

Pinellas County

*333 Chestnut Street, Palm Room
Clearwater, FL 33756*



Minutes - Final

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

2:00 P.M.

Hybrid In-Person and Virtual Regular Meeting

Public Hearings at 6:00 P.M.

Board of County Commissioners

Kathleen Peters, Chair

Brian Scott, Vice-Chair

Dave Eggers

René Flowers

Chris Latvala

Vince Nowicki

Chris Scherer

ROLL CALL - 2:01 P.M.

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

Others Present: Barry A. Burton, County Administrator; Jewel White, County Attorney; Derelynn Revie, Board Records Manager; and Ashley Pabilonia, Board Reporter

INVOCATION by Chaplain Milton Smith, Palm Harbor Fire Rescue**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE****COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR****37. County Administrator Reports****Post-Hurricane Recovery Updates**

Deviating from the order of the agenda, Mr. Burton indicated that Pinellas County remains under a State of Local Emergency; that staff will be presenting specific information related to various recovery efforts as well as resources and program information; and that updates will be provided regarding the Hurricane Home Repair Program, the substantial damage assessment process, and storm debris; whereupon, he related that the main focus in the coming weeks is to complete the final pass of residential storm debris collection in unincorporated areas of the county, to continue implementing the substantial damage process, and to connect displaced residents with housing options and resources from the state and federal governments.

Emergency Management Director Cathie Perkins provided updates regarding residential and business damage assessments and the number of people who have applied for individual assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), emphasizing that the deadline to apply for assistance is January 7, 2025; whereupon, she discussed various resources which have been provided to residents, as well as resources which are still available through County support functions and FEMA, noting that meetings between the County and FEMA are ongoing; and that information related to State and Federal assistance programs will be made available to the public as it is received.

Responding to comments and queries by the members, and with input by Mr. Burton, Ms. Perkins provided clarifying information related to FEMA's Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA) Program, contacting local FEMA representatives, various assistance programs, and Tourist Development Tax collections associated with hotel rooms booked through the TSA Program.

Deputy County Administrator Jill Silverboard, with input by Mr. Burton, provided information regarding debris collection and removal, sand renourishment efforts, County parks which remain closed, and financial assistance and programs available for public utility customers, including a newly launched registry that allows customers to sign up for assistance programs.

In response to comments and queries by the members, and with input by Mr. Burton and Office of Management and Budget Director Chris Rose, Ms. Silverboard provided information regarding numerous topics, including the following:

- The number of accounts under review through the registry
- The debris collection process and timeline
- Anticipated timeframes for reopening multiple County parks
- FEMA monitors at debris sites
- Concerns regarding public utilities bills and customer service training
- Information related to grant funding agreements under Agenda Item Nos. 14, 15, and 16

Substantial Damage Assessments and Permitting Updates

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation, Building and Development Review Services (BDRS) Director Kevin McAndrew provided an overview of the substantial damage assessment (SDA) process, noting that substantial damage inspections have been completed; and that current priorities include quality control and data entry into FEMA's Substantial Damage Estimator Tool, as well as substantial damage determination and letter issuance; whereupon, he provided a brief update related to staff augmentation, the number of substantial damage determination letters which have been mailed, and the number of structures which were deemed substantially damaged.

Mr. McAndrew indicated that, beginning tomorrow, residents will have the ability to check their SDA status and download determination letters on the BDRS website; and that households which were deemed not substantially damaged may apply for permitting, while those deemed substantially damaged may either request a reassessment or pursue options related to elevation or rebuilding; whereupon, he provided details related to reassessment.

Mr. McAndrew provided information regarding the number of permits issued and under review following Hurricane Milton, noting that permitting volume is expected to increase in the coming weeks; whereupon, he indicated that BDRS has created an in-person support hub to assist individuals with permit applications and the permitting platform.

In response to a query by Commissioner Scott, Mr. McAndrew clarified information related to downloading substantial damage determination letters; whereupon, with input by Ms. Silverboard and Mr. Burton, he responded to queries by Commissioners Scherer and Eggers and discussed restrictions regarding the use of FEMA flood maps instead of County flood maps during the SDA process, as well as the anticipated number of requests for reassessment.

Hurricane Home Repair Program

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation, Community Development Planning Division Manager Bruce Bussey provided an overview of the Hurricane Home Repair Program, indicating that the program will provide a grant of up to \$30,000.00 for income-eligible households; and that the funds are intended to assist with storm-related repairs which have not been covered by insurance or FEMA; whereupon, he discussed the program's funding sources, eligibility requirements, and application process, noting that it is anticipated to launch on Monday.

Later in the meeting, Mr. Burton emphasized the importance of connecting residents with the proper personnel to address their concerns; whereupon, he expressed appreciation to staff for their work.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

1. Citizens To Be Heard - Public Comment.

Ryck Morales, Tampa
David Ballard Geddis, Jr., Palm Harbor
Greg Pound, Largo
John Richter, Crystal Beach
Heather Wendt, Crystal Beach
Ronald C. Walker, Largo (submitted documents)
Sharon Calvert, Tierra Verde
Scott Neff, Crystal Beach
William Nowell, Palm Harbor
Debra Squier, Crystal Beach

In response to concerns expressed by Ms. Wendt regarding her substantial damage determination, Mr. Burton indicated that Building and Development Review Services Director Kevin McAndrew is present and can assist her.

Responding to queries and comments by Chair Peters and Commissioners Latvala and Flowers, Mr. Burton provided clarifying information regarding the substantial damage assessment process, substantial damage determination letters, and subsequent reassessment.

In response to concerns expressed by Mr. Nowell regarding the permit appeal process, Chair Peters and Mr. Burton directed him to speak with Mr. McAndrew.

CONSENT AGENDA - Items 2 through 19 (Item No. 17 addressed under Regular Agenda)

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

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

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

2. Minutes of the regular meeting held October 29, 2024.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

3. Vouchers and bills paid from October 27 through November 16, 2024.

Period - October 27 through November 2, 2024

Accounts Payable - \$41,938,449.00

Payroll - None

Period - November 3 through November 9, 2024

Accounts Payable - \$61,023,221.31

Payroll - \$5,120,884.12

Period - November 10 through November 16, 2024

Accounts Payable - \$22,546,594.51

Payroll - None

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

Reports received for filing:

4. State of Florida Constitutional Officer Financial Report for 2023-2024 - Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, pursuant to Section 218.36, Florida Statutes.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

5. State of Florida Constitutional Officer Financial Report for 2023-2024 - 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. 2024-20 dated November 6, 2024 - Audit of Accounts Receivable Write-Offs for Fiscal Year 2023 and Inspection of the Accounts Receivable Write-Off Approval Memo for Fiscal Year 2022.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

7. Dock Fee Report for the month of October 2024.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

8. Quarterly Report of Routine Dock & Dredge/Fill applications received from July 1 through September 30, 2024.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

9. Quarterly Donation Listing of \$1,000 or Greater for the quarter ending September 30, 2024, Resolution 21-117/Donation Policy.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

Miscellaneous items received for filing:

10. City of Clearwater Ordinance Nos. 9776-24, 9779-24, 9782-24, and 9785-24, adopted October 3, 2024, annexing certain properties.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

Administrative Services

11. Declare surplus and authorize the sale of County-owned equipment and vehicles.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

Construction and Property Management

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

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

County Administrator

13. Receipt and file report of non-procurement items delegated to the County Administrator for the period ending November 27th, 2024.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

Management and Budget

14. 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 Debby.

Grant Funding Agreement approved for execution, allowing for receipt of reimbursement in the requested amount of \$233,520.09 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for Hurricane Debby emergency response.

Responding to queries by Commissioner Scott, Office of Management and Budget Director Chris Rose indicated that 87.5% of the requested amount is reimbursable by FEMA, with a 12.5% local match; whereupon, Mr. Rose, with input from Mr. Burton, responded to additional queries by Commissioner Scott regarding Item Nos. 14, 15, and 16 and confirmed that the County's total cost related to all storms is approximately \$143 million; that non-reimbursable costs, which currently total approximately \$9 million, will likely increase; and that the County will attempt to recoup the non-reimbursable costs by including them as part of an appropriations request to the state.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

15. 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 Helene.

Grant Funding Agreement approved for execution, allowing for receipt of reimbursement in the requested amount of \$25,989,649.00 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for Hurricane Helene emergency response.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

16. 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 Milton.

Grant Funding Agreement approved for execution, allowing for receipt of reimbursement in the requested amount of \$28,867,702.00 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for Hurricane Milton emergency response. An additional \$32,633,934.00 in damages to County-owned facilities and equipment, as well as \$35,240,675.00 in debris clearance activity, are also eligible for reimbursement.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

Utilities

18. Ranking of firms and agreement with GCU, LLC d/b/a Gulf Coast Underground, LLC for Find and Fix Gravity Sewer Rehabilitation - Professional Design-Build Services.

(Contract No. 24-0085-RFP-DB) Ranking of firms and agreement approved in the not-to-exceed amount of \$4,954,893.00. Agreement effective for 270 days from the Notice to Proceed for Phase I services.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND COUNCILS

Countywide Planning Authority

19. Countywide Plan Map - 2024 Annual Update.

Resolution No. 24-94 adopted, accepting the amended Countywide Plan Map, and directing that it be filed with the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners as the official Countywide Plan Map, as recommended by Forward Pinellas, in its role as the Pinellas Planning Council, and the Planners Advisory Committee.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

REGULAR AGENDA

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

Utilities

17. Award of bid to Rycon Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$4,564,000.00 for hardening projects at the Utilities General Maintenance Department Operations Center and the Public Education Center, and Dewatering Building at South Cross Bayou Advanced Water Reclamation Facility.

Contract No. 24-0562-ITB-C awarded to Rycon Construction, Inc. in the total not-to-exceed amount of \$2,875,999.04 on the basis of being the lowest responsive, responsible bidder. All work to be completed within 450 consecutive calendar days.

Mr. Burton clarified that while the bid amount listed in the Staff Report is incorrectly listed as the total project amount, the correct bid amount is \$2,875,999.04.

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

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

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

Airport**20. Resolution superseding and replacing Resolution 02-151 regarding the Aircraft Noise Abatement Task Force for the St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport.**

Resolution No. 24-95 adopted, replacing the Airport Noise Abatement Task Force (NAFT) with an Airport Noise Abatement Working Group (Working Group).

Responding to a query by Commissioner Eggers, St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport Director Tom Jewsbury noted a continued commitment to community involvement and participation and indicated that while NAFT allows 17 to 22 members, it has been difficult to achieve a quorum at meetings; and that, at the direction of the County Attorney's Office, NAFT was reevaluated to enable more effective work.

Thereupon, Deputy Director of Airport Operations and Facilities Mark Sprague related that the proposed update would allow him to communicate with airlines and community representatives regarding noise concerns outside of scheduled meetings; and that current Sunshine Law restrictions have made it difficult to address noise concerns efficiently and effectively.

In response to queries by Commissioner Eggers, Mr. Sprague discussed the current and proposed noise resolutions, the composition of the proposed Working Group, and community involvement; whereupon, Attorney White provided input regarding NAFT's difficulty in reaching a quorum at meetings.

Responding to a query by Commissioner Scott, Mr. Sprague indicated that he does not anticipate negative impacts due to the creation of the Working Group.

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

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

County Administrator**21. Municipal Services Taxing Unit funding for the Tierra Verde Community Association Tennis and Pickleball Court Resurfacing Improvements.**

Funding request approved in the one-time amount of \$20,000.00.

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

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

22. The Greater Palm Harbor Chamber of Commerce Fiscal Year 2025 Municipal Services Taxing Unit special projects funding request for replacing exterior door, wooden deck, and ADA ramp and for air conditioning upgrades.

Funding request approved in the one-time amount of \$20,000.00.

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

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

Housing & Community Development

23. Resolution approving the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee Report related to the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program Affordable Housing Incentives.

Resolution No. 24-96 adopted, approving the report, and authorizing its submittal to the Florida Housing Finance Corporation.

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

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

Human Services

24. Contract with the State of Florida Department of Health for the operation of the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County.

Contract approved for Fiscal Year 2025 in an amount not to exceed \$8,117,320.00, generated by a dedicated millage rate of 0.0713 mills levied countywide.

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

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

25. Revised application for Federal Assistance SF-424 forms for the Fiscal Year 2024 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Grants to expand Substance Use Disorder Treatment Capacity in Adult and Family Treatment Courts.

Revised application approved, changing the point of contact to the dedicated Project Director for each grant award, and delegating authority to the County Administrator to execute the revised application.

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

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

Management and Budget

26. Pinellas County adoption of a Tourist Development Tax Revenue Supplemental Bond Resolution Supplementing Resolution No. 24-42 adopted on July 30, 2024, and approval of the documents to support funding for the design and construction of a new stadium in St. Petersburg to be the new home of the Tampa Bay Rays Major League Baseball franchise.

Resolution No. 24-97 adopted and forms of documents approved as outlined in the Staff Report.

Commissioner Scott made a motion to approve the item, which was seconded by Commissioner Flowers.

Upon the Chair's call for public comment, the following individuals appeared:

Michael Cronin, St. Petersburg
Chris Steinocher, St. Petersburg
Mike Swesey, St. Petersburg
Michele Dyson, St. Petersburg
Pete Boland, St. Petersburg
Robin Miller, St. Petersburg
Peter Kent, St. Petersburg
Robin Davidov, St. Petersburg
Ron Diner, St. Petersburg
William Ballard, St. Petersburg
Sharon Calvert, Tierra Verde
Jeremy Tollberg, St. Petersburg
Jean Marie Leon, St. Petersburg
Andrew Vasey, Treasure Island

Lengthy discussion ensued wherein Chief Assistant County Attorney Don Crowell, Mr. Burton, and Inner Circle Sports Banker David Abrams responded to comments and queries by the members regarding numerous topics, including the following:

- Responsibilities related to cost overruns incurred by the Tampa Bay Rays Stadium and Development Project
- Mr. Abrams' experience with other stadium projects and his involvement in negotiations
- Details related to the process and timeline for selling a Major League Baseball team
- The process and timeline for issuing bonds
- Conditions precedent to the County's obligation to commence the sale of bonds
- Provisions of the Historic Gas Plant Redevelopment Agreement
- Revenue sharing and expenses
- Provisions related to arbitrage, shortage, and other circumstances within the Escrow Agreement and the Construction Funds Trust Agreement
- Tax Increment Financing funds
- The flow of funds from the County Escrow Account

During discussion and in response to a query by Commissioner Scherer, Attorney Crowell indicated that the Development and Funding Agreement will automatically terminate if the Rays do not meet the conditions precedent to the County's obligation to commence the sale of bonds by March 31, 2025.

Following discussion, the members each provided brief comments wherein Commissioner Nowicki indicated that he would like to see a sizable convention center in the Historic Gas Plant District Redevelopment and Commissioner Scherer expressed concerns regarding the timing of the item.

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

Aye: 5 - Chair Peters, Vice-Chair Scott, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, and Commissioner Latvala

Nay: 2 - Commissioner Nowicki, and Commissioner Scherer

Meeting Recessed: 6:01 P.M.

Meeting Reconvened: 6:32 P.M.

Public Works

27. Amendment No. 1 to the grant funding agreement with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for the Vulnerability Assessment Phase II.

(PID 005708A) Amendment No. 1 to Grant Agreement No. 22PLN94 approved, providing an additional grant reimbursement in the amount of \$1,353,000.00; total grant funding, \$2,053,000.00. Agreement term extended to December 30, 2026.

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

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

28. Construction Agreement with CSX Transportation, Inc. for the replacement of the 35th Street North Railroad Crossing.

(CSXT OP No. FL TBD; County PID No. 004679A) Agreement approved in an estimated not-to-exceed amount of \$386,458.00. Rail crossing work anticipated to be completed in two to three days; entire project to be completed within approximately 90 days.

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

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

29. Construction Agreement with CSX Transportation, Inc. for the replacement of the 46th Avenue North Railroad Crossing.

(CSXT OP No. FL TBD; County PID No. 004678A) Agreement approved in an estimated not-to-exceed amount of \$413,297.00. Rail crossing work anticipated to be completed in two to three days; entire project to be completed within approximately 120 days.

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

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

30. Resolution to approve the Downtown Palm Harbor Street Light District and authorize advertising for the district's creation and collection method.

Resolution No. 24-98 adopted, granting preliminary approval of the Downtown Palm Harbor Street Light District, requesting that the County Administrator call for a public hearing to consider a proposed ordinance creating the District within the unincorporated area of Pinellas County, and authorizing funds for administrative expenses directly incident to creating the District.

In response to the Chair's call for public comment, the following individuals appeared:

Joe Swett, Palm Harbor
David Ballard Geddis, Jr., Palm Harbor
Janice Shermetaro, Palm Harbor
Cary McCord, Palm Harbor

Commissioner Eggers briefly discussed past efforts to establish a lighting district in downtown Palm Harbor and noted that the assessment is being self-imposed by businesses in the proposed district; whereupon, Mr. Burton clarified that the assessment will be utilized to maintain the lights.

Assistant to the County Administrator Nancy McKibben indicated that more than 60% of property owners agreed to the maintenance and energy costs for the proposed district; whereupon, in response to a query by Commissioner Eggers, she explained that nonprofit organizations within the proposed district qualify to apply for Municipal Services Taxing Unit (MSTU) special projects funding grants.

Attorney White indicated that the law requires each property owner to pay their proportionate share of the assessment and does not support exemptions for nonprofit organizations; whereupon, Ms. McKibben pointed out that Pinellas County owns property within the proposed district and will pay its share of the assessment.

In response to comments and queries by Commissioner Nowicki, Ms. McKibben briefly discussed the MSTU special projects funding grant application timeline, with Mr. Burton providing input; whereupon, Chair Peters related that there is no deadline to apply for MSTU grants.

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

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

Safety and Emergency Services

31. Renewal of Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity for Advanced Life Support Providers.

Certificates renewed and issued to providers as set forth in the Staff Report, pursuant to Pinellas County Code, Chapter 54, and in accordance with Florida Statutes, Section 401.25. Renewed certificates will expire on December 31, 2025.

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

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

AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND COUNCILS

Housing Finance Authority

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

Resolution No. 24-99 adopted, allowing the Housing Finance Authority to issue Multifamily Housing Revenue Bonds in a principal amount not to exceed \$24,000,000.00 for the benefit of SAH Indigo Holdings, LP, a Florida Limited Liability Partnership, or its affiliate, duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Florida.

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

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

33. Resolution approving the issuance of Multifamily Housing Revenue Bonds by the Housing Finance Authority of Pinellas County to finance a multifamily residential rental housing project Oakhurst Trace Apartments.

Resolution No. 24-100 adopted, allowing the Housing Finance Authority to issue Multifamily Housing Revenue Bonds in a principal amount not to exceed \$35,000,000.00 for the benefit of SP Pinellas III LLC, a Florida Limited Liability Company, or its affiliate, duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Florida.

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

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

Human Resources

34. Agreement with United Healthcare Insurance Company for Excess Loss Insurance Coverage.

Contract No. 25-0153-P approved for a 12-month contract value of \$1,750,000.00; service start date is January 1, 2025.

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

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

COUNTY ATTORNEY

35. Public Official Bonds for Public Officers.

Public Official Bonds approved for Commissioners Flowers, Latvala, Nowicki, and Scherer, in accordance with Chapter 137, Florida Statutes.

Attorney White indicated that she is requesting approval of bonds for the four recently elected Commissioners; and that the bonds have been procured by Risk Management, as required by law.

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

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

36. County Attorney Reports - None

COUNTY COMMISSION

38. Appointment to the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council.

Item withdrawn.

39. Appointments to the Feather Sound Community Services District, Inc. (Individual Commissioner Appointments).

Harold Holland and Mary Trombitas appointed and Ryan Andrews, Kevin Chambers, and Jessica Hooper reappointed for one-year terms beginning on January 1, 2025.

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

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

40. Appointments to the Historic Preservation Board (Individual appointments by Commissioners Latvala and Flowers).

Allison Dolan and Michael Fridovich reappointed for three-year terms beginning on January 1, 2025.

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

Commissioner Flowers expressed concern that her reappointment, Mr. Fridovich, may not be able to be seated since he is now a City of Gulfport Councilmember and suggested that his reappointment be delayed until March 2025. Attorney White expressed her support for the delay, noting that she would want to ensure that this is not an instance of potential dual office-holding; whereupon, she recommended that the members take another vote.

A motion was made by Commissioner Latvala, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, that solely Allison Dolan be reappointed to the Historic Preservation Board, with Michael Fridovich's appointment to be addressed in March. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

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

Tony Coryn and Charles Flynt reappointed for three-year terms beginning on January 1, 2025.

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

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

42. Appointments to the Pinellas County Historical Commission (Individual Appointment by Commissioner Latvala and Reappointment by Commissioner Flowers).

Benjamin Roy appointed and Thomas McKone reappointed for four-year terms beginning on the date of appointment.

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

43. Appointment to the Suncoast Health Council (Board of County Commissioners as a whole).

Julie Goodrich appointed as a Health Care Provider for a two-year term beginning on the date of appointment.

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

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

44. Appointment to the Unified Personnel Systems Board (Board of County Commissioners as a whole).

Following a ballot vote, Jeffery Kronschnabl reappointed for a two-year term beginning on January 1, 2025.

45. Appointment of the Youth Advisory Committee nominee to the Parks and Conservation Resources Advisory Board (Board of County Commissioners as a whole).

Emal Gigolaj appointed.

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

46. 2025 State Legislative Program.

Program approved, including the Board's guiding principles and priorities for the 2025 Florida Legislative Session, as outlined in the Staff Report.

Commissioner Eggers indicated that the property insurance crisis should be a continued focus for the Board.

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

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

47. 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 discussed various topics, as follows:

Commissioner Nowicki

- Upcoming Pinellas Park Gateway Chamber of Commerce Annual Holiday Luncheon
- Recent meetings with the City of St. Petersburg and the Tampa Bay Rays
- Potential for a large convention center in the Historic Gas Plant District

Commissioner Flowers

- Area Agency on Aging of Pasco-Pinellas
- Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2024 passed by the Senate
- Upcoming Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Leadership Awards Breakfast, hosted by the National Council of Negro Women St. Petersburg Metropolitan Section
- Upcoming MLK Dream Big Parade
- Upcoming NAACP Emancipation Proclamation service
- National Association of Counties
- Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
- Upcoming Florida Association of Counties events

Commissioner Eggers

- Local Christmas parades
- BauserWeen fundraiser hosted by Rescue Not Retail Dunedin
- Grand opening of the Humane Society of Pinellas' Sjouwerman Adoption Center
- LiFT Rise Awards Luncheon
- New York Yankees & Steinbrenner Family Holiday Concert
- Wishing the members, staff, and residents a Merry Christmas and blessed New Year

Commissioner Latvala

Commissioner Latvala indicated that he would like to appoint Jeremiah Eustache to the Youth Advisory Committee.

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

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

- Reopening of Hospital Corporation of America Florida Largo Hospital
- Congratulations to the newly selected CEO of CareerSource Hillsborough Pinellas, Keidrian Kunkel
- Congratulations to Commissioner Flowers for her election as Chair of the Hillsborough/Pinellas Workforce Development Consortium
- Tampa Bay Rays stadium deal
- Upcoming start of 2025 Major League Baseball Spring Training
- Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year

Commissioner Scherer

- Potential to collaborate with municipalities and encourage them to eliminate lookback periods pertaining to storm damage and the Federal Emergency Management Agency's 50% rule
- Recent meeting with City of St. Petersburg Mayor Ken Welch
- 2025 Board and Committee appointments
- Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Commissioner Scott

- Tourist Development Council
- Recent meetings with Constitutional Officers
- Presentation of County challenge coin to Evara Health President and CEO Elodie Dorso
- Mayor's Prayer Breakfast hosted by YMCA of the Suncoast
- LiFT Rise Awards Luncheon
- Florida Transportation Builders' Association social
- Grand opening of the Humane Society of Pinellas' Sjouwerman Adoption Center
- Pinellas Park Public Safety Campus groundbreaking
- Lealman Christmas Tree Lighting
- Local Christmas parades

Commissioner Scott provided brief comments regarding 2025 Board and Committee appointments which he provided to the members and noted that they need to be approved.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Commissioner Latvala, that the 2025 Board and Committee appointments be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Commissioner Scott noted a recent conversation with City of Clearwater Police Chief Eric Gandy and indicated that he features an adoptable dog each month on his podcast; whereupon, he suggested that the Board do the same with Pinellas County Animal Services, and a brief discussion ensued.

Chair Peters referenced a resolution for a joint meeting to be held between the Board of County Commissions of Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Pasco Counties and requested a motion for approval.

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

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

Chair Peters indicated that the members each received a copy of the County Commission handbook; whereupon, she provided brief comments regarding its purpose and requested a motion for approval.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Scott, seconded by Commissioner Eggers, that the County Commission handbook be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Chair Peters

- Florida Association of Counties' new Commissioner orientation panel
- LiFT Rise Awards Luncheon
- St. Petersburg Downtown Partnership luncheon
- American Legion Christmas party
- Passage of the Water Resources Development Act legislative package
- Efforts to ensure that language pertaining to beach renourishment is included in a disaster-related federal legislative package
- Upcoming tourism-related announcement
- Opioid Abatement Funding Advisory Board

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

48. Case No. CW 24-19 - City of St. Petersburg (continued from November 19, 2024)
Countywide Plan Map amendment from Residential Medium to Multimodal Corridor, regarding 0.58 acre more or less, located at 920 20th Avenue South and 919 21st Avenue South.

Ordinance No. 24-38 adopted, approving Case No. CW 24-19. 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 Scott, seconded by Commissioner Eggers, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

49. Case No. CW 24-20 - City of Tarpon Springs (continued from November 19, 2024)
Countywide Plan Map amendment from Retail & Services, Office and Preservation to Preservation and Recreation/Open Space, regarding 36 acres more or less, located at 42501 U.S. Highway 19 North.

Ordinance No. 24-39 adopted, approving Case No. CW 24-20. 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 Commissioner Eggers, seconded by Vice-Chair Scott, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

50. Case No. LDR-24-05 (First Public Hearing)
An ordinance of Pinellas County, Florida, providing for the amendment of the Pinellas County Land Development Code, Chapter 138 - Zoning. (Legislative)

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

51. Case No. LDR-24-06
An ordinance of Pinellas County, Florida, providing for the amendment of Chapter 158 -Floodplain Management of the Pinellas County Land Development Code. (Legislative)

Ordinance No. 24-40 adopted, approving Case No. LDR-24-06, amending Chapter 158 of the Pinellas County Land Development Code as outlined in the Staff Report. No correspondence has been received. No citizens appeared to be heard.

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

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

- 52.** Amendment by resolution for the Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Budget for unanticipated receipt of funds in the American Rescue Plan Act Fund and to realign appropriations for Capital Projects in the American Rescue Plan Act Fund.

Resolution No. 24-102 adopted, recognizing and appropriating unanticipated revenue and realigning funds as outlined in the Staff Report. No correspondence has been received. No citizens appeared to be heard.

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

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

- 53.** Resolution supplementing the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget for unanticipated revenue related to the issuance of debt for the Tampa Bay Rays Major League Baseball Stadium Project in St. Petersburg and realign appropriation from reserves in the Tourist Development Tax Fund for expenditures related to cost of issuance and debt service for the Tourist Development Tax Revenue Bonds.

Resolution No. 24-103 adopted recognizing and appropriating unanticipated revenue and realigning funds as outlined in the Staff Report. One voicemail and 120 emails in support, 137 emails and two voicemails in opposition, and 12 emails of concern have been received. No citizens appeared to be heard.

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

Aye: 5 - Chair Peters, Vice-Chair Scott, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, and Commissioner Latvala

Nay: 2 - Commissioner Nowicki, and Commissioner Scherer

Chair Peters expressed appreciation to the members and staff and provided lengthy remarks regarding collaborative efforts, accomplishments, and the support she received during her time as Chair; whereupon, she passed the gavel to Commissioner Scott and stated that he is officially the Chair.

Chair Scott assumed the gavel and expressed appreciation to Chair Peters for her hard work and leadership during her time as Chair, indicating that, in lieu of a gift, the members made donations to Eleos Wellness & Support on her behalf. Commissioner Peters thanked the members for their donations, which will go toward helping vulnerable children; whereupon, Commissioner Eggers commended Commissioner Peters' leadership over the past year.

ADJOURNMENT - 7:45 P.M.

ATTEST: KEN BURKE, CLERK

By 
Deputy Clerk



Chair