

Pinellas County

*315 Court Street
Clearwater, FL 33756*



Minutes - Final

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

9:30 A.M.

Hybrid In-Person and Virtual Regular Meeting

5th Floor Assembly Room

Board of County Commissioners

*Janet C. Long, Chair
Kathleen Peters, Vice-Chair
Dave Eggers
Rene Flowers
Charlie Justice
Chris Latvala
Brian Scott*

ROLL CALL - 9:32 A.M.

Present: 7 - Chair Janet C. Long, Vice-Chair Kathleen Peters, Dave Eggers, Rene Flowers, Charlie Justice, Chris Latvala, and Brian Scott

Others Present: Barry A. Burton, County Administrator; Jewel White, County Attorney; Jeanette Phillips, Chief Deputy Director; and Katie Poviones, Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION by Father Richard Pilger, Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, Seminole.**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE****PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS**

1. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Proclamation:
 - Terri Lipsey Scott, Executive Director, Dr. Carter G. Woodson African American Museum

Chair Long read a proclamation recognizing January 16, 2023 as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, noting that he devoted his life to the advancement of equality, social justice, and opportunity for all; whereupon, Ms. Lipsey Scott provided brief remarks and thanked the Board for honoring the life and legacy of Dr. King.
2. National Mentoring Month Proclamation:
 - Pinellas County Schools
 - Lori Matway, Associate Superintendent, Student and Community Support Services
 - Seymour Brown, Director, Office of Strategic Partnerships
 - Debbie Buschman, Lunch Pals Coordinator

Inviting those listed above in attendance to the podium, Chair Long read a proclamation which recognized January 2023 as National Mentoring Month, noting that the month provides an opportunity to show appreciation to staff and volunteers, as well as celebrating the young people benefiting from mentoring programs; whereupon, Dr. Brown and Ms. Matway provided brief comments and thanked the Board for its support.
3. Employee Recognition Award:
 - Karen Cervone-Nitz, Department Administrative Manager, Safety and Emergency Services
 - Dwayne Adams, Veterans Service Officer 2, Human Services

Chair Long invited Ms. Cervone-Nitz and Mr. Adams to the podium, recognized them individually for their exemplary work and dedication, and introduced videos which highlighted the value of the services that each of them provides. Mr. Burton expressed his appreciation to both recipients; whereupon, Ms. Cervone-Nitz and Mr. Adams provided brief comments.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

4. Citizens To Be Heard - Public Comment.

David Ballard Geddis, Jr., Palm Harbor

PUBLIC HEARINGS - No public hearings were scheduled for this meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA - Items 5 through 18

Commissioner Eggers provided a brief overview of the recent work being done by the County's Division of Inspector General, noting that the Division ensures effectiveness and integrity in government operations.

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

Aye: 6 - Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

Absent: 1 - Vice-Chair Peters

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

5. Minutes of the regular meetings held October 11 and 25, 2022.
The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

6. Vouchers and bills paid from November 13 through December 17, 2022.

Period November 13 - 19, 2022

Accounts Payable - \$19,938,624.44

Payroll - None

Period November 20 - 26, 2022

Accounts Payable - \$10,263,583.44

Payroll - \$4,872,826.68

Period November 27 - December 3, 2022

Accounts Payable - \$67,120,511.67

Payroll - None

Period December 4 - 10, 2022

Accounts Payable - \$10,175,705.39

Payroll - \$4,327,781.05

Period December 11 - 17, 2022

Accounts Payable - \$24,227,384.07

Payroll - None

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

Reports received for filing:

7. Dock Fee Report for the month of November 2022.
The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.
8. Division of Inspector General, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, Report No. 2022-21 dated December 2, 2022 - Investigation of Facility Operations Employees Incentives.
The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.
9. Division of Inspector General, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, Report No. 2022-22 dated December 6, 2022 - Follow-up Investigation of Former County Employee.
The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.
10. Division of Inspector General, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, Report No. 2022-25 dated December 14, 2022 - Unannounced Audit of the Contractor Licensing Department Change Fund and Internal Controls Over the Collection and Deposit of Funds.
The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.
11. Division of Inspector General, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, Report No. 2022-26 dated December 16, 2022 - Audit of Air Quality Compliance Fee and Asbestos Fee Collection.
The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

Miscellaneous items received for filing:

12. City of Seminole Ordinance Nos. 16-2022, 17-2022, and 18-2022 adopted on December 6, 2022, annexing certain properties.
The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

Administrative Services

13. Declare surplus and authorize the sale or donation of miscellaneous County-owned equipment.

Surplus declared and the sale or donation authorized. The miscellaneous assets are to be liquidated through public auction conducted by GovDeals.com under provisions of the existing approved contract, excluding certain donations to interested governmental entities, not-for-profit agencies, or Social Action Funding List designees. Distribution of proceeds approved as recommended in the Staff Report.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

County Administrator

14. Receipt and file report of purchasing items delegated to the County Administrator for the quarter ending December 31, 2022.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

Parks and Conservation Resources

15. Ranking of firms and agreement with Playmore West, Inc. d/b/a Playmore Recreational Products and Services for playground removal and installation.

(Contract No. 22-0308-P) Ranking of firms and agreement approved in the total not-to-exceed amount of \$4,600,000.00, effective through December 31, 2026.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

Public Works

16. Joint Project Agreement with the City of Clearwater for utility work associated with the Old Coachman Road/County Road 535 bridge replacement over Alligator Creek.

(City Project No. 17-0056-UT; County PID No. 001034A) Agreement approved. The estimated total cost to the City for utility work, \$506,583.00, including a 5% administration fee; current estimated cost for the bridge replacement project, \$4,800,000.00. Agreement effective upon execution and expires upon completion.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

17. Joint Project Agreement with the City of St. Petersburg for utility work associated with the 22nd Avenue South sidewalk and roadway improvements from 58th Street South to 34th Street South.

(County PID No. 000087A) Agreement approved. The City to pay the County an estimated total amount of \$1,656,165.00, including a 5% administrative fee for the City's portion of a larger County capital improvement project. Agreement expires 720 days from execution.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

Solid Waste

- 18. Award of bid to US Ecology Tampa, Inc. for household waste collection, transportation, and disposal services, including hazardous chemical wastes and mobile collection events, on an as needed basis.

Contract No. 22-0703-B awarded in the estimated annual cost of \$988,017.00 with a 36-month expenditure in an amount not-to-exceed \$2,964,051.00 on the basis of being the lowest responsive, responsible bid received meeting specifications.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

REGULAR AGENDA

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

Administrative Services

- 19. Declare 19 County-owned parcels as surplus and grant authorization to advertise and dispose of the parcels and declare one County-owned parcel as surplus and authorize its sale.

Resolution No. 23-1 adopted declaring 19 County-owned parcels as surplus and authorizing advertisement for disposition, pursuant to Section 125.35, Florida Statutes.

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

Aye: 6 - Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

Absent: 1 - Vice-Chair Peters

Economic Development

- 20. Employment Sites Program grant funding resolution for a sum of not-to-exceed \$4,000,000.00 for support of the Tampa Bay Innovation Center Incubator through the Commitment of the Employment Sites Program Funds.

Resolution No. 23-2 adopted.

Commissioner Flowers related that the Center was highlighted on the news this morning and expressed her appreciation for the continued efforts by staff, the partnership between the City of St. Petersburg and the County, and the future opportunities that will develop within the community.

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

Aye: 6 - Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

Absent: 1 - Vice-Chair Peters

Housing & Community Development

- 21. Resolution approving a first substantial amendment to the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Annual Action Plan for the purpose of receiving an allocation of HOME Investment Partnerships Program - American Rescue Plan funds.

Resolution No. 23-3 adopted approving the amendment in the amount of \$4,794,571.00, authorizing is submittal to the U.S. Department of Housing and Development, and authorizing the County Administrator to implement HOME-ARP programs as outlined in the Staff Report.

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

Aye: 6 - Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

Absent: 1 - Vice-Chair Peters

Human Services

- 22. Fifth Amendment to the Behavioral Health Consulting Services Agreement with KPMG, LLP for the evaluation of the Pinellas County Adult Behavioral Health System.

Amendment to Contract No. 190-0003-LI for an increase in the amount of \$1,295,000.00 approved for a revised total contract value of \$3,414,742.00; contract extended through December 31, 2023.

Mr. Burton indicated that the implementation of the behavioral health system should be in its final stages.

At the request of Commissioner Eggers, Human Services Director Karen Yatchum provided information regarding the project status; whereupon, Mr. Burton related that additional information will be provided at the Strategic Planning meeting.

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

Aye: 6 - Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

Absent: 1 - Vice-Chair Peters

Management and Budget

- 23.** Grant Funding Agreement with the State of Florida Division of Emergency Management regarding a Federal Emergency Management Agency Public Assistance Grant for disaster relief funding associated with Hurricane Ian.

Grant Funding Agreement approved for execution in order to receive reimbursement in the requested amount of \$6.53 million through FEMA.

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

Aye: 6 - Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

Absent: 1 - Vice-Chair Peters

Public Works

- 24.** County Incentive Grant Program Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation and associated Resolution for engineering, planning, and environmental services for the Forest Lakes Boulevard Phase III Widening Design between State Road 580 and State Road 584 (Tampa Road).

(FDOT Financial Project No. 443412 1 34 01; County PID No. 003914A) Agreement approved in the total amount of \$897,200.00 (FDOT, \$448,600.00; the County, \$448,600.00) for term expiring June 18, 2027. Resolution No. 23-4 adopted authorizing the BCC Chairman to execute and the Clerk to attest the agreement.

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

Aye: 6 - Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

Absent: 1 - Vice-Chair Peters

- 25.** Request to move to the Project Development and Environmental phase of the East Lake Road Improvements Project from south of Curlew Road to north of Trinity Road.

Approval granted to move forward with the next phase of the project.

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

Aye: 6 - Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

Absent: 1 - Vice-Chair Peters

Safety and Emergency Services

26. Extension of the Pinellas County Hazardous Materials Response Team agreement with the City of Largo.

Extension for a period of five years approved through September 30, 2027, retroactive to October 1, 2022, for a total projected cost of \$505,061.00.

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

Aye: 6 - Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

Absent: 1 - Vice-Chair Peters

AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND COUNCILS

CareerSource Pinellas

27. Appointments to the WorkNet Pinellas d/b/a CareerSource Pinellas Board of Directors (Board of County Commissioners as a whole).

Bart Diebold appointed as the Government, Economic, and Community Development category representative for a two-year term expiring on June 30, 2024.

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

Aye: 6 - Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

Absent: 1 - Vice-Chair Peters

Housing Finance Authority

28. Resolution approving the issuance of Multifamily Housing Revenue Bonds by the Housing Finance Authority of Pinellas County to finance the Riverside Apartments multifamily residential rental housing project.

Resolution No. 23-5 adopted allowing the Housing Finance Authority to issue multifamily housing revenue bonds in a principal amount not to exceed \$39 million for the benefit of Riverside Apartments. 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.

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

Aye: 6 - Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

Absent: 1 - Vice-Chair Peters

COUNTY ATTORNEY

29. Proposed initiation of litigation in the case of Pinellas County v. Estancia Townes Homeowners Association, Inc. - action for declaratory and injunctive relief.

Initiation of litigation approved.

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

Aye: 6 - Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

Absent: 1 - Vice-Chair Peters

30. County Attorney Reports. - None.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

31. County Administrator Reports.
- Penny for Pinellas Update

Mr. Burton presented a short video highlighting several projects around the County that have been funded by the Penny for Pinellas 1% sales tax, and indicated that continued efforts with regard to the Penny commitments will be communicated to the taxpayers through social media. Responding to comments by Chair Long, Mr. Burton related that the Penny for Pinellas funds are shared between the County and the municipalities; that recommended projects are reviewed during the budget process; and that a vast majority of the monies is going towards transportation, roads, infrastructure, and stormwater.

COUNTY COMMISSION

32. 2023 State Legislative Program.

Mr. Burton recommended that the legislative priorities presented at a recent work session be approved with the elimination of item b.) *Support legislation that maintains local governments' ability to certify landscape maintenance professionals*; whereupon, Commissioner Latvala related that he is not in favor of the elimination.

Responding to queries by Chair Long, Attorney White indicated that the State does maintain some control over counties, notwithstanding charter status; and that she would

need to research the matter further; whereupon, Mr. Burton related that he will provide additional information as it relates to programs for services needed for the residents which would not be funded by the State during the budget process.

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

Aye: 5 - Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, and Commissioner Scott
Nay: 1 - Commissioner Latvala
Absent: 1 - Vice-Chair Peters

- 33.** Appointment to the Feather Sound Community Services District, Inc. (Individual appointment by Commissioner Scott).

Ryan Halstead appointed for a term of one year, beginning January 1, 2023.

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

Aye: 6 - Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott
Absent: 1 - Vice-Chair Peters

- 34.** Appointment to the Local Planning Agency (Individual appointment by Commissioner Peters). Audrey Henson appointed to fulfill the remainder of a four-year term ending on November 8, 2026.

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

Aye: 6 - Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott
Absent: 1 - Vice-Chair Peters

- 35.** Appointment to the Parks and Conservation Resources Advisory Board (Individual appointment by Commissioner Justice).

Alan Shapiro appointed for a term of one year, beginning November 15, 2022.

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

Aye: 6 - Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott
Absent: 1 - Vice-Chair Peters

36. Approve one appointment to the Pinellas County Historical Commission (Individual appointment by Commissioner Peters).

Robert Blackmon appointed for a term of four years, beginning November 8, 2022 through November 7, 2026.

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

Aye: 6 - Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

Absent: 1 - Vice-Chair Peters

37. Appointment to the Tourist Development Council (Board of County Commissioners as a whole).

City of St. Petersburg Council member Copley Gerdes appointed to fulfill the remainder of an Elected Official term, expiring October 31, 2024.

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

Aye: 6 - Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

Absent: 1 - Vice-Chair Peters

38. County Commission New Business: Pertinent and Timely Committee/Board Updates, Policy Considerations, Administrative/Procedural Considerations, and other New Business:
- Skyway Lighting Resolutions
 - Letter of Support for 2nd Vice President of the Florida Association of Counties from the BCC (Commissioner Flowers)
 - Opioid Abatement Funding Advisory Board - It is recommended after further discussion with the County Attorney's Office that a staff member, Karen, not be the representative and that a Commissioner be appointed instead (Commissioner Long)
 - Resolution approval for Highway Memorial designation for Deputy Sheriff Hartwick on I-275 between mile markers 30 and 31 in Pinellas.

Letter of Support for 2nd Vice President of the Florida Association of Counties

Commissioner Flowers indicated that she is requesting a letter of support from the BCC, as she prepares to run for the office of 2nd Vice President of the Florida Association of Counties (FAC); that she has completed all needed requirements to serve on its Board of Directors; whereupon, Chair Long noted that she has been impressed with Commissioner Flowers' dedication and commitment to the FAC.

A motion was made by Commissioner Justice, seconded by Commissioner Scott, that the request be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

Absent: 1 - Vice-Chair Peters

Resolution Approval for Highway Memorial Designation For Deputy Sheriff Hartwick on I-275 between mile markers 30 and 31 in Pinellas

Resolution No. 23-6 adopted.

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

Aye: 6 - Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

Absent: 1 - Vice-Chair Peters

Opioid Abatement Funding Advisory Board

Mr. Burton, with input by Assistant County Administrator Lourdes Benedict, provided an overview of the function and expected time commitment for the Opioid Abatement Funding Advisory Board (OAFAB) and related that upon further consultation with the County Attorney's Office, it has been recommended that an elected official serve as a representative on this Board, as opposed to the original appointment of Human Services Director Karen Yatchum.

Chair Long indicated that she would be happy to serve as the elected official; whereupon, Commissioner Justice made a motion to appoint Chair Long. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Flowers.

Mr. Burton relayed that Commissioner Peters has just expressed an interest in serving on the OAFAB, and Commissioner Flowers suggested that Commissioner Peters be selected as an alternate member; whereupon, Commissioner Justice amended his motion to that effect.

Commissioners Eggers and Latvala suggested that Commissioner Peters be appointed as the representative, rather than the alternate, due to her long-standing passion related to the topic; whereupon, Commissioner Justice withdrew his amended motion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Commissioner Latvala, to appoint Commissioner Peters as the elected official representative on the Opioid Abatement Funding Advisory Board and to appoint Commissioner Long as the alternate. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

Absent: 1 - Vice-Chair Peters

The Commissioners reported on the activities of their assigned boards and committees and discussed various issues, as follows:

Commissioner Flowers

- Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority

Commissioner Scott

- Ongoing tours of County departments

Commissioner Justice

- Area Agency on Aging of Pasco-Pinellas

Commissioner Latvala


- Juvenile Welfare Board

Commissioner Eggers


- Forward Pinellas
- Cities of Tarpon Springs and Dunedin Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebrations
- Habitat for Humanity home presentation
- Funding request for John Morrone Foundation's February 11 event recognizing first responders

ADJOURNMENT - 10:56 A.M.

ATTEST: KEN BURKE, CLERK

By 
Deputy Clerk




Chair