

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA
REGULAR MEETING
December 12, 2023**

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

Chair Cummings called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were provided by Commissioner David T. O’Keefe.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Proclamation Recognizing Stan Goldstein, retired teacher and coach for Chiles High School
 - Vice-Chair Welch presented this award to Stan Goldstein. He stated Mr. Goldstein was one of the best people and one of the greatest teachers that Leon County has ever seen.
 - Mr. Goldstein thanked the Commission for the Proclamation. He stated that it was a tremendous honor and blessing working with such great students, great athletes, and, most importantly, great people. He said that 44 years of teaching is a blessing. He mentioned a quote from Nelson Mandela, “The significance of a person’s life is not just living but is the difference they make in the life of others.”
 - Chair Cummings thanked Mr. Goldstein for all his work in Leon County.
- Proclamation Recognizing the Retirement of John Hogan, President, and CEO of Capital Health Plan
 - Commissioner Maddox presented the Proclamation to John Hogan, President, and CEO of Capital Health Plan.
 - Mr. Hogan thanked the Commission for the Proclamation; he expressed his appreciation to Tallahassee. He stated that when you start a business, you must attract an audience. Their hope was to attract 25,000 members, but they have beaten that number. He recognized Leon County for its support of CHP for the past 40 years.
 - Commissioner O’Keefe thanked Mr. Hogan for all his work. He stated he has been a long-time member of CHP, and CHP has always gone above and beyond for their members.

- Commissioner Minor stated his leadership and contribution to Leon County can't be overstated. He thanked Mr. Hogan for the work that he has done for families in Leon County.
- County Administrator Long stated he has worked with Mr. Hogan for many years and thanked him on behalf of all Leon County employees.
- Commissioner Maddox thanked Mr. Hogan for all his work and for being a leader for Leon County. He noted that CHP has set the standard for Leon County, and what they have built over the years in the community is amazing.
- Chair Proclamation Recognizing January 2024 as Human Trafficking Prevention Month
 - Chair Cummings presented the Proclamation Recognizing January 2024 as Human Trafficking Prevention Month.
 - Robin Hassler Thompson, Executive Director of the Survive and Thrive Advocacy Center (STAC), thanked the Board for its support and the proclamation. She stated that their caseload in both sex and labor trafficking survivors has increased by 50%. She said that they are working with the youth in the community, and to stop this, they must start by educating the youth, parents, and caregivers about the reality of sex and labor trafficking in the community.
 - Commissioner Minor thanked Mrs. Thompson for her leadership on everything related to anti-human trafficking measures. He recalled adding a requirement to their contracts that all vendors wishing to do business with Leon County need to attest that their operations do not involve human trafficking.
 - Chair Cummings thanked Ms. Thompson for all the services provided to the community.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD ON CONSENT AND AGENDAED ITEMS

The following speaker provided virtual comment:

- Max Epstein, 1001 San Luis Road, spoke in support of tabling Agenda Item #7. He requested that the Commission wait for more information before deciding in January. He stated this tree is important to many citizens and has been around since the 1890's. He stated that moving the parking lot to a different area would save this tree and noted that the tree was in Commissioner Proctor's district.

CONSENT

Commissioner Proctor moved, seconded by Commissioner Caban, to approve the Consent Agenda, except for Item #3, which was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Commissioner Maddox and Commissioner Proctor.

The motion carried 7-0.

1. Minutes: October 10, 2023, Regular Meeting

The Board approved Option #1: Approve the minutes of the October 10, 2023, Regular Meeting.

2. Payment of Bills and Vouchers

The Board approved Option #1: Approve the payment of bills and vouchers submitted for December 12, 2023, and the pre-approval of payment of bills and vouchers for the period of December 13, 2023, through January 22, 2024.

3. PULLED - Ratification of Board Actions Taken at the November 28, 2023, Workshop on Human Services, and the Community Human Services Partnership

4. Commissioner Appointments to the Library Advisory Board

The Board approved Option #1: Ratify Commissioner Caban's appointment of a citizen, Elizabeth Jackson, to the Library Advisory Board for a two-year term ending December 31, 2025.

Option #2 Ratify Commissioner Minor's reappointment of a citizen, David Low, to the Library Advisory Board for a two-year term ending December 31, 2025.

Option #3: Ratify Chair Cummings's reappointment of a citizen, Patricia Singletary, to the Library Advisory Board for a two-year term ending December 31, 2025.

5. Request to Schedule the First and Only Public Hearing to Consider a Ninth Amendment to the Southwood Development of Regional Impact Integrated Development Order for January 23, 2024

The Board approved Option #1: Schedule the first and only public hearing to consider a ninth amendment to the Southwood Development of Regional Impact Integrated Development Order for January 23, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

6. FY 2023 Carry Forward Adjustments

The Board approved Option #1: Authorize the carry forward adjustments of FY 2023 appropriations to the FY 2024 budget by approving the Resolution and associated Budget Amendment.

7. Resolution Authorizing Conveyance of Portions of two County-Owned Parcels Located at 320 and 326 Orange Avenue East to the City of Tallahassee for the Development of a StarMetro Transit Center

The Board approved Option #1: Adopt the Resolution authorizing the conveyance of portions of 320 and 326 Orange Avenue to the City of Tallahassee for the development of a new StarMetro Southside Transit Center located at Orange Avenue and Meridian Road.

Option #2: Authorize the Chair to execute a County Deed and any associated documents, subject to legal review by the County Attorney.

Option #3: Authorize the County Administrator to accept the conveyance of additional right-of-way from the City over a portion of the City Parcel and execute any associated documents, subject to legal review by the County Attorney.

8. Acceptance of a U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community-Oriented Policing Services, Grant for the Leon County Sheriff's Office, and Approval of the Sheriff's Request for Utilization of Law Enforcement Trust Fund Assets

The Board approved Option #1: Accept the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community-Oriented Policing Services, FY23 Law Enforcement Agency De-Escalation grant in the amount of \$249,950, and authorize the County Administrator to execute the Grant Agreement, including any future modifications, subject to legal review by the County Attorney; and authorize the Leon County Sheriff's Office to recognize and spend the funds within the requirements of the Grant Agreement.

Option #2: Approve the Resolution and associated Budget Amendment to realize the grant funds into the Sheriff's FY 2024 budget.

Option #3: Approve the transfer of \$55,951 from the Law Enforcement Trust Fund to the Sheriff's Office General Operating budget to support various crime prevention activities and programs.

9. Proposed Revisions to the Consolidated Minority, Women, and Small Business Enterprise Policy

The Board approved Option #1: Approve the revised consolidated Minority, Women, and Small Business Enterprise Policy.

10. 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."

11. Proposed Revisions to the County Cybersecurity Policy

The Board approved Option #1: Adopt the proposed County Cybersecurity Policy.

12. Resolution in Support of the Florida Department of Transportation's Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Grant Application to Construct the Highland Drive Sidewalk Project

The Board approved Option #1: Adopt the Resolution in support of the Florida Department of Transportation's Transportation Alternatives Set-Side Grant Application to construct the Highland Drive sidewalk project.

13. Approval of the County to be a Willing Manager for FDOT SUN Trail Grant Application for the New Tallahassee to Havana Multi-Use Trail

The Board approved Option #1: Approve the County to be a Willing Manager for the FDOT SUN Trail grant application for the new Tallahassee to Havana Multi-Use Trail as submitted by the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency and authorize the County Administrator to execute the Certification of Willing Manager for trail maintenance, subject to legal review by the County Attorney.

14. First Amendment to Interlocal Agreement with the State of Florida Department of Transportation for Services Related to the Stormwater Element of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program Requirements

The Board approved Option # 1: Approve the First Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement between the State of Florida Department of Transportation and Leon County for Services Related to the Stormwater Element of NPDES Program Requirements, and authorize the County Administrator to execute the First Amendment, and to approve and execute future amendments, subject to review by the County Attorney.

Procurements: *(These items are included under Consent.)*

15. FY 2024 Insurance Coverages and Bid Award for Third-Party Worker’s Compensation Administration Services

The Board approved Option # 1: Approve the FY 2024 insurance coverages and authorize the County Administrator to place insurance coverages for Property and Excess Workers’ Compensation, and General Liability as specified in Renewal Option 1:

- *Property and Flood Insurance: Zurich American Insurance Company, \$1,077,156 with no flood insurance; and Wright National Flood Insurance Company, \$2,914 for Woodville Community Center and Branch Library, which has a small portion of the parcel within a FEMA-mapped flood zone.*
- *Inland and Marine Insurance: XL Specialty Insurance Company, \$105,133.*
- *General Liability (including Public Official, Employment Practices Liability, Excess Liability, Auto and Medical Malpractice): The Phoenix Insurance Company, \$909,709, and Lloyds of London, \$10,526.*
- *Excess Workers’ Compensation: Florida Municipal Insurance Trust: \$345,102.*
- *Cyber Security Insurance: Chubb, ACE American Insurance Company, \$60,923.*
- *As the broker of record, authorize Brown & Brown to place Pollution, Accidental Death & Dismemberment, Aviation, Crime, and Drone liability coverages, \$180,078.*

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

Option #3: Approve the award to Commercial Risk Management, Inc. for the provision of third-party workers’ compensation administrative services, for a 3-year term with an annual premium of \$89,850 and authorize the County Administrator to execute the Agreement, and any amendments thereto, subject to legal review by the County Attorney.

16. Bid Award for Construction of the Fred George Park Wetland Restoration Project

The Board approved Option # 1: Approve the bid award to Hale Contracting, Inc., in the amount of \$405,177 for the construction of the Fred George Park Wetland Restoration project and authorize the County Administrator to execute the Agreement and any amendments thereto, subject to legal review by the County Attorney.

17. Ratification of the Purchase of an Ambulance for Emergency Medical Services

The Board approved Option # 1: Ratify the purchase of a new ambulance utilizing the Florida Sheriffs Association Purchasing Agreement, Contract # FSA23-VEF17.0 Item 589, from REV RTC, Inc. in the amount of \$339,841.

18. Ratification of Division of Tourism Contracts and Agreements for Fall and Winter Sports and Events

The Board approved Option #1: Ratify the approval and execution of five (5) contracts with Ashley Pyrotechnics, Inc. for services in support of fall and winter sports events, in the total amount of \$12,450.

Option #2: Ratify the approval and execution of Addendum #4 to Amend the Florida High School Cross Country State Championships Agreement the Florida High School Athletic Association, Inc. finalizing the event date for the upcoming 2024 Florida High School Cross Country State Championships.

Status Reports: (These items are included under Consent.)

19. Annual 2023 Affordable Housing Advisory Committee Report of Recommendations

The Board approved Option #1: Accept the Annual 2023 Affordable Housing Advisory Committee Report of Recommendations.

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

20. November 2023 Quarterly Economic Dashboard Report

The Board approved Option #1: Accept the November 2023 Quarterly Economic Dashboard Report.

CONSENT ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

Item 3. Ratification of Board Actions Taken at the November 28, 2023, Workshop on Human Services, and the Community Human Service Partnership

- Commissioner Proctor and Maddox pulled this item from Consent.
 - Commissioner Proctor expressed concern that 26 agencies lack a guarantee for continuous funding, expressing discomfort with the uncertainty surrounding the recipients receiving notice. He asked for clarification.
 - County Administrator Long indicated that an agenda item will be brought back with more information at the January 23rd meeting.
 - Commissioner Maddox recused himself due to the appearance of a conflict due to his employment with the Big Bend Homeless Coalition.
 - Commissioner Minor recused himself due to the appearance of a conflict, stating his wife has a pending real estate contract with the Oasis Center for Women and Girls.

Commissioner Proctor moved, seconded by Commissioner Caban, to approve Option #1: Ratify the preliminary actions taken at the November 28, 2023, Workshop on Human Services and the Community Human Services Partnership.

The motion carried 5-0. (Commissioner Maddox and Commissioner Minor recused).

GENERAL BUSINESS

21. Appointment of Commissioners to the Canvassing Board

County Administrator Long introduced this item. This item requests the Board's appointment of one Commissioner to serve as a member of the Canvassing Board as a replacement for the Board Chair who is ineligible to serve this year and the Board's appointment of a Commissioner to serve as a Substitute Member for the Canvassing Board. Pursuant to Florida Statutes, this item also recommends that the Chair appoint a Commissioner to serve as an Alternate Member for occasions when the Sitting Member is temporarily unable to participate in a Canvassing Board meeting.

- Commissioners Proctor, Minor, and O'Keefe withdrew themselves from consideration for the appointment due to their schedules.

Commissioner Minor moved, seconded by Commissioner Proctor, to approve Option #1: Full Board appointed one Commissioner, Nick Maddox, as a replacement for the Chair of the Canvassing Board for a one-year term.

The motion carried 7-0.

Commissioner Maddox moved, seconded by Commissioner O'Keefe, to approve Option #2: The Full Board appointed one Commissioner, Christian Caban, as the Substitute Member for the Canvassing Board for a two-year term ending December 31, 2025.

The motion carried 7-0.

- County Administrator Vincent Long stated since there were no other eligible Commissioners to serve as the alternate, the Chair could appoint an eligible citizen later.
- Vice-Chair Welch suggested former Commissioner Mary Ann Lindley, who previously served as the alternate member.
- Chair Cummings stated that she would make the appointment for the substitute member at another time.

22. Appointment of Commissioners to Authorities, Boards, Committees and/or Councils

County Administrator Long introduced this item. This item seeks Board approval to appoint Commissioners to the Big Bend Continuum of Care Board, Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency Board, Juvenile Justice Circuit 2 Advisory Board, Leon County Educational Facilities Authority, and Workforce Development Consortium-Region 5.

Vice-Chair Welch moved, seconded by Commissioner Maddox, to approve Option #1: Full Board to reappoint one Commissioner, Rick Minor, to the Big Bend Continuum of Care Board for a two-year term ending December 31, 2025.

The motion carried 7-0.

Commissioner Maddox moved, seconded by Commissioner Minor, to approve Options #2-5.

Option #2: Full Board reappointed three Commissioners, Nick Maddox, Rick Minor, and David O’Keefe, to the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency Board for a two-year term ending December 31, 2025;

- *Commissioner Proctor asked the appointed Commissioners not to forget about Crawfordville Road, Woodville Highway, and Orange Avenue.*

Option #3: Full Board appointed one Commissioner, Christian Caban, to the Juvenile Justice Circuit 2 Advisory Board for a two-year term ending December 31, 2025;

Option #4: Full Board appointed one Commissioner, Brian Welch, as a liaison to the Leon County Educational Facilities Authority for a two-year term ending December 31, 2025; and

Option #5: Full Board appointed one Commissioner, Nick Maddox, to the Workforce Development Consortium, Region 5, for a two-year term ending December 31, 2025.

The motion carried 7-0.

23. Full Board Appointments to the Advisory Committee for Quality Growth, Animal Classification Committee, Architectural Review Board, Joint City/County Bicycling Workgroup, and the Tallahassee Sports Council

County Administrator Long introduced this item. This item seeks the full Board’s consideration of the appointment of citizens to the Advisory Committee for Quality Growth, Animal Classification Committee, Architectural Review Board, Joint City/County Bicycling Workgroup, and the Tallahassee Sports Council. The Advisory Committee for Quality Growth serves as a standing advisory committee made up of development industry professionals and community stakeholders to provide continuous feedback and guidance to the Department of Development Support and Environmental Management (DSEM) on process improvements, service enhancements, and regulatory policies which support the highest quality growth and development attainable for our community.

Vice-Chair Welch moved, seconded by Commissioner Maddox, to approve Options #1-5.

Option #1: Appoint one citizen, Shawn Sytsma, to the Advisory Committee for Quality Growth for the remainder of the unexpired term ending May 31, 2026.

Option #2: Reappoint two citizens, Dr. Sondra Brown and Dr. Elizabeth Blount, to the Veterinarian pool seats; reappoint two citizens, Haven Cook and Bobbie Jo Finer, to the Informed Citizen pool seats; and appoint one citizen, Travis Diggs, to the Informed Citizen pool seat on the Animal Classification Committee for 3-year terms ending December 31, 2026.

Option #3: Appoint one citizen, Pierce Withers, to the Architectural Review Board for the remainder of the unexpired term ending June 30, 2025.

Option #4: Appoint one citizen, Bradford Tierno, to the Joint City/County Bicycling Workgroup for a 3-year term ending December 31, 2026.

Option #5: Appoint two citizens, Michael Fleischacker and Jennifer Meadows, to the at-large seats on the Tallahassee Sports Council for three-year terms ending April 30, 2026. *Thereby waiving the conflicting employment relationship disclosed on Ms. Meadows' Form 4A by a two-thirds affirmative vote.*

The motion carried 7-0.

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS, 6:00 P.M.

24. First and Only Public Hearing to Consider an Eighth Amendment to the Southwood Development of Regional Impact Integrated Development Order

County Administrator Long introduced this item. This item requests the Board conduct the first and only public hearing to consider approval of an eighth amendment to the Southwood Development of Regional Impact Integrated Development Order (Southwood DRI-DO). There are four components to this request: the first component would revise the mixture of land uses located east of the Town Center, the second component would delete the requirement to construct Merchants Row Extension from Colleton Court to Grove Park Drive, the third component would revise two land use tables to indicate that acreages listed are conceptual in nature and not precise numbers, and the fourth component would allow stormwater facilities on the vacant parcels along the Merchants Row Extension.

Vice-Chair Welch moved, seconded by Commissioner Minor, to approve Option #1: Conduct the first and only public hearing and approve the eighth amendment to the Southwood Development of Regional Impact Integrated Development Order with the conditions recommended by the Planning Commission.

The motion carried 7-0.

25. First and Only Public Hearing to Consider a Proposed Ordinance Amending the Optimum (formerly Quail Ridge) Planned Unit Development for 14.53 acres Located on the East Side of Capital Circle SE, North of Gum Road

County Administrator Long introduced this item. This item requests the Board conduct the first and only public hearing to consider an application requesting an amendment to the Quail Ridge Planned Unit Development (PUD), a mixed-use PUD located on the east side of Capital Circle SW, approximately 1,125 feet north of Gum Road. The proposed PUD amendment will change the name of the Quail Ridge PUD to Optimum PUD and incorporate two adjacent parcels from the M-1 (Light Industrial) zoning district into the PUD zoning district, increasing the total acreage of the PUD from 13.27 acres to 14.53 acres. The current PUD allows a variety of commercial uses, including warehouses, and allows multi-family development. The PUD amendment would add some Light Industrial (M-1) land uses to the PUD to allow the development of Recreational Vehicle (RV) sales and service facility in addition to the currently allowed uses.

Commissioner O'Keefe moved, seconded by Commissioner Minor, to approve Option #1: Conduct the first and only public hearing and adopt the proposed Ordinance, thereby amending the Optimum Planned Unit Development (PUD), based on the findings of fact and conclusions of law of the Planning Commission, this report, and any evidence submitted at the hearing hereon.

The motion carried 7-0.

26. First and Only Public Hearing to Consider Adopting a Resolution of Intent to Use the Uniform Method for the Levy, Collection, and Enforcement of Non-Ad Valorem Assessments for the Purpose of Collecting the Full Amount of all Charges Related to Sewer Service Imposed on Certain Real Property Located on Susie B. Lane

County Administrator Long introduced this item. This item requests the Board conduct the first and only public hearing to consider adopting a Resolution of intent to utilize the uniform method for the levy, collection, and enforcement of non-ad valorem assessments for the purpose of collecting the full amount of all charges related to sewer service imposed on certain real property located on Susie B. Lane.

- Commissioner Proctor asked about the number of constituents who have faced difficulties in paying the connection fee. He expressed his concern about people not being able to pay the fee.
- County Administrator Long has explained that a non-ad valorem assessment, termed a "readiness-to-serve" charge, is imposed on vacant lots. This flat amount is assessed to property owners on their tax bill and is not based on the property's value. The purpose of the charge is to contribute to the costs of making utilities or services available to the property, even if it is currently vacant. This measure ensures that property owners bear the cost of service readiness, and the assessment is collected alongside property taxes.
- Commissioner Proctor raised concerns about the potential hardship created by the readiness-to-serve charge on vacant lots. He questioned whether individuals qualify for a grant to cover this cost. He emphasized that such a fee may place a financial burden on individuals who cannot afford it.
- County Administrator Long explained that the citizen's connection fee (approximately \$10,000) was funded by the grant under the Belair/Annawood septic to sewer project.

Commissioner Maddox moved, seconded by Commissioner O'Keefe, to approve Option# 1: Conduct the first and only public hearing and adopt the Resolution of intent to utilize the Uniform Method for the levy, collection, and enforcement of Non-Ad Valorem assessments for the purposes of collecting the full amount of all charges related to sewer service imposed on certain real property located on Susie B. Lane.

The motion carried 7-0.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDAED ITEMS

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

- Rabbi Paul Sidlofsky, Temple Israel, shared that since he arrived six months ago, he observed that Tallahassee is one of the warmest and most welcoming communities he has experienced. He spoke regarding the conflict in Gaza, and the effects on the local community. He extended an invitation to the Board and citizens to attend Temple of Israel. He invited everyone to the Invite Your Neighbor service at Temple Israel on Friday, January 26, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.
 - Commissioner Minor thanked Rabbi Paul Sidlofsky for his comments and the invitation, affirming that the Commission stands in solidarity with the Jewish community.
 - Chair Cummings thanked him for his comments and expressed her solidarity with the Jewish Community.
- Niki Parker Tallahassee, Florida, Chair of the DJ Demp Foundation, Inc., extended an invitation to the Board to the anti-bullying rally during the 27th annual Demp Week, January 8-14, 2024. She noted that the DJ Demp Foundation centers its efforts on addressing bullying as its core mission.
- DJ Demp, Tallahassee, Florida, CEO and Founder of the DJ Demp Foundation, Inc., asked the Board for sponsorship funding for Demp Week. He appealed to the County for financial support, emphasizing his longstanding commitment to giving back to the community for three decades of his own accord.
 - Commissioner Proctor inquired if the event qualified for the Tourism Development Council.
 - Commissioner Maddox asked if DJ Demp had received any sponsorship or donations from the Tourist Development Council.
 - County Administrator Long confirmed DJ Demp has already been awarded \$5,000 from the Tourism Development Council.
 - Commissioner Maddox suggested the Board consider providing support. However, he hesitated to propose a specific amount due to the Board's procedural process. He asked County Administrator Long how soon they could have an answer and the date of the next Commission meeting.
 - County Administrator Long stated the next Commission meeting will be on January 23, 2024.
 - Commissioner Maddox offered a motion to approve an additional \$5,000 sponsorship for the Demp Week events that are free and open to the public, January 8-14, 2024, from the General Fund Contingency, and motioned for approval of an associated Budget Amendment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner O'Keefe.
 - Commissioner O'Keefe expressed his concern about the annual process and cautioned against potential challenges for other organizations attempting to seek funding.

- Commissioner Minor expressed the need for more information about the event, indicating that he felt unprepared to make an informed decision without going through the proper process.
- Commissioner Proctor spoke about Demp Week, highlighting its positive impact and the 27 years of sacrifice by DJ Demp. He vouched for DJ Demp's clean reputation and expressed comfort with Commissioner Maddox's request.
- Vice-Chair Welch expressed reservations about proceeding without an agenda item to analyze the allocation of funds.
- Commissioner Maddox defended the worth of the event, providing an estimated return on investment of \$10,000. He expressed support for the event and proposed a solution by suggesting the pursuit of Tourism Development Council funding in the following year.
- Vice-Chair Welch agreed to support \$5,000 but emphasized the need for a thorough analysis in the future.
- Commissioner Minor acknowledged hesitation due to the process. He decided to support the \$5,000 additional allocation.
- Commissioner Proctor reflected on the importance of public dollars going where needed and referenced the earlier discussion on non-profit agencies in Item #3.
- Commissioner O'Keefe indicated support for the funding, suggesting a funding request for the next year to be made in March.
- Chair Cummings thanked DJ Demp for his contributions and noted the significance of his first request from the County. She highlighted the positive impact on children, anti-bullying efforts, and the City's and County's economic growth. She supported the issue, recognizing its alignment with the process for future considerations, and appreciated the unanimous vote.

Commissioner Maddox moved, seconded by Commissioner O'Keefe, to approve an additional \$5,000 sponsorship for the Demp Week events that are free and open to the public, January 8-14, 2024, from the General Fund Contingency, and approved an associated Budget Amendment.

The motion carried 7-0.

COMMENTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

County Attorney O'Steen:

- Stated she will be providing status updates on the Lake Talquin TMDL matter and a status update on the Florida PACE Funding Agency litigation. She wished everyone Happy Holidays.

County Administrator Long:

- Wished everyone Happy Holidays.

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Chair Cummings:

- Requested a proclamation recognizing January 2024 as Human Rights Month.
Commissioner Proctor moved, seconded by Commissioner Maddox, to approve a proclamation recognizing January 2024 as Human Rights Month.
The motion carried 7-0.
- Asked County Administrator Long about Item #7, echoing citizen Max Epstein's comments about the large oak tree at Orange Avenue and Meridian Road.
 - County Administrator Long stated more information will be forwarded to the Commissioners' inboxes.
- Wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Vice-Chair Welch:

- Thanked staff for the recent Man-O'-War Park opening.
- Thanked Community Relations and Resilience Director Mathieu Cavell and staff for the recent dedication of the Northeast Branch Library in honor of former Commissioner Bruce Host.
- Wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Commissioner Maddox:

- Commended the FSU Football Team for the 2023 ACC Championship and the FAMU Football Team for the 2023 SWAC Championship this year. He made a motion to make plans for a Champions Celebration at the 2024 Board Retreat as part of the Bicentennial conversation.
 - Commissioner Minor amended the motion to add the FSU Women's Soccer Team.
 - Commissioner Maddox amended the motion to add all 2023 Champions from universities, including TCC.

Commissioner Maddox moved, seconded by Commissioner Caban, to bring back plans for a 2023 Champions Celebration as part of the 2024 Bicentennial update at the Board's January 22, 2024, Retreat.

The motion carried 7-0.

Commissioner Minor:

- Commended the City of Tallahassee’s *A Veteran’s Journey: Honor Flight Tallahassee* video produced by Tom Bronakowski, WCOT Station Manager, and everyone in the production of the documentary, which was recently honored at the 47th annual Suncoast Emmy Awards. He invited everyone to watch the video on the City of Tallahassee’s YouTube channel.
- Provided an update on the Florida Association of Counties (FAC). He stated they adopted two Leon County policies as 2024 legislative priorities: the anti-human trafficking policy for government contractors, and the expansion of the use of SHIP funds for rental assistance and rental construction. He thanked the Board for supporting the two proposals.
- Wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Commissioner O’Keefe:

- Thanked the Survive and Thrive Advocacy Center’s online STACPRO Human Trafficking Business Training. He asked County Administrator Long about a policy for vendors acknowledging their businesses are not involved with human trafficking and how can it be tracked and verified.
 - County Administrator Long stated vendors self-certify that they are not engaging in human trafficking.
 - Commissioner O’Keefe asked if any vendor is charged with human trafficking, would they be immediately removed.
 - County Administrator Long stated he isn’t sure as that scenario hasn’t ever happened, but he’s sure justice would be served.
- Wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Commissioner Caban:

- Wished everyone Happy Holidays and wished Commissioner Maddox a Happy Birthday.
- Thanked County Administrator Long and Director of Public Works Brent Pell for paving the Fort Braden Walking Path.
- Thanked Human Resources Director Candice Wilson, Manager of Housing Services Jelani Marks, Assistant County Administrator Shington Lamy, and Director of Tourism Kerri Post for their hard work.
- Requested a proclamation recognizing Melissa Dawn Hughes from Goat House Farm, a not-for-profit that serves to increase youth participation in sustainable agriculture.

Commissioner Caban moved, seconded by Commissioner Minor, to approve a proclamation recognizing Melissa Dawn Hughes from Goat House Farm.

The motion carried 5-0. (Commissioner O’Keefe and Commissioner Maddox out of Chambers).

- Requested a proclamation recognizing FSU Football Coach Mike Novell for being named ACC Coach of the Year.

Commissioner Caban moved, seconded by Vice Chair Welch, to approve a proclamation recognizing FSU Football Coach Mike Norvell being named ACC Coach of the Year.

The motion carried 5-0. (Commissioner O’Keefe and Commissioner Maddox out of Chambers).

Commissioner Proctor:

- Requested a proclamation recognizing FAMU Football Coach Willie Simmons as SWAC Coach of the Year.

Commissioner Proctor moved, seconded by Commissioner Maddox, to approve a proclamation recognizing FAMU Football Coach Willie Simmons as SWAC Coach of the Year.

The motion carried 6-0. (Commissioner O’Keefe out of Chambers).

- Requested a motion for recognizing Florida State women’s soccer team as the NCAA Women’s Soccer National Champions, the Florida State Seminoles football team as the 2023 ACC Champions, and the Florida A&M Rattlers football team as the 2023 SWAC Football Champions.

Commissioner Proctor moved, seconded by Commissioner Maddox, to approve proclamations recognizing the Florida State women’s soccer team as the 2023 NCAA Women’s Soccer National Champions, the Florida State Seminoles football team as the 2023 ACC Champions, and the Florida A&M Rattlers football team as the 2023 SWAC Football Champions.

The motion carried 7-0.

- Announced and invited everyone to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Program that will be held on the first floor of the Courthouse on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. (before the Jan 15th MLK Holiday).
- Thanked the Board for always keeping their professionalism throughout the year.
- Wished the staff Happy Holidays.

RECEIPT AND FILE:

- None

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:



Carolyn D. Cummings

BY: _____
Carolyn D. Cummings, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

BY: *Gwendolyn Marshall Knight*

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