

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA
REGULAR MEETING
September 14, 2021**

The Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida met in regular session at 3:00 p.m. with Chairman Rick Minor presiding. Present were Vice-Chairman Bill Proctor and Commissioners Nick Maddox, Brian Welch, Kristin Dozier, Carolyn Cummings, and Jimbo Jackson. Also present were County Administrator Vincent Long, County Attorney Chasity O'Steen, and Clerk to the Board Beryl H. Wood.

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Invocation was provided by Rev. Dr. Anton G. Elwood, Pastor of New Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was provided by Commissioner Cummings.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Presentation of the AARP Age-Friendly Designation to Leon County (Richard Prudom, Secretary, Florida Department of Elder Affairs and Laura Cantwell, Associate State Director of Advocacy & Outreach, AARP)

Laura Cantwell, Associate State Director of Advocacy & Outreach, appeared via Zoom and gave a presentation of the AARP Age-Friendly designation. She introduced Richard Prudom, Secretary, Florida Department of Elder Affairs, who appeared in person to present Leon County the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities designation for the County's continuing commitment to becoming a more age-friendly community.

Chairman Minor thanked them both for giving Leon County the designation.

- Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Update (Vincent S. Long, County Administrator and Claudia Blackburn, Health Officer for the Florida Department of Health in Leon County)

County Administrator Vincent Long introduced Claudia Blackburn.

Claudia Blackburn, Health Officer for the Florida Department of Health in Leon County, provided an update on the positivity rate; testing locations; vaccinations, including the 3rd dose for immunocompromised persons; monoclonal antibody treatment; strategies to reduce and prevent COVID-19, including masks, social distancing and hand washing; and community outreach and vaccination clinics.

Commissioner Jackson acknowledged Ms. Blackburn for all her efforts during the pandemic. He recalled the peak in COVID cases in August and the decline since that

time. He reflected on the mobile vaccination coming to Bethel Church in the Fort Braden community.

- Ms. Blackburn stated that the current CDC data and the State of Florida data are from two different time periods, and that she was presenting the State of Florida data.

Commissioner Maddox moved, seconded by Commissioner Cummings, to allow Commissioner Dozier to virtually participate in the Board meeting. The motion passed 5-0. (Vice-Chairman Proctor out of Chambers).

Commissioner Dozier reflected on the current positivity rate and the current plateau. She asked which metrics would indicate another surge and asked if there is a way to get more real-time data for the community. She recalled conversations with hospital administrators requesting a discussion about those metrics if and when another surge could happen, that could help in planning future mitigation efforts.

Chairman Minor confirmed that County Administrator Long would pose those questions to Claudia Blackburn, who had already left the Chambers, and provide that information to the Board.

CONSENT

Commissioner Jackson moved, seconded by Commissioner Maddox, to approve the Consent Agenda except for pulled Items #3 and #19, and removed item #18. The motion carried 6-0. (Vice-Chairman Proctor out of Chambers).

1. Minutes: June 8, 2021, Regular Meeting and July 13, 2021, Regular Meeting

The Board approved Option #1: Approve the minutes of June 8, 2021 Regular Meeting and July 13, 2021 Regular Meeting.

2. Payment of Bills and Vouchers

The Board approved Option #1: Approve the payment of bills and vouchers submitted for September 14, 2021 and pre-approve the payment of bills and vouchers for the period of September 15, 2021 through October 11, 2021.

3. PULLED - Proposed Public Notice 2022 Tentative Board Meeting Schedule and Proposed 2022 Board Travel Schedule

4. Commissioner Appointments to the Housing Finance Authority, the Science Advisory Committee, and the Tallahassee-Leon County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls.

The Board approved Option #1: Ratify Commissioners' appointment of citizens to the Housing Finance Authority of Leon County for four-year terms ending September 30, 2025 and approve the associated Housing Finance Authority Certificates of Appointment.

- a. Commissioner Maddox reappoints Jeffrey Sharkey.
- b. Chairman Minor reappoints Andrew Gay.
- c. Vice Chairman Proctor reappoints Gail Milon.

Option 2: Ratify Commissioner Welch's citizen appointment of Dr. Nasrin Alamdari to the Science Advisory Committee for the remainder of the unexpired term ending September 30, 2022.

Option 3: Ratify the individual Commissioners' appointments of three (3) citizens to the Tallahassee-Leon County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls for two-year terms ending September 30, 2023, as follows:

- a. Commissioner Maddox reappoints Carrie Boyd.
- b. Commissioner Cummings reappoints Tonnnette Graham.
- c. Commissioner Jackson appoints Dr. Michelle Gayle.
- d. Commissioner Welch appoints Elizabeth Paine.

5. Request from Liberty County for Letter of Support Regarding Proposed Land Swap to Support Oyster Habitat Restoration in Apalachicola Bay.

The Board approved Option #1: Do not authorize the Chairman to issue a letter of support for Liberty County's proposed land swap with the State of Florida.

6. Opioid Litigation – Approval of the Proposed Memorandum of Understanding with the State of Florida, Office of the Attorney General, and Adoption of the Associated Resolution.

The Board approved Option #1: Approve the opioid litigation Memorandum of Understanding with the State of Florida, Office of the Attorney General, and adopt the associated Resolution.

7. Proposed Revisions to Policy No. 16-5, “Real Estate Policy”

The Board approved Option #1: Adopt the proposed revised Policy 16-5, “Real Estate Policy”.

8. Request to Schedule the First and Only Public Hearing to Consider Adopting an Ordinance Amending Section 6-30 of the Leon County Code of Laws Relating to Code Enforcement Procedure, for October 12, 2021.

The Board approved Option #1: Schedule the first and only public hearing to consider adopting the proposed Ordinance amending Section 6-30 of the Leon County Code of Laws relating to code enforcement procedure, for October 12, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

9. Request to Schedule the First and Only Public Hearing to Consider Adopting Ordinance Amending Section 10-1.101 of the Land Development Code Entitled “Definitions” and Section 10-6.809 of the Land Development Code Entitled “Transitional Residential Facilities”, for November 9, 2021

The Board approved Option #1: Schedule the first and only Public Hearing to consider adopting an Ordinance amending Section 10-1.101 of the Land Development Code

Entitled “Definitions” and Section 10-6.809 of the Land Development Code Entitled “Transitional Residential Facilities” for November 9 at 6:00 p.m.

10. Request to Schedule the First and Only Public Hearing to Consider a Sixth Amendment to the Southwood Development of Regional Impact Integrated Development Order, for November 9, 2021

The Board approved Option #1: Schedule the first and only Public Hearing to consider a sixth amendment to the Southwood Development of Regional Impact Integrated Development Order for November 9, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

11. Florida Department of Health Emergency Medical Services Matching Grant

The Board approved Option # 1: Accept the Florida Department of Health grant for \$35,366 and authorize the County Administrator to execute all documents related to the grant funded project; and

Option #2: Approve the Resolution and associated Budget Amendment Request.

12. Resolution Authorizing the Housing Finance Authority of Leon County to Issue Multifamily Housing Revenue Bonds for the First Phase of the Magnolia Family/Orange Avenue Apartments Redevelopment Project

The Board approved Option #1: Approve the Resolution authorizing the Housing Finance Authority of Leon County to issue \$18,000,000 Multifamily Housing Revenue Bonds for the first phase of the Orange Avenue Apartments redevelopment project known as Magnolia Family project.

13. State of Florida Department of Health FY 2022 Public Hearing Agreement

The Board approved Option #1: Approve the FY 2022 Agreement with the State of Florida Department of Health for state-mandated public health services and authorize the County Administrator to execute, subject to legal review by the County Attorney.

14. Community Human Services Partnership FY 2022 Agency Funding

The Board approved Option #1: Approve the FY 2022 funding allocation of \$1.445 million to the Community Human Service Partnership agencies; and

Option #2: Authorize the County Administrator to execute or modify agreements for FY 2022 with the Community Human Service Partnership funded agencies, as necessary, subject to legal review by the County Attorney.

15. Driver’s Education Program Agreement with Leon County Schools for Fiscal Year 2022

The Board approved Option #1: Approve the Agreement with Leon County Schools for Fiscal Year 2022 Leon County Expanded Driver’s Education Program and authorize the County Administrator to execute; and

Option #2: Accept the Leon County School's Dori Slosberg Fund Summary of Expenditures Report for School Year 2020/2021 and proposal for FY 2022.

16. 2021 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Funding

The Board approved Option #1: Accept the 2021 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant – Countywide (JAGC) grant award in the amount of \$90,077; and

Option #2: Approve the Agreement with the City of Tallahassee and the Leon County Sheriff's Office for the distribution of \$144,652 in grant funds from the U.S. Department of Justice under the 2021 Justice Assistance Grant – Direct (JAGD) program and authorize the County Administrator to execute.

17. State Aid to Libraries Grant Agreement and FY 2022 Annual Plan

The Board approved Option #1: Approve the FY 2022 State Aid to Libraries Grant Agreement with the Florida Department of State and authorize the County Administrator to execute;

Option #2: Approve the Library's FY 2022 Annual Plan for Library Service; and

Option #3: Approve the Certification of Hours, Free Library Service, and Access to Materials.

18. REMOVED - Traffic Signal Maintenance and Compensation Agreement

19. PULLED - Second Performance Agreement and Surety Devices for Summerfield Single Family Phases II and III Subdivisions

20. Second Performance Agreement and Surety Device for Bannerman Commons Phase I Subdivision

The Board approved Option #1: Accept the Second Performance Agreement and Surety Device for Bannerman Commons Phase 1 Subdivision and authorize the County Administrator to execute the agreement and any future extensions thereto.

21. Status Update on the Widening of Crawfordville Road (US 319) to Wakulla County

The Board approved Option #1: Accept the status update on the widening of US 319 to Wakulla County.

22. Agreement with the University of Florida Regarding the Leon County Cooperative Extension Program

The Board approved Option #1: Authorize the County Administrator to execute an agreement with the University of Florida for Cooperative Extension Services, subject to legal review by the County Attorney.

23. Authorization to Negotiate Continuing Civil Engineering Services Agreements

The Board approved Option #1: Authorize staff to negotiate agreements with 24 firms for continuing civil engineering services for the categories of work identified, and authorize County Administrator to execute contracts with these firms, subject to legal review by the County Attorney.

24. Bid Award for the Amtrak Building and Site Renovations and Approval of the Joint Project Agreement with City of Tallahassee for Bicycle Boulevard and Railroad Avenue Driveway Connections

The Board approved Option #1: Approve the bid award to Ram Construction and Development, LLC in the amount of \$3,449,820 for the Amtrak Building and Site Renovations and authorize the County Administrator to execute the Agreement in a form approved by the County Attorney;

Option #2: Approve a Joint Project Agreement with City of Tallahassee for Bicycle Boulevard and Railroad Avenue Driveway Connections in conjunction with the Amtrak Site Construction and Building Renovation Project, and authorize the County Administrator to execute; and

Option #3: Approve the Resolution and associated Budget Amendment Request realizing \$134,535 from the City of Tallahassee and \$250,000 from the Tourist Development fund balance.

25. Bid Award for the Construction of Safety Improvements on Old Bainbridge Road from I-10 to Capital Circle Northwest and Approval of the Local Agency Program Supplemental Agreement with Florida Department of Transportation for Additional Grant Funds

The Board approved Option #1: Approve the Local Agency Program Supplemental Agreement with Florida Department of Transportation for construction and Construction Engineering Inspection of safety improvements on Old Bainbridge Road from I-10 to Capital

Circle NW and authorize the County Administrator to execute the agreement, subject to legal review by the County Attorney;

Option #2: Adopt the Resolution authorizing the Local Agency Program Supplemental Agreement for the construction and the Construction Engineering Inspection of safety improvements on Old Bainbridge Road from I-10 to Capital Circle NW;

Option #3: Approve the bid award for construction of safety improvements on Old Bainbridge Road from I-10 to Capital Circle Northwest to C.W. Roberts Contracting, Inc. in the amount of \$408,604.95 and authorize the County Administrator to execute; and

Option #4: Approve the Resolution and associated Budget Amendment Request realizing \$79,905 from the Florida Department of Transportation into the County budget.

26. Approval of the Award for the Janitorial Contract

The Board approved Option #1: Approve awarding the Janitorial Services Contract to United States Services Industries, Inc. utilizing cooperative purchasing from the

Department of Transportation Contract #BE792 and authorize the County Administrator to execute the Agreement.

27. Status Report on the Public Education and Outreach Initiatives Associated with the County's Revised Fertilizer Ordinance

The Board approved Option #1: Accept the Status Report on the Public Education and Outreach Initiatives Associated with the County's Revised Fertilizer Ordinance.

28. Status Report on the 2020 Leon County Real Estate Portfolio

The Board approved Option #1: Accept the Status Report on the 2020 Leon County Real Estate Portfolio.

29. August 2021 Quarterly Economic Dashboard Report

The Board approved Option #1: Accept the August 2021 Economic Dashboard Report.

30. Status Report on Bike and Pedestrian Safety and Educational Initiatives

The Board approved Option #1: Accept the status report on bike and pedestrian safety and educational initiatives in Leon County.

31. Status Update Regarding Curbside Collection Service Provided by Waste Pro, Inc.

The Board approved Option #1: Accept the status update regarding curbside collection service through Waste Pro, Inc.

ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

3. PULLED - Proposed Public Notice 2022 Tentative Board Meeting Schedule and Proposed 2022 Board Travel Schedule

Commissioner Dozier pulled this item from the Consent Agenda.

- Commissioner Dozier expressed concern that monthly meetings may reduce the amount of time to hear from constituents and respond to their concerns. She made a motion to bring back an agenda item exploring twice monthly meetings. It was seconded by Chairman Minor.
- Commissioner Maddox made a substitute motion to approve Options #1 and #2, seconded by Commissioner Jackson.
- Chairman Minor stated his support for holding two meetings every month and said he could not support the substitute motion.

Commissioner Maddox moved, seconded by Commissioner Jackson, to approve Option 1: Adopt the proposed Leon County Board of County Commissioners' Public Notice 2022 Tentative Board Meeting Schedule; and

Option 2: Approve the proposed Board of County Commissioners' 2022 Travel Schedule and authorize Commissioners' travel to the scheduled events.

The motion carried 4-2. (Commissioner Dozier and Chairman Minor in opposition; Vice-Chairman Proctor out of Chambers).

19. PULLED- Second Performance Agreement and Surety Devices for Summerfield Single Family Phases II and III Subdivisions

Chairman Minor pulled this item from the Consent Agenda. Chairman Minor stated he is recusing himself from voting, based upon the appearance of a conflict due to his wife's employment.

Commissioner Maddox moved, seconded by Commissioner Jackson, to approve Option #1: Accept the Second Performance Agreement and Surety Device for Summerfield Single Family Phase II and authorize the County Administrator to execute the agreement and any future extensions thereto; and

Option #2: Accept the Second Performance Agreement and Surety Device for Summerfield Single Family Phase III and authorize the County Administrator to execute the agreement and any future extensions thereto.

The motion carried 5-0. (Chairman Minor recusing himself and Vice-Chairman Proctor out of Chambers).

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDAED ITEMS (3-minute limit per speaker; there will not be any discussion by the Commission).

The following citizens provided in-person comments.

- Barbara Brown, 2637 Vassar Road, spoke in opposition to masking requirements and mandatory vaccinations for County employees.
- Mark Earley, Leon County Supervisor of Elections, spoke in support of an initiative to exempt personal information related to elections employees from public records to protect against threats, and asked for the County's support of the Florida Association of Counties' policy proposal.
- Rev. Don Tolliver, 302 Bermuda Road, spoke in support of the Neighbors helping Neighbors Initiative, promoting awareness in neighborhoods and distributed information to all Commissioners.
- Carlos Ramirez Santiago, 4417 Westover Drive, spoke in opposition to mask mandates and the 2030 agenda.
- Daniel Pierce, 2588 Ulysses Drive, spoke in opposition to masking requirements.
- Dr. Rick Kiper, 818 Shannon Street, spoke in opposition to masking requirements. He asked for scientific data on masks or vaccines.
- Elizabeth Davidson, 4833 Fred George Road, spoke in opposition to the masking requirements.
- Pete Tychsen, 9238 White Blossom Way, spoke in opposition to mask requirements.
- Emily Mitchem, Executive Director of The Refuge House, 4913 Heather Drive, thanked the Board for the support of the Refuge House.

GENERAL BUSINESS

32. Leon County 2021 Annual Report

- County Administrator Long introduced the item. He stated this item serves to present the County Administrator's 2021 Annual Report pursuant to Policy No. 11-6 and Section

125.85(1), Florida Statutes. He presented a short presentation video which included highlights of some of the significant accomplishments achieved in 2021. He expressed his appreciation for the staff's adaptability, and for County Attorney Chasity O'Steen and staff.

- Vice-Chairman Proctor commended the County Administrator, County Attorney, and staff; and reflected on the NACo award the County recently received. He expressed that the County did not receive its fair share of the Federal funding distributed to the State. He reflected on the fact that no allegations of public misconduct have been filed against the County and staff; and reflected on the vacancy for the Florida Health Secretary and State Surgeon General.
- Commissioner Jackson commended the County Administrator, County Attorney, and staff. He reflected on the excellent job that the County did in distributing funding for those in need.
- Commissioner Welch commended the County Administrator, County Attorney, and staff.
- Commissioner Cummings recognized the good work of the County staff and commended the County Administrator and County Attorney. She reflected on economic development efforts.
- Commissioner Maddox commended the County Administrator and commended all the staff. He made a motion for Option #1, seconded by Vice Chairman Proctor.
- Commissioner Dozier commended the County Administrator and staff. She reflected on the Board's input for the county's strategic initiatives. She expressed her support of the County Administrator's decision to mandate COVID vaccinations for county employees and asked for a vote of support.
- Chairman Minor commended the County government.
- Commissioner Maddox thanked all the constituents for their input and encouraged them to reach out to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Maddox moved, seconded by Vice-Chairman Proctor, for approval of Option #1: Accept the 2021 Leon County Annual Report. The motion carried 7 - 0.

33. Bid to Host the 2026 World Athletics Cross Country Championships at Apalachee Regional Park and Approval of a Budget Request in the amount of \$250,000

County Administrator Long introduced this item. He stated it seeks Board authorization for the County to submit a formal bid to host the 2026 World Athletics Cross Country Championships at Apalachee Regional Park, and approval of a budget amendment in the amount of \$250,000 for the required performance deposit.

- Kerri Post, Director, Division of Tourism, announced the biggest and most prestigious cross-country season schedule for 2021 at Apalachee Regional Park.
- Commissioner Maddox made a motion for Option #1, seconded by Commissioner Welch. He reflected on the improvements made at the Apalachee Regional Park and thanked the Sports Council and staff.
- Vice-Chairman Proctor expressed support of the bid.
- Commissioner Welch commended the transformation at Apalachee Regional Park, the Tourism staff, and the County Administrator. He expressed the need for a County designation such as the "cross country capital of the south."
- Commissioner Dozier expressed her support for the bid and commended the entire team.

- Commissioner Cummings commended the improvements at the Apalachee Regional Park and stated her support of the bid.

Commissioner Maddox moved, seconded by Commissioner Welch, for approval of Option #1: Authorize staff to submit a formal bid to host the 2026 World Athletics Cross Country Championships at Apalachee Regional Park and approve the Resolution and associated Budget Amendment Request appropriating \$250,000 of Tourism fund balance for a performance deposit should the County be awarded the bid. The motion carried 7 - 0.

34. Virtual Citizen Comments During Commission Meetings and Select Committee Meetings

County Administrator Long introduced the item. He stated as requested at the Board's July 13, 2021 meeting, this item presents an analysis and fiscal impact of continuing to allow virtual citizen comment during County Commission meetings and select committee meetings. Additionally, in light of the resurgence of the COVID-19 virus related to the delta variant, this item seeks Board consideration of temporarily continuing virtual citizen comment and assessing a return to pre-pandemic meeting procedures when Leon County is no longer designated as an area of substantial or high transmission by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

- The following citizen provided a virtual comment:
 - Jeff Blair spoke in support of in-person comments, virtual comments, and written comments; and spoke in support of countywide masking requirements.
- *Commissioner Maddox made a motion for Option #1, seconded by Commissioner Welch.*
- Commissioner Welch stated his support of Option #1.
- Commissioner Cummings stated her support of Option #1.
- Commissioner Dozier expressed that virtual comments at Board meetings should be a permanent Board policy. *She made a substitute motion for Option #3. Motion died for lack of a second.*
- Commissioner Welch confirmed with the County Administrator Long that Option #1 included a future agenda item once the community is no longer designated as an area of substantial or high transmission by the CDC.
- Chairman Minor stated his support of Option #1.

Commissioner Maddox moved, seconded by Commissioner Welch, approval of Option #1: Temporarily continue virtual citizen comment for County Commission meetings and select committee meetings, and direct staff to prepare an agenda item assessing a return to pre-pandemic meeting procedures when Leon County is no longer designated as an area of substantial or high transmission by the CDC. The motion carried 7 - 0.

35. Full Board Appointments to the Leon County Research and Development Authority Board of Governors

County Administrator Long introduced this item. He stated it seeks Board approval of an appointment to the Leon County Research and Development Authority (LCRDA) Board of Governors as recommended by the LCRDA Nominating Committee.

Commissioner Maddox moved, seconded by Commissioner Cummings, for approval of Option #1: Appoint one citizen, Brian Dasher, to the Leon County Research and Development Authority Board of Governors, as recommended by the Nominating

*Committee, for the remainder of the unexpired term ending September 30, 2024, and approve the associated appointment Resolution.
The motion carried 7 - 0.*

36. Full Board Appointments to the Animal Shelter Advisory Board, the Architectural Review Board, the Board of Adjustments & Appeals, and the Tallahassee-Leon County Commission on the Status of Women & Girls.

County Administrator Long introduced this item. He stated it seeks the full Board's consideration of the appointment of citizens to the Animal Shelter Advisory Board, the Architectural Review Board, the Board of Adjustments & Appeals, and the Tallahassee-Leon County Commission on the Status of Women & Girls.

*Commissioner Maddox moved, seconded by Commissioner Dozier, to approve Option #1: Appoint one citizen, Kristal Beharry, to the Animal Shelter Advisory Board for the remainder of the unexpired term ending September 30, 2023.
The motion carried 7-0.*

*Commissioner Maddox moved, seconded by Commissioner Dozier, to approve Option #2: Appoint a citizen, James Butler, to the Tallahassee Trust for Historic Preservation seat on the Architectural Review Board for a three-year term ending June 30, 2024.
The motion carried 7-0.*

*Commissioner Jackson moved, seconded by Commissioner Welch, to approve Option #3: Appoint a citizen, Nicole Nicolas, to the County Alternate Seat on the Board of Adjustments and Appeals for the remainder of the unexpired term ending June 30, 2022.
The motion carried 7-0.*

*Commissioner Maddox moved, seconded by Commissioner Cummings, to approve Option #4: Ratify the Commission on the Status of Women & Girls' appointment of three (3) citizens to the Tallahassee-Leon County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls for two-year terms ending September 30, 2023, as follows: reappoint Antoneia Roe, appoint Dr. Marcella Torres, and appoint Dr. Wachell McKendrick by waiving the conflicting employment relationship disclosed on Form 4A by a two-thirds affirmative vote.
The motion carried 7-0.*

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS, 6:00 P.M.

37. First Public Hearing for Adoption of the FY 2021-2022 Tentative Millage Rates and Tentative Budgets

County Administrator Long introduced this item. He stated this item requests the Board conduct the first of two public hearings required by Florida Statutes for the adoption of the Leon County FY 2021/2022 tentative budget.

Chairman Minor then announced the public hearing and confirmed there were no speakers on the item.

Chairman Minor stated that this was the first of two required public hearings on the Leon County budget for FY 2021/2022. The second and final public hearing will be

held on Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. He asked that anyone wishing to speak to complete a speaker card and submit it to the Clerk.

County Administrator Long read the following into the record:

The proposed aggregate millage rate is 8.8144 mills, which is 0.98% over the aggregate rolled back rate of 8.7290 mills. Ad valorem revenues will increase due to an upturn in property values and will be used to support the following: enhanced support for law enforcement and public safety, including additional deputies, technical support personnel, and correctional officers; sustaining a high level of Countywide service delivery; sound fiscal planning to avoid fee increases for fire services, EMS, and solid waste; continued community investment in our parks, greenways, roads, and sidewalks.

County Administrator Long stated that the Board had provided the necessary guidance through the development of the tentative budget, and all the direction provided in the various agendas and workshops during the budget process have been included in the tentative budget.

Chairman Minor called for public comment.

- County Administrator Long stated there were no public speakers.

Chairman Minor then called for a motion separately on the Resolutions.

Commissioner Jackson moved, seconded by Commissioner Maddox, to approve Option #1: Adopt, via Resolution, the tentative FY 2021/2022 Countywide millage rate of 8.3144 mills. The motion carried 6-0. (Commissioner Cummings out of Chambers).

Commissioner Maddox moved, seconded by Commissioner Welch, to approve Option #2: Adopt, via Resolution, the tentative FY 2021/2022 Countywide budget. The motion carried 6-0. (Commissioner Cummings out of Chambers).

Commissioner Welch moved, seconded by Commissioner Maddox, to approve Option #3: Adopt, via Resolution, the tentative FY 2021/2022 Emergency Medical Services MSTU millage rate of 0.5000 mills. The motion carried 6-0. (Commissioner Cummings out of Chambers).

Commissioner Maddox moved, seconded by Commissioner Welch, to approve Option #4: Adopt, via Resolution, the tentative FY 2021/2022 Emergency Medical Services MSTU budget. The motion carried 6-0. (Commissioner Cummings out of Chambers).

Commissioner Welch moved, seconded by Commissioner Jackson, to approve Option #5: Direct staff to advertise, in accordance with the Florida Statutes, the tentative millage rates and budgets for FY 2021/2022 and the date, time, and place of the public hearing to adopt the final millage rates and budgets for FY 2021/2022. The motion carried 6-0. (Commissioner Cummings out of Chambers).

38. First and Only Public Hearing to Consider Adoption of an Ordinance Establishing a Local Provider Participation Fund Non-Ad Valorem Assessment, and Adoption of a Resolution Approving and Adopting the Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Roll

County Administrator Long introduced this item. He stated, as directed at the July 13th meeting, this item requests the Board conduct the first and only public hearing to consider adopting an Ordinance establishing a Local Provider Participation Fund non-ad valorem assessment to benefit local hospitals through enhanced Medicaid payments. This item also requests the Board adopt a Resolution to approve and adopt the non-ad valorem assessment roll for the Local Provider Participation Fund non-ad valorem assessment.

Chairman Minor confirmed there were no public speakers.

- Stefan Grow, Attorney, Parker Hudson Law Firm, representing the local hospitals, made himself available for questions.
- Vice-Chairman Proctor confirmed with County Attorney O'Steen that this will help close the gap of the Medicaid shortfall to local hospitals by receiving federal funding. He stated his support of Option #1 and commended the federal government for its support.
- Commissioner Dozier and Chairman Minor commended staff for the expedited work on this issue.

Commissioner Maddox moved, seconded by Commissioner Jackson, for approval of Options 1 -4:

Option #1: Conduct the first and only public hearing and adopt the proposed Ordinance establishing a Local Provider Participation Fund non-ad valorem assessment;

Option #2: Adopt the proposed Resolution approving and adopting the non-ad valorem assessment roll;

Option #3: Authorize the County Administrator to execute an agreement with the State of Florida, Agency for Health Care Administration, in a form approved by the County Attorney; and

Option #4: Approve the Resolution and associated Budget Amendment Request budgeting the revenue and expenses for the non-ad valorem assessment.

The motion carried 7-0.

39. ADD -ON - Consideration of Additional COVID-19 Mitigation Measures

County Administrator Long introduced the item. He stated as directed by the Board at the September 7, 2021 Special Meeting, this item provides an analysis of policy options regarding additional mitigative measures the County may implement to slow the spread of COVID-19. Specifically, this item provides information and seeks Board direction on whether to implement a face covering requirement within Leon County Government facilities and whether to implement a requirement for Tourism grant recipients to require face coverings at County-funded events. Administrator Long recommended a face coverings requirement for County offices and buildings.

- The following citizens provided in-person comments:
 - Joanne Mendez, 8901 Winged Foot Drive, spoke in opposition to masking requirements.
 - Judah Young, 1117 Willow Crossing Drive, spoke in opposition to masking requirements.
 - Bill Bowling, 1500 Harbor Club Drive, spoke in opposition to the COVID-19 vaccine.
 - Suzie Bowling, 1500 Harbor Club Drive, spoke in support of personal health choices.

- April Banta, 3125 Lisa Court, spoke in support of personal health choices and mitigation measures related to the vaccine.
- Norma Reesor, 1506 Heechee Nene, spoke in opposition to mandatory vaccinations.
- Commissioner Dozier stated her support of Options #2 and #3, mandating masks in County facilities and requiring masks at 2022 events funded by County Tourist Development Tax revenue. She stated that many of the 2021 event sponsors are requiring and encouraging mask requirements at their events. *She made a motion for Options #2 and #3, seconded by Chairman Minor.*
- *Commissioner Maddox made a substitute motion for Option #4 Board direction – strongly encourage and recommend wearing masks in County facilities and County events, seconded by Commissioner Jackson.*
- Commissioner Jackson expressed concern that a mask mandate would place County employees in a role as enforcement and stated that signage at County facilities is the correct route. He stated his support of Commissioner Maddox's substitute motion.
- Commissioner Welch stated that the goal is to change behavior and expressed enforcement concerns for County staff. He stated his support of Commissioner Maddox's substitute motion.
- Commissioner Maddox reflected on the challenges of enforcement of mask wearing in County facilities and expressed concern for County staff enforcement.
- *Commissioner Welch moved, seconded by Commissioner Cummings, to table Item #39 until after the public hearings. The motion carried 7-0.*

After the Public Hearings concluded - continuation:

Commissioner Maddox moved, seconded by Commissioner Welch, to resume discussion regarding item #39. The motion carried 7-0.

- Chairman Minor stated his opposition to the substitute motion.
- Commissioner Dozier reflected on the rights of those who have done everything they can to stay safe and stated her support of leading by example by taking measures today to protect against another surge. She stated her opposition to the substitute motion.
- Commissioner Cummings confirmed with the County Administrator that the substitute motion for a strong recommendation for mask wearing in County facilities reflects the current policy. She confirmed with the County Administrator that there have not been any major issues regarding the current policy in County facilities.
- Vice Chairman Proctor expressed that the substitute motion for Option #4 confirms the County's current mask recommendation policy.
Commissioner Maddox moved, seconded by Commissioner Jackson, to approve Option #4 Board direction: Accept the update on additional COVID-19 mitigation measures and continue to follow CDC guidelines by strongly recommending face coverings be worn by all persons in Leon County Government facilities and at TDT grant funded indoor events and outdoor events when social distancing is not possible. The motion carried 5-2. (Commissioner Dozier and Chairman Minor in opposition).

Citizens to be Heard on Non-Agendaed Items

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

- The following citizen provided a virtual comment:

- Jeff Blair spoke in support of the mandatory masking requirements and mandating vaccinations for employees.

COMMENTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Chasity H. O'Steen, County Attorney:

- Thanked the Board for the additional funding for another attorney position in the budget and thanked the County Attorney's staff for their work.
- Reflected on Governor DeSantis' interpretation of the vaccine passport statute applying to employers and stated that she did not agree with that interpretation of the law. She stated that an update will be provided to the Board at the September 28th meeting, if needed.
 - Vice Chairman Proctor expressed his support of the County Administrator's action to mandate COVID-19 vaccinations for all County employees. *He made a motion to approve a resolution of support for the County Administrator's employee vaccine mandate. He expressed that it was an extraordinary measure, and the Board should stand behind him. Motion died due to lack of a second.*
 - County Administrator Long stated his obligation is to have a workforce ready to respond to community needs, and that the vaccination requirement for County employees is a condition of employment and is not a discriminatory action.
 - Commissioner Maddox stated his support of the County Administrator will be reflected in his evaluation and expressed concern about the need for a resolution. He stated his support of the County Administrator's vaccine mandate for employees and questioned whether the Board had ever taken a vote on an action taken by the County Administrator for which he had the authority to do.
 - Chairman Minor stated his support of the County Administrator and reflected that it may not be appropriate to issue a resolution.
 - Commissioner Dozier agreed with Vice Chairman Proctor and stated the significance of taking a vote to show support of the County Administrator's action to ensure an operational workforce is a unique situation in a global pandemic.
 - *Vice Chairman Proctor made a motion to take a vote to affirm the County Administrator's action of instituting a vaccination requirement for County employees, seconded by Commissioner Dozier.*
 - Chairman Minor questioned the need for the vote since the County Administrator has full authority to institute a policy for his staff.
 - Commissioner Maddox stated that he could not support the motion since the County Administrator has statutory authority to implement the policy. *He made a substitute motion for a proclamation in support of the County Administrator, seconded by Chairman Minor.*
 - Commissioner Welch agreed with Commissioner Maddox.
 - *Vice Chairman Proctor withdrew his motion.*

Commissioner Maddox moved, seconded by Chairman Minor, to request a proclamation in support of the County Administrator's leadership throughout the pandemic, including the COVID-19 vaccination requirements for County employees. The motion carried 7-0.

- County Attorney O'Steen stated for clarification that the County has the right to mandate vaccinations for EMS personnel per Florida Statutes.

- Stated that outside counsel recommends County approval of the proposed Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals bankruptcy settlement plan, which would establish an abatement fund to combat opioid addiction. She stated that there is a voting deadline of September 17th.

Vice Chairman Proctor moved, seconded by Commissioner Maddox, to authorize the County Attorney to approve the Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals bankruptcy settlement plan. The motion carried 7-0.

County Administrator Long:

- Acknowledged the life and service of County EMT Randy Williams and expressed appreciation for the recent celebration of life honoring him and condolences to his family.

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Commissioner Cummings:

- Reflected on the County Administrator’s interest in maintaining the health and safety of the County workforce in order to provide emergency services and other services to the community. She commended the EMS services that were recently required for her mother.
- Requested a proclamation recognizing the retirement of attorney Patricia Fournier who has provided pro bono services to the community, to be presented at an outside event. *Commissioner Cummings moved, seconded by Commissioner Jackson, to approve a proclamation recognizing the retirement of attorney Patricia Fournier. The motion carried 7-0.*
- Requested a proclamation recognizing educator Dr. Gloria Holmes, for the October 12th meeting. *Commissioner Cummings moved, seconded by Vice Chairman Proctor, to approve a proclamation recognizing Dr. Gloria P. Holmes. The motion carried 7-0.*
- Expressed concern regarding decorum of citizen speakers at the recent special meeting.
 - Chairman Minor stated that it is the Chair’s responsibility to maintain a sense of decorum during the meeting and apologized for not stepping in during the last meeting when the citizen made a comment regarding Commissioner Cummings. He stated that commissioners do have a right to respond.
 - Commissioner Jackson reflected on the demise of civility in discourse and disagreements particularly with public servants.

Commissioner Dozier:

- Requested a proclamation recognizing September 13-20, 2021, as National Disability Voters Registration Week, to be presented at an outside event.
 - *Commissioner Dozier moved, seconded by Chairman Minor, to approve a proclamation recognizing September 13-20 as National Disability Voters Registration Week. The motion carried 7-0.*
- Requested a presentation from the Leon County Research & Development Authority Executive Director Ron Miller about Innovation Park.
 - *Commissioner Dozier moved, seconded by Commissioner Jackson, to request a presentation from the Leon County Research & Development Authority Executive Director Ron Miller about Innovation Park at an upcoming Board meeting. The motion carried 7-0.*

- Reflected on the need to discuss the COVID data and metrics, and lessons learned from the surge. She expressed concern on the need for additional meetings if numbers go up again.
 - County Administrator Long explained that the County has been and will continue to be engaged with medical professionals and public health officials on a regular basis in response to the pandemic. He confirmed that a presentation on the metrics could be provided to the Board at an upcoming meeting.

Commissioner Jackson:

- Requested a proclamation recognizing October as Infant Loss Awareness Month for the October 12th meeting.
 - *Commissioner Jackson moved, seconded by Commissioner Maddox, to approve a proclamation recognizing October as Infant Loss Awareness Month. The motion carried 7-0.*
- Reminded the community that there will be a vaccination and testing site at Bethel Baptist Church in the Fort Braden community, and Second Harvest will be at Fort Braden School on Saturday, September 18th, from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
- Reflected on the loss of Logan Hurst, Canopy Oaks Elementary Physical Education teacher.

Commissioner Maddox:

- Restated his support of the County Administrator should the Governor challenge the County's vaccine requirement for County employees.
- Requested a presentation from the Supervisor of Elections on voters' restrictions and ballot drop boxes.
 - *Commissioner Maddox moved, seconded by Vice Chairman Proctor, to request a presentation from Mark Earley, Leon County Supervisor of Elections, to include an update on voters' restrictions and ballot drop boxes. The motion carried 7-0.*

Commissioner Welch:

- Commended staff for the 9/11 County day of service.
- Commended the County Administrator for facilitating a meeting with the Sheriff's Office and Leon County Schools to address traffic concerns at schools during pick-up and drop-off.
- Commended the County's utility lineman that assisted with Hurricane Ida recovery efforts in Louisiana and commended all first responders.

Vice-Chairman Proctor:

- Reflected on the legacy of Robert and Trudie Perkins.
- Requested an update on the County's workforce diversity including demographic information on race and gender.
- *Commissioner Proctor moved, seconded by Commissioner Maddox to direct staff to provide an update on Leon County Government's workforce diversity including race and gender. The motion carried 7-0.*

Chairman Minor:

- Chairman Minor presented a policy proposal from the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections for the Florida Association of Counties' 2022 legislative agenda that would amend section 119.071(4)(d)(2), Florida Statutes, to exempt personally identifying information of election personnel from public records.

- Mark Earley, Leon County Supervisor of Elections, confirmed their support.
 - *Vice Chairman Proctor moved, seconded by Commissioner Maddox, to submit the 2022 FAC Policy Proposal Submission for the Florida Association of Counties' 2022 legislative agenda for the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections policy proposal that would amend section 119.071(4)(d)(2), Florida Statutes, to exempt personally identifying information of election personnel from public records. The motion carried 7-0.*
- Requested a proclamation recognizing Lieutenant Colonel George Hardy, a Tuskegee Airman, who has inducted into the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame, to be presented at an outside event.
 - *Commissioner Maddox moved, seconded by Vice Chairman Proctor, to approve a proclamation recognizing Lieutenant Colonel George Hardy, a Tuskegee Airman, who has inducted into the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame. The motion carried 7-0.*
- Requested a proclamation recognizing October as Manufacturing Month, as requested by Tallahassee Community College, to be presented off-site.
 - *Commissioner Jackson moved, seconded by Commissioner Cummings, to approve a proclamation recognizing October as Manufacturing Month. The motion carried 7-0.*
- Requested a proclamation recognizing EMT Lee Kendall as the EMT of the Year by the Florida Department of Health, for the October 12th meeting.
 - *Commissioner Maddox moved, seconded by Commissioner Jackson, to approve a proclamation recognizing EMT Lee Kendall, who has been named the Florida Emergency Medical Technician of the Year by the Florida Department of Health. The motion carried 7-0.*
- Requested a status report on the Big Bend Continuum of Care's street outreach program as soon as is feasible.
 - *Vice Chairman Proctor moved, seconded by Commissioner Maddox, to direct staff to prepare an agenda item providing a status report on Big Bend Continuum of Care's Street outreach program when appropriate. The motion carried 7-0.*

RECEIPT AND FILE:

- Children's Services Council of Leon County Quarterly Financial Report April 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021.
- Capital Region Community Development District June 10, 2021, and July 8, 2021, Meeting Minutes.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:



Gwendolyn Marshall

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

Bill Proctor

BY: _____
Bill Proctor, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

DRAFT