

Pinellas County

315 Court Street
Clearwater, FL 33756



Minutes - Final

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

2:00 P.M.

Hybrid In-Person and Virtual Regular Meeting
Public Hearings at 6:00 P.M.

Board of County Commissioners

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

ROLL CALL - 2:00 P.M.

Present: 6 - Chair Janet C. Long, Vice-Chair Kathleen Peters, Dave Eggers, Charlie Justice, Chris Latvala, and Brian Scott

Absent: 1 - Rene Flowers

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

INVOCATION by Reverend Andy Oliver, Allendale United Methodist Church, St. Petersburg.**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE****PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS**

1. National Public Safety Telecommunications Week Proclamation:
 - Michelle Peterson, Operations Manager, Pinellas County Regional 911 Center
 - Andrea Jordan, Lead Public Safety Telecommunicator, Pinellas County Regional 911 Center

Chair Long invited Ms. Jordan and Public Safety Center Director Judith Weshinsky-Price to the podium and read a proclamation recognizing April 9 through 15, 2023, as National Public Safety Communications Week; whereupon, Ms. Jordan thanked the Board for the recognition, and Ms. Price remarked on the positive impacts of the approximately 100 telecommunicators who work for the County.

2. Partner Presentation:
 - Pat DePlasco, Executive Director, Keep Pinellas Beautiful, Inc.

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation titled *Keep Pinellas Beautiful 2022 Impact*, Ms. DePlasco provided information regarding the organization's impacts in the past year and discussed its focus areas, adoption and education programs, community projects, and various cleanup events. She highlighted the following facts regarding the organization's impacts from January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022:

- Keep Pinellas Beautiful educated 31,074 individuals through 733 educational presentations and 58 outreach events.
- The organization coordinated 1,206 community projects and engaged 18,999 volunteers, resulting in 218,057 pounds of abated litter, the removal of 71,216 pounds of invasive plants, more than 13,000 pounds of recovered recyclables, and the planting of 28 gardens, including 3,023 trees and plants.
- Taxpayers saved over \$1.4 million worth of labor in community improvement services through the 49,854 volunteer hours recorded.

Thereupon, Commissioner Justice thanked Ms. DePlasco and Keep Pinellas Beautiful for their outstanding work.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

3. Citizens To Be Heard - Public Comment.

Suzanne House, Tampa
Renee Rivard, Cortez
David Lomaka, Clearwater Beach
David Ballard Geddis, Jr., Palm Harbor (submitted documents)
Marlon Weintraub, Clearwater
Susan Holl, St. Petersburg
Nina Perino, Palm Harbor
Laura Pennington, Tampa
Myriam Parham, Dade City
Sunje Schwarz, Holiday
Kurtis Marsh, Holiday

CONSENT AGENDA - Items 4 through 18 (Item Nos. 7, 12, 13, 16, and 18 addressed under Regular Agenda)

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

Aye: 5 - Chair Long, Vice-Chair Peters, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Justice, and Commissioner Latvala

Absent: 2 - Commissioner Flowers, and Commissioner Scott

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

4. Minutes of the regular meetings held January 31 and February 14, 2023.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

5. Vouchers and bills paid from February 5 through March 4, 2023.

Period February 5 - 11, 2023

Accounts Payable - \$16,568,402.42

Payroll - \$892,606.57

Period February 12 - 18, 2023

Accounts Payable - \$9,577,22.86

Payroll - \$4,308,317.88

Period February 19 - 25, 2023

Accounts Payable - \$15,772,793.28

Payroll - None

Period February 26 - March 4, 2023

Accounts Payable - \$66,950,457.88

Payroll - \$4,228,285.69

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

Reports received for filing:

6. Dock Fee Report for the month of February 2023.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

County Administrator

8. Receipt and file report of non-procurement items delegated to the County Administrator for the period ending February 28th, 2023.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.Management and Budget

9. Fiscal Year 2023 Board Budget Amendment No. 1 to realign appropriation from Reserves in the General Fund for unanticipated Fiscal Year 2023 expenditures in the Sheriff's Office, revenue shortfalls in the Clerk of the Circuit Court, and balancing of operating expenses for the Board of County Commission District 5. Also, realign appropriation from the American Rescue Plan Act Fund to the General Fund for unanticipated Fiscal Year 2023 expenditures in Safety and Emergency Services.

Amendment approved realigning a total amount of \$3,258,950.00 as outlined in the Staff Report.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

Parks and Conservation Resources

10. Award of bid to Rick Richards, Inc. for mechanical thinning of vegetation on Parks and Conservation Resources properties.

Contract No. 22-0678-B awarded in the estimated annual amount of \$464,750.00 for a 24-month term total of \$929,500.00 on the basis of being the lowest responsive, responsible bid received meeting specifications. The contract replaces expiring Contract No. 167-0246-B with a 13% increase in pricing.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

Public Works

11. Award of bid to New Era Electric, Inc. for the installation of steel mast arms and signalization equipment at four locations (Group 2).

Contract No. 23-0211-ITB-CP awarded in the amount of \$2,983,627.87 on the basis of being the only responsive and responsible bid received meeting specifications. All work to be completed within 270 calendar days.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

14. Award of bid to Site One Landscape Supply, LLC for supply of herbicides, aquatic herbicides, adjuvants, and rodenticides.

Contract No. 22-0657-B awarded in the not-to-exceed amount of \$291,281.08 for a period of 12 months on the basis of being the lowest responsive, responsible bid received meeting specifications.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

15. Ranking of firms and agreement with SurvTech Solutions, Inc. for Street-Level LiDAR and Imagery Data Acquisition and Extraction.

(Contract No. 22-0518-P) Ranking of firms and agreement approved in the amount of \$370,327.71 for one year.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

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

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

REGULAR AGENDA

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

Reports received for filing:

7. Division of Inspector General, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, Annual Plan for 2023.

Commissioner Eggers remarked on the efforts of the Division of the Inspector General to ensure taxpayer dollars are not fraudulently used or wasted and provided information regarding how residents may review audits, investigations, and other processes online.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Flowers

Public Works**12. Award of bid to Kamminga & Roodvoets, Inc. for the 42nd Avenue North Roadway and Sidewalk Improvement project.**

Contract No. 23-0144-ITB-CONSTRUCTION awarded in the amount of \$4,735,766.50 on the basis of being the lowest responsive, responsible bid received meeting specifications. All work to be completed within 300 consecutive calendar days.

In response to a query by Commissioner Eggers regarding the increase in project costs from what was budgeted for items 12 and 13, Public Works Director Kelli Hammer Levy indicated that staff attempts to forecast the cost of future projects during budget development; that the engineer's project estimate exceeded what had been budgeted for the project due to significant cost increases for concrete, labor, and other materials; and that postponing of projects that have not yet started is being considered.

Responding to further queries by Commissioner Eggers, Ms. Levy explained that the project is partially funded by the Department of Transportation and thus, staff has reached out to the Department to inquire about additional grant funds to offset cost increases; that the projects associated with items 12 and 13 are older projects which were planned and budgeted for quite some time ago; and that staff continuously looks for grant opportunities that align with projects, however, applying for grants costs time and money.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Flowers

13. Award of bid to Kamminga & Roodvoets, Inc. for the Mehlenbacher Road sidewalk project.

Contract No. 23-0209-ITB-CP awarded in the amount of \$3,575,743.50 on the basis of being the lowest responsive, responsible bid received meeting specifications. All work to be completed within 480 consecutive calendar days.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Flowers

16. Ranking of firms and agreements with ten firms for requirements of Construction Administration and Inspection Professional Services-Federal Funds on a continuing basis to assist with implementation of the Capital Improvement Program.

(Contract No. 22-0456-CN) Ranking of firms and agreements approved in the annual amount of \$12,000,000.00 for a five-year total of \$60,000,000.00.

In response to a query by Commissioner Eggers, Public Works Director Kelli Hammer Levy clarified that the project's upset limit funds are not guaranteed to be utilized; that the purpose of contracting the services is to assist when in-house engineering and inspection services staff are overwhelmed with the volume or specialty of projects; and that requirements were added to ensure federal grant compliance; whereupon, Mr. Burton noted that projects must be completed on time to retain funding.

Deviating from the agenda, in response to queries by Commissioner Justice, Ms. Levy explained that there will be a level of service update on April 6, which will touch on the sidewalk maintenance backlog; that the County is required to upgrade sidewalks to current Americans with Disabilities Act standards if they are adjacent to roads being resurfaced; that sidewalks are currently being upgraded in advance of road paving planned for next year; and that sidewalk upgrade projects are prioritized using criteria, which takes into consideration a variety of factors, including right-of-way, equity, and safe routes to schools and job centers.

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, Vice-Chair Peters, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Flowers

AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND COUNCILS**Human Resources****18. Ranking of firms and agreements with 22nd Century Technologies, Inc., Abacus Service Corporation, Personnel Solutions Plus, LLC., and Sign-In Solutions, Inc. for staff augmentation services.**

(Contract No. 22-0591-P) Ranking of firms and agreements approved in the annual amount of \$3,600,000.00 for a five-year total of \$18,000,000.00 effective April 2, 2023, through April 1, 2028.

In response to queries by Commissioner Eggers, Human Resources Director Kimberly Crum indicated that staff negotiated a markup on the contract for staff augmentation services to a lower rate, however, increased wages over the past year have resulted in the \$18 million cost; that the purpose of the services is to provide the County with temporary fill-ins for situations when an employee retires or quits under short notice; and that contracting with four agencies as proposed in the contract will allow departments to fill vacancies more quickly; whereupon, Mr. Burton provided clarifying comments regarding funding for the positions.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Flowers

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

Administrative Services

19. Purchase authorization for requirements of heavy and light duty vehicles and equipment.

Contract No. 23-00030-PB approved for a total expenditure not to exceed \$7,031,224.70 pursuant to the pricing, terms, and conditions of the following contracts:

- 1) Florida Sheriff's Association / Florida Association of Counties (government purchasing cooperative) Contract No. FSA22-VEH 20.0 for utility vehicles, trucks, trailers, and heavy equipment.
- 2) Omnia Partners (government purchasing cooperative) Contract No. 2017025 for golf carts and mowers.
- 3) Sourcewell (governmental purchasing cooperative) Contract No. 091521-NAF for trucks.
- 4) Houston-Galveston Area Council (government purchasing cooperative) Contract No. RH08-20 for beach rake.

Responding to a query by Commissioner Eggers, Mr. Burton related that six electric vehicles will be purchased as part of a pilot project; and that an in-house cost comparison versus gas vehicles will be conducted and reported annually to the BCC.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Flowers

Airport

20. Award of bid to Ajax Paving Industries of Florida, LLC for Cargo Apron Reconstruction and Replacement of Runway 9-27 with a Taxiway.

Contract No. 23-0075-ITB approved in the amount not to exceed \$14,670,617.57 for a 315-day term on the basis of being the lowest responsive, responsible bid received meeting specifications.

Responding to a query by Commissioner Eggers, St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport Director Tom Jewsbury indicated that the Airport reserves and Passenger Facility Charge funds will be used to cover the increased costs of the project, noting the lower original estimate.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Flowers

21. Resolution authorizing continuation of a \$4.50 Passenger Facility Charge at the St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport.

Resolution No. 23-16 adopted authorizing the Airport to submit Passenger Facility Charge Application No. 7 to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to allow continued collection of Passenger Facility Charge Fees to fund FAA projects. Total revenue to be collected in the new application is \$13.653 million.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Flowers

County Administrator

22. East Lake Community Library Fiscal Year 2023 Municipal Services Taxing Unit special projects funding request.

Funding request approved in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00 towards the purchase and installation of technology upgrades.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Flowers

Economic Development

- 23.** Master Lease and Operating Agreement between Pinellas County, STAR-TEC Enterprises, Inc. and Pinellas County Industrial Development Authority.

Master Lease and Operating Agreement approved for a newly constructed 46,570-square-foot building and the operation of the Tampa Bay Innovation Center Business Incubator for a ten-year term with four five-year renewal options. This agreement will replace the County's obligations under the current funding agreement and continue to provide funding to STAR-TEC for the first three years of the agreement for a total amount of \$400,000.00, as outlined in the Staff Report.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Flowers

- 24.** Resolution and Second Amendment of Joinder to Interlocal Agreement approving the issuance of not-to-exceed \$5,100,000.00 for projects located in Pinellas County, of Industrial Development Revenue Bonds by Florida Development Finance Corporation.

Resolution No. 23-17 and amendment approved to finance the cost of acquiring, constructing, renovating, and improving certain solid waste disposal facilities for Waste Pro USA, Inc.

Responding to a query by Commissioner Scott, Mr. Burton related that the County has no liability for the repayment of the project.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Flowers

Housing & Community Development

25. Fourth Amendment to the Community Development Block Grant Program Subaward Specific Performance and Land Use Restriction Agreement CD17PERCRHB with Pinellas Ex-Offender Re-Entry Coalition, Inc. d/b/a People Empowering, and Restoring Communities for Community Development Block Grant funded facility improvements.

Amendment approved extending the term of the agreement for three months to September 30, 2023 to allow time for project completion, restricting the term of the land use restricted period for three months to October 1, 2043, providing an additional \$324,624.76 in CDBG funding to cover the 30% increased cost in construction materials, and increasing the amount of the required property insurance coverage. Revised total of the project not to exceed \$1,090,774.76.

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, Vice-Chair Peters, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Flowers

Human Services

26. Amendments with five non-profit organizations for 5.0% cost of living increases.

Amendments approved with 211 Tampa Bay Cares, Inc., Boley Centers, Inc., Catholic Charities, Homeless Leadership Alliance of Pinellas, Inc., and Personal Enrichment through Mental Health Services, Inc. in a total amount of \$209,375.45, not to exceed the amount of \$313,930.00 identified in the Human Services Fiscal Year 2023 General Fund appropriation.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Flowers

Public Works

27. Fifth Amendment to the contract with HDR Engineering, Inc. for the San Martin over Riviera Bay Bridge Project Development and Environment Study.

(Contract No. 134-0091-NC, PID No. 001036A) Amendment approved increasing the contract in the amount of \$1,874,083.47 for a revised total of \$2,599,638.63, to be completed within 670 consecutive calendar days after issuance of notice to proceed for the design-phase services.

Responding to queries by the members, Public Works Director Kelli Hammer Levy provided additional cost and funding information related to the project and indicated that the commencement of this project dates back to December of 2014.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Flowers

Safety and Emergency Services

28. Agreement to receive E911 trust fund monies from the State of Florida for Pinellas County's E911 training room redesign.

Agreement approved to receive grant funds in the amount of \$339,521.90 for console furniture workstations, with no matching funds required.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Flowers

29. Resolution authorizing the County Administrator to annually execute the Certification Statement of the Use of Certified Public Funds and Letter of Agreement with the State of Florida to participate in the Medicaid Public Emergency Medical Transportation and Medicaid Public Emergency Medical Transportation-Intergovernmental Transfer Programs.

Resolution No. 23-18 adopted delegating the above-stated authority.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Flowers

Utilities

- 30.** Resilient Florida Grant Agreement with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for funding of construction for the Manufactured Home Communities Wastewater Collection System Improvements.

(County Project No. 005015A) Agreement approved for grant funding in the amount of \$25,000,000.00, with no matching funds required. All work must be completed by June 30, 2026.

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, Vice-Chair Peters, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Flowers

AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND COUNCILS

Housing Finance Authority

- 31.** 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 Bear Creek Commons.

Resolution No. 23-19 adopted approving the issuance of bonds in a principal amount not to exceed \$12,500,000.00 for the benefit of Blue 64th Street, LLC. The project includes the acquisition, construction and equipping of an 85-unit midrise multifamily rental housing in St. Petersburg.

Upon call by the Chair for public comment, Shawn Wilson, St. Petersburg, appeared and expressed his concerns.

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, Vice-Chair Peters, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Flowers

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 Oakhurst Trace.

Resolution No. 23-20 adopted approving the issuance of bonds in a principal amount not to exceed \$28,000,000.00 for the benefit of SP Pinellas III LLC. The project includes the acquisition, construction and equipping of a 220-unit multifamily rental housing facility in Pinellas Park.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Flowers

COUNTY ATTORNEY

33. Proposed initiation of litigation in the case of Pinellas County v. Florida PACE Funding Agency - action for declaratory and injunctive relief.

Initiation of litigation approved.

Attorney White explained that the intent of the litigation is to take issue with an opinion that was issued in Leon County, which the court ostensibly found applies to Pinellas County.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Flowers

34. Proposed initiation of litigation in the case of Pinellas County v. Stephen Panzarella and Richard Long - small claims action for property damage.

Initiation of litigation approved.

Attorney White noted that the purpose of the case is to recover property damage on a County facility caused by a private car accident.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Flowers

35. Proposed initiation of litigation in the case of Pinellas County v. Marc A. Letcher - action for injunctive relief.

Initiation of litigation approved.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Flowers

36. Proposed settlement authority in the case of Signe Schmit v. Pinellas County; Circuit Civil Case No. 20-003166-CI.

Initiation of litigation approved.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Flowers

37. County Attorney Reports. - None.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

38. County Administrator Reports.

Vessel Exclusion Zone Meeting

Mr. Burton indicated that he recently met with the Sheriff's Office and representatives of several communities with water access regarding new legislation that created vessel exclusion zones where people can be prohibited from anchoring; that the representatives are individually reviewing the legislation to determine if there are areas in their communities where they would like the County to implement the restrictions put forth in the law; and that the County will review the requests from community representatives as a holistic plan.

Update on future joint Commission meeting with Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Pasco Counties

Mr. Burton related that Tampa Bay Partnership CEO Bemetra Simmons is facilitating scheduling a date for the joint meeting, which would provide a great opportunity for regional cooperation and discussion of topics of mutual interest.

Upcoming budget meetings

Mr. Burton indicated that staff is working on finalizing a proposed budget in anticipation of budget meetings in June.

COUNTY COMMISSION

39. County Commission New Business:

Pertinent and timely Committee/Board updates, policy considerations, administrative/procedural considerations, and other new business.

At the request of Chair Long, Assistant to the County Administrator Brian Lowack explained that a bill related to Tourism Development Tax (TDT) was recently filed by the Florida House Regulatory Reform and Economic Development Subcommittee; and that it would have the following impacts if signed into law:

- All currently authorized TDT levies would sunset on July 1, 2028, unless renewed by referendum.
- Any future enacted TDT levies would be subject to renewal by referendum with at least 60% voter approval every six years.
- State funding for VISIT FLORIDA would be eliminated, with rural counties contributing 2% and urban counties paying 5% of their TDT collections to fund the organization for three years.
- VISIT FLORIDA would be required to ensure that 75% of its expenditures go towards services, functions, and programs that directly assist state parks, state forests, and rural communities.

Mr. Lowack provided information regarding the bill's next steps in the House, noting that it will be assigned a number and committees if it passes the subcommittee it is currently in; and that there is no companion bill in the Senate; whereupon, in response to queries by the members, he provided clarifying comments regarding the bill's potential impacts on the County's TDT collections and other topics. During discussion, Commissioners Latvala and Scott expressed their interest in reviewing the current split formula for TDT use.

Thereupon, the members provided updates regarding their assigned boards and committees and commented on various topics, as follows:

Commissioner Scott

- Recent local events and meetings
- Coast Guard flight with Public Works to view red tide
- Historic Preservation Board

Commissioner Justice

- Florida Association of Counties Day on the Hill in Tallahassee
- Habitat for Humanity 800th Home Dedication

Commissioner Latvala

- Congratulating Interim Mayor of Clearwater Brian Aungst, Sr. on his new role and thanking former Mayor Frank Hibbard for his service
- Recent local events and meetings
- Juvenile Welfare Board

Commissioner Eggers

- Tampa Bay Transportation Management Area meeting
- Tampa Bay Water
- Congratulating Interim Mayor of Clearwater Brian Aungst, Sr.

Commissioner Peters

- Upcoming trip to Tallahassee on behalf of the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority

Commissioner Long

- Tampa Bay Transportation Management Area meeting
- Forward Pinellas
- Recent trip to Washington, D.C., to discuss beach renourishment
- Representing Pinellas County on the Global Tampa Bay trip to London

Bob Graham Sunshine Skyway Bridge lighting

Chair Long related that there is an initiative to light the Skyway Bridge for Mental Health Awareness Month and requested the Board's consideration with regard to adding the cause to the master bridge lighting resolution list.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Flowers

Meeting Recessed: 3:54 P.M.

Meeting Reconvened: 6:00 P.M.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

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

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

40. Case No. FLU-22-07 (Ridgemoor Master Association, Inc.)
A request for a change of Land Use from Recreation/Open Space to Transportation/Utility on approximately 0.116 acre located on the west side of Ridgemoor Drive approximately 300 feet north of Ridgemoor Boulevard in East Lake Tarpon.

Ordinance No. 23-3 adopted approving the land use change. The Local Planning Agency recommended approval of the request, and staff concurred. No correspondence has been received.

Upon the Chair’s call for public comment, Alan Ruiz, Tampa, appeared and indicated that he is the applicant; whereupon, Mr. Burton provided details regarding the hearing, indicating that the request is to construct a telecommunications tower; and that the tower’s proposed height of 150 feet requires a public hearing and a Type-2 Use approval from the Board of Adjustment and Appeals.

In response to a query by Commissioner Eggers, Long Range Planning Manager Scott Swearingen clarified that the applicant reached out to the community regarding the proposed telecommunications tower; and that the request has been brought forward by the community’s homeowners association.

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

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

Nay: 1 - Commissioner Justice

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Flowers

41. Case No. ZON-22-09 (12199 Seminole, LLC)

A request for a zoning change from C-1, Neighborhood Commercial to C-2, General Commercial and Services on approximately 0.52 acre located at 12081 Seminole Boulevard in unincorporated Largo. (Quasi-Judicial)

Resolution No. 23-21 adopted approving the zoning change. The Local Planning Agency recommended approval of the request, and staff concurred. Seventeen letters in support have been received. No citizens appeared to be heard.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Flowers

42. Case No. ZON-22-10 (2754 Summerdale, LLC)

A request for a Zoning change from R-A, Residential Agriculture to E-2, Employment-2 on approximately 0.34 acre located at 2754 Summerdale Drive in unincorporated Clearwater. (Quasi-Judicial)

Resolution No. 23-22 adopted approving the zoning change. The Local Planning Agency recommended approval of the request, and staff concurred. No correspondence has been received. No citizens appeared to be heard.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Flowers

Deviating from the agenda, Chair Long related that there have been ongoing conversations between staff, U.S. Representative Anna Paulina Luna, the White House, and the Army Corps of Engineers regarding beach renourishment; and that Representative Luna has requested that the Board send a letter in support of the beach renourishment process with the Army Corps; whereupon, she referred to a letter that has been drafted.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Flowers

Deviating from the agenda, Chair Long related that Commissioner Flowers provided a letter in reference to a recent discussion regarding the issues surrounding CareerSource Pinellas; and that pending the approval of the members, Commissioner Flowers is prepared to send the letter on their behalf. In response to a query by Commissioner Eggers, Chair Long clarified that the letter is in regards to the merger between the Hillsborough and Pinellas CareerSource organizations, and Mr. Burton noted that the letter was prepared by CareerSource Pinellas Interim CEO and Chief Financial Officer Steve Meier.

Thereupon, discussion ensued regarding the reasoning behind the consolidation, some active litigation related to recovering approximately \$3.4 million due to activities that occurred under a previous CEO, and other topics. Attorney White provided information regarding the active litigation, indicating that CareerSource Pinellas and CareerSource Tampa Bay have separate lawsuits to recoup substantial funds lost due to fraudulent activity; and that it is impossible to predict what a court may do if the two CareerSource organizations were consolidated.

Responding to a query by Commissioner Long, Attorney White noted that it is the Board’s prerogative whether they wish to send the letter in support of not moving forward with the merger of the two CareerSource organizations at this time; that there is no assurance that there would be equal representation between Hillsborough and Pinellas if the two CareerSource organizations and their respective Boards merged; and that CareerSource Pinellas currently has unrestricted funds which would be under the control of a consolidated board to allocate as they deem appropriate if the merger took place.

In response to queries by the members, Attorney White provided clarifying comments; whereupon, discussion ensued. Commissioners Eggers and Peters indicated that they are not in support of the current drafted letter and commented on the difference between its contents and the Board’s previous discussion on the matter, and Attorney White noted that the Board has a work session scheduled prior to the deadline that the letter must be sent by; and that postponing a decision on whether to send the letter would allow staff to gather more information regarding the active litigation to hopefully come to a consensus.

Thereupon, the members commented on areas of improvement for the letter. Chair Long and Commissioner Justice remarked on the significance of demonstrating a consensus from the Board as the highest elected official in the County; whereupon, Chair Long requested that the concerns mentioned by the members be incorporated into the letter to be presented at the Board’s upcoming work session. Commissioner Peters stressed the importance of expressing the Board’s concerns while remaining open to change, with Chair Long and Commissioners Justice and Eggers concurring.

ADJOURNMENT - 6:33 P.M.

ATTEST: KEN BURKE, CLERK

By: *Deidra Lewis*
Deputy Clerk



Janet C. Long
Chair