

Pinellas County

*Pinellas County Cooperative Extension
12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo*



Minutes - Final

Tuesday, February 9, 2021

9:30 A.M.

Hybrid In-Person and Virtual Regular Meeting

Board of County Commissioners

*Dave Eggers, Chair
Charlie Justice, Vice-Chair
Rene Flowers
Pat Gerard
Janet C. Long
Kathleen Peters
Karen Williams Seel*

ROLL CALL - 9:35 A.M.

Present: 7 - Chair Dave Eggers, Vice-Chair Charlie Justice, Rene Flowers, Pat Gerard, Janet C. Long, Kathleen Peters, and Karen Williams Seel

Others Present: Barry A. Burton, County Administrator; Don Crowell, Assistant County Attorney; Kat Carpenter, Board Records Manager; and Amelia Hanks, Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION by Reverend J.C. Pritchett, Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, St. Petersburg.**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE****PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS****1. Black History Month Proclamation:**

St. Petersburg Metropolitan Section of The National Council of Negro Women, Inc.

- Ethel Peeples Robinson, President

NAACP St. Petersburg Branch # 5130

- Esther Eugene, President

Clearwater Upper Pinellas County NAACP

- Zeb Atkinson, President

Advantage Village Academy

- Toriano Parker, President

Commissioner Flowers read a proclamation declaring February 2021 as Black History Month; whereupon, Mses. Eugene and Robinson and Mr. Atkinson expressed their appreciation.

2. Engineers Week Proclamation:

- John Carpenter, PE, Engineer 2, Public Works

- Jenelle Ostrowski, PE, Engineer 3, Utilities

Chair Eggers invited Mr. Carpenter and Ms. Ostrowski to the podium and related his own experience as an engineer; whereupon, he read a proclamation recognizing the week of February 21 through February 27, 2021 as Engineers Week, and Mr. Carpenter and Ms. Ostrowski thanked the Board for the recognition.

3. Partner Presentation:

- Chris J. Knox, PE, ENV SP, President of Florida Engineering Society - Pinellas Chapter, Project Manager/Senior Drainage Engineer Cardno

Referring to a PowerPoint Presentation titled *Florida Engineering Society Pinellas Chapter Engineer's Week Proclamation*, Mr. Knox provided information regarding the Florida Engineering Society - Pinellas Chapter's efforts to involve students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) through competitions and clubs in local high schools; whereupon, Chair Eggers provided input.

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

4. Case No. CW 21-01 - City of Tarpon Springs
Countywide Plan Map amendment from Residential Low Medium to Public/Semi-Public, regarding 2.82 acres more or less, located at 324 East Pine Street, 424 North Ring Avenue, and 395 North Grosse Avenue.

Ordinance No. 21-03 adopted approving Case No. CW 21-01. Forward Pinellas, in its role as the Pinellas Planning Council, recommended approval of the amendment, and staff concurred. No correspondence has been received. No citizens appeared to be heard.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

5. Case No. CW 21-03 - City of Tarpon Springs
Countywide Plan Map amendment from Resort to Residential Low Medium, regarding 8.61 acres more or less, located approximately 400 feet southwest of the intersection of Anclote Road and Marina Drive.

Ordinance No. 21-04 adopted approving Case No. CW 21-03. Forward Pinellas, in its role as the Pinellas Planning Council, recommended approval of the amendment, and staff concurred. No correspondence has been received. No citizens appeared to be heard.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY

6. Local State of Emergency.

Mr. Burton introduced the item, indicating that Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County Director Dr. Ulyee Choe would be providing a brief update regarding trends in COVID-19 and the vaccine rollout.

Dr. Choe provided metrics used to measure the impact of COVID-19 in the county and related that hospitals have ICU bed availability; that there is a decrease in COVID-19 patients altogether; that 94,550 individuals in Pinellas County have been vaccinated as of February 9, 2021; that the fire and paramedic teams are distributing 10,000 vaccines a week; that the County is partnering with pharmacies to provide vaccinations; and that the County is working to get messaging to the community; whereupon, Mr. Burton provided input.

In response to queries by the members, Dr. Choe indicated that once individuals register for the vaccine, they will not have to reregister; that there are many sites that provide first and second doses; that staff will investigate if the vaccine is given freely to everyone when a pharmacy is located inside a store requiring membership; that the vaccine is given on a sequential basis to those older than 65; that there are options for those who need to register for the vaccine but do not have internet access; and that private practices that wish to administer the vaccine may email staff if there are any questions regarding the timeline, and discussion ensued.

Upon call by the Chair for public comment, the following individuals expressed their opinions:

Dawn Bohler, St. Petersburg
Greg Pound, Largo

In response to query by Chair Eggers, Dr. Choe provided an update regarding the development of vaccines, and Emergency Medical Services Medical Director Dr. Angus Jameson related that in the United States, over 41 million doses of the vaccine have been administered with over nine million people having received both doses.

A motion was made by Commissioner Seel, seconded by Commissioner Long, that the order extending the Local State of Emergency be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

Resolution No. 21-10 adopted extending the Local State of Emergency established in Resolution No. 20-16 until 3:00 P.M. on February 19, 2021.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

7. Citizens To Be Heard - Public Comment.

Mack Johnson, Largo
Nancy Obarski, Indian Rocks Beach
Greg Pound, Largo
David Ballard Geddis, Jr., Palm Harbor

Bruce Rumble, Clearwater
Scott Bressler, Clearwater
Tony Kvedar, Clearwater

CONSENT AGENDA - Items 8 through 13

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Long, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

- 8. Minutes of the hybrid in-person and virtual regular meeting held November 17, 2020.
- 9. Vouchers and bills paid from January 3 through January 16, 2021.

Period: January 3 through January 9, 2021

Accounts Payable - \$78,667,846.13

Payroll - \$4,043,766.93

Period: January 10 through January 16, 2021

Accounts Payable - \$13,296,234.62

Payroll - None

Reports received for filing:

- 10. Division of Inspector General, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, Report No. 2020-27 dated December 31, 2020 - Inspector General's Observation of the Office of Technology and Innovation's Annual Physical Inventory of Fixed Assets.

Miscellaneous items received for filing:

- 11. City of Pinellas Park notice of public hearing held January 14, 2021, regarding proposed Resolution No. 21-01, vacating certain property.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTSPublic Works

12. Award of bid to Suncoast Development of Pinellas County, Inc. for the 49th Street at 38th Avenue North Intersection Improvements project.

Contract No. 21-0043-CP (PID No. 000958A) in the amount of \$1,176,249.90 awarded on the basis of being the lowest responsive, responsible bid received meeting specifications. All work to be completed within 300 calendar days. Chair authorized to sign the agreement and the Clerk to attest.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

13. Notice of new lawsuit and defense of the same by the County Attorney in the case of Tracy Weber v. Pinellas County; Circuit Civil Case No. 20-005834-CI-19 - allegations of negligence resulting in personal injuries.

REGULAR AGENDA

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA - None.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTSAdministrative Services

14. Resolution granting status to Florida Digital Amateur Radio Network for donation of surplus personal property.

Resolution No. 21-11 adopted granting authorization to Florida Digital Amateur Radio Network to receive surplus donations for personal property.

In response to query by Commissioner Seel, Facilities and Real Property Division Director Andrew Pupke related that the organization helps to provide emergency communications during natural disasters through an indirect affiliation with Emergency Management.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

15. Honorary and Philanthropic Naming Rights Policy.

Mr. Burton related that there are three renaming requests to be discussed which involve Fred G. Minnis, former State Attorney Bernie McCabe, and Phillippe Park in Safety Harbor; and that staff is looking to the Commissioners for guidance on the matter; whereupon, Commissioner Peters expressed a desire to name the Pinellas County Justice Center after Mr. McCabe due to the letters of support received.

Commissioner Flowers indicated that she would like the renaming requests to be sent to a naming committee separate from the County Commission for discussion; that guidelines should be established to determine naming decisions in the future; and that she has concerns regarding the naming of the entire Pinellas County Justice Center after a prosecutor; whereupon, the members discussed the following topics:

- Possible alternative options to honor someone's legacy other than naming a building, such as naming certain rooms, establishing a Hall of Fame, or memorializing the individual's service in a book
- Eligibility requirements within the Honorary Naming Rights Policy
- Naming the Justice Center after both Mr. McCabe and former Public Defender Bob Dillinger in order to represent both sides of the justice system
- Taking more time to discuss the naming policy as a Board
- Public correspondence received regarding the naming requests
- Establishment of a naming rights committee
- Having the naming rights discussion in a workshop
- The Commissioners' personal relationships with Mr. McCabe
- Mr. McCabe's work in Pinellas County

In response to the suggestion by Chair Eggers and consensus by other members, Mr. Burton indicated that he would schedule a time for the Board to discuss the three naming requests at a workshop, and the commissioners provided input. Mr. Burton suggested that the March 4, 2021 meeting would be the best time to have the discussion so that the Board could vote on the matter at an April meeting.

Upon call by the Chair for public comment, the following individuals expressed their opinions:

Danielle Weaver-Rogers, Largo
Jason Minnis, Brooklyn, New York
Bruce Bartlett, Clearwater

Meeting Recessed: 11:44 A.M.

Meeting Reconvened: 12:14 P.M.

Emergency Management

16. Memorandum of Understanding with the Pinellas County School Board to provide Capital Improvement Program funding for the hurricane shelter retrofitting of pre-identified Pinellas County Schools.

Memorandum of Understanding approved in an amount not to exceed \$1,568,373.00 of the \$1,785,000.00 total Fiscal Year Capital Improvement Program funding allocated to the project under Emergency Sheltering Project No. 004180A.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

Human Services

17. Subrecipient Funding Agreement with Operation PAR, Inc. for the Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Site-Based Program grant.

Agreement approved providing COSSAP grant funding to Pinellas County in the amount of \$1,194,663.00, with an approximate annual expenditure of \$398,221.00. Grant originally awarded in October 2020. No County match is required.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

Public Works

18. Grant agreement with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for funding in support of the Philippe Park Seawall Enhancement project through the National Coastal Resilience Fund.

NFWF NCRF Agreement No. 0318.20.068852 approved for grant funding in the amount of \$130,000.00 beginning January 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022, with a proposed County match of \$196,000.00 in cash and in-kind services. Chair authorized to sign and the Clerk to attest.

In response to query by Commissioner Seel, Public Works Director Kelli Hammer Levy described the details of the new shoreline, and Commissioner Justice indicated that the project is partially funded by the Tampa Bay Estuary Program.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND COUNCILS

Housing Finance Authority

19. Resolution approving the issuance of Multifamily Housing Revenue Bonds by the Housing Finance Authority of Pinellas County to finance the demolition, rehabilitation, and construction of Jordan Park Apartments.

Resolution 21-12 adopted approving the issuance of the bonds in a principal amount not to exceed \$38,000,000.00 for the benefit of Jordan Park, LLC, a Florida Limited Liability Company, or its affiliate. No County General funds are required; all lendable funds are generated from the sale of tax-exempt housing bonds and the sale of low-income housing tax credits from the Florida Housing Finance Corporation.

St. Petersburg Housing Authority Director Michael Lundy related that 31 units in Jordan Park Apartments are vacant and will be demolished and rebuilt; and that the housing authority will relocate any individuals currently living in Jordan Park, and Brian Evjen, Northstar Development, Tampa, and Pinellas County Housing Finance Authority Executive Director Kathryn Driver provided input.

In response to queries by Chair Eggers and Commissioner Flowers, Mr. Evjen indicated that in addition to the bond issuance, the project will also be financed by low income housing tax credits; and that the Housing Authority will manage the apartment complex.

Responding to comment by Commissioner Flowers, Mr. Lundy noted that seniors living in the apartment complex have been assigned to case workers to ensure relocation or any other option they wish to pursue, and discussion ensued; whereupon, in response to query by Commissioner Flowers, Mr. Evjen clarified that the project has full zoning approval.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

COUNTY ATTORNEY

20. County Attorney Reports: - Redistricting Update

Referring to the creation of a Redistricting Board, Attorney Crowell indicated that redistricting occurs every ten years in response to the United States census; that the U.S. Census Bureau is projecting it will send apportionment counts on April 30; and that the Commissioners are being asked to submit their individual appointments by February 12. He noted that once all Redistricting Board appointments are finalized, it should hold its first meeting in early May and will be required to submit its recommendations within 150 days; and that this would allow the County Commission to review and adopt a redistricting plan in December.

In response to queries by the members, Attorney Crowell clarified that staff is recommending May 11 for the first Redistricting Board meeting, and discussion ensued.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

21. County Administrator Reports:

- Criteria for relaxing COVID-19 related regulations
- Security breach at Oldsmar Water Treatment Plant
- Spring Break

Mr. Burton expressed a desire for the Board to form a committee to discuss relaxing COVID-19 protocols, relating that in order for the mask ordinance to be repealed there needs to be only three new cases per 100,000 people on a seven-day rolling average in Pinellas County over four consecutive weeks.

Mr. Burton noted that there was a security breach at the Oldsmar Water Treatment Facility; that it was a good learning experience for the future of security in the County; and that the attack was unsuccessful in harming any water in the facility.

In response to queries by Chair Eggers and Commissioner Long, Mr. Burton indicated that the Federal Bureau of Investigation offered resources to the Sheriff's Office to ensure that the situation did not happen again; that the Board funded enhanced security measures as part of the budget for the Business Technology Services department; and that staff should have received or will soon receive training in cybersecurity, and discussion ensued.

Mr. Burton related that spring break season is approaching; that the beach communities are expecting an influx of tourists; and that the County staff are working with the cities and the hoteliers to make sure messaging about COVID-19 safety protocols are understood by tourists.

COUNTY COMMISSION

- 22.** County Commission New Business: Pertinent and Timely Committee/Board Updates, Policy Considerations, Administrative/Procedural Considerations, and Other New Business. The members provided updates regarding their assigned boards and committees and commented on various topics, as follows:

Commissioner Long

- Senate Bill 1130 to dissolve the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA)
- TBARTA update
- Regional Planning Council
- Planning of the Second Leadership Summit in June
- St. John's Pass

Commissioner Justice

- Alpha Kappa Alpha’s Ceremony honoring Commissioner Flowers

Commissioner Seel

- Juvenile Welfare Board funding approval for Pinellas County food banks
- County Attorney Jewel White’s birthday

Chair Eggers

- Tampa Bay Water update
- Tampa Bay Buccaneers possible parade
- Facebook Live Townhall

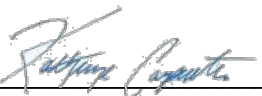
Chair Eggers asked the members to approve his appointment of Commissioner Justice to serve as his designated alternate on the Canvassing Board for the March 9, 2021 Municipal General Elections.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

ADJOURNMENT - 1:16 P.M.

ATTEST: KEN BURKE, CLERK

By 
Deputy Clerk




Chair