

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA
REGULAR MEETING
February 25, 2020**

The Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida met in regular session at 3:00 p.m. with Chairman Bryan Desloge presiding. Present were Vice Chairman Rick Minor and Commissioners Nick Maddox, Bill Proctor, Kristin Dozier, Mary Ann Lindley, and Jimbo Jackson. Also present were County Administrator Vincent Long, County Attorney Herb Thiele, and Clerk to the Board Beryl H. Wood.

Chairman Desloge called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Invocation was provided by Commissioner Bill Proctor. Commissioner Proctor then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Commissioner Dozier read into the record a Proclamation recognizing March 1 -7, 2020 as Women in Construction Week.
 - Jackie Wilson, President, and Kerwyn Jones-Wilson, Tallahassee Chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction, thanked the Board for supporting their efforts in encouraging women to pursue careers in the construction trades.

- Presentation on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
 - Claudia Blackburn, Florida Department of Health-Leon, gave a presentation and update on the Coronavirus Disease. She outlined the COVID-19 outbreak.
 - Commissioner Lindley confirmed with Mrs. Blackburn that EMS staff has been provided the guidance for health care providers.
 - Commissioner Dozier thanked Ms. Blackburn for the update. She expressed concern regarding the economic impact of COVID-19 and requested an update at the next Blueprint workshop.
 - *Commissioner Dozier moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Desloge, to direct staff to provide an update on the impact of COVID-19 to local businesses, at the next Blueprint workshop. The motion carried 7-0.*
 - Commissioner Desloge requested that information on COVID-19 be posted on the County website.

- Presentation on the Launch of the New Tourism Website and Mobile App
 - Kerri Post, Director of Division of Tourism, provided the Board with an update on the launch of the new tourism website and mobile app. She thanked the Zimmerman Agency for their work on the project.
 - Katie Kole, Sr. Marketing Director, presented a demonstration of the new website and mobile app and shared how they will be used to support data collection for specialized content and enhanced marketing. She shared the launch will officially start today.
 - County Administrator Long thanked staff for their hard work.

- Commissioner Minor expressed excitement for the new website and commended staff for their good work.
- Commissioner Desloge acknowledged staff for their hard work.
- Commissioner Dozier stated this was excellent work. She inquired if Trailahassee would be on the mobile app. She also confirmed that the event calendar is on both the app and website.
 - Ms. Kole indicated that Trailahassee is not yet included, but it is something that is being explored.

CONSENT:

Commissioner Jackson moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Maddox to approve the Consent Agenda, with the exception of Items 7 and 9. The motion carried 7-0.

1. Minutes: November 12, 2019 Board Reorganization and Regular Meeting

The Board approved Option 1: Approve the minutes of November 12, 2019 Board Reorganization and Regular Meeting.

2. Payment of Bills

The Board approved Option 1: Approve the payment of bills and vouchers submitted for February 25, 2020 and pre-approve the payment of bills and vouchers for the period of February 26, 2020 through March 9, 2020.

3. Request to Schedule the First and Only Public Hearing to Consider a Proposed Ordinance Amending Chapter 4, Article II of the Leon County Code of Laws Regarding Animal Control for April 14, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

The Board approved Option 1: Schedule the first and only public hearing to consider adoption of an Ordinance amending Chapter 4, Article II of the Leon County Code of Laws regarding Animal Control, for April 14, 2020 at 6:00p.m.

4. Request to Schedule the First and Only Public Hearing to Consider Adoption of an Ordinance Amending Chapter 10, the Land Development Code, to Correct Scrivener’s Error’s and Inadvertent Inconsistencies, for April 14, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

The Board approved Option 1: Schedule the first and only Public Hearing to consider adoption of an Ordinance amending Chapter 10 to correct inadvertent inconsistencies and scrivener’s errors for April 14, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

5. Consideration to Join the Florida Hate Crime Coalition

The Board approved Option 1: Approve joining the Florida Hate Crime Coalition and adopt the associated Resolution.

6. Status Report on the Gadsden Street Sidewalk Project

The Board approved Option 1: Accept the status report on the Gadsden Street Sidewalk Project to eliminate the northbound outside lane of Gadsden Street between Sixth Avenue and Eighth Avenue for sidewalk construction.

7. PULLED - Minority Women Small Business Enterprise Policy and the Proposed Revisions to County Policy No. 96-1, "Purchasing Policy".

Status Reports:

8. Fourth Quarter 2019 Economic Dashboard Report

The Board approved Option 1: Accept the Fourth Quarter 2019 Economic Dashboard Report.

9. PULLED - FY 2019 County Grant Program Leveraging Status Report

CONSTENT ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

Item 7 – Minority Women Small Business Enterprise Policy and the Proposed Revisions to County Policy No. 96-1, "Purchasing Policy" – PULLED by Commissioner Proctor

- County Administrator Long introduced the item and stated Commissioner Proctor requested to pull this item. He stated this agenda item seeks Board approval of the consolidated Minority, Women, & Small Business Enterprise (MWSBE) Policy and corresponding update to County Purchasing Policy.
- Commissioner Proctor commended staff for their work on providing a consolidated MWSBE policy. He expressed concern on the lack of a monitoring component and hoped that it would be included in a future policy update. He reflected on the consideration of an independent outside agency to secure MBE participation instead of relying on good faith statements.

Commissioner Proctor moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Desloge, to approve Option 1: Approve the Minority, Women, Small Business Enterprise Policy for the County and adopt the revised County Policy No. 96-1, "Purchasing Policy". The motion carried 7-0.

Item 9 – FY 2019 County Grant Program Leveraging Status Report – PULLED by Commissioner Proctor

- County Administrator Long introduced the item and stated Commissioner Proctor requested to pull this item. He stated this item seeks Board acceptance of the FY 2019 grant leveraging status report. Throughout the fiscal year, the County has applied for and received grant funding, supporting County projects and initiatives. Semiannually a status report is prepared to keep the Board apprised of the County grants program and leveraging efforts.

- Commissioner Proctor commended staff on the leveraging of grant dollars. He noted the need for more grant funding to support mental health services. He commended staff for their efforts in securing the grants for expansion of sewers. He indicated that he would pursue grant opportunities to address poverty in the 32304-zip code during the upcoming NACo Legislative Conference.

Commissioner Proctor moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Lindley, to approve Option 1: Accept the FY 2019 County Grant Program Leveraging Status Report. The motion carried 7-0.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDAED ITEMS

(3-minute limit per speaker; there will not be any discussion by the Commission)

- Chairman Desloge confirmed that there were no speakers on Non-Agendaed Items.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Commissioner Maddox moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Desloge, to make an agenda modification to move items 13 and 14 before item 10. The motion carried 7-0.

10. American Veterans Post 1776 Request for Funding

County Administrator Long introduced the item. He shared this agenda item seeks Board consideration of a funding request from American Veterans Post 1776 (AMVETS) for an additional \$6,500 for the construction and installation of a Carillon Bell Tower to be placed at the Tallahassee National Cemetery.

Commissioner Desloge thanked AMVETS for bringing the project to the attention of the Board.

Commissioner Maddox moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Jackson, approval of Option 1: Approve the funding request from American Veterans Post 1776 in the amount of \$6,500 for the construction and installation a Carillon Bell Tower at the Tallahassee National Cemetery. The motion carried 7-0.

11. Status Report on City of Tallahassee Actions Taken on the Community Human Services Partnership Needs Assessment

County Administrator Long introduced the item. He stated this agenda provides a status report requested by the Board on the actions taken by the City Commission regarding the Center for Health Equity's Community Human Services Partnerships (CHSP) Needs Assessment.

- Commissioner Maddox recused himself due to the appearance of a conflict of interest due to his current employment with the Boys and Girls Club.

Public Speakers:

- Amber Tynan, 2477 Tim Gamble Place, United Partners for Human Services, spoke in support of Option 2. She also asked the Board to consider matching the City's contribution to the Promise Zone.
- Tim Center, 309 Office Plaza Drive, Capital Area Community Action Agency, spoke on the issue social service funding and supported Option 2.
- Jackie Malone, 6010 Rich Farm Rd, Brehon Institute, spoke of support of Option 2.
- Diana Bixler, 2943 Huntington Drive, Capital Medical Society Foundation, We Care Network, discussed the CHSP Needs Assessment and support for Option 2.
- Michelle Gomez, 317 E. Call Street, Oasis Center for Women and Girls, shared her support for Option 2. She spoke of their support groups for girls that deliver quality programs.
- Kim Sineath, 3515 Sharer Road, The Learning Pavilion, spoke in support of Option 2.
- Commissioner Dozier thanked all nonprofit agencies in the audience and thanked them for all they do to support the local economy. She reflected that the 2010 Needs Assessment did not include enough data and could not provide enough information to assess the categories and percentages of funding, and that the 2020 Needs Assessment has the same issue. She asked for clarification regarding the fiscal impact associated with Option 2.
 - County Administrator Long confirmed that an agenda item would come back to the Board and would include the scope and the budget for engaging FSU's Askew School of Public Policy.
- Commissioner Minor shared his support for Option 2.
- Commissioner Proctor requested clarification on the City action regarding the outcome measures. He stated his satisfaction in the Needs Assessment and that he could not support of Option 2.
- Commissioner Jackson asserted he was satisfied with status and the Board's previous direction.
- Chairman Desloge stated his support for having an agenda item come back with additional information.

- *Commissioner Dozier moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Minor, to approve Option 2: Direct staff to bring back an agenda item to consider coordinating with the City of Tallahassee to engage the FSU Askew School of Public Policy to provide technical assistance and support a workgroup of community stakeholders in order to develop additional analysis and recommendations regarding the Needs Assessment for the funding cycle beginning in FY 2023.*

The motion carried 4-2. (Commissioner's Proctor and Jackson opposed, and Commissioner Maddox abstained).

- Commissioner Proctor questioned the next steps based on the passage of the motion.
 - County Administrator Long confirmed that an agenda item will come back to the Board to consider engaging the FSU Askew School to provide technical support and assistance with convening the work group of stakeholders to develop additional analysis and recommendations regarding the Needs Assessment and the possible options for consideration.

12. Alternative Structures for Administration of Cultural Programming

County Administrator Long provided an introduction. He stated, as requested by the Board, this agenda item provides alternative structures for the administration of cultural programming including grants to community organizations, implementation of the Cultural Plan, and designation of the local arts agency.

Chairman Desloge acknowledged staff for the balanced analysis and thanked the citizens for attending the meeting. He stated that Leon County spends the highest percentage of tourism dollars on Cultural Programming than any other county in the entire State. He reflected on the recent COCA grant process.

Commissioner Maddox requested COCA provide a review of the grant process and a report on the updates to grant process, two-three years out.

Commissioner Dozier voiced support for Option 1 and, as the appointed COCA Board member, she reflected on the recent grant process.

Commissioner Minor stated his support for Option 1. He reflected on his support for COCA, the different missions of Tourism and COCA, and the COCA grant process. He thanked the citizens for coming out to express their support of the arts.

Commissioner Lindley expressed appreciation to all the citizens for coming to the meeting. She stated that she received many emails in support of COCA. She reflected on the citizen support of COCA and Kathleen Spehar. She stated that the Division of Tourism is not the enemy, but a supporting partner for COCA and the arts.

Commissioner Proctor shared his support for Option 1. He suggested that COCA provide increased funding to develop and cultivate new local artists. He shared a letter provided to the Board asking that the arts remain free from government oversight.

Commissioner Maddox detailed his support for Option 1. He reflected that he was previously on the COCA Board that hired Kathleen Spehar, and that COCA does a great job supporting the arts. He reflected on the grant process. He requested a detailed report on the changes in grant process in addition to the annual reports.

Commissioner Jackson voiced his support of Option 1. He reflected on the support that local schools receive from COCA and thanked the School Board employees for coming out in support.

Commissioner Dozier recalled the number of emails received in support of COCA. She stated that there is a positive partnership between the Division of Tourism and COCA. She reflected on past complaints from COCA grantees and indicated that she had suggested a report on alternative structures come back to the Board. She commended COCA staff for the successful 2019 grant cycle. She suggested that COCA's Director, Kathleen Spehar, do a presentation in the next few months.

Chair Desloge called for public comment.

- Kathleen Spehar, Executive Director of COCA, 1410 Chocksacka Nene, spoke in support of COCA and discussed the vision and improvement of COCA along with a clear and strong structure from the Board. She stated the grants program can always be improved and developed into a plan and includes ethnicity. She respects the Division of Tourism and looks forward to their continued partnership with COCA.

The following speakers all spoke in support of Option 1:

- Daniel Beard, 185 Sandy Creek Road, spoke in support of COCA.
- Alyce Lee Standberry, 2808 Cavan Drive, spoke in support of COCA.
- Stanley Sims, 1320 Avondale Way, spoke of support of COCA.
- Lucia Fishburn, 7645 Tanya Court, Chair of COCA Board, stated that they are creating a non-voting Board seat for a TDC member, and working on amending the by-laws. She saw COCA patrons, board members and supporters standing in overflow. She noted COCA is highly committed to compliance. She thanked Board for their support and that COCA is excited to move forward under the leadership of Kathleen Spehar.
 - Commissioner Maddox commended Lucia Fishburne, Chair of the COCA Board and thanked her for years of service.
- Rivers Buford, 7201 Covey Trace, Florida Council on Arts and Culture
- Michael McBride, 124 Mill Branch Road
- Jeffery Mandel, 1641 Lake Ella Drive, spoke in support of COCA.
- Lea Anna Davis, 1237 Sarasota Drive, shared a touching story on her son and who joined her in the audience. She spoke of support for the COCA funding.
- Allen Kay, 616 Universal Drive, spoke in support of the need for COCA.

- Parker Collins, 904 Parker Drive, spoke on support of Option 1.
- Adam Kaye, 618 McDonnell Drive, Railroad Square Art Park
 - Commissioner Dozier spoke about a possible partnership with COCA and Railroad Square Art Park for COCA office space.
- Sandra Lipner, 6713 Tommy Lee Trail, spoke in support of Option 1.
- Ben Gunter, 516 Miccosukee Road, Theater with a Mission, spoke of support of Option 1.
- Dot Inman-Johnson, 2121 Trescott Drive, spoke in support of COCA and how she witnessed the birth of the local arts agency and served on the Tourism Development Council.
- Lily Wells, 2516 Patsy Ann Lane, spoke in support of Option 1.
- Richard Burton Bush, 3375 Capital Circle N.E. spoke in support of Option 1.
- City Commissioner Jeremy Matlow and COCA Board member, 170 Meridianna Drive, spoke in support of Option 1.
- Vanessa Rowse, Lets Get Local Tallahassee podcast, 2768 Chumleigh Circle
- Susan Cerulean, 1509 Hasosaw Nene, spoke in support of Option 1.
- Max Epstein, 1001 San Luis Rd, spoke in support of COCA and challenged them to find more funds for the arts and small business, not just non-profits. He asked for a way to foster the private section.

Waived in Support of Option 1

- Jane Smith, 439 Merlin Way
- Pam Doffek, 9320 Royal Troon Drive
- K. Lennorris Barber, 818 Brevard Street
- Anne Hodges, 158 Meadow Ridge
- Kenny Maguine, 3409 Prock Drive
- David B. Wiley, 6500 War Admiral Trail
- Randall Webster, 579 East Call Street
- Terry Galloway, 1402 S. Meridian Street
- Rosanne Wood, 2264 Grassroots Way

Commissioner Maddox moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Desloge, approval of Option 1: as amended: Direct the County Administrator to bring back a five-year agreement with COCA consideration, including a review of the grant process in three years. The motion carried 7-0.

13. Bid Award for Meridian Road Drainage Improvements Project

County Administrator Long introduced this item. He stated this item seeks Board approval to award the bid for the Meridian Road Drainage Improvements Project to Sandco, LLC in the amount of \$2,945,626. As part of this project, this item also seeks Board approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with the City for its contribution of funding related to relocation of utility infrastructure along with a resolution and budget amendment to fully fund this project.

Commissioner Maddox moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Jackson, approval of Options 1-3: Option 1: Approve the bid award to Sandco, LLC in the amount of \$2,945,626 for the Meridian Road Drainage Improvements Project and authorize the County Administrator to execute the Agreement.

Option 2: Approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Tallahassee for the Meridian Road Drainage Improvements Project and authorize the County Administrator to execute in a form approved by the County Attorney.

Option 3: Approve the associated Resolution and Budget Amendment.

The motion carried 7-0.

14. Bid Award for Mowing Services at Select Leon County Locations

County Administrator Long introduced the item. He stated this item seeks Board approval to award the bid for mowing services at various parks, facilities, and rights-of-way locations to three vendors, one for each service area. The bid combined the Divisions of Parks and Recreation, Facilities Management, and Public Works Rights-of-Way service areas to maximize benefits to the County.

Commissioner Proctor moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Maddox, approval of Option 1: Approve the bid award for mowing services at select Leon County locations and authorize the County Administrator to execute three Agreements in a form approved by the County Attorney to:

- a. Val's Lawn Care Inc. for Parks in the amount of \$274,985;*
- b. Esposito Green Center for Facilities in the amount of \$128,570; and*
- c. Lawn Keepers Inc. for Public Works rights-of-way in the amount of \$70,460.*

The motion carried 7-0.

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS, 6:00 P.M.

- No public hearings were scheduled.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDAED ITEMS

(3-minute limit per speaker; Commission may discuss issues that are brought forth by speakers.)

- Chairman Desloge confirmed that there were no speakers on Non-Agendaed Items.

COMMENTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

County Attorney Thiele: No comments.

County Administrator Long: No comments.

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Commissioner Dozier:

- Shared her recent meeting with North American Properties where she received an update on the Cascade project. She stated North American offered to provide a group tour of construction project.

- *Commissioner Dozier moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Minor, to direct staff to work with North American Properties to schedule a group tour of the construction project for the Commissioners and staff. The motion carried 7-0.*
- Acknowledged County Administrator Long and staff for the exceptional recent Created Equal event.

Commissioner Proctor:

- Recalled a recent FSU press release honoring Keith Neyland and Mahlon Rhaney, Jr., two black students who integrated Florida State University Schools (Florida High) in 1964. He requested a proclamation recognizing Mr. Neyland and Mr. Rhaney.
- *Commissioner Proctor moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Lindley, to approve a proclamation recognizing Keith Neyland and Mahlon Rhaney Jr., as the two black students who integrated Florida High in 1964. The motion carried 7-0.*
- Suggested the possibility of establishing a County Department of Elder Affairs.
- Shared his interest to pursue grant resources to address poverty in the 32304-zip code, while in Washington D.C. for the NACo Legislative Conference.

Commissioner Lindley:

- Applauded Agenda Item 5, the agreement to join the Florida Hate Crimes Coalition, and expressed pride in participating in a statewide group promoting adding gender and gender identity to prosecutorial abilities for hate crimes.

Commissioner Maddox:

- Commended Chairman Desloge for his leadership of a great meeting.

Commissioner Jackson:

- Praised Chairman Desloge and expressed appreciation for his leadership.

Vice-Chairman Minor:

- Requested a proclamation for the 7th anniversary of Destiny Church for the March 10th meeting.
- *Commissioner Minor moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Jackson to approve a proclamation recognizing the 7th Anniversary of Destiny Church. The motion carried 7-0.*

Chairman Desloge:

- Requested a Proclamation recognizing April 1st as National Census Day.
- *Commissioner Dozier moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Minor, to approve a proclamation recognizing April 1st as National Census Day. The motion carried 7-0.*

RECEIPT AND FILE:

- Capital Region Community Development District Meeting Minutes of October 10, 2019.


ADJOURN:


There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:



BY: 
Gwendolyn Marshall, Clerk of Court
& Comptroller, Leon County, Florida


BY: _____
Bryan Desloge, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners