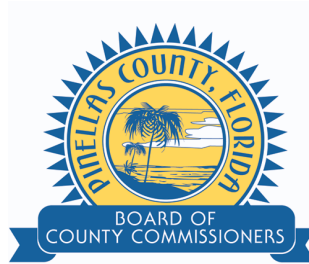


Pinellas County

*333 Chestnut Street
Clearwater, FL 33756*



Minutes - Final

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

10:00 A.M.

Emergency Board of County Commissioners (BCC) Meeting

Palm Room

Board of County Commissioners

Kathleen Peters, Chair

Brian Scott, Vice-Chair

Dave Eggers

René Flowers

Charlie Justice

Chris Latvala

Janet C. Long

ROLL CALL - 10:01 A.M.

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

Others Present: Barry A. Burton, County Administrator; Jewel White, County Attorney; and Katie Poviones, Senior Board Records Specialist, Deputy Clerk

1. Emergency BCC Meeting

Resolution No. 24-69 adopted, extending the State of Local Emergency established in Resolution No. 24-68, as of 10:32 A.M. on October 1, 2024, as provided in Section 252.38(3)(a)5, Florida Statutes.

Mr. Burton provided introductory comments regarding the damage caused by Hurricane Helene, indicating that this is the worst storm impact that the County has experienced in 100 years; and that nine storm-related deaths have been reported so far.

Deviating from the agenda, Chair Peters noted that a motion is needed to allow Commissioner Scott to participate virtually; whereupon, Commissioner Flowers made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Latvala.

Mr. Burton briefly discussed rescue efforts and provided additional details regarding damage to beach communities, indicating that residential damage is currently estimated at over \$2,000,000,000.00; and that coordination of recovery efforts is ongoing; whereupon, he displayed a video highlighting post-storm conditions throughout the county.

Emergency Management Director Cathie Perkins discussed several topics, including active missions to support the community, the volume of 9-1-1 calls received, recovery efforts, storm impacts, and various forms of assistance being provided by the County and other entities.

Mr. Burton provided information regarding the unity of command established to target rescue response based on 9-1-1 data, displaced sand, and access to the barrier islands. He also indicated that checkpoints to access the islands will be removed at 4:00 P.M. today, police presence will be increased; whereupon, Mr. Burton discussed the following topics:

- Ongoing efforts to restore water and electricity to impacted communities
- Repairs to infrastructure
- Debris management
- Alternative housing for displaced residents and aid workers
- Available local and federal programs
- Damage assessments and the permitting process

Mr. Burton requested that the Board extend the State of Local Emergency adopted on September 24, 2024, and explained that it would continue to allow the County Administrator and the Pinellas County Sheriff to take proactive measures in order to restore the community to safety.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Peters, Vice-Chair Scott, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Long

Chair Peters requested that citizens refrain from sightseeing on the barrier islands to ensure that first responders and essential workers can easily access the area.

Chair Peters left the meeting, and Commissioner Long assumed the gavel at 10:35 A.M.

In response to comments and queries by the members, Mr. Burton and Ms. Perkins provided information regarding various topics, including the following:

- Increased police presence in impacted communities
- Debris management timeline and planning
- Disaster assessment
- Restorative measures and assistance
- Potential threat of a developing storm

Thereupon, Commissioners Justice and Flowers provided brief comments related to sharing information on social media and removing belongings from private properties.

ADJOURNMENT - 10:59 A.M.