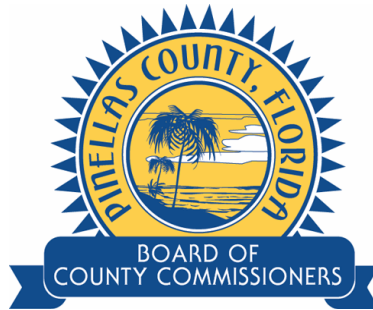


Pinellas County

*315 Court Street
Clearwater, Florida 33756*



Minutes - Final

Thursday, September 5, 2019

9:30 A.M.

**Work Session/Agenda Briefing
Clerk's Conference Room, 4th Floor**

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 - 9:29 A.M.

Present: Pat Gerard, Vice-Chair; Dave Eggers; Charlie Justice; Janet C. Long; Kathleen Peters; and Kenneth T. Welch

Absent: Karen Williams Seel, Chair

Others Present: Barry A. Burton, County Administrator; Jewel White, County Attorney; and Teresa Adkins, Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk

Copies of all PowerPoint presentations have been made a part of the record.

Vice-Chair Gerard called the meeting to order; whereupon, Mr. Burton introduced Assistants to the County Administrator Nancy McKibben, Brian Lowack, and Chris Moore.

1. North County Update - Nancy McKibben

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation, Ms. McKibben reported on efforts to move forward with the development of a new Downtown Palm Harbor Master Plan. She provided background information, indicating that the initiative began in 2016 based upon recommendations from a small group of community advisors; and that various studies and outreach efforts were conducted, resulting in a draft Master Plan and an associated Form-Based Code, which will allow appropriate land uses to emerge to create character and identity within the community.

Ms. McKibben related plans to partner with the Florida Department of Transportation for a public engagement event on November 4 to discuss a proposed roundabout at Florida Avenue and U.S. Highway 19, as well as the Draft Master Plan and Form-Based Code; whereupon, noting the challenges of redeveloping the historic area, Ms. McKibben related that a consultant has been engaged to consider alternatives to add additional stormwater capacity while meeting code requirements.

Referring to a list of north county stakeholders, Ms. McKibben related that her position offers north county residents a new connection to communicate with County departments and staff; whereupon, she described her recent interaction with the various agencies and organizations.

Responding to query by Commissioner Welch, Ms. McKibben stated she is based in the 14 South Fort Harrison building due to her additional duties at Public Works, and Mr. Burton reiterated that the three new Assistant to the County Administrator positions are part-time assignments in conjunction with each individual's current job duties.

Discussion ensued, and Commissioner Eggers provided comments and shared positive feedback that he has received from the north county community; whereupon, he expressed concerns pertaining to the golf cart permitting process, and Ms. McKibben and Mr. Burton provided input.

In response to query by Commissioner Eggers, Ms. McKibben discussed the setup and format of the November 4 public engagement event; whereupon, Commissioner Eggers recommended that a welcome speech, agenda review, and question and answer session be part of the opening remarks to provide direction for the evening.

2. Mid/South County Update - Brian Lowack

Mr. Lowack referred to a PowerPoint presentation and discussed his efforts in the unincorporated areas of Ridgecrest, Highpoint, Tierra Verde, and Seminole, noting that he is currently meeting with community stakeholders to communicate the County's commitment to those communities; that he plans to conduct assessments to determine needs and wants of the residents; and that he will then formulate strategic roadmaps to facilitate implementation of the plans.

Mr. Lowack provided an update with regard to each community, noting meetings and discussions held, current and potential projects, and needs and issues that have been identified. Throughout the presentation, he responded to comments and queries by the members. Discussion ensued pertaining to the following items, and Mr. Burton and Attorney White provided input:

- Connecting the areas of Ridgecrest and creating a sense of community.
- Discussions with the School Board and the City of Largo pertaining to the development of recreation space at the former High Point Elementary School site.
- Community outreach regarding safety concerns in the Safe Harbor area.
- Potential locations for a south county community center in Tierra Verde, and legal issues relating to deed restrictions limiting the use of property on Cabbage Key.
- Pedestrian safety concerns regarding the Tierra Verde roundabout.
- Meetings to occur prior to release of the Shell Key study findings, anticipated in October.
- Discussions with the Seminole youth sports organizations, development of a Youth Sports Master Plan, and possible funding sources.

In response to queries by Commissioner Welch, Mr. Lowack and Commissioner Gerard provided background information pertaining to the annexation of certain Ridgecrest area properties into the City of Largo, noting that the residents had signed annexation agreements, but felt they were misled. Mr. Lowack indicated that the interested parties are working with the NAACP regarding the matter.

3. Lealman Update - Chris Moore

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Moore discussed key initiatives for the Lealman community in the coming year, focusing on the following areas:

- Lealman Exchange Services
- Community Identity
- Community Revitalization
- Healthy Community
- Economic and Workforce Development

Mr. Moore noted that Human Services and Economic Development staff are available onsite at the Lealman Exchange, offering various services on a rotating schedule; and that the YMCA manages day-to-day activities under a services agreement and provides a Silver Sneakers program and open gym on specified days. He related that a request for proposal has been issued for strategic business planning services in three phases; that an “incubator” grant program will be established; and that the Exchange will house two computer labs, including a virtual library.

Mr. Moore discussed the importance of community identity and highlighted various initiatives to gather information and share the history of Lealman, including a historic research survey, several projects in conjunction with Heritage Village, and an interactive, web-based story map.

Mr. Moore shared recent efforts to revitalize the Lealman community, including the development of a Form-Based Code to streamline development. He provided a status update regarding Raymond H. Neri Park and the Lealman Heights residential development project, discussed various grant programs, and related that the County has secured Environmental Protection Agency funding for Brownfield assessment studies.

Noting Lealman’s Asian and Hispanic population, Mr. Moore discussed a proposed multicultural community garden and various arts and culture programs and events planned to promote a healthy community, in collaboration with the County Extension, Creative Pinellas, and other partners.

Thereupon, Mr. Moore related plans to promote economic and workforce development in the Lealman community. He noted that the Community Redevelopment Agency would provide funding for implementation of the Linking Lealman Action Plan, including signage and other projects; that the Planning Department is beginning preliminary engineering for a regional stormwater study; and that discussions are underway regarding grant programs in support of apprenticeship/mentoring and business recruitment and retention.

Discussion ensued pertaining to the following items, and Mr. Moore responded to comments and queries by the members, with input by Mr. Burton:

- Expansion of hours for the YMCA Silver Sneakers program and open gym.
- Access to the Lealman Exchange for community meetings; concerns regarding liability insurance and after-hours staffing.

- Participation of the Lealman CRA Advisory Committee members, board vacancies, and possible consolidation of the three Lealman community groups.
- Citizen concerns, including access to the Exchange.
- Inclusion of a water feature at Ray Neri Park.
- Background of Lealman Community District Services, Inc. and its funding source.
- Economic development efforts in unincorporated areas.
- Potential for County-operated community pools; operation, maintenance, and staffing costs; and possible partnership funding models.
- Use of community centers for emergency shelters.
- Funding sources to address specific needs in communities throughout the county.
- Lealman Exchange occupancy rate and strategic planning for future tenants.

Commissioner Eggers indicated that the current use of the Lealman Exchange differs from the initial concept of providing an open recreation facility, and responding to his query, Mr. Moore related that the community is supportive of the current vision of the facility and its future focus on workforce and training initiatives. He indicated that the building has limitations; that recreation opportunities exist and will be expanded; and that the County will work with the Lealman Community District Services group and other community partners to address the issues; whereupon, he discussed recent changes to the Park master plan.

Mr. Burton indicated that Ms. McKibben and Messrs. Lowack and Moore have been responsive to the individual needs of their respective communities; that he is proud of what they have accomplished; and that updates will be provided on a periodic basis.

Mr. Burton provided a post-Hurricane Dorian update, noting learning opportunities and the benefit of working with community partners to better prepare. Stressing the importance of re-opening the schools after a weather event, he related plans to utilize community centers as step-down shelters, and discussion ensued.

Mr. Burton highlighted upcoming items for one-on-one discussions and work sessions.

Responding to query by Commissioner Gerard, Attorney White indicated that her office will continue to monitor an appeal pertaining to transportation litigation taking place in Hillsborough County.

Meeting Recessed: 11:26 A.M.

Meeting Reconvened: 11:42 P.M.

4. Agenda Briefing

Vice-Chair Gerard reconvened the meeting, and Mr. Burton proceeded to review the agenda items to be addressed at the September 12 Commission meeting. He responded to queries and comments by the members pertaining to the following items, and staff provided input.

- Item No. 11 Resolution supplementing the Fiscal Year 2019 General Fund Budget
- Item No. 14 Grant Application to the Federal Aviation Administration
- Item No. 15 Award of Bid to Ajax Paving Industries of Florida, LLC
- Item No. 18 Cooperative Agreements with Operation Par, Inc., Directions for Living, and Westcare Gulfcoast-Florida, Inc.
- Item No. 20 Agreement with Neighborly Care Network, Inc.
- Item No. 21 Funding Agreement with 2-1-1 Tampa Bay Cares, Inc.
- Item No. 22 Agreement with Personal Enrichment through Mental Health Services, Inc.
- Item No. 25 Resolution requesting inclusion of County beach erosion control projects in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Long-Range Budget Plan
- Item No. 27 Fiscal Year 2019 Board Budget Amendment No. 4
- Item No. 28 Annual Certificate of the Lealman Solid Waste Collection and Disposal District Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Roll
- Item No. 32 Appointments to the Emergency Medical Services Medical Control Board
- Item No. 40 Appointment/reappointment to the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority

Attorney White reviewed Agenda Items Nos. 34 and 35, requests for approval to initiate litigation.

In response to queries by Commissioner Welch, Mr. Burton indicated that he would provide a status update on the implementation of the Contractor Licensing Department technology upgrade during the Commission meeting on September 12; whereupon, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director Bill Berger reported that the tentative budget will be posted to the County website per statutory requirements; that the adopted budget will be fully accessible; and that OMB is transitioning to new budget software by Questica.

ADJOURNMENT - 12:06 P.M.