

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA
REGULAR MEETING
July 11, 2023**

The Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida, met in regular session at 3:00 p.m. with Chair Nick Maddox presiding. Present were Vice Chair Carolyn Cummings and Commissioners David T. O'Keefe, Christian Caban, Brian Welch, Bill Proctor, and Rick Minor. Also present were County Administrator Vincent Long, County Attorney Chasity O'Steen, and Clerk to the Board Beryl H. Wood.

Chair Maddox called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Welch introduced Fr. Michael Foley with Good Shepherd Catholic Church. Fr. Michael Foley provided the Invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was provided by Commissioner Welch.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Presentation of the 2023 Neighborhood of the Year Awards (Chair Nick Maddox)

Chair Maddox thanked all award nominees and recognized the four community award winners.

- Neighbor of the Year: Irene Goodner for being a dedicated and phenomenal community member.
- Small Neighborhood: Kinsail Unit One Homeowners Association
- Large Neighborhood: Lafayette Oaks Homeowners' Association
- Unincorporated: Landover Hills Homeowners Association

The Board acknowledged all the nominees of each neighborhood and thanked everyone for everything they continuously do for their neighborhoods.

Christic Henry thanked Marjorie Turnbull, a former President of the Neighborhood Association, former Leon County Commission Board Member, and former member of the Florida House of Representatives. She acknowledged the partnership with the County, which helps recognize neighborhoods and neighbors that have gone above and beyond in the last year to help make the communities they live in a better place to live, work, and play.

- Proclamation Recognizing Princess Ousley and Elite Business Strategies, LLC, for Being Named One of the Southeast Region's Fastest Growing Companies by Inc. Magazine (Chair Maddox)

Chair Maddox presented the proclamation to Princess Ousley. He recalled their business during Covid-19 and how it supported the County with its services.

Princess Ousley, Owner of Elite Business Strategies, accepted the proclamation and stated she is grateful for the community in which Elite Business Strategies has grown. She thanked the Commissioners for their ongoing support. She thanked all those who have supported her business and looked forward to bringing more jobs within the community.

Vice Chair Cummings stated that the Board is proud of having a prestigious and successful business in Leon County. She hopes this motivates young people to keep cultivating successful companies in Tallahassee.

- Proclamation Recognizing the Big Bend Minority Chamber of Commerce's 10th Anniversary (Chair Maddox)

Chair Maddox expressed gratitude to the Big Bend Minority Chamber of Commerce for entrusting them with their 10-point plan and commended the Commission for their dedication. He emphasized the value of long-term commitment, noting the significance of a decade in business, particularly in fostering unity among minority businesses for economic and community benefits. He acknowledged Princess Ousley as an exemplary community member and highlighted the impact when businesses collaborate, achieving remarkable outcomes.

Sean Pittman, Founder and Chair of the Big Bend Minority Chamber of Commerce, Senior Partner, and CEO of Pittman Law Group, accepted the proclamation and thanked the Board for its continued support. He emphasized the importance of assisting businesses, especially those unaware of available resources, to help uplift the entire ecosystem and ensure no one is left behind, mainly focusing on aiding the 30% of the population that needs support. He expressed appreciation for Christic Henry and the ongoing efforts to engage with the Women's Council.

Vice Chair Cummings congratulated Attorney Sean Pittman and expressed gratitude for his dedication and concern for women and minority-owned businesses. She shared her experience of her business being significantly impacted by the Chamber, emphasizing the importance of addressing such issues and encouraging Attorney Pittman to continue his valuable efforts and initiatives.

- Proclamation Recognizing the Refire Culinary Program (Commissioner O'Keefe)

Chair Maddox called the meeting out of order and requested Commissioner O'Keefe present the Refire Culinary Program proclamation. Commissioner O'Keefe stated his wife introduced him to the Refire Culinary Program.

Rebecca Kelly-Manders, founder and instructor for the ReFire Program, expressed her gratitude to the Commissioners for acknowledging the efforts of the ReFire team. She thanked her colleagues and emphasized their hard work in the program. Reflecting on the idea's inception, she acknowledged that it surpassed her initial expectations. The ReFire Program is an 8-week initiative that results in certification, ensuring participants are skilled in the culinary profession before entering the food industry. Ms. Kelly-Manders appreciated their work's visibility, acknowledging the positive impact.

Arthur Wyatt, a graduate of the program and cook, shared his perspective on the program, highlighting that it encompasses more than just cooking skills, it also emphasizes effective

teamwork and collaboration. He described the program as one of the best things to happen to him, particularly noting its role in helping him rebuild his life after a year of being out of prison. Mr. Wyatt expressed his hope of becoming a professional chef in the future.

Chair Maddox mentioned that he recently assumed the role of chair at Family Promise of the Big Bend and recounted his initial meeting with Ms. Kelly-Manders, expressing admiration for her. He congratulated Mr. Wyatt on his achievements and success, recognizing the positive impact of their efforts.

Vice Chair Cummings thanked Refire for its hard work and mission in providing services to the citizens of Leon County. She congratulated Wyatt for his one year of being out of prison.

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

- Margaret Moore, 1910 Monticello Drive, thanked the Board for keeping a virtual comment option for those who can't attend.

CONSENT

Vice Chair Cummings moved, seconded by Commissioner Proctor, to allow Commissioner Caban to participate in the Board meeting telephonically. The motion carried 6-0.

Commissioner Minor moved, seconded by Vice Chair Cummings, to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. The motion carried 7-0.

1. Minutes: April 5, 2023, WFSU Town Hall Meeting and May 9, 2023, Regular Meeting

The Board approved Option 1: Approve the minutes of the April 5, 2023, WFSU Town Hall Meeting and the May 9, 2023, Regular Meeting.

2. Payment of Bills

The Board approved Option 1: Approve the payment of bills and vouchers submitted for July 11, 2023, and preapproval of payment of bills and vouchers for the period of July 12, 2023, through September 11, 2023.

3. Commissioner Appointments to the Code Enforcement Board and the Water Resources Committee

The Board approved Options 1- 5:

Option #1: Ratify Commissioner Minor's appointment of Nicholas Mihalich to the Code Enforcement Board for the remainder of the unexpired term ending July 31, 2024.

Option #2: Ratify Commissioner Caban's appointment of Spencer Brass to the Code Enforcement Board for a three-year term ending July 31, 2026.

Option #3: Ratify Vice Chair Cummings' appointment of Dr. Jesse Jackson to the Code Enforcement Board for a three-year term ending July 31, 2026.

Option #4: Ratify Chair Maddox's reappointment of Willie Vann to the Code Enforcement Board for a three-year term ending July 31, 2026.

Option #5: Ratify Commissioner Proctor's reappointment of Jeff Priddle to the Water Resource Committee for a four-year term ending July 31, 2027.

4. State Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance Trust Fund Base Grant Agreement for FY 2023-2024

The Board approved Option #1: Accept the Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance (EMPA) Trust Fund Base Grant Agreement in the amount of \$105,806 (Attachment #1) and authorize the County Administrator to execute the Agreement, and any amendments thereto, subject to legal review by the County Attorney.

5. Proposed Revisions to Policy No. 04-6, "Policy for Purchases of Food, Beverage and Supplies"

The Board approved Option 1: Adopt the proposed revised Policy No. 04-6, "Policy for Purchases of Food, Beverage and Supplies" (Attachment #1).

6. Authorization of Amendments to the Florida Local Government Cybersecurity Grant Agreement

The Board approved Option 1: Authorize the County Administrator to execute amendments to the Florida Local Government Cybersecurity Grant, subject to legal review by the County Attorney.

7. Joint Project Agreement with the City of Tallahassee for the Water Infrastructure Relocation for Miccosukee Road Bridge Replacement Project

The Board approved Option 1: Approve the proposed Joint Project Agreement with the City of Tallahassee for the water infrastructure relocation for the Miccosukee Road Bridge Replacement Project (Attachment #1), and authorize the County Administrator to execute the Agreement, subject to legal review by the County Attorney.

8. Authorization to Transfer a Surplus Vehicle to Lively Technical College

The Board approved Option 1: Authorize the transfer of the surplus 2013 F-750 Work Truck to Lively Technical College.

9. Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Arthropod/ Mosquito Control State Aid

The Board approved Options 1 -2: Option #1: Approve the Detailed Work Plan Budget for Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Arthropod/Mosquito Control State Aid (Attachment #1) and authorize the Chairman to execute.

Option #2: Authorize the County Administrator to execute the associated Mosquito Control State Aid Agreement, when received from the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, subject to legal review by the County Attorney.

Procurements: (These items are included under Consent.)

10. Approval of a Three-Year Microsoft Licensing Enterprise Agreement

The Board approved Options 1 – 2: Option #1: Approve a three-year Microsoft Licensing Enterprise Agreement with Microsoft, and authorize the County Administrator to execute the Agreement and any amendments thereto, subject to legal review by the County Attorney.

Option #2: Authorize the execution of purchase orders to CDW Government LLC, in the amount of \$1,097,162 per year for Microsoft Licensing, for a total amount of \$3,291,486 for three years, utilizing piggybacking on the Cobb County Contract #23-6692-02.

11. Authorization to Purchase a New John Deere 744P Wheel Loader

The Board approved Option 1: Approve the purchase of a new John Deere 744P Wheel Loader and execute a purchase order to Beard Equipment Company in the amount of \$517,000, utilizing the Sourcewell Cooperative Contract #011723.

12. Bid Award for the Contracts for Continuing Supply of Asphaltic Concrete Materials and Services

The Board approved Option 1: Accept the status report on the County's FY 2021 and FY 2022 Minority and Women Business Enterprises expenditures.

13. Status Report on the County's FY 2021 and FY 2022 Minority and Women Business Enterprises Expenditures

The Board approved Option 1: Accept the status report on the County's FY 2021 and FY 2022 Minority and Women Business Enterprises expenditures.

CONSENT ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

- None

GENERAL BUSINESS

14. 2023 Legislative Final Report and Request to Schedule the Board Workshop on 2024 State and Federal Legislative Priorities

County Administrator Long introduced this item seeking Board approval of the 2023 Legislative Final Report, and scheduling a workshop on the 2024 State and Federal Legislative Priorities for October 24, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. He stated that the information provided an existing summary of the progress. He shared that the Lobbying Team, Capital Alliance Group, was in attendance if there were any questions. He recommended Options 1 and 2 for approval. There were no speakers on this item.

Commissioner Proctor reiterated his belief that considering a "payment in lieu of" system is appropriate for the services rendered to the State of Florida since the State does not pay ad valorem taxes; an example provided was Washington D.C. receiving federal allotments because of the services it provides to the federal government. He

emphasized the significant amount of occupied property in Leon County that does not generate any return. He expressed hope that in the upcoming year, efforts can be focused on designating a portion of these properties to contribute to the capital or county funds.

Commissioner Minor moved, seconded by Commissioner Welch, for Options # 1-2.

Option # 1: Accept the 2023 Legislative Final Report.

Option #2: Schedule the Board Workshop on the 2024 State and Federal Legislative Priorities for October 24, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.

The motion carried 7-0.

15. Community Human Services Partnership FY 2024 Agency

County Administrator Long introduced the item. It sought Board approval of the FY 2024 Community Human Services Partnership grant recommendations to agencies of \$2,298,700. The allocation represented year two of the current two-year funding cycle. As requested by the Board, this item also sought approval to schedule a Workshop on Human Services in preparation for the next two-year funding cycle of the Community Human Services Partnership for November 28, 2023, at 1 p.m.

- *Chair Maddox recused himself from the homeless category. He stated that voting on matters related to the Family Promise of the Big Bend (formerly the Big Bend Homeless Coalition), as he is employed as the CEO of Family Promise of the Big Bend, would be a conflict.*
- *Commissioner Caban recused himself due to the appearance of a conflict as he is the Vice Chair of the Advisory Board for the Children's Home Society, which is receiving funding through this item.*
 - *County Attorney O'Steen clarified that while there is no technical conflict, as the position is unpaid, Commissioner Caban was recusing himself due to the appearance of a conflict.*

Commissioner Welch moved, seconded by Commissioner Minor, to approve Option #1 as amended: Approve the FY 2024 funding of \$2,298,700 to the Community Human Service Partnership agencies, excluding funds related to Family Promise of the Big Bend (formerly the Big Bend Homeless Coalition).

Option #2: Authorize the County Administrator to execute or modify agreements for FY 2024 with the Community Human Service Partnership funded agencies, as necessary, subject to legal review by the County Attorney and

Option #3: Schedule a Workshop on Human Services for Tuesday, November 28, 2023, at 1 p.m.

The motion carried 6-0-1, with Commissioner Caban recused.

Commissioner O'Keefe moved, seconded by Vice Chair Cummings, to approve Option #7 – Board direction: Approve the FY 2024 Community Human Service Partnership funding of \$879,236 to Family Promise of the Big Bend (formerly the Big Bend Homeless Coalition).

The motion carried 6-0-1, with Commissioner Maddox recused.

Commissioner Proctor stated he is fond of Option #3 and stated that from the last meeting, we would look at a workshop for homelessness. He mentioned that the Alice Report gives information regarding the homeless.

16. Fiscal Year 2024 State Housing Initiatives Partnership Funding

County Administrator Long introduced this item. It sought Board approval of the County's FY 2024 State Housing Initiatives Partnership funding and proposed revisions to the County's State Housing Initiatives Partnership Local Housing Assistance Plan.

Vice Chair Cummings expressed her excitement that the funding for next year is doubled. She stated that this would go a long way in addressing affordable housing. As well as addressing rehab housing, she hopes it continues to increase in the future.

The Board approved Options 1-2:

Option #1: Approve the proposed expenditures for the FY 2024 State Housing Initiatives Partnership allocation, and authorize the County Administrator to realign funds within the State Housing Initiative Partnership program when necessary to maximize opportunities to increase or preserve affordable housing.

Option #2: Adopt the Resolution approving the proposed revisions to FY 2024-2026 Leon County State Housing Initiatives Partnership Local Housing Assistance Plan.

Commissioner Proctor moved, seconded by Vice Chair Cummings, for Options 1-2.

Motion carried 7-0.

17. Dempsey Mayo Road Safety Evaluation Report

County Administrator Long introduced this item. It sought Board acceptance of a safety evaluation report for Dempsey Mayo Road, which included recommendations to slow down vehicular traffic and enhance the visibility of pedestrians at roadway crossings. As described in more detail in the item, the recommendations would require the Board to waive the County's Traffic Calming Policy and authorize traffic calming enhancements along Dempsey Mayo Road in the form of three raised pedestrian crosswalks.

Chair Maddox thanked the Westminster Oaks Community representatives for being willing to work with the County. He thanked former Commissioner Turnbull for her advocacy.

Commissioner Welch expressed his thankfulness to Westminster Oaks Community, and he stated that Dempsey Mayo is a wonderful neighborhood, and it is a very smart thing on their behalf to try to slow some of this traffic down. He thanked the staff for putting in a lot of effort to work with these folks for the betterment of our community.

Commissioner O'Keefe stated he'd also like to echo Commissioner Welch's statement. This is a great way to move forward, and as someone who is looking forward to seeing more kids walk or bike to school, he can't wait for the future of this.

Vice Chair Cummings thanked former Commissioner Turnbull and the staff for reaching out. She appreciated Commissioner Turnbull's advocacy in this regard, as this supports our elderly and our children. She appreciated the camaraderie, and this will be our future come September if approved.

Commissioner Proctor asked what role and cost the Leon County School Board would share in the enhancement.

- County Administrator Long stated the proposed improvements are within the roadway, making them the County's responsibility.

Commissioner Proctor inquired if this occurred previously and wondered how much improvement will affect this County. He stated other areas of our community could use this improvement as well. He expressed it was worth a look if there were other areas we could improve.

Commissioner Welch moved, seconded by Vice Chair Cummings, for Options #1-2. The Board approved Options #1-2: Option #1: Accept of the Safety Evaluation Report for Dempsey Mayo Road. Option #2: Waive the County's Traffic Calming Policy No. 21-1 and authorize the raising of three crosswalks on Dempsey Mayo Road at Emerald Chase, Meandering Lane/Meandering Way, and the W.T. Moore Elementary School Entrance, to enhance pedestrian crossing visibility and slow down vehicular traffic.

The motion carried 7-0.

18. Request to Schedule the First and Only Public Hearing to Consider an Ordinance Creating a Process for Designating County Roads and Multi-Use Paths for Golf Cart Operation for September 12, 2023

County Administrator Long introduced this item seeking authorization to schedule the first and only public hearing to consider adopting an ordinance creating a process for the application and review of requests for golf cart operation on County roadways and multi-use paths.

Commissioner Proctor inquired about what is driving this ordinance. He asked whether residents have approached the County pursuing this issue.

- County Administrator Long stated if this is something the Board isn't considering, they can move in any direction directed by the Board. County Administrator Long explained that the proposed improvements are within the roadway, making them the County's responsibility.

Commissioner Proctor expressed skepticism about the purpose and potential impact of the ordinance. He conveyed the belief that the ordinance wouldn't significantly affect his community and stated his resistance to being persuaded otherwise without reputable discussion.

Commissioner O'Keefe inquired whether County staff had received communication from citizens regarding using golf carts. He expressed confusion about the issue the ordinance is attempting to address and questioned the allocation of resources, suggesting a focus on more pressing problems. He emphasized the potential to revisit the matter later and conveyed his belief that this issue may not fall under the Commission's purview.

Commissioner Minor reiterated there is no pressing need to alter the current situation related to the ordinance. He foresaw a potential future review of the ordinance, indicating a possibility of revisiting and reconsidering the matter later.

Commissioner Welch expressed his stance that the suggested ordinance is unnecessary, characterizing it as a solution seeking a problem that doesn't currently exist. He believed that an ordinance isn't needed to address the issue, emphasizing that parental guidance should be sufficient in managing the matter.

Vice Chair Cummings inquired about the state of County laws regulating the use of golf carts by residents.

County Attorney O'Steen clarified that the regulation of residents using golf carts is governed by state law and provided references to the applicable laws.

Commissioner Proctor recently drew attention to the presence of golf cart communities in Florida, emphasizing the importance of considering social economic status and specific laws related to these communities. During his address, he pointed out a concerning incident involving a young individual on a scooter at the intersection of Madison Street and Monroe Street in the City. He highlighted the safety hazards posed by inadequate measures, such as the absence of reflectors, particularly during nighttime.

Commissioner Proctor expressed gratitude for the Commission's recognition of critical community issues, indicating the need for collective action and focused efforts to address safety concerns and improve the overall well-being of the community.

Commissioner O'Keefe moved, seconded by Commissioner Proctor, to approve Option #2: Do not schedule the first and only public hearing to consider adopting an Ordinance creating a process for designating County roadways and multi-use paths for golf cart operation. The motion carried 7-0.

19. Ratification of Board Actions Taken at the June 20, 2023, Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Workshop

County Administrator Long introduced this item seeking the Board's ratification of actions taken at the June 20, 2023, Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Workshop concerning the development of the FY 2024 Preliminary Budget.

Commissioner Minor abstained from voting on funding related to Whole Child Leon due to a conflict of interest stemming from his wife's contracted marketing and communication services with the agency.

Commissioner Maddox clarified with the County Attorney that, for the record, he does not need to recuse himself from voting on the item being discussed.

Commissioner Proctor expressed his satisfaction with how the Commission has crafted the budget, considering it one of the most pleasing in recent years. He mentioned that for the second year there will be a 5% salary increase for employees. He acknowledged the efforts and contributions of the staff, particularly appreciating County Administrator Long's involvement in Option #5. He commended the staff's dedication and mentioned achieving clarity while maintaining integrity. He also expressed gratitude for Commissioner O'Keefe's remarks regarding the inflated budget of the Sheriff's Office.

Commissioner Minor moved, seconded by Vice Chair Cummings, to vote on Options # 1-17 as amended:

Option # 1: Ratify the direction provided by the Board during the June 20, 2023, FY 2024 Budget Workshop.

Option #2: Approve the recommended changes to Sections 5.12, "On-Call, Stand-By, and Call-Out Pay" and 6.02.1 Retiree Health Insurance Contribution as reflected in Attachment #1.

Option #3: Approve the appropriation of \$291,318 in available Tourism fund balance to support planning efforts associated with the 2024 Tallahassee/Leon County Bicentennial events and the 2026 World Cross Country Championships as reflected in the Resolution and Budget Amendment.

Option #4: Approve the advance funding of capital projects in FY 2023 as reflected in the Resolution and Budget Amendment.

Option #5: Authorize the County Administrator to execute a contract amendment with Waste Management, increasing the hauling rate to \$18.80 effective October 1, 2023, and \$22.71 effective October 1, 2024, and approve the updated Transfer Station Tipping Fee resolution (Attachment #3), subject to legal review by the County Attorney.

Option #6: Approve the District Medical Examiner Fees Schedule.

Option #7: Accept the FY 2023 annual status report and recommendations on the Sidewalk Program implementation.

Option #8: Accept the status report on the FY 2022 – FY 2026 Strategic Plan.

Option #9: Include a 5% pay raise for all Leon County Government and Constitutional Officer employees in the FY 2024 Preliminary Budget to be provided by the appropriation of fund balance and increased property tax and EMS MSTU collections based on final values provided by the Property Appraiser.

Option #10: Direct staff to evaluate the Apalachee Parkway from Conner Boulevard East to Apalachee Regional Park Road segment as an addition to the Approved Sidewalk List.

Option #11: Approve the proposed plan for using current and future funds received as a settlement from opioid litigation for substance abuse treatment and ancillary services for people involved in the criminal justice system and adversely impacted by opioids in Leon County.

Option #12: Accept the report on County investment in human and homeless services.

Option #13: Direct staff to bring back a status report on County funding for Veteran homelessness services.

Option #14: Direct staff to schedule a workshop on Human Services and invite the City of Tallahassee to participate.

Option #15: Establish the maximum countywide millage rate for FY 2024 at 8.3144.

Option #16: Establish the maximum Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Municipal Services Taxing Unit (MSTU) for FY 2024 at 0.75 mills.

Option #17: Approve the funding request from the Florida Civil Rights Museum in the amount of \$60,000 to be supported from general fund contingency, as reflected in the Budget Amendment.

The motion carried 7-0.

Commissioner Proctor, seconded by Vice Chair Cummings, to approve Option #18 - Board direction: Approve funding for the Whole Child Leon Project in the amount of \$38,000. The motion carried 6-0-1, with Commissioner Minor recused.

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS, 6:00 P.M.

Chair Maddox called the Public Hearing to order at 6:00 P.M.

20. First and Only Public Hearing to Approve a Resolution Adopting the Annawood Subdivision Sewer Service Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Roll, and Certification of the Entire Roll to the Tax Collector

County Administrator Long announced the public hearing and confirmed no speakers on this item.

County Administrator Long shared this item and requests the Board conduct the first and only public hearing to approve a Resolution adopting the non-ad valorem assessment roll for the sewer service usage charges and readiness-to-serve charges on specific real properties located in the Annawood subdivision, and certification of the entire assessment roll to the Tax Collector.

Commissioner Proctor moved, duly seconded by Commissioner O'Keefe, approval of Option #1: Conduct the first and only public hearing and approve the Resolution adopting the Annawood Subdivision Sewer Service Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Roll and authorize the certification of the entire Roll to the Tax Collector.

The motion carried 6-0. (Commissioner Caban out of Chambers).

21. First and Only Public Hearing to Approve a Resolution Levying Non-Ad Valorem Assessments for the Tower Oaks 2/3 Paving Program for Road Improvements, and Adopting the Tower Oaks Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Roll; and Authorizing the Certification of the Entire Roll to the Tax Collector

County Administrator Long announced the public hearing. This item requests the Board conduct the first and only public hearing to approve a Resolution levying non-ad valorem assessments for the Tower Oaks 2/3 paving program and adopting the Tower Oaks non-ad valorem special assessment roll, and certification of the entire assessment roll to the Tax Collector.

- The following citizen provided an in-person comment:
 - Cindy Stewart requested more information on why the assessment is being levied and the assessed amount.
- County Administrator Long stated the assessment reflects the cost of the improvement and that the County does not make a profit.

Chair Maddox inquired how many residents were required to agree with the assessment to bring it to the Board.

- County Administrator Long explained that the requested improvement required a 66% residential threshold to bring the issue before the Board. He explained the process was completed prior to Ms. Steward moving to the neighborhood.

Vice Chair Cummings moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Welch, approval of Option #1: Conduct the First and Only Public Hearing to approve a Resolution levying non-ad valorem assessments for the Tower Oaks 2/3 paving program for road improvements and adopting the Tower Oaks Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Roll; and authorize certification of the entire assessment roll to the Tax Collector.

The motion carried 6-0. (Commissioner Caban out of Chambers).

22. First and Only Public Hearing to Approve the Resolution Adopting the Solid Waste Disposal Services Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Roll, and Certification of the Entire Roll to the Tax Collector

County Administrator Long announced the public hearing and confirmed no speakers on this item. As required by Florida Statutes, this public hearing provides for adopting an assessment roll for all properties being assessed for the first time, and certification of the entire assessment roll for Solid Waste Disposal Services.

Commissioner Proctor moved, duly seconded by Commissioner O'Keefe, approval of Option #1: Conduct the first and only public hearing and approve the Resolution adopting the Solid Waste Disposal Services Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Roll, and authorize the certification of the entire Roll to the Tax Collector.

The motion carried 6-0. (Commissioner Caban out of Chambers).

23. First and Only Public Hearing to Approve the Resolution Adopting the Stormwater Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Roll, and Certification of the Entire Roll to Tax Collector

County Administrator Long referenced Attachment #4, which provides additional citizen comments received after the agenda was published that spoke to the opposition of Item 23.

The County Administrator stated as required by Florida Statutes, this public hearing provides for the adoption of an assessment roll for all properties being assessed for the first time, and certification of the entire assessment roll for Stormwater Management.

Commissioner O'Keefe moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Minor, approval of Option #1: Conduct the first and only public hearing and approve the Resolution adopting the Stormwater Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Roll, and authorize the certification of the entire Roll to the Tax Collector.

The motion carried 6-0. (Commissioner Caban out of Chambers).

24. First and Only Public Hearing to Approve the Fire Rescue Assessment and Fee Rate Resolution, Approve the Resolution Adopting the Fire Rescue Services Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Roll, and Certification of the Entire Roll to the Tax Collector

County Administrator Long announced that this public hearing considers the adoption of an updated Fire Rescue Assessment and Fee Rate Resolution, and provides for adopting an assessment roll for all properties being assessed using the Uniform Method of collection and certification of the entire assessment roll to the Tax Collector.

- The following citizen provided an in-person comment:
 - Harold Henderson, 6278 Crestwood Drive, spoke regarding the proposed increase. He stated that he is not outright opposed to an increase. Still, he expressed the desire for a moratorium to provide taxpayers a bit of relief considering the current economic climate.

Commissioner Proctor opposed the proposed increase, citing service gaps in his district, particularly mentioning the inadequacies in fire rescue services. He emphasized that the community pays for services not adequately provided in their area. He believed the Southside should be excluded from an increase they wouldn't directly benefit from.

Commissioner Welch moved, duly seconded by Commissioner O'Keefe, approval of Options #1-2: Option#1: Approve the proposed Fire Rescue Assessment and Fee Rate Resolution relating to the provision and funding of Fire Rescue Services.

Option #2: Conduct the first and only public hearing and approve the proposed Resolution adopting the Fire Rescue Services Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Roll (Attachment #2) and authorize the certification of the entire Roll to the Tax Collector.

The motion carried 5-1. (Commissioner Proctor opposed and Commissioner Caban out of Chambers).

25. First and only Public Hearing to Consider an Ordinance Amending the Emergency Medical Services Municipal Services Taxing Unit

County Administrator Long announced this item and that there was no public comment. He stated it requests the Board conduct the first and only Public Hearing to consider an Ordinance amending the maximum Emergency Medical Services Municipal Services Taxing Unit (EMS MSTU) millage rate from 0.50 to 0.75 mills.

Commissioner Proctor pointed out that this was the first increase since 2003 and how it is warranted.

Commissioner Proctor moved, duly seconded by Commissioner O’Keefe, approval of Option #1: Conduct the first and only Public Hearing and adopt the Ordinance, increasing the Emergency Medical Services Municipal Services Taxing Unit maximum millage rate to 0.75 mills.

The motion carried 6-0. (Commissioner Caban out of Chambers).

26. First and Only Public Hearing to Consider Adopting an Ordinance Relating to the Digital Publication of Certain Advertisements and Legal Notices

County Administrator Long introduced this item and confirmed that there were no speakers on this item. He requested the Board conduct the first and only public hearing to consider an Ordinance relating to the digital publication of certain advertisements and legal notices, and seeks authorization for the County Administrator to execute a cost-sharing agreement with the City of Tallahassee to use the County’s publicly accessible website. As approved at the April 25, 2023, Budget Workshop and later ratified at the May 10, 2023 meeting, this Ordinance would require Leon County to host a publicly accessible website for the digital publication of certain advertisements and legal notices as allowed by Florida Statutes.

Commissioner Proctor inquired if this would eliminate the paper/physical notices.

County Attorney O’Steen responded that certain notices would be digital while some notices are required to remain in print.

Commissioner Proctor discussed notices that would be displayed in print at County libraries and the County Courthouse for the public to access.

Commissioner Proctor moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Minor, approval of Options #1-2:

Option #1: Conduct the first and only public hearing and adopt an Ordinance relating to the digital publication of certain advertisements and legal notices (Attachment #1).

Option #2: Authorize the County Administrator to execute a Cost Sharing Agreement with the City of Tallahassee, and any other future governmental agencies opting to publish certain advertisements and legal notices on the County’s publicly accessible website, subject to legal review by the County Attorney.

The motion carried 6-0. (Commissioner Caban out of Chambers).

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDAED ITEMS (3-minute limit per speaker; Commission may discuss issues that are brought forth by speakers.)

- Carla Richardson, brought attention to recent store closures on the Southside, specifically mentioning SaveALot. She urged the Board to discuss and address the community's critical problem of food deserts.

Commissioner Maddox stated that the Board has previously discussed the issue of food deserts and has taken steps to combat food insecurity by engaging with organizations like Second Harvest.

County Administrator Long clarified that although the County has limitations in corporate decisions, the Office of Economic Development is actively involved in engaging with businesses and seeking opportunities to assist in addressing food deserts.

COMMENTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

County Attorney O'Steen:

- As an update regarding the cease-and-desist letter to Florida PACE Funding Agency (FPFA) authorized by the Board at last month's meeting, the County Attorney provided an overview of her July 11th memorandum to the Board and recommendation to repeal Resolution No. 22-43, which authorizes FPFA to operate a PACE program in Leon County subject to consumer protections and requirements/limitations. The County Attorney also recommended the Board adopt a resolution with legislative findings and a declaration that the continued operation of FPFA in the County, and without County authorization, is a public health, safety, and welfare emergency, and compromises significant legal rights of the County.
- Commissioner O'Keefe thanked the County Attorney for her continued support.
- Vice Chair Cummings questioned property owners' ability to challenge the liens.

Commissioner O'Keefe moved, seconded by Commissioner Minor, to rescind the resolution and adopt the public safety resolution as proposed.

The motion carried 7-0.

County Administrator Long:

- No items discussed.

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Commissioner Proctor:

- Inquired about appointing a second County Commissioner to the Tourist Development Council (TDC). He noted that the City has two Commissioner appointments on the TDC, while the County only has one.
 - The County Administrator explained that appointments are prescribed in Florida Statutes. He explained that staff can explore the Board's options regarding a second appointment of a County Commissioner to the TDC in an agenda item.

Commissioner Proctor moved, seconded by Commissioner Caban, for an additional commissioner on the Tourist Development Council, and for this issue to be brought this back in an agenda item.

The motion carried 7-0.

- Expressed excitement about the Amazon Fulfillment Center after attending the informational event. He thanked the staff for all their work and mentioned an upcoming tour of the new building.
- Requested a resolution in support of the County applying for federal grants for sustainability in underserved communities.

Commissioner Proctor moved, seconded by Commissioner O'Keefe, to request an agenda item to consider a resolution stating the County's intent to pursue federal grant funding through the Department of Energy to address sustainability in underserved communities.

The motion carried 7-0.

- Requested an agenda item addressing the County's support of a proposed resolution on the ideals of American democracy.

Commissioner Proctor moved, seconded by Vice Chair Cummings, to direct staff to bring back an agenda item to consider adopting a proposed resolution in support of the ideals of American democracy.

The motion carried 7-0.

- Requested an agenda item to consider sponsoring the 2024 Summer Youth Expo.

Commissioner Proctor moved, seconded by Vice Chair Cummings, directing staff to bring back an agenda item to consider supporting the 2024 Summer Youth Expo for the Civic Center rental fees.

The motion carried 7-0.

- Chair Maddox asked that Commissioner Proctor request consideration of a sponsorship funding request from Pastor Quincy Griffin of the Family Worship & Praise Center Community Development Corp. for sponsorship of the upcoming Shoes4School event in August.

Commissioner Proctor moved, seconded by Commissioner Caban, to provide a \$1,500 sponsorship from contingency for the Shoes4School event.

The motion was later withdrawn.

Vice Chair Cummings stated this is a phenomenal event where they put so much detail into it. She doesn't oppose it, but asked if we could amend this motion, asked for \$5,000 for the event, and stated we have over 1,000 students who need new shoes. She asked the Board to be supportive.

The Board continued the discussion of the process for nonprofits to apply for funding through the CHSP process, and that this would be an exception to the process but discussed that this is a request for the sponsorship of an event.

Vice Chair Cummings moved, seconded by Commissioner Proctor, to provide a \$5,000 sponsorship from contingency for the Shoes4School event in August.

The motion carried 7-0.

Commissioner Minor stated he supported the motion on the floor, but this is against the rules in terms of non-profit organizations asking for support.

Commissioner O'Keefe stated he supports this motion on the floor. He stated he would never forget his dad received donated clothes for him and his family.

Chair Maddox stated they are not funding an organization, but this is in support of an event. He stated we could sponsor an event.

Commissioner Minor

- He recognized his District 3 interns.

Commissioner Welch:

- Requested a proclamation recognizing September 30th as "Go Gold" Day in Leon County.

Commissioner Welch moved, seconded by Commissioner Proctor, to approve a proclamation recognizing September 30th as "Go Gold" Day to support the "Be Bold, Go Gold" campaign to raise money for pediatric cancer.

The motion carried 7-0.

Commissioner O'Keefe:

- He recognized the seven Summer County Interns for this year.

Commissioner Caban:

- No items discussed.

Vice Chair Cummings:

- Requested a proclamation recognizing Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church.

Vice Chair Cummings moved, seconded by Commissioner O'Keefe, to approve a proclamation for recognizing Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church on creating the Mary Still Academic Scholarship, to be presented at the Church on August 27, 2023.

The motion carried 7-0.

- She thanked her fellow Commissioners and all the County staff for their support following her mother's death.

Chair Maddox:

- Requested a motion for a proclamation recognizing Greater Blessings Tabernacle of Praise.

Commissioner O'Keefe moved, seconded by Vice Chair Cummings, to approve a proclamation recognizing the 17th anniversary of the Greater Blessings Tabernacle of Praise.

The motion carried 7-0.

RECEIPT AND FILE:

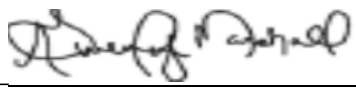
- Canopy Community Development District Approved Budget Fiscal Year 2024
- Capital Region Community Development District Meeting Minutes for May 11, 2023


ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA



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

BY: 
Nick Maddox, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners