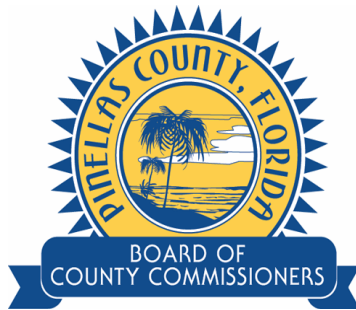


# **Pinellas County**

*315 Court Street  
Clearwater, Florida 33756*



## **Minutes - Final**

**Thursday, February 14, 2019**

**9:30 AM**

**BCC Assembly Room**

## **Board of County Commissioners - Work Session**

*Karen Williams Seel, Chair*

*Pat Gerard, Vice-Chair*

*Dave Eggers*

*Charlie Justice*

*Janet C. Long*

*Kathleen Peters*

*Kenneth T. Welch*

**ROLL CALL - 9:34 A.M.**

Present: Chair Karen Williams Seel (arrived at 12:49 P.M.), Vice-Chair Pat Gerard, Dave Eggers, Charlie Justice, Janet C. Long, Kathleen Peters, and Kenneth T. Welch

Others Present: Don Crowell, Chief Assistant County Attorney; and Teresa Adkins, Board Reporter

**Department Presentations**

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

**1. Airport**

St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport Deputy Director Mark Sprague introduced members of his team; whereupon, referring to a PowerPoint Presentation titled *Doing Things! To Serve the Public, Airport*, he discussed areas that the Airport supports and provided information regarding department duties, accomplishments, and objectives.

In response to comments and queries by the members, Mr. Sprague discussed the following:

- Noise Abatement Task Force and carrier compliance rate
- Partial government shutdown and TSA employees
- STAR Program for visually impaired passengers
- Airport concession enhancements
- Targeting/attracting new airlines
- Plans for Turtle Club site
- Allegiant Airlines Airbus fleet
- International flight check-in
- Customs Border Protection Project status
- Factors limiting incoming/outgoing international flights

Responding to queries by Commissioners Welch and Long, Mr. Sprague related that Clearwater Air Park serves recreational aviation and is owned by the City of Clearwater; that Albert Whitted Airport accommodates recreational aviation and small jets; and that flight training is offered at all three local airports.

**2. Convention & Visitors Bureau**

Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) Interim President and CEO Jim Dean introduced his staff and reported that the CVB has 52 full-time employees and is financed entirely by the Tourist Development Tax; whereupon, he referred to a PowerPoint presentation titled *Doing Things! To Serve the Public, Convention and Visitors Bureau* and discussed the areas that

the CVB supports and provided information regarding department duties, accomplishments, and objectives.

In response to comments and queries by the members, Mr. Dean, with input by Visit St. Petersburg/Clearwater Chief Operating Officer Tim Ramsberger, discussed the following:

- Elite Event applications
- Marketing presence and initiatives
- Average Daily Rate projections
- Bus Rapid Transit
- Maintaining destination affordability
- Professional and amateur sports marketing
- Investment in/control over sports facilities

In response to comments and queries by Commissioner Justice, Mr. Dean provided his professional opinion on the advantage of building a sports park in Pinellas County and the opportunity and challenges of doing so. Following discussion Mr. Ramsberger provided background information and historical data regarding locations, acreage needed, and the estimated cost of similar event centers in neighboring counties, and the members expressed their interest in pursuing the matter.

### 3. Economic Development

Economic Development Director Mike Meidel introduced senior staff and reported that his department has 20 full-time employees; whereupon, referring to a PowerPoint presentation titled *Doing Things! To Serve the Public, Economic Development*, he discussed areas that Economic Development supports and provided information regarding department duties, accomplishments, and objectives.

In response to comments and queries by the members, Mr. Meidel discussed the following:

- Rising employment numbers
- Obtaining unemployment data
- Public versus private sector jobs
- Outreach to connect students to careers
- Post-secondary educational opportunities
- Jabil Inc. Expansion Project
- Office and industrial space availability
- Attracting small privately held companies
- Office/industrial opportunities on the Airco golf course property
- Acreage and elevation of Airco property
- Penny for Pinellas Joint Review Committee meeting on March 25
- Penny IV funding; infrastructure needs
- Status of Tropicana Field development
- Employee relocation and affordable/workforce housing

4. Development Review Services

See Agenda Item No. 5.

5. Building Services

Building and Development Review Services (BDRS) Director Blake Lyon related that Development Review Services is now combined with Building Services to form one department. He introduced his staff and highlighted the theme of situational awareness.

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation titled *Doing Things! To Serve the Public, Building and Development Review Services*, Mr. Lyon discussed the areas that BDRS supports and provided information regarding department duties, accomplishments, and objectives.

In response to comments and queries by the members, Mr. Lyon discussed the following:

- Ways to support clients and facilitate complex projects
- Percentage of commercial/residential clients
- Importance of pre-application meetings
- Code Enforcement electronic citations
- Relationship between Permits Plus and Accela

**Meeting Recessed: 12:08 P.M.**

**Meeting Reconvened: 12:49 P.M.**

6. Contractor Licensing

Contractor Licensing Department Interim Director Gay Lancaster referred to a PowerPoint presentation titled *Doing Things! To Serve the Public, Contractor Licensing*, and reported that her department has 12 full-time employees; whereupon, she discussed the areas that the Contractor Licensing Department supports and provided information regarding department duties, accomplishments, and objectives.

In response to comments and queries by the members, Ms. Lancaster discussed workers' compensation insurance coverage and provided statistical information regarding administrative complaints. She related that the Case Management System is being updated and will utilize Accela software; that the new system will be easier to use for citizens and contractors; that it will assure a steadier income stream; and that it will allow for interaction with other departments such as Consumer Protection.

7. Planning

Planning Director Renea Vincent referred to a PowerPoint presentation titled *Doing Things! To Serve the Public, Planning*, and reported that her department has 39 full-time employees; whereupon, she discussed the areas that the Planning Department Supports and provided information regarding department duties, accomplishments, and objectives.

During discussion and in response to comments and queries by the members, Ms. Vincent related that the amount of space remaining for new tenants at the Lealman Exchange is roughly 10,000 square feet; that the road plan for 54th Avenue is not yet decided; and that the comment link on *Linking Lealman* will be operational soon.

Deviating from the agenda, Commissioner Long voiced concern regarding the recent departure of Chief Executive Officers from Bayfront Hospital, Northside Hospital, and Largo Medical Center, and requested that information be provided on the cause; whereupon, Chair Seel discussed the importance of maintaining stable relationships with local hospitals and directed that Assistant County Administrator Lourdes Benedict look into the matter.

### **BCC Discussion**

#### **8. MOU for Tampa Bay Water**

Following discussion and in response to comments and queries by the members, Utilities Director Megan Ross and Senior Assistant County Attorney Joseph Morrissey provided additional information relating to the project complexity and legal language of the Memorandum of Understanding; whereupon, Chair Seel thanked everyone for their input and Commissioners Eggers and Peters for their representation on Tampa Bay Water.

Thereupon, Commissioner Justice requested a moment of silence in memory of the victims of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, Florida, on February 14, 2018.

**ADJOURNMENT- 2:24 P.M.**