Policy.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

5. State of Florida Constitutional Officer Financial Report for 2024-2025 - Pinellas County Tax Collector, Post TD.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

6. Division of Inspector General, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, Report No. 2025-24 dated November 6, 2025 - Follow-up Investigation of Certificate of Occupancy Issuance.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

Miscellaneous items received for filing:

7. Tampa Bay Water 2026 Board Meeting Schedule.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

8. City of Tarpon Springs Ordinance No. 2025-12, annexing certain property.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

9. Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement and Affidavit of Authenticity for the Palm Harbor Special Fire Control & Rescue District for the purpose of providing insurance through Public Risk Management of Florida.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

Convention and Visitors Bureau

10. Ranking of firms and agreement with Destination Analysts d/b/a Future Partners for the development and implementation of integrated destination marketing research studies.

(Contract No. 25-0744-RFP) Ranking of firms and agreement approved in the total not-to-exceed amount of $5,500,000.00. Agreement is effective for six years with an annual not-to-exceed amount of $916,666.67.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

County Administrator

11. Receipt and file report of non-procurement items delegated to the County Administrator for the period ending November 30, 2025.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

Fleet and Asset Management

12. Award of bid to Global Montello Group Corp, Petroleum Traders Corporation, Port Consolidated, Inc., and Pro Energy LLC for requirements of gasoline and diesel fuel - a Tampa Bay Area Purchasing Cooperative contract.

Bid No. 25-0541-ITB awarded to Global Montello Group Corp, Petroleum Traders Corporation, Port Consolidated, Inc., and Pro Energy LLC in the not-to-exceed County total amount of $36,258,426.00 on the basis of being the lowest responsive and responsible bidders according to line item or group. Contract term is for 36 months.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

Public Works

13. Award of bid to Southern Road & Bridge, LLC for the Federal Open Channel Drainage repair work order contract.

Contract 25-0537-ITB-C awarded to Southern Road & Bridge, LLC in the amount of $11,482,110.00 on the basis of being the lowest responsive, responsible bidder. All work to be completed within 365 consecutive calendar days.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

14. Award of bid to EarthBalance Corporation for Pinellas County dune planting services.

Contract No. 25-0933-ITB awarded to EarthBalance Corporation in the total not-to-exceed amount of $2,069,971.20, for a 12-month term, on the basis of being the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. Bids from Alpha Omega Group Logistics LLC and Gulfside Improvements LLC were rejected due to lack of demonstrated project experience and failure to submit pricing, respectively.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

16. Ranking of firms and agreement with SePRO Corporation for Joe's Creek Stream Restoration Utilizing Phosphorus Mitigation and Realtime Variable Rate Injection and Monitoring Systems.

(Contract No. 25-0875-RFP) Ranking of firms and agreement approved in the not-to-exceed contract value of $901,840.00, effective for 880 calendar days.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

17. Amendments to the agreement with DRMP, Inc., H.W. Lochner, Inc., HDR Engineering, Inc., Kisinger Campo & Associates, Corp., and Atkins North America, Inc., for the Bridges and Structures - Professional Engineering Consulting Services.

(Contract No. 190-0018-CN) Amendments approved, increasing the contract amount by $5,000,000.00 for a revised not-to-exceed expenditure of $15,000,000.00, effective through January 25, 2028.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

19. First Amendment to the Purchase Authorization with Vortex Services LLC for pipe bursting videoing and assessment.

(Contract 25-0606-PB) Amendment approved, increasing the contract amount by $600,000.00 for a revised total contract amount of $850,000.00, effective through January 31, 2027.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

Utilities

20. Award of bid to Engineering Inspections and Restoration Services LLC and SAK Enterprises Inc. for flood barriers.

Contract No. 25-0689-ITB awarded to Engineering Inspections and Restoration Services LLC and SAK Enterprises Inc. in the total not-to-exceed amount of $385,427.52, for a 12-week term, on the basis of being the two responsive and responsible bids received meeting specifications. Bids from Best Home Protection Windows and Doors Inc. and Garrison Systems, LLC were rejected on the basis of being non-responsive to the bid requirements.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

21. Award of bid to Kamminga & Roodvoets, Inc. for the construction of the Keller Water Treatment Plant 60” Valve Insertion.

(PID No. 005224A) Contract No. 25-0681-ITB-C awarded to Kamminga & Roodvoets, Inc. in the amount of $2,774,280.00 on the basis of being the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. All work to be completed within 270 consecutive calendar days.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

23. Maintenance agreement and statement of assurances related to the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program application with the Florida Division of Emergency Management for the replacement of eight emergency backup power generators to critical pump stations.

Agreement and statement approved, as outlined in the Staff Report. Total project costs are estimated to be $2,359,905.11. County match is $589,976.28.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

24. Receipt and file report of civil lawsuits filed against Pinellas County as delegated to the County Attorney.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

REGULAR AGENDA

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

15. Ranking of firms and agreement with Kisinger Campo & Associates, Corp. for Professional Engineering Services for McMullen Booth Road Bridge North Bound Off-Ramp Over Lake Tarpon Outfall Canal.

(Contract No. 25-0196-RFP-CCNA) Ranking of firms and agreement approved in the amount of $2,102,553.13. Agreement is effective for 1,825 days from issuance of Notice to Proceed from the County.

In response to queries from Commissioner Eggers, Public Works Director Kelli Hammer Levy indicated that since the engineer of record must be available during construction to answer questions from the contractor, the contract term needs to extend from design through construction.

18. First Amendment to the Purchase Authorization with Insituform Technologies, LLC for Rehabilitation Services for Sanitary Sewer Mains and Stormwater Mains.

(Contract No. 25-0597-PB) Amendment approved, increasing the contract amount by $2,000,000.00 for an estimated annual average expenditure of $871,000.00 and a revised total contract amount of $2,250,000.00. Contract is effective through April 2, 2028.

In response to queries from Commissioner Eggers, Public Works Director Kelli Hammer Levy provided details regarding the contract amount increase, which is needed to finance lining for corrugated metal pipes within the unincorporated County area.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Eggers, seconded by Commissioner Nowicki, that Item Nos. 15 and 18 be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Scott, Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

Airport

25. Ranking of firms and agreement with Finfrock Enterprises, LLC d/b/a Finfrock Construction, LLC for the new St. Pete-Clearwater Airport parking garage-professional design-build services.

(Contract No. 25-0708-RFQ-DB) Ranking of firms and agreement approved in the amount of $3,109,487.76. Agreement is effective for 27 months from issuance of Notice to Proceed from the County.

At the request of Commissioner Eggers, Interim Airport Director Mark Sprague provided information regarding the need for additional parking at St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport, the proposed construction of a parking garage, and the timeline for construction. Responding to a query by Commissioner Eggers, he confirmed that the parking garage should be available for use by the end of 2027.

In response to a query by Commissioner Latvala, Mr. Sprague also briefly discussed other parking areas at the Airport which could accommodate more supply if additional parking space is needed in the future.

Responding to comments by Commissioner Nowicki, Mr. Burton provided brief comments regarding the proposed parking garage and indicated that it will increase parking by 30%;

whereupon, in response to queries by Commissioner Scherer, Mr. Sprague provided information regarding the location of on-site employee parking.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Eggers, seconded by Commissioner Scherer, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Scott, Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

Building and Development Review Services

26. Amendments to the agreements with HR Green, Inc., Joe Payne, Inc. d/b/a JPI, and Willdan Engineering for Building and Development Review on-call services for the Building and Development Review Services department.

(Contract No. 23-0482-P) Amendments approved, extending the term of the agreements for 24 months and increasing the contract amount by $2,400,000.00 for a revised total contract amount of $7,100,000.00, as outlined in the Staff Report.

A motion was made by Commissioner Nowicki, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Scott, Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

27. Resolution relating to extending the waiving of double the normal building permit fee and floodplain permit fee for storm reconstruction and repair through June 30, 2026.

Resolution No. 25-139 adopted, extending the waiving of double the permit fee for building permits and construction in a floodplain within the unincorporated County and communities of Belleair Beach, Belleair Shore, Indian Rocks Beach, Oldsmar, Kenneth City, and Safety Harbor, submitted from December 31, 2025, through June 30, 2026, for after-the-fact permits for work already commenced or completed on properties directly or indirectly damaged by Hurricanes Helene or Hurricane Milton, subject to conditions as stated in the Staff Report.

Responding to a query by Chair Scott, Building and Development Review Services Director Kevin McAndrew indicated that the number of homeowners applying for after-the-fact permits has nominally increased; and that staff will continue to send mail correspondence to homeowners regarding the benefits of acquiring an after-the-fact permit, which include household safety and compliance and potential eligibility for reimbursement of up to $50,000.00 for home repair costs.

A motion was made by Commissioner Latvala, seconded by Commissioner Nowicki, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Scott, Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

Construction and Property Management

28. Sale of surplus land at McMullen Booth Road and Kapok Kove Drive in Clearwater to Savoy LLC.

Approval granted for a Contract for Sale and Purchase to sell vacant land to Savoy LLC, with a sale price in the amount of $16,163.00, regarding vacant land at the southwest corner of McMullen Booth Road and Kapok Kove Drive in Clearwater, execution of a County Deed to the buyer at closing, and acceptance by the County of a Utility and Drainage Easement from the buyer at closing.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Eggers, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Scott, Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

Convention and Visitors Bureau

29. Capital Project Funding Agreement with the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, Inc. for renovations to the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, including a request for milestone payments.

Agreement approved, providing funding in an amount not to exceed $6,050,000.00 and granting the Clearwater Marine Aquarium's request for milestone payments, which requires a waiver of the Capital Projects Funding Program guidelines. Agreement is effective for three years from date of execution by the County. Construction is anticipated to commence no later than September 30, 2026.

A motion was made by Commissioner Nowicki, seconded by Commissioner Peters, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Scott, Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

30. Revision to the Fiscal Year 2026 Elite Event Funding Recommendations from the Tourist Development Council.

Revised recommendation approved to fund 49 events through the Fiscal Year 2026 Elite Event and Destination Enhancement Funding Program, for a revised total program amount of up to $2,755,000.00, as outlined in the Staff Report.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Commissioner Latvala, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Commissioner Scott, Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

Nay: 1 - Commissioner Nowicki

Emergency Management

31. Resolution adopting the 2025 Pinellas County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

Resolution No. 25-141 approved, adopting the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, per the requirements of Florida Administrative Code 27P-6.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Eggers, seconded by Commissioner Peters, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Scott, Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

Fleet and Asset Management

32. Purchase authorization for requirements of heavy and light duty vehicles and equipment pursuant to the pricing of each cooperative contract.

(Contract No. 26-0025-PB) Purchase authorization approved in the total not-to-exceed amount of $7,929,964.58.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Scott, Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

Human Services

33. Funding Agreement with Suncoast Center, Inc. for the Sexual Assault Victim Examination program.

Agreement approved, increasing the hourly rate for on-call forensic staff from $3.50 to $33.33 and providing continued program funding in an amount not to exceed $340,120.00 for Fiscal Year 2026.

Responding to a comment by Chair Scott, Mr. Burton briefly explained the rationale for the hourly rate increase and noted that the members approved funding for the program as part of the Fiscal Year 2026 budget.

In response to queries by Commissioner Eggers, Human Services Director Karen Yatchum provided a brief overview of the long-standing agreement with Suncoast Center, Inc. and the program’s funding history, indicating that staff did not request bids with regard to the program since Suncoast is the only provider of these services in the community.

Commissioner Latvala referenced a backlog in rape kits reported by Suncoast in previous years, which required the agency to request assistance from other entities, and questioned whether it has improved; whereupon, Ms. Yatchum indicated that it has improved; and that the hourly rate increase will assist with preventing position vacancies, which was one of the reasons for the backlog.

Responding to comments and queries by Chair Scott, Ms. Yatchum, with input from Mr. Burton, provided clarifying information regarding other funding sources for the program and indicated that the Juvenile Welfare Board is providing additional funding; that Suncoast is allocating additional fundraising monies to the program; and that since Suncoast has now applied for federal grants, it is possible that the program may require less County funding than the proposed amount. She also related that Suncoast's CEO is meeting with several municipalities to determine if they could assist with funding; and that the Juvenile Welfare Board may be able to provide additional funding.

A motion was made by Commissioner Nowicki, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Scott, Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

22. Ranking of firms and agreements with fourteen firms for the requirements of the Utilities Professional Engineering Services 2026-2031.

Item directed back to legal staff for further review regarding appropriate language.

Deviating from the order of the agenda, Mr. Burton indicated that while this item was approved by the Board as part of the Consent Agenda, the item must be removed since it requires further review by legal staff due to a change in Florida Statute.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Nowicki, for the item to be directed back to legal staff for further review. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Scott, Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

Management and Budget

34. Agreement with The Gordian Group Inc. for Job Order Contracting consultant services.

(Contract No. 26-0001) Agreement approved in the amount of $2,500,000.00 over a 60-month term, with two 60-month term extension options, if exercised by the parties.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Eggers, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Scott, Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

35. Third Amendment to the agreement with Smith Industries Inc. d/b/a Smith Fence Company for the requirements of fencing, gate operators, and handrails.

Contract No. 23-0054-ITB) Amendment approved, increasing the contract amount by $1,000,000.00 for a County-revised not-to-exceed contract amount of $3,790,868.20 and revising the combined County and Cooperative not-to-exceed expenditure to reflect $11,330,691.20. Contract effective through February 12, 2027.

In response to a query by Commissioner Eggers, Mr. Burton provided details regarding the original contract amount and subsequent increases; whereupon, Office of Management and Budget Director Chris Rose indicated that the increase in the contract amount is based on anticipated needs.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Nowicki, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Scott, Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

Parks and Conservation Resources

36. Resolution dedicating a portion of County-owned West Klosterman Preserve as public right-of-way.

Resolution No. 25-142 adopted, dedicating a portion of County-owned property known as West Klosterman Preserve as public right-of-way for West Klosterman Road.

In response to a query by Commissioner Eggers, Deputy County Administrator Jill Silverboard referenced a map of the area and provided clarifying details regarding the portion of West Klosterman Road that will transition from being County-owned to a public right-of-way.

A motion was made by Commissioner Nowicki, seconded by Vice-Chair Eggers, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Scott, Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

Public Works

37. Resilient Florida grant agreement with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for the Joe's Creek Restoration and Greenway Trail project.

(PID No. 004116A) Agreement approved, providing grant funding in the amount of $27,911,500.00. Required County match is $27,911,500.00.

A motion was made by Commissioner Nowicki, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Scott, Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

Utilities

38. First Amendment to the agreement with Mead & Hunt, Inc. for construction administration and inspection services associated with the Mobile Home Communities Federally Funded Project 3.

(Contract No. 24-0576-RFP-CCNA) Amendment approved, increasing the contract amount by $267,150.00 for a revised not-to-exceed expenditure of $681,030.00, effective through December 27, 2026.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Latvala, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Scott, Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND COUNCILS

Business Technology Services

39. Amendment to the purchase authorization with Insight Public Sector Inc. for technology products and services.

(Contract No. 23-0909-PB) Amendment approved, extending the purchase authorization through April 30, 2028, and increasing the contract amount by $3,066,670.00, for a revised not-to-exceed expenditure of $6,666,670.00.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Commissioner Peters, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Scott, Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

40. Ranking of firms and agreement with Guidehouse Inc. for Workday Enterprise Resource Planning software implementation.

(Contract No. 25-0953-RFP) Ranking of firms and agreement approved in the total not-to-exceed expenditure of $5,670,000.00 for the duration of the 24-month agreement.

In response to a query by Commissioner Eggers, Office of Management and Budget Director Chris Rose provided clarifying details regarding the contract expenditure, indicating that two factors which impacted the amount were that staff defined the scope more clearly and increased the contingency for owner-directed funds from 15% to 30%.

A motion was made by Commissioner Nowicki, seconded by Commissioner Peters, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Scott, Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

Countywide Planning Authority

41. Countywide Plan Map Annual Update 2025

Resolution No. 25-143 adopted, accepting the amended Countywide Plan Map, as recommended by Forward Pinellas, in its role as the Pinellas Planning Council, and the Planners Advisory Committee. An official record copy of the amended Countywide Plan Map will be filed with the Clerk.

Commissioner Eggers referenced a statement from the State which indicated that industrial land is available for the construction of affordable housing and questioned whether the Countywide Plan Map reflects that new capability; whereupon, Mr. Burton provided clarifying information regarding this item and indicated that he will provide an update once he has consulted with Forward Pinellas Executive Director Whit Blanton.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Scott, Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

Human Resources

42. Application for excess/stop loss with United HealthCare Insurance Company.

Contract No. 25-0926-P approved for a 12-month contract value of $1,676,427.00, with a service start date of January 1, 2026.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Scott, Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

43. Change Order No. 1 with Cigna Health and Life Insurance Company for requirements of dental benefits.

(Contract No. 21-0179-RFP) Change order approved, increasing the contract amount by $2,500,000.00, for a 60-month revised expenditure of $14,655,000.00, effective through December 31, 2026.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Commissioner Peters, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Scott, Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

44. Change Order No. 1 with Express Scripts Inc. for requirements of prescription drug benefits.

(Contract No. 21-0180-P) Change order approved, increasing the contract amount by $22,000,000.00, for a 60-month total contract value of $90,000,000.00, effective through December 31, 2026.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Scott, Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

COUNTY ATTORNEY

45. Proposed settlement in the case of Logan Hart v. Pinellas County; Circuit Civil Case No. 25-004777-CI.

Settlement approved in accordance with the confidential memorandum dated December 16, 2025.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Vice-Chair Eggers, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Scott, Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

46. County Attorney Reports - None

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

47. County Administrator Reports

<u>Storm Recovery Update</u>

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation, Building and Development Review Services (BDRS) Director Kevin McAndrew indicated that he will be discussing after-the fact permitting, changes to further support recovery efforts, and staff's enforcement approach; whereupon, he provided statistical information regarding the number of storm repair permits issued since October 2024 and noted that the majority of permits were issued between November 2024 and May 2025, which was facilitated by the Board's approval of waiving building permit fees.

Mr. McAndrew also provided statistical information regarding after-the-fact permitting, including that staff has issued 225 Construction in a Floodplain Permits for mobile homes, which was largely facilitated through on-site outreach meetings held at the manufactured home communities most impacted by the storms; whereupon, in response to a query by Chair Scott, Mr. McAndrew confirmed that residents living in manufactured homes would only apply for a Construction in a Floodplain Permit if their home is located in a regulated floodplain.

Thereupon, Mr. McAndrew discussed the following actions aimed at further supporting recovery efforts:

- Extend the compliance date for substantially damaged structures from June 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026.
- Allow residents living in manufactured home communities, which are located in a regulated floodplain, to place a recreational vehicle on the lot for up to 180 days as a form of transitional housing.
- Extend the County's existing agreement with the Pinellas County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller's Office, which pertains to the floodplain appeals process, through September 30, 2026.
- Extend waiving double the normal permit fee associated with after-the-fact permits through June 30, 2026.

Mr. McAndrew related that the extension of waiving double the normal permit fee was already approved by the Board during today's meeting; whereupon, he also noted that, within the past year, approximately 150 manufactured homes and 100 single-family homes have been demolished and removed, which brings the homes into compliance with their initial substantial damage determinations.

Mr. McAndrew referred to a timeline associated with permitting compliance and indicated that staff's approach thus far has focused primarily on reinforcing the benefits of compliance and leveraging the waiving of double the normal permit fees; and that staff intends to send a letter in February which will contain a stronger tone and may also include photos taken during the substantial damage inspection. He related that, beginning in June 2026, a more traditional approach to enforcement will be utilized, which may involve placing holds on parcels within the County's permitting portal; and that the hold would require affected property owners to obtain after-the-fact permits prior to making any future improvements to their homes or structures.

<u>Departure of Executive Assistant and Hiring of New Administrative Assistant</u>

Mr. Burton indicated that his current Executive Assistant, Michelle Curtis, is vacating her position and will be replaced by Courtney Vandenburg.

COUNTY COMMISSION

48. Appointments to the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council (Board of County Commissioners as a whole).

Sitting as the Emergency Medical Services Authority, the Board approved the appointments of Chief Doug Zimmerman as the EMS Chief's primary representative and Chief Mike Carpenter as the EMS Chief's alternate representative, for terms beginning December 2025 and ending November 2027.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Latvala, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Scott, Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

49. Reappointments/appointments to the Emergency Medical Services Medical Control Board (Board of County Commissioners as a whole).

Sitting as the Emergency Medical Services Authority, the Board approved the following appointment and reappointments for two-year terms:

Appointment:

- Dr. Robyn Ache as the Physician primary representative for the Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society for a term ending November 2027

Reappointments:

- Dr. Jennifer Pearson as the C.W. Bill Young Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center representative for a term ending December 2027

- Brent Burish as the Hospital Administrator primary representative for HCA Florida Pasadena Hospital for a term ending December 2027

- Ralph "Rocky" Ricapito as the Hospital Administrator alternate representative for HCA Florida Pasadena Hospital for a term ending December 2027

- Dr. Anthony Ottaviani as the Physician alternate representative for the Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society for a term ending November 2027

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Nowicki, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Scott, Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

50. Appointments to the Feather Sound Community Services District, Inc. (Individual appointments by Commissioners Eggers, Flowers, Latvala, Nowicki, Peters, and Scott).

The Board approved the following reappointments for one-year terms beginning on January 1, 2026, and ending on December 31, 2026:

- Mary Trombitas - Commissioner Eggers
- William A. Wynne - Commissioner Flowers
- Kevin Chambers - Commissioner Latvala
- William Mitchell - Commissioner Nowicki
- Ryan Andrews - Commissioner Peters
- Harold Holland - Commissioner Scott

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Nowicki, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Scott, Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

51. Appointment to the Historic Preservation Board (Individual appointment by Commissioner Eggers).

Joseph Vars reappointed for a term of three years beginning on January 1, 2026, and ending on December 31, 2028.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Nowicki, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Scott, Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

52. Appointments to the Historic Preservation Board (Board of County Commissioners as a whole).

Following a ballot vote, James Bachteler reappointed as an alternate for a three-year term beginning on January 1, 2026, and ending on December 31, 2028, and J.C. Pritchett appointed as an alternate to fill a current term expiring on December 31, 2026.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Latvala, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Scott, Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

53. Appointments to the Lealman Community Redevelopment Area Advisory Committee (Board of County Commissioners as a whole).

Jennifer L. Post, Kim Blessinger, and Dominic C. Howarth reappointed for three-year terms beginning on January 1, 2026. Tahisia Scantling appointed to fill a current vacancy expiring on December 31, 2026.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Latvala, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Scott, Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

54. Appointment to the Pinellas County Historical Commission (Individual appointment by Commissioner Scott).

Dr. Catherine Wilkins appointed to fill a current vacancy set to expire on November 16, 2026. Appointment will begin on the day of approval.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Scott, Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

55. Appointment to the Unified Personnel System Board (Board of County Commissioners as a whole).

Following a ballot vote, Kenneth B. Peluso reappointed for a two-year term beginning on January 1, 2026.

56. Appointment to the Value Adjustment Board (Board of County Commissioners as a whole).

Following a ballot vote, Frank Makowski reappointed for a two-year term beginning on January 1, 2026, and ending on December 31, 2027.

Deviating from the agenda, Commissioner Eggers indicated that his appointee to the Local Planning Agency will be stepping down at the end of the year; whereupon, he nominated Joseph Oliveri to fill the vacancy. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Flowers and carried unanimously.

57. County Commission New Business:
Pertinent and timely Committee/Board updates, policy considerations, administrative/procedural considerations, and other new business:

- Approval of the 2026 Bulk Proclamations
- Approval of the County Administrator’s Annual Review

<u>2026 Bulk Proclamations</u>

Proclamations approved, as outlined in the attachments to the Staff Report.

<u>County Administrator’s Annual Review</u>

County Administrator’s Annual Review approved, including that Mr. Burton will receive the same raise as all County staff, retroactive to the date of issuance.

A motion was made by Commissioner Nowicki, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, that the proclamations and the County Administrator's Annual Review and raise be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Scott, Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

Commissioner Scherer

- One-year anniversary of himself and Commissioner Nowicki being elected
- Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Commissioner Latvala

- Appreciation to everyone for their prayers

Commissioner Peters

- Ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Wendover Art Group facility expansion
- Tampa Bay Estuary Program Policy Board meeting
- Gulf Consortium meeting
- Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority meeting

Commissioner Nowicki

- Holiday poem
- Appreciation to Commissioners and staff for their great work

Commissioner Flowers

- Hillsborough/Pinellas Workforce Development Consortium
- Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council meeting
- Clearwater for Youth’s Winter Wonder Social
- Human Rights Board
- Downtown Palm Harbor Christmas Parade
- Lealman Christmas Tree Lighting
- Upcoming Lealman Honey & Arts Festival
- Upcoming meeting with the White House’s Domestic Policy Council
- Florida Association of Counties Legislative Day
- Area Agency on Aging of Pasco-Pinellas
- Horus Academy Impact Awards
- The Woodson African American Museum of Florida Holiday Open House and Christmas Tree Competition
- Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc. - Zeta Upsilon Omega Chapter's 70-year celebration
- Upcoming ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Clearwater Free Clinic facility
- City of St. Petersburg City Council meeting
- Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Commissioner Eggers

- Recognition of Pinellas County food pantries for their work during the holiday season
- Annual Mayors' Breakfast hosted by the Mayors of Safety Harbor and Oldsmar
- Pinellas Trail 35th Anniversary celebration and recognition of former Pinellas County Administrator Fred E. Marquis
- Holiday parades hosted by the Cities of Tarpon Springs, Palm Harbor, Dunedin, and Safety Harbor
- 2025 Annual Ozona Holiday Golf Cart Parade
- Tampa Bay Transportation Management Area Leadership Group
- AmSkills One Day Hire Workshop at Infinity Controls, Inc.
- Metropolitan Ministries' Pinellas Holiday Tent at Holy Cross Catholic Church in St. Petersburg
- Welcoming back Commissioner Latvala
- Appreciation to Executive Aide Stacy O'Donnell for her hard work
- Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas

Chair Scott

Chair Scott referenced a recent meeting with Juvenile Welfare Board (JWB) Interim Chief Executive Officer Michael Mikurak and indicated that Mr. Mikurak requested the Board's consent with regard to the County being listed as a no-cost partner for the JWB's new Parent Pro-Tech program; whereupon, Chair Scott confirmed that there is a consensus to allow Pinellas County to be listed as a no-cost partner.

- Meeting with Duke Energy
- Meeting with University of South Florida Assistant Vice President of Government Relations Lauren Hartmann regarding electric bicycle safety
- Tour of Wendover Art Group
- Video shoot with adoptable dogs from Pinellas County Animal Services at the Lake Tarpon Canal Bridge
- Sales mission to Germany with Visit St. Pete-Clearwater staff
- Conversations and upcoming meeting with the United States Army Corps of Engineers
- Appreciation to Congresswoman Anna Paulina Luna's Chief of Staff Bill Christian regarding efforts related to the Army Corps of Engineers
- Pinellas County Animal Services' canine/Commissioner photo shoot
- Appreciation to Executive Aide Coleen Chaney regarding her hard work
- Appreciation to the members for their support
- Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Thereupon, Commissioner Eggers briefly discussed Board and Committee appointments for 2026, which he previously provided to the members, and noted that the appointments must be approved. In response to comments by Chair Scott, Commissioner Eggers indicated that he plans to review the potential elimination of the Commissioners serving on the Health and Human Services Leadership Board.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Chair Scott, that the Board and Committee appointments for 2026 be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Scott, Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

Commissioner Eggers expressed appreciation to Chair Scott regarding his service as Chair and highlighted several of Chair Scott's accomplishments over the past year. He also emphasized Chair Scott's passion for promoting the adoption of dogs and cats and presented Chair Scott with a check for $540.00, which will go toward the Pinellas County Animal Welfare Trust; whereupon, Animal Services Director Jennifer Renner provided brief comments regarding the purpose of the Animal Welfare Trust Fund and expressed appreciation to Chair Scott for initiating the canine/Commissioner photo shoots.

Meeting Recessed: 4:22 P.M.

Meeting Reconvened: 6:00 P.M.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

All public hearing items have been properly advertised. Affidavits of Publication have been received and are on file in the Board Records Department.

AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND COUNCILS

Countywide Planning Authority

58. Case No. CW 25-08 - City of Clearwater
Countywide Plan Map amendment from Retail & Services to Public/Semi-Public, regarding 0.70 acres more or less, located at 2201 Main Street

Ordinance No. 25-26 adopted, approving Case No. CW 25-08. Forward Pinellas, in its role as the Pinellas Planning Council, and the Planners Advisory Committee recommended approval of the amendment. No correspondence has been received. No citizens appeared to be heard.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Eggers, seconded by Commissioner Latvala, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Scott, Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

59. Case No. CW 25-09 - City of Dunedin
Countywide Plan Map amendment from Retail and Services to Residential Low Medium, regarding 0.53 acres more or less, located at 1050 Main Street.

Ordinance No. 25-27 adopted, approving Case No. CW 25-09. Forward Pinellas, in its role as the Pinellas Planning Council, and the Planners Advisory Committee recommended approval of the amendment. No correspondence has been received.

Upon the Chair's call for public comment, Jonathan Damonte, Largo, appeared, indicated that he is the attorney for Golden Acres Mobile Home Park, and provided background information regarding the requested amendment.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Eggers, seconded by Commissioner Nowicki, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Scott, Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

60. Case No. LDR-25-01 (First Public Hearing)
An ordinance of Pinellas County, Florida, providing for the amendment of the Pinellas County Land Development Code, Chapter 138, Article II and Chapter 154, Articles I and V amending the platting requirements to come into compliance with Chapter 177 Florida Statutes.

First public hearing held. No correspondence has been received. No citizens appeared to be heard.

61. Case No. LDR-25-02 (First Public Hearing)
An ordinance of Pinellas County, Florida providing for the amendment of the Pinellas County Land Development Code, Chapter 138 - Zoning and Chapter 166 - Environmental and Natural Resource Protection to more effectively regulate the county's tree permitting process, and revise tree replant and landscaping requirements for residential and commercial properties.

First public hearing held. No correspondence has been received. No citizens appeared to be heard.

62. Case No. ZON-25-02 (Twin City MHC, LLC)
A request for a zoning change from RMH, Residential Mobile/Manufactured Home to RM, Multi-Family Residential on approximately 8.94 acres located at 10636 Gandy Boulevard in unincorporated St. Petersburg. (Quasi-Judicial).

Resolution No. 25-144 adopted, approving Case No. ZON-25-02. The Local Planning Agency recommended approval of the request, and staff concurred. No correspondence has been received.

Upon the Chair's call for public comment, Erin Roth, Clearwater, appeared and expressed concerns.

Mr. Burton clarified that while the proposed change would modify the subject property's zoning, the number of allowable units on the subject property would not increase. Responding to a comment by Chair Scott, he also clarified that the zoning change does not increase the density of the subject property; whereupon, in response to comments and queries by Commissioner Peters, Mr. Burton indicated that the property has a history of flooding; that the applicant would be required to meet all current floodplain standards; and that the Board is not approving a development agreement at this time.

In response to a query by Commissioner Flowers, Mr. Burton also provided brief comments regarding staff's efforts to assist with relocating mobile home residents from the subject property.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Commissioner Nowicki, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Scott, Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

63. Amendment by resolution supplementing the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget recognizing unanticipated fund balance, recognizing unanticipated revenue, and realigning reserves for requesting departments.

Resolution No. 25-145 adopted, realigning reserves and recognizing unanticipated revenue for requesting departments, as outlined in the Staff Report. No correspondence has been received. No citizens appeared to be heard.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Eggers, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Scott, Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

64. Resolution amending the West Bay Drive Community Redevelopment District Plan as requested by the City of Largo.

Resolution No. 25-146 adopted, amending the West Bay Drive Community Redevelopment District Plan, as outlined in the Staff Report. No correspondence has been received. No citizens appeared to be heard.

A motion was made by Commissioner Latvala, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Scott, Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

65. Proposed amendments to Chapter 14, Pinellas County Code-Restoration of Definitions, Enhancement of Retail Pet Sales Oversight, Modification of Public Nuisance Animal Reporting, and Modernization of Impoundment Protocols During Emergencies and Disasters.

Ordinance No. 25-28 adopted, as amended, approving the amendments to Chapter 14 of the Pinellas County Code, with the caveat that the ordinance must be brought back to the Board within six months. Nine emails and one voicemail in support and one email of concern have been received by the Clerk.

Upon the Chair's call for public comment, the following individuals appeared and provided brief comments:

Patricia Kirby, Clearwater
Crystal DiJoseph, Lutz
Michelle Anaya, St. Petersburg
Hahley Love, Largo
Alexandria Julian, Largo (spoke on behalf of others in attendance)
Sarah Mitchell, Clearwater

Animal Services Director Jennifer Renner referenced a PowerPoint presentation and summarized objectives for the proposed amendments to Chapter 14 of the Pinellas County Code. She noted that "retail pet sales" includes pet dealers, kennels, and hobby breeders. She also provided background information regarding the process utilized for researching and developing the proposed amendments and related that stakeholder meetings were held with retail pet store owners, animal rescues, licensed veterinarians, and local leadership from the Florida Animal Protection and Advocacy Association; whereupon, Ms. Renner provided details regarding the following proposed amendments to Chapter 14-29 of the Pinellas County Code:

Inspection and Housing Updates

- Increase unannounced permit inspections to two each year.
- Require that a minimum of 50% of flooring in puppy kennels is solid.

Protocols and Transparency

- Require protocols for veterinary care, disaster plans, enrichment, and sanitation.
- On each kennel, display Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (OCVI) and Pet Lemon Law information for consumer awareness.

Reporting Enhancements

- Monthly points of sale and OCVIs will be uploaded digitally on the County SharePoint site.
- Animal transport lists will be submitted to Animal Services on a monthly basis.
- Puppy deaths must be reported within three days; a necropsy will be required if no veterinary care is provided.

Enforcement Authority Pertaining to Cruelty or Neglect Violations

- Citations can be written to the maximum allowable fine of $500.00.
- An immediate seven-day permit suspension will be issued for cruelty/neglect citations.
- Officer will follow up within three days; the pet dealer permit can be reinstated as soon as compliance is reached.
- Suspension is renewable for an additional seven days for non-compliance or disease risk.

Thereupon, in response to comments and queries by the members, Ms. Renner, with input from Mr. Burton, provided information regarding various topics, including the following:

- Types of violations that would prompt a permit suspension
- Consequences and steps taken regarding administrative violations
- Length of time between unannounced visits
- Process for issuing a neglect violation
- Appeal process for permit revocations
- Standards regulating non-profit animal welfare organizations

Ms. Renner indicated that, while working to revise Chapter 14, staff identified other areas requiring modernization in order to assist with streamlining operations and to better serve residents; whereupon, she related that staff is recommending the restoration of definitions to Section 14-26 that were accidentally removed during a revision in 2022; and that staff is also recommending the addition of two new definitions pertaining to photographic and video documentation.

Ms. Renner provided information regarding current language in Section 14-30, which relates to public nuisance reporting and reviewed proposed changes, indicating that existing complex timeframes for reporting a noise violation would be removed; and that, instead of requiring two affidavits from two separate households in order to report a noise violation, staff is recommending that the Board allow a single affidavit and accompanying video or photo documentation.

Thereupon, Ms. Renner reviewed staff's final recommendations, which pertain to disaster impoundment practices under Section 14-48, and related that the practices are followed when the County is under a Local State of Emergency. She indicated that staff is recommending the establishment of a standard 14-day hold for all animals impounded during disasters; and that staff is also recommending the elimination of the 120-day adoption return clause; whereupon, she noted that the clause has never been invoked.

Responding to comments and queries by the members, Ms. Renner discussed various topics, including the process for investigating complaints made against pet stores, inspections of private animal rescues, and regulations and standards of care for non-profit animal welfare organizations.

Following brief discussion, Attorney White indicated that section (j) on page nine of the proposed ordinance states “If a permit holder under this section receives an unsatisfactory inspection or an ordinance violation, a permit may be suspended or revoked”; and that striking “or an ordinance violation” from the ordinance would alleviate concerns expressed by Commissioner Peters regarding the potential for a permit to be suspended due to an administrative violation.

Referring to concerns expressed by Commissioner Nowicki regarding the timeline for Special Magistrates to review appeals for permit revocations, Attorney White cited Chapter 2 of the Pinellas County Code and indicated that it states that a Special Magistrate’s findings shall be transmitted to the respondent and the enforcing department within ten business days.

In response to queries by Commissioner Peters, Attorney White confirmed that the County does not have a policy regarding abuse of reporting. She indicated that there is a State statute that qualifies filing a false report, in writing, as a second-degree misdemeanor; and that she would like to research the topic of false reporting via telephone prior to drafting an ordinance; whereupon, Commissioner Eggers made a motion to approve the ordinance with the changes previously discussed by Attorney White.

Responding to comments by Commissioner Eggers, Attorney White noted that staff suggested that the County could require complaints to be made in writing, since that would allow the aforementioned statute to be applied in cases of false reporting; and that she would like to first confirm if there is any conflict with State law; whereupon, in response to a query by Commissioner Latvala regarding whether the Board could stipulate that complaints must be made by Pinellas County residents, she indicated that the Board could direct staff to accept all complaints, but to give greater weight to complaints submitted by Pinellas County residents.

In response to a query by Commissioner Peters, Attorney White indicated that she would like to perform additional research regarding State law which pertains to the process for filing complaints regarding Code Enforcement matters.

Commissioner Peters indicated that she would like to see a proposal brought back to the Board, within six months, which reflects parity with animal shelters and rescues. Following brief discussion, Mr. Burton noted that staff will conduct research to determine if there are State-level regulations which would prohibit the County from regulating animal shelters and rescues at the local level; whereupon, Ms. Renner clarified that Animal Services inspects complaints and has written citations for Pinellas County-based animal rescues and non-profit animal welfare organizations; and that staff can perform research regarding any complaints of which they may not be aware.

Responding to a query by Commissioner Nowicki, Ms. Renner confirmed that Animal Services can implement the proposed changes to Chapter 14 while staff continues to conduct research; whereupon, Commissioner Nowicki seconded the motion and indicated that he agrees with Commissioner Peters' suggestion for the ordinance to be brought back before the Board within six months. In response to comments by Commissioner Peters, Commissioner Eggers clarified that he supports bringing the ordinance back in six months; and that he agrees with discussing the number of pet stores currently allowed to operate in Pinellas County.

A motion was made by Commissioner Eggers, seconded by Commissioner Nowicki, that the item be approved, as amended, with the caveat that the ordinance be brought back within six months. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Commissioner Scott, Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

ADJOURNMENT - 7:54 P.M.

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Chair

ATTEST: KEN BURKE, CLERK

By____________________________
Deputy Clerk