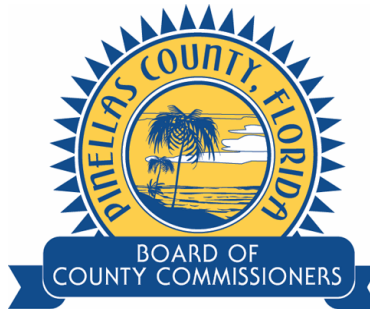


Pinellas County

*315 Court Street, 5th Floor Assembly Room
Clearwater, Florida 33756*



Minutes - Final

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

9:30 AM

BCC Assembly Room

Board of County Commissioners - Work Session

*Janet C. Long, Chairman
Kenneth T. Welch, Vice-Chairman
Dave Eggers
Pat Gerard
Charlie Justice
John Morroni
Karen Williams Seel*

Roll Call - 9:33 A.M.

Members Present: Janet C. Long, Chairman; Kenneth T. Welch, Vice-Chairman; Dave Eggers; Pat Gerard; Charlie Justice, John Morroni, and Karen Williams Seel.

Also Present: James C. Bennett, County Attorney; Mark S. Woodard, County Administrator; other interested individuals; and Christopher T. Bartlett and Michael P. Schmidt, Board Reporters, Deputy Clerks.

Copies of all PowerPoint presentations referred to in the minutes have been made a part of the record.

1. Penny for Pinellas

Mr. Woodard introduced the item, relating that it is a continuation of the Penny for Pinellas discussion from last Thursday; that Penny IV will be the topic of conversation this morning; that his objective is to obtain guidance from the members regarding those projects and initiatives they wish to pursue; and that their direction will allow his office to convey their ideas to local citizens during the public information and education campaign; whereupon, he indicated that the annual departmental presentations will take place this afternoon.

Office of Management and Budget Director Bill Berger referred to a PowerPoint presentation titled *Penny for Pinellas, Building a Better Pinellas*, and discussed the distribution of funds during Pennies I, II, and III, the projected distribution for Penny IV, and the funding split between the local governments and the County; whereupon, Mr. Woodard and Assistant County Administrator Jake Stowers presented information regarding countywide investment, a tiered approach for allocating local match dollars to the cities to help create high wage jobs, and various scenarios relating to the process.

Throughout the presentation and during discussion regarding the Strategic Plan, Messrs. Woodard, Stowers, and Berger answered queries by the members and received input regarding how they want to proceed with various projects and initiatives; whereupon, Mr. Woodard discussed the benefits of City-County partnerships, provided information regarding Phase I of the Outreach Plan, and presented a timeline for moving forward.

Meeting Recessed: 12:06 P.M.

Meeting Reconvened: 12:46 P.M.

Department Presentations

Mr. Woodard related that the presentations will provide an overview of the departments and a preview of the Doing Things! that are planned for the upcoming fiscal year.

2. Solid Waste

Solid Waste Management Director Kelsi Oswald referred to a PowerPoint presentation titled *Doing Things! Solid Waste*, and reported that her department has 78 full-time employees; whereupon, she briefly discussed the three divisions that comprise Solid Waste, including Contract Operations, Public Outreach Programs, and Infrastructure Management, and reported that the mission of her department is to ensure that waste is disposed of safely and in an environmentally sound fashion, which includes recycling, recovery, and disposal efforts.

Ms. Oswald discussed the accomplishments of Solid Waste, including:

- New Unattended Scale
- Lealman Franchise Collection
- Recycling Rate Increase
- Business Waste Assessments

Thereupon, she discussed department objectives, including:

- Master Plan
- Bulky Waste Processing
- Wastewater Treatment Improvements
- Artificial Reef Construction

In response to comments and queries by the members, Ms. Oswald discussed the local recycling rate, participation in the Lealman curbside recycling program, tons of trash handled, bulky waste processing, height and life of the landfill, waste-to-energy plant, enhanced metal recovery, use of ash for roadway construction, local shredding events, and the Duke Energy contract; whereupon, Mr. Woodard indicated that Ms. Oswald will be retiring next week, and the members thanked her for her hard work and congratulated her for over 30 years of service to Pinellas County.

3. Parks and Conservation Resources

Parks and Conservation Resources Director Paul Cozzie referred to a PowerPoint presentation titled *Doing Things! Parks and Conservation Resources*, and reported that his department has 192 full-time employees and 25 seasonal lifeguards; whereupon, he briefly discussed the six program areas that comprise Parks and Conservation Resources, including Parks and Environmental Lands, Resource and Asset Management, Extension Services, Air Quality, Horticulture, and Business Services.

Mr. Cozzie reported that his employees perform the following duties:

- Operate and maintain County parks, preserves, management areas, and museums
- Monitor air pollutants and emissions
- Provide public education on sustainable living and natural resources
- Recruit, train, and coordinate volunteers
- Oversee coordination of special events in County parks and facilities
- Operate and maintain the Florida Botanical Gardens

Mr. Cozzie discussed the accomplishments of Solid Waste, including:

- Park Improvements
- CPR/AED Certification
- Resource Management
- Curator of Collections
- Near Road Monitoring Site
- Family Nutrition Program

Thereupon, he discussed department objectives, including:

- Seminole Unincorporated Area Recreation Facility Masterplan
- Contracted Exotic Control
- Pond Management
- Park Ranger Career Ladder
- Increase Volunteer Hours
- Asbestos Monitoring and Inspection
- Improving Air Quality
- 4-H Youth Financial Management and Entrepreneurial Academy
- Reservation and Point of Sale Software Upgrade
- Elfers Spur, Wall Springs Park, and other significant capital projects

In response to comments and queries by Commissioner Eggers, Mr. Cozzie indicated that thousands of acres within Pinellas County are inundated with exotic plants; that partnerships have been forged with several state agencies to help control the problem; and that more could be done if additional resources were available; whereupon, he provided detailed information regarding recreational programs and associated fees, and Mr. Woodard and Commissioner Seel provided input.

4. Utilities

Director of Utilities Randi Kim referred to a PowerPoint presentation titled *Doing Things! Utilities*, and reported that her department has 405 full-time employees; whereupon, she briefly discussed the five divisions that comprise Utilities, including Water Quality, Maintenance, Operations, Engineering, and Customer Services, indicating that Utilities manages vast amounts of infrastructure to provide safe drinking water and effective sewer service to its customers.

Ms. Kim reported that her employees perform the following duties:

- Deliver clean drinking water
- Collect and treat wastewater
- Deliver reclaimed water
- Monitor water quality
- Perform laboratory analysis and research
- Promote and enforce water conservation programs
- Manage Cross Bar and Al Bar Ranch

Ms. Kim discussed the accomplishments of Utilities, including:

- Ensure delivery of safe drinking water
- Reduced energy consumption to deliver water more cost effectively
- Produce fertilizer from biosolids
- Reduced air emissions from Utilities' vehicle fleet

Thereupon, she discussed department objectives, including:

- Protect water quality by reducing sanitary sewer overflows
- Increase beneficial use of reclaimed water
- Increase paperless billing and payments
- Educational outreach

In response to queries by the members, Ms. Kim presented information regarding the number of days water travels through the distribution lines, when disinfection and flushing of the system are required, and how her department communicates with its customers, and related that even though the Utilities Department does not have alternative fuel vehicles, she is receptive to the idea; whereupon, Operations Division Director James Dulaney discussed the production of biosolids at two Pinellas County water reclamation facilities, indicating that the two main benefits associated with selling the product are offsetting operating costs and getting rid of the material.

In response to queries by Commissioners Welch and Eggers, Ms. Kim provided information regarding how her department has been inspecting, repairing, and refurbishing the sanitary sewer system, and presented statistical information pertaining to system overflows, indicating that aging infrastructure and stormwater infiltration have been major contributors to the problem; whereupon, she provided information regarding reclaimed water, reporting that customers are charged a flat rate for the service.

Commissioner Gerard noted a personal experience and thanked Ms. Kim and her staff for their diligence in helping to locate a water leak in her home, saving her hundreds of dollars, and in response to queries by the members, Ms. Kim provided information regarding the term *automated clearinghouse*, educational opportunities for students, and automatic meter readers and advanced metering infrastructure.

Meeting Recessed: 2:35 P.M.

Meeting Reconvened: 2:49 P.M.

All Commissioners were in attendance, with the exception of Commissioner Morroni.

Deviating from the agenda, Chairman Long indicated that Item No. 8 would be heard at this time.

8. Convention and Visitors Bureau

Visit St. Petersburg/Clearwater (VSPC) Area Convention and Visitors Bureau Executive Director David Downing referred to a PowerPoint presentation titled *Doing Things! Convention and Visitors Bureau*, and reported that his department has 47 full-time employees; that it is the accredited destination marketing organization of Pinellas County; that it is funded solely through the Tourist Development Tax; and that all funds are expended in accordance with Florida Statutes and Pinellas County Code; whereupon, referring to a chart titled *Tourist Development Tax by FY*, he provided financial and statistical information regarding growth for the prior six years, available reserves for capital funding, the launch of a new campaign, and industry meetings.

Mr. Downing related that his employees perform the following duties:

- Market, advertise, and promote Pinellas County
- Attract and retain air service to the area
- Partner with local stakeholders
- Support high-profile events
- Fund capital projects
- Employ residents

Mr. Downing discussed the accomplishments of the Convention and Visitors Bureau, including:

- Penny for Pinellas
- Visit StPeteClearwater.com
- Destination Magazine
- Visitation from Latin America

Thereupon, he discussed department objectives, including:

- Partnerships
- Differentiation
- Keep brand lively and top of mind

During discussion and in response to queries by Chairman Long and Commissioner Welch, Mr. Downing provided information regarding how his department advertises and markets to cities across the nation and around the world; whereupon, VSPC Media and Interactive Director Leroy Bridges provided an overview of digital platforms and the percentage of people who book vacations with mobile technology.

Thereupon, a video was shown highlighting the Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Commissioners Eggers and Justice provided input.

5. Public Works

Public Works Director Rahim Harji referred to a PowerPoint presentation titled *Doing Things! Public Works*, and reported that his department has 434 full-time employees; whereupon, he briefly discussed the seven divisions that comprise Public Works, including Transportation, Stormwater and Vegetation, Environmental Management, Construction, Survey and Mapping, Customer Service, and Technical Services.

Mr. Harji reported that his employees perform the following duties:

- Customer Service
- Asset Management
- Floodplain Management
- Watershed Planning
- Mosquito Control
- Emergency Planning and Response
- Watershed Protection and Permit Compliance
- Coastal Management
- Docks, Dredge and Fill Permits
- Surface Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment

Mr. Harji discussed the accomplishments of Public Works, including:

- Oracle Project Management
- Managed construction of over 250 projects
- Paved an average of 50 miles of road per year
- Processed 734 environmental permits
- Adopted 8 community ponds
- Removed over 3,000 pounds of trash
- Saved residents over \$5 million on flood insurance
- Proactive storm preparation
- Distributed over 1,600 bicycle lights
- Repaired and improved sidewalks
- Zika response
- Paved 9.8 miles of MSTU streets
- Completed 8.5 miles of trail

Thereupon, he discussed department objectives, including:

- Work Request Backlog Reduction
- Asset Management Plans
- Roadway Maintenance Agreements
- Partnering on Drainage Problem Resolution
- Process and Procedures - American Public Works Association
- Capital Improvement Planning and Implementation
- Sea Level Rise Planning
- Roadway Improvements
- Reduce Travel Times with Advanced Traffic Management System
- Implement the New Stormwater Manual
- Real Time Flood Forecasting
- Stormwater/Wastewater Partnerships

In response to comments and queries by Commissioners Welch and Eggers, Mr. Harji discussed citizen use of the SeeClickFix mobile application, the MSTU Paving Program, and the Pavement Preservation Program associated with local and arterial roads maintained by the County, relating that he will contact Solid Waste regarding the prospect of using ash as a paving material; whereupon, Traffic Signal Operations Manager Kenneth Jacobs presented information regarding autonomous and connected vehicles, fine-tuning the Advanced Traffic Management System at East Lake and Keystone Roads, and the installation of ATMS software at Park and Seminole Boulevards.

6. Economic Development

Chairman Long indicated that Agenda Item No. 6 would be heard at the February 23 BCC Work Session, and no objections were noted.

7. Planning

Chairman Long indicated that Agenda Item No. 7 would be heard at the February 23 BCC Work Session, and no objections were noted.

Adjournment - 3:59 P.M.