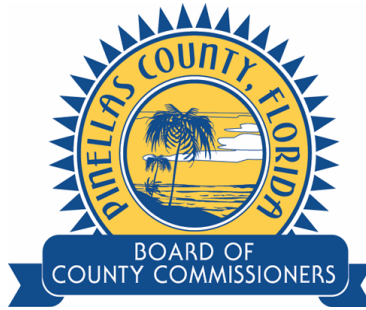


Pinellas County

*315 Court Street
Clearwater, Florida 33756*



Minutes - Final

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

9:30 AM

BCC Assembly Room

Board of County Commissioners - Work Session

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

ROLL CALL - 9:32 A.M.

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

Not Present: John Morroni.

Others Present: Jewel White, County Attorney; Mark S. Woodard, County Administrator; and Chris Bartlett, Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk.

Department Presentations

1. Economic Development

Economic Development Director Mike Meidel referred to a PowerPoint presentation titled *Doing Things! Economic Development* and reported that his department has 17 full-time employees; whereupon, he discussed the various services of the department and provided information regarding its duties, accomplishments, and objectives.

During the presentation and in response to queries by the members, Mr. Meidel indicated that the department will work with a consultant to help identify appropriate property for the employment and residential program to be funded by Penny for Pinellas tax revenues; and that to better leverage the limited amount of funding available, staff has been directed to find locations that best support a mix of office, warehouse, and residential development, and discussion ensued regarding redevelopment of the Tropicana Field property in the City of St. Petersburg.

Responding to query by Commissioner Eggers, Mr. Meidel related that the Airco Aviation Business Center property must have an environmental assessment completed before it can be redeveloped; and that any plans will require Federal Aviation Administration approval. He stated that there has been developer interest in the property; and that the entire 117-acre site plus a 10-acre hotel site is under consideration; whereupon, he discussed the need to install proper infrastructure on the site once the environmental studies are completed.

In response to queries by the members, Mr. Meidel discussed employment and wages, population growth, and demographics, and distributed copies of Economic Development's annual report to the members, a copy of which has been made a part of the record, noting that an electronic version is available on the department's website.

Upon the Chairman's call for citizens wishing to be heard, the following persons appeared and provided input regarding business incubators, County requests for bids, County advertisements in local publications, small business enterprise, community engagement, and Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility certification:

Richard Love, St. Petersburg
Barbara Sorey-Love, St. Petersburg
Maria Scruggs, NAACP President, St. Petersburg Branch
Gypsy C. Gallardo, St. Petersburg
Hayes Fountain, Largo

Responding to citizen comments, Chairman Welch noted that the County website will be redesigned in the near future; and that he will provide a copy of the current Strategic Plan to Ms. Scruggs.

2. Purchasing

Purchasing Director Joe Lauro referred to a PowerPoint presentation titled *Doing Things! Purchasing* and reported that his department has 19 full-time employees; whereupon, he discussed the various services of the department and provided information regarding its duties, accomplishments, and objectives.

Responding to queries by the members regarding the bidding process, Mr. Lauro indicated that the County wants to improve its minority and small business programs by engaging the community and contractors; that businesses are encouraged to complete the prequalification process so as to bid on County contracts; and that if not prequalified, businesses can still be hired as subcontractors by a qualified firm. He related that the department typically handles between \$300 and \$400 million dollars in contract spending; and that the use of purchasing cards, also known as p-cards, has generated \$238,000 in rebates that are distributed back to the each department that originated the expense.

In response to queries by the members, Mr. Lauro discussed the challenges overcome by the County to facilitate debris removal following Hurricane Irma and noted that the demand for services was higher than what the vendors could actually supply; and that the challenges were statewide and not specific to Pinellas County.

Upon the Chairman's call for citizens wishing to be heard, Grady Terrell, St. Petersburg, appeared and provided input regarding small businesses and the partnership between Purchasing and Economic Development. Responding to comments by Mr. Terrell, Mr. Woodard indicated that staff is reviewing the use of p-cards and its effect on small businesses.

3. Development Review Services

Development Review Services (DRS) Director Blake Lyon referred to a PowerPoint presentation titled *Doing Things! Development Review Services*, and reported that his department has 45 full-time employees; whereupon, he discussed the various services of the department and provided information regarding its duties, accomplishments, and objectives.

Responding to queries by the members, Mr. Lyon related that customers can conduct a large portion of their business with the department online; that the number of services available online is increasing; and with input by Mr. Woodard, that the new Accela civic platform software, currently being implemented, will be far more robust than the previous platform, and discussion ensued.

In response to query by Commissioner Seel, Mr. Lyon discussed right-of-way utilization permits, noting that permit requests continue to increase each year; and that the department is currently meeting the 14-day initial review timeline as mandated by the state. He indicated that DRS has dedicated an employee to facilitate the requests in cooperation with other departments; and that the workload is monitored in order to maintain a reasonable amount of resources to ensure response times are in compliance.

Mr. Lyon responded to queries by the members and discussed code enforcement, the challenges related to foreclosure properties, and the overall volume of complaints received by the department. Mr. Woodard indicated that current response times are mostly average, and discussion ensued.

4. Building Services

Building Services Interim Director Glenn Wardell referred to a PowerPoint presentation titled *Doing Things! Building Services* and reported that his department has 56 full-time employees; whereupon, he discussed the various services of the department and provided information regarding its duties, accomplishments, and objectives.

Responding to queries by the members, Mr. Wardell noted that over 90 percent of callers receive the help they need during their first phone call to the department and discussed matters related to next-day inspections. He related that the department has received an Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating of three, with a rating of one being the highest, for both commercial and residential; and that the rating exceeds the average ratings in Florida and all other Gulf and Atlantic coast states.

5. Other Business

- Commissioner Gerard provided an update regarding CareerSource Pinellas, and discussion ensued regarding board appointments and the possibility of future litigation, and Attorney White provided input.
- Responding to query by Commissioner Seel, Mr. Woodard indicated that a template for use with budget decision packages is still being developed.

- Mr. Woodard noted that Intergovernmental Liaison Brian Lowack will be attending a Constitution Revision Commission public hearing at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg to speak on the Board's behalf regarding whether several proposals align with the Board's legislative priorities.

ADJOURNMENT - 12:24 P.M.