BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA
REGULAR MEETING
January 23, 2024

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 was provided by Matthew Wiley, a youth pastor with Lake Talquin Baptist Church. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Christian Caban.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

Proclamation Recognizing Melissa Dawn Hughes from Goat House Farm

Commissioner Caban presented the proclamation to Melissa Dawn Hughes. He shared that the Goat House Farm's primary goals are to educate goat owners on scientific best practices and holistic care and to develop and build community educational programs on husbandry centered around compassion.

Ms. Hughes thanked the Board for their support. She brought with her four members of the farm's youth program and encouraged others to join them for educational experiences at the Goat House Farm.

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

- None

Vice Chair Welch moved, seconded by Commissioner Caban, to allow Commissioner Maddox to participate telephonically in the Board meeting.
The motion carried 5-0. (Commissioner Proctor out of Chambers).

CONSENT

Vice Chair Welch moved, seconded by Commissioner O'Keefe, to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented except for Items #8, #9, #13, #14, and #17.
The motion carried 6-0. (Commissioner Proctor out of Chambers).

1. Minutes: October 24, 2023, Special Meeting, October 24, 2023, Workshop on the 2024 State and Federal Legislative Priorities, November 14, 2023, Regular Meeting, and the November 28, 2023, Workshop on Human Services and the Community Human Services Partnership.

The Board approved Option #1: Approve the minutes for the October 24, 2023, Special Meeting, October 24, 2023, Workshop on the 2024 State and Federal Legislative Priorities, November 14, 2023, Regular Meeting, and the November 28, 2023, Workshop on Human Services and the Community Human Services Partnership.

2. Payment of Bills and Vouchers

The Board approved Option #1: Approve the payment of bills and vouchers submitted for January 23, 2024, and the pre-approval of payment of bills and vouchers for the period of January 24, 2024, through February 19, 2024.

3. Commissioner Appointment to the Tallahassee-Leon County Commission on the Status of Women & Girls

The Board approved Option #1: Ratify Chair Cummings' appointment of Tara Chilton to the Tallahassee-Leon County Commission on the Status of Women & Girls for the remainder of an unexpired term ending September 30, 2025.

4. Request to Adopt a Resolution Declaring the First and Only Public Hearing to Consider Abandoning, Renouncing and Disclaiming any Right of the County in an Unimproved Right-of-Way Lying Contiguous with Lots 6 and 15 of the Woodville Plat to be Scheduled for February 20, 2024

The Board approved Option #1: Adopt a resolution declaring that the first and only public hearing to consider abandoning, renouncing and disclaiming any right of the County in an unimproved right-of-way lying contiguous with lots 6 and 15 of the Woodville Plat is scheduled for February 20, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

5. Renewal of the HCA Florida Capital Hospital Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity

The Board approved Option #1: Approve the three-year renewal of the Advanced Life Support Ground Transport Services Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity issued to HCA Florida Capital Hospital.

6. Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Calendar

The Board approved Option #1: Approve the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Calendar and;

Option #2: Approve rescheduling the September 10, 2024, Board of County Commissioners regular meeting and Budget Public Hearing to September 17, 2024.

7. Grant Application Approval Process Policy and Resolution Authorizing the County Administrator to Execute Leon County Grant Applications and Agreements

The Board approved Option #1: Approve the proposed new Board Policy, "Grant Application Approval Process" and;

Option #2: Approve the proposed Resolution authorizing the County Administrator to execute Leon County grant applications and agreements.

8. PULLED - Proposed Revisions to Policy No. 96-1, "Purchasing Policy"

9. PULLED - Proposed Revisions to Policy No. 21-6 "County Tourism Event Grant Programs"

10. Authorization for the Sheriff to Execute a Lease for Office Space with Woodville Properties, Inc.

The Board approved Option #1: Authorize the Sheriff to enter into a five-year lease agreement with Woodville Properties, Inc. for office space located at 3333 West Pensacola Street.

11. National Endowment for the Arts "Big Read" Grant Application for 2025

The Board approved Option #1: Authorize the County Administrator, or designee, to submit the National Endowment for the Arts "The Big Read" grant application for 2025, including any future modifications or amendments thereto, subject to legal review by the County Attorney.

12. Acceptance of the Florida Public Library Construction Grant

The Board approved Option #1: Accept the Florida Library Construction Grant in the amount of $400,000 and authorize the County Administrator to execute the Grant Agreement, and any amendments thereto, and all documents related to the grant project, subject to legal review by the County Attorney, and;

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

13. PULLED - Approval of a Reimbursement Agreement with Florida Gulf & Atlantic Railroad, LLC for Tower Road Crossing Repair

14. PULLED - Ratification of the Joint Project Agreement between Leon County and Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency for the Magnolia Drive Multiuse Trail Project as Amended

15. Supplemental Agreement to Local Agency Program Agreement with Florida Department of Transportation for Construction of Safety Enhancements on CR 260 Silver Lake Road

The Board approved Option #1: Approve Local Agency Program Supplemental Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation for the construction of safety enhancements on CR 260 Silver Lake Road and authorize the County Administrator to execute the Agreement, and any amendments thereto, subject to legal review by the County Attorney, and;

Option #2: Approve the Resolution and Budget Amendment, realizing the additional $70,913 from the FDOT into the County budget.

16. Ratification of Certification of Willing Manager for FDOT SUN Trail Grant Application for the Orchard Pond Trail Extension

The Board approved Option #1: Ratify the County Administrator's approval and signature of the Certification of Willing Manager for the FDOT SUN Trail grant application for the proposed Orchard Pond Trail Project as submitted by the Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency.

17. PULLED - Revised Enabling Resolution for the Miccosukee Canopy Road Greenway Citizen's Committee Citizen's Committee

The Board approved Option #1: Adopt the revised Enabling Resolution for the Miccosukee Canopy Road Greenway.

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

18. Bid Award for the Keystone Court Trash Screen

The Board approved Option #1: Approve the bid award for the Keystone Court Trash Screen project to Sandco LLC in the amount of $686,507, and authorize the County Administrator to execute the Agreement, and any amendments thereto, subject to legal review by the County Attorney, and;

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

19. Ratification of the First Amendment to Extend the Professional Services Agreement for the Design of the Woodville Sewer Project

The Board approved Option #1: Ratify the County Administrator's approval of the First Amendment extending the professional services Agreement B-19-205 with Infrastructure Solution Services, LLC for an additional 18 months to complete the remaining three phases of the Woodville Septic to Sewer system design.

20. Leon County Detention Facility Bunk Replacement

The Board approved Option #1: Approve the execution of a purchase order to MaxSecure Systems Inc. in the amount of $493,226 for the LCSO Detention Facility Pod M Bunk Replacement project, and authorize the County Administrator to execute any subsequent change orders.

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

21. Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Performance and Financial Report

The Board approved Option #1: Accept the FY 2023 Annual Performance and Financial Report.

22. Status Report on the Deployment of a Fixed-Post Ambulance at Tallahassee Fire Department Station 11

The Board approved Option #1: Accept the status report on the deployment of a fixed-post ambulance at Tallahassee Fire Department Station 11, located at 8752 Centerville Road.

23. Annual 2023 Water Quality Report and the Status Report on the Leon County Water Quality Monitoring Program

The Board approved Option #1: Accept the Annual 2023 Water Quality Report, and the status report on the Leon County Water Quality Monitoring Program.

24. Annual Sustainability Program Status Report, Including the Semiannual Report on Curbside Waste Collection and Approval of a Sole Source Agreement to Produce Biochar

The Board approved Option #1: Accept the annual status report on the County Sustainability Program, and;

Option #2: Authorize the County Administrator to execute an agreement with ReCap Inc. for the production of biochar, and any amendments thereto, subject to legal review by the County Attorney, and;

Option #3: Accept the semiannual status report regarding curbside waste collection service provided by Waste Pro, Inc.

CONSENT ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

Item #8. Proposed Revisions to Policy No. 96-1, "Purchasing Policy"

Commissioner Caban pulled this item from the Consent Agenda. He shared his reasons for not supporting approval of this agenda item and suggested a workshop would be better to review policy changes.

Commissioner Caban proposed *Option #2: Reject the amended County Policy No. 96-1, "Purchasing Policy," and instead schedule a workshop.* Commissioner O'Keefe seconded the motion. Commissioner Caban explained that he could not endorse the revised policy because of its significant changes, emphasizing the need for a workshop to review the proposed modifications thoroughly.

Commissioner Proctor concurred that organizing a workshop was essential, suggesting that the session should involve an examination of MWSBE (Minority and Women-owned Small Business Enterprises) expenditures below the $250,000 threshold. He also took a moment to reflect on the accomplishments of the MWSBE program.

Commissioner O'Keefe verified with the County Attorney that the revised policy did not introduce any new delegations of authority.

Commissioner Maddox recommended both adopting the revised policy and organizing a workshop. He presented a substitute motion to table approval of the policy and schedule a workshop for further discussion. Commissioner Caban seconded the motion.

Commissioner Maddox moved, seconded by Commissioner Caban, to approve Option #3: Board direction to postpone action on adopting the revised Policy 96-1 "Purchasing Policy"

and to schedule a Workshop on the Purchasing Policy to include an analysis of MWSBE expenditures below the $250,000 threshold.

The motion carried 6-1. (Commissioner O'Keefe in opposition).

Item #9. Proposed Revisions to Policy No. 21-6 "County Tourism Event Grant Programs"

This item was pulled from Consent by Commissioner Caban.

Commissioner Caban voiced apprehension regarding delegating authority and *proposed Option #2, suggesting not approving the amended Policy*. He included the motion to schedule a workshop for further discussion on the Policy, and Commissioner Proctor seconded the motion.

The Board deliberated on the necessity of restricting the delegation of authority to the County Administrator or his appointee, concerns about price gouging during tourism peak weekends, and acknowledged the positive outcomes of the Tourism Grant Program.

Kerri Post, the Director of Tourism, clarified that implementing blackout dates for tourism grants aim to encourage events during off-peak times. This strategy is designed to capitalize on the available capacity to support and accommodate tourism businesses during those periods.

Commissioner Maddox moved a substitute motion, seconded by Commissioner O'Keefe, to approve Option #1: Adopt the proposed revised Policy No. 21-6 "County Tourism Policy."
The motion carried 6-1. (Commissioner Caban in opposition).

Item #13. Approval of a Reimbursement Agreement with Florida Gulf and Atlantic Railroad, LLC for Tower Road Crossing Repair

This item was pulled from Consent by Commissioner Minor.

Commissioner Minor expressed gratitude to both the County and the Florida Gulf and Atlantic Railroad for the enhancements made at the crossing.

Commissioner Minor moved, seconded by Commissioner Caban, to approve Option #1: Approve the reimbursement agreement between Florida Gulf & Atlantic Railroad, LLC and Leon County, and authorize the County Administrator to execute the agreement, and any amendments thereto, subject to legal review by the County Attorney.
The motion carried 7-0.

Item #14. Ratification of the Joint Project Agreement between Leon County and Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency for the Magnolia Drive Multiuse Trail Project as Amended

This item was pulled from Consent by Commissioner Proctor.

Commissioner Proctor sought clarification from the staff regarding the distinction between a sidewalk and a multi-use trail, as well as information on the various phases of the trail construction.

Commissioner Proctor moved, seconded by Commissioner O'Keefe, to approve Option #1: Ratify the Joint Project Agreement between Leon County and Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency for the Magnolia Drive Multiuse Trail Project, as amended by the first and second amendments to the agreement.

The motion carried 7-0.

Item #17. Revised Enabling Resolution for the Miccosukee Canopy Road Greenway Citizen's Committee

This item was pulled from Consent by Commissioner Minor.

The following speakers provided in-person comments:

- Sue Noyes, 5800 Veterans Memorial Drive, voiced support for the Committee electing a Chair and opposed the idea of the Director of Parks & Recreation serving as the Committee Chair. She urged the rejection of the resolution.
- Rob Lombardo, 9704 Abbey Road, President of the Friends of Miccosukee Canopy Road Greenway, expressed support for the advisory committee and endorsed the election of a Chair.
- Eric Draper, 3627 Dexter Drive, Capital City Cyclists, voiced support for the advisory committee and endorsed the election of a Chair.
- Brett Barteld, 8150 Mahan Drive, Mahan Farm, spoke in support of the Greenway. He encouraged citizen involvement.

County Administrator Long emphasized the importance of citizen participation on this committee and clarified that the staff's endeavors are aimed at fostering active and meaningful engagement from the community.

Maggie Theriot, Director of Resource Stewardship, explained that recommending the Director of Parks & Recreation as the committee's Chair was pragmatic. Commissioner Minor praised the volunteers and proposed an alternative, suggesting an elected Chair with staff in the role of committee administrator. He motioned to postpone the item and revisit it with additional options, seconded by Commissioner O'Keefe. Commissioner Minor emphasized the County's statutory responsibility to update the Greenway Management Plan. He later amended his motion to approve a revised Resolution, specifying that the Committee should choose its Chair rather than having one appointed.

Vice Chair Welch verified with the staff that it is the Board's responsibility to produce the Greenway Management Plan.

Commissioner Minor moved, seconded by Commissioner O'Keefe, to approve Option #1 as amended: Adopt the revised Enabling Resolution for the Miccosukee Canopy Road Greenway Citizen's Committee and omit the language related to the appointment of staff to serve as the Chair so that the Committee may select the Chair in accordance with County Policy.
The motion carried 7-0.

GENERAL BUSINESS

25. Ratification of Board Actions Taken at the January 22, 2024, Annual Retreat

County Administrator Long introduced this item seeking ratification of Board actions taken at the January 22, 2024, Board Retreat.

Chair Cummings thanked staff and the Commission for a well-planned Retreat.

The following reflects other administrative items requested by the Board during the Retreat:

Consider a millage reduction to reduce the cost of living in light of economic conditions. (Budget Process)

Explore a 90-10 split in the employer contribution for the County's healthcare plan. (Budget Process)

Bring back a status report on the County's Comprehensive Plan Policy (Policy No. 2.1.9) regarding family heir subdivision standards and development rights.

Prepare a Resolution to acknowledge and apologize for the history of racism and slavery in Leon County, including any historical role the County may have perpetuated related to racial inequity or bias.

Commissioner Caban moved, seconded by Vice Chair Welch, to approve Option #1: Ratify the actions taken at the January 22, 2024, Board Retreat.
The motion carried 7-0.

26. The Tallahassee Historical Society's Revised Funding Request

County Administrator Long introduced this item. This item seeks Board consideration of the Tallahassee Historical Society's request to reauthorize $10,000 previously awarded by the Board to support the production of a digital children's activity book titled "Tallahassee 200: From Territory to Statehood" in celebration of the 2024 Tallahassee/Leon County Bicentennial. The original $10,000 allocation was provided as a grant match for distributing a printed version of the book. However, the Tallahassee Historical Society revised its funding request upon the State's rescinding matching funds.

Commissioner Proctor moved, seconded by Commissioner O'Keefe, to approve Option #1: Approve the Tallahassee Historical Society's revised funding request in the amount of $10,000 to support the production of an online children's activity book in celebration of the 2024 Tallahassee/Leon County Bicentennial.
The motion carried 7-0.

27. Additional Information on the Proposed Realignment of the Community Human Services Partnership Categories

County Administrator Long introduced this item, which provides additional information and a recommendation on the proposed realignment of the Community Human Services Partnership (CHSP) categories as requested by the Board during its November 28, 2023, Workshop on Human Services, and the Community Human Services Partnership, and subsequently ratified at its December 12, 2023, meeting. The item presents a proposal to maximize limited human services funding through greater coordination of the CHSP and Children's Services Council of Leon County (CSC) human services funding processes. The proposal provides for a transitional period to ensure the continuity of children's services and programs currently offered in the community. The proposal reflects ongoing commitment to coordination with the County, City of Tallahassee (City), and CSC in funding human services, along with the active engagement of our human services agencies. Per Board direction, this item includes input received from human service agencies as part of the development of the proposal.

Commissioner Minor disclosed that his wife is a realtor who has a business relationship with the Oasis Center for Girls and is in a transaction now. He abstained from voting on this item due to the appearance of a conflict.

**The Chair recessed the meeting at 4:38 p.m. returned at 4:43 p.m.*

Public Comment:

- Shirley O'Reere, Brehon Family Services, Executive Director, spoke in support of allocating specific funding for homelessness initiatives.
- Lauren Stafford, 1833 Halstead Boulevard, Legal Aid Foundation, spoke in support of their program to help citizens with legal issues. She shared her support of CHSP funding and concern about the realignment.
- Kim Galban-Countyman, 3248 Storrington Drive, Kids Incorporated Executive Board, requested that they workshop the item and put it on hold until then. She emphasized the significance of assisting families in need.
- Pat Holiday, 6274 Crestwood Drive, United Partners for Human Services Board, spoke about how decisions will affect the community.
- Kelly Otte, 317 E. Call Street, Oasis Center for Women & Girls, asked that they pause the realignment.
- Kacy Dennis, 8379 Glendalin Road, Boys and Girls Club Executive Director, highlighted the youth representing the 32304 zipcode who needed CHSP funding and expressed opposition to any changes in the CHSP structure.
- Skye Bess, 1700 Joe Lewis, Boys and Girls Club, spoke on the positive impact of the Boys and Girls Club and the CHSP funding it receives.
- Kim Sineath, 3515 Sharer Road, Learning Provision Executive Director, spoke in support of CHSP funding and pausing the realignment.
- Rob Ronzi, 6410 Willow Road, CEO of Big Bend Cares and Care Point, expressed concern about the realignment and supported pausing the realignment and running the cycle again.
- LaFonda Heidel, 306 Laura Lee Avenue, CEO of Kids Incorporated, spoke in opposition to the realignment.
- Frederica Sutton, Executive Director of Women's Learning to Lead, spoke in opposition to the CHSP realignment and advocated for a pause in the process.

Vicki Butler, Director of Operations, Kearney Center, spoke in support of the realignment.

- Sonja Wilson, Executive Director of the Kearney Center, addressed the challenges posed by homeless individuals on local businesses and neighborhoods, advocating for increased funding for homelessness initiatives.

The Board recessed at 5:25 p.m. and returned at 6:00 p.m. to hold public hearings and then come back to complete General Business.

County Administrator Long reflected on the opportunity for the Board to realign funding due to the influx of new funding through the CSC and the dedicated revenue of $9 million per year for children's services.

Shington Lamy, Assistant County Administrator, commended CHSP service providers, expressing gratitude for their feedback. He assured the Board that the transition plan includes a safety net, allowing agencies ineligible for CSC funding to still apply for CHSP funding.

The Board discussed the CHSP funding process for the next two years, the allocation of funds for addressing homelessness, the application process for CSC or CHSP funding, potential pauses in the realignment, and various timing options for implementation. They also discussed concerns about funding duplication and the resulting uncertainty for agencies.

Commissioner Proctor voiced concern about altering the CHSP process and proposed a motion to pause the CHSP realignment process, opting for Option #2. Commissioner Caban seconded the motion.

Commissioner Maddox stated his decision to abstain from the vote due to the appearance of a conflict arising from his employment with the Big Bend Homeless Coalition (Family Promise of the Big Bend).

Chair Cummings disclosed her membership on the Board of the CSC and highlighted the uncertainty faced by providers. She suggested slowing down the realignment process and proposed that the committee focus on the CSC process and exploring options for agencies no longer eligible for CHSP funding. She urged consideration for using the CHSP process to fund these agencies.

County Administrator Long stated that the Board could direct staff to collaborate with partners to support the CSC utilizing the CHSP process.

Vice Chair Welch proposed a substitute motion, suggesting that staff collaborate with partners to create a proposal for replicating CHSP funding for the CSC. Commissioner Proctor seconded the motion.

Commissioner O'Keefe emphasized the need for certainty in the upcoming cycle and proposed a friendly amendment to maintain all categories as the same for the next two-year cycle.

Vice Chair Welch moved a substitute motion, seconded by Commissioner Proctor, to approve Option #3: Board direction to direct staff to continue to work with the Children's Services Council of Leon County (CSC) and the City to develop a proposal to replicate and fund the CHSP process for children's services through the CSC for FY 2027, and to keep all CHSP categories the same for the FY2025-FY2026 two-year cycle.
The motion carried 5-0. (Commissioners Minor and Maddox recused).

28. Request to Schedule the First and Only Public Hearing to Consider Adopting the Proposed Ordinance Prohibiting Unauthorized Solicitation on Private Property, for February 20, 2024

County Administrator Long introduced this item. The item seeks Board approval to schedule the first and only public hearing for February 20, 2024, to consider adopting the proposed Ordinance prohibiting unauthorized solicitation on private property. The proposed Ordinance would allow law enforcement to enforce the prohibition of unauthorized solicitation on private property.

Commissioner O'Keefe disagreed with the ordinance and said he would vote against the motion.

Commissioner Proctor moved, seconded by Vice Chair Welch, to approve Option #1: Schedule the first and only Public Hearing to consider adopting the proposed Ordinance amending Chapter 12 to include Article IV, entitled "Prohibition of Unauthorized Solicitation on Private Property" to be applied countywide, for February 20, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.
The motion carried 6-1. (Commissioner O'Keefe in opposition).

29. Nominations to the Governor for Appointment to the Children's Services Council of Leon County

County Administrator Long introduced this item. This item seeks the Board's nomination of ten eligible applicants to the Governor for appointment to the three seats with expired terms on the Children's Services Council of Leon County.

The following speaker provided in-person comments:

- John Sheetz, a citizen of District 5, spoke in support of his accomplishments and of being re-nominated, along with Chair Zandra Glenn, to the Governor for appointment to the Children's Service Council.

Commissioner Proctor proposed a motion to re-nominate the nine initially nominated citizens in May 2023, with Commissioner O'Keefe seconding the motion.

Chair Cummings said she would like to entertain a substitute motion to nominate all 20 applicants. It was motioned by Vice Chair Welch and seconded by Commissioner Caban.

Commissioner O'Keefe expressed his opposition to this motion.

Vice Chair Welch moved a substitute motion, seconded by Commissioner Caban, to approve Option #3: Board direction to nominate all 20 eligible applicants to the Governor for appointment to the three vacant seats on the Children's Services Council of Leon County as follows: Dr. Patty Ball-Thomas, Dr. David Bellamy Gavin Burgess, Wallisa Cobb, Travis Diggs, Dr. Zandra Glenn, Keshia Jenkins, Brent Johnson, Simone Marstiller, Matt McKibbin, Michelle Miller, Christina Omran, Daniel Parker, Justin Ravelo, Bill Schack, John Sheetz, Amanda Valter, Eric Whitehead, Brenda Williams and John Wilson.
The motion carried 4-3. (Commissioners Minor, O'Keefe, and Proctor in opposition).

30. Full Board Appointment to the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee and the Advisory Committee for Quality Growth.

County Administrator Long introduced this item. This item seeks the full Board's consideration of the appointment of citizens to the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee and the Advisory Committee for Quality Growth.

Commissioner Caban moved, seconded by Commissioner Minor, to approve Option #1: Appoint one citizen, Sean Morgan, to Seat Category 'a.' on the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee for the remainder of the unexpired term ending January 31, 2026, and;

Option #2: Appoint one citizen, Byron Greene, to Seat 15: a person who represents a business association or organization, nominated by the Capital City Chamber of Commerce, for the remainder of the unexpired term ending May 31, 2026.
The motion carried 7-0.

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS, 6:00 P.M.

31. First and Only Public Hearing to Consider a Ninth Amendment to the Southwood Development of Regional Impact Integrated Development Order

County Administrator Long introduced this item. This item requests the Board to conduct the first and only public hearing to consider approval of a ninth amendment to the Southwood Development of Regional Impact Integrated Development Order (Southwood DRI-DO), which requires approval from both County and City Commissions. This amendment, if approved, would allow a Medium Density Residential (MDR) land use on a 30-acre parcel located inside the City of Tallahassee.

There were no public speakers.

Commissioner O'Keefe moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Minor, to approve Option #1: Conduct the first and only public hearing and approve the ninth amendment to the Southwood Development of Regional Impact Integrated Development Order.
The motion carried 5-0. (Commissioner Proctor and Vice Chair Welch 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.

- Karen Preacher expressed her support for Airbnb regulations to restrict noise and minimize disturbances to neighbors.

COMMENTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

County Attorney O'Steen:

Informed the Board that the Leon County Canvassing Board had requested her representation during the upcoming election cycle. She sought authorization from the Board to allow the County Attorney to represent the Canvassing Board for the upcoming election cycle. Additionally, she requested the authority to hire counsel for the Canvassing Board if necessary due to time constraints and demands.

Commissioner O'Keefe moved, seconded by Vice Chair Welch, to approve authorization for the County Attorney to represent the Canvassing Board during the upcoming election cycle or authorize the County Attorney to hire counsel for the Canvassing Board if needed.
The motion carried 7-0.

County Administrator Long:

Reported that the recent severe storm resulted in over 100 downed trees, with minimal structural damage and no loss of life.

Provided a brief overview of the initial three weeks of the Legislative session, mentioning that the Board receives regular updates from staff every Friday.

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Commissioner O'Keefe:

Asked that the County consider increasing the benefits offered to County employees for parental leave. He reflected on the State of Florida's generous parental leave policy. He stated that the Tallahassee-Leon County Commission on the Status of Women & Girls (CSWG) is developing community best practices for employer parental leave policies. He asked staff to provide an agenda item to consider an improved County parental leave policy, including input from the CSWG.

Commissioner O'Keefe moved, seconded by Commissioner Caban,, to bring back an agenda item to consider updating the County's parental leave policy, including the input from the CSWG on recommended best practices.
The motion carried 7-0.

Commissioner Minor:

Commended the successful Demp Week events and formally requested a proclamation to acknowledge DJ Demp's significant contributions to the community, with a request for four copies.

Commissioner Minor moved, seconded by Commissioner Caban, to approve a proclamation to recognize DJ Demp for his contributions to the community (4 copies).
The motion carried 7-0.

Requested the inclusion of an agenda item to discuss expediting the County's Electric Vehicle (EV) goal, aiming for 30% of the light-duty vehicle fleet by 2030.

Commissioner Minor moved, seconded by Commissioner O'Keefe, to bring back an agenda item to consider accelerating the County's Electric Vehicle (EV) goal of 30% of the light-duty vehicle fleet by 2030.
The motion carried 7-0.

Requested the addition of an agenda item to review and enhance the County's Sustainability Event Guidelines, including the Green Event Checklist. This is in preparation for potential use during the upcoming 2026 World Cross Country Championships at Apalachee Regional Park.

Commissioner Minor moved, seconded by Commissioner O'Keefe, to bring back an agenda item to review and update the County's Sustainability Event Guidelines, including potential use for the upcoming 2026 World Cross Country Championships at Apalachee Regional Park.
The motion carried 7-0.

Commended the successful Arbor Day tree planting event and encouraged the promotion of the County's Adopt-a-Tree Program, directing individuals to visit: LeonCountyFL.gov/adoptatree

Commissioner Caban:

Acknowledged FDOT for the work in District 2 on Silver Lake Road, Highway 20, and Capital Circle S.W.

Commissioner Proctor:

Thanked all the Board and leadership at the Retreat**.**

Reflected on Public Law 110-343, which reauthorized the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000. Mentioned that five counties in Florida, including Wakulla, receive payments from the Federal government due to the substantial percentage of Federal forest on their land. Highlighted the federal forests on Leon County land and proposed that the County explore seeking payment under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act. Asked for an update on the installation of streetlights on Crawfordville Road, inside the Urban Services Area (USA), from the Wilson Green neighborhood south to Publix.

Inquired about an update on the Community Reinvestment Act and for a status report on additional sewer services inside the Urban Services Area.

Commissioner Proctor moved, seconded by Commissioner Caban, to bring back an agenda item providing an update on the Community Reinvestment Act and an agenda item providing a status report on additional sewer service inside the Urban Services Area.
The motion carried 7-0.

Reported on the status of the Community Reinvestment Act.

Reviewed the status report on the extension of sewer service within the Urban Services Area.

Confirmed with the County Administrator that the County's Debt Service Schedule will be presented to the Board in the upcoming Budget process.

Commissioner Maddox:

Requested a proclamation recognizing March 2024 as Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month to be presented at the Board's March 19th meeting.

Commissioner Maddox moved, seconded by Commissioner Caban, to approve a proclamation recognizing March 2024 as Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month.
The motion carried 6-0. (Commissioner Minor out of Chambers).

Vice Chair Welch:

Acknowledged staff for successfully implementing a fixed post ambulance at Fire Station 11.

Commended the Leon County Tourism Bicentennial marketing rollout at Mission San Luis.

Applauded the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra and School Board Member Darryl Jones for their recent performance of "Portraits of America: A Tallahassee Bicentennial Celebration."

Thanked Congressman Neil Dunn for meeting on postal service issues in District 4.

Offered congratulations to Rob Clarke on becoming the new Chair of the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce.

Chair Cummings:

Thanked the County Administrator, Commission, and staff for the successful Retreat.

Recognized Commissioner Proctor for leading the MLK Celebration in the Rotunda and acknowledged School Board Member Daryl Jones for delivering the charge.

Asked for a motion for the Board to waive the rules and allow the Board to consider a non-agendaed item for sponsorship for the Teaching Our Own History Taskforce symposium during Black History Month.

Commissioner Proctor moved, seconded by Commissioner Caban, to waive Policy No. 01-05 Section V.J. "The Board shall take no policy action without an agenda item unless the policy action is taken by a unanimous vote of the Commissioners present and eligible to vote," and allow the Board to consider a non-agendaed item for sponsorship for the Teaching Our Own History Taskforce symposium during Black History Month.
The motion carried 6-0. (Commissioner Minor out of Chambers).

Requested a motion to approve a budget amendment allocating $15,000 from the General Contingency to support a sponsorship of a Teaching Our Own History Taskforce symposium being held February 26-27, 2024, and hosted by Bethel Baptist Church. This is a statewide task force in conjunction with the Florida General Baptist Convention Inc., promoting incorporating African American history into the school curriculum. She stated that the City Commission had also approved a $15,000 sponsorship for this event. Commissioner Maddox made the requested motion, and Commissioner Proctor seconded it.

Commissioner O'Keefe sought confirmation from the County Attorney that, given the Board's waiver of the Policy, the motion would require only a majority vote for passage.

Commissioner Maddox modified his motion to endorse the sponsorship funding and suggested establishing a policy that sponsorship funding raised during Commissioner Discussion time would not be considered without a designated agenda item. Commissioner

Proctor withdrew his second, leading to the motion's failure due to a lack of a second. Commissioner Maddox withdrew his initial motion.

Chair Cummings reflected on the sensitivity surrounding the issue of equity, inclusion, and diversity, particularly addressing concerns about the elimination of African American history from Florida school curriculum. She emphasized the significance of the upcoming symposium in addressing these matters.

Vice Chair Welch proposed a motion to approve the $15,000 sponsorship request for the Teaching Our Own History Taskforce scheduled for February 26-27, 2024. Additionally, he suggested the establishment of a policy stating that sponsorships exceeding $2,500 should only be considered with a designated agenda item.

Commissioner Caban moved, seconded by Vice Chair Welch, to call the question.

Vice Chair Welch moved, seconded by Chair Cummings, to approve a $15,000 sponsorship of the Teaching Our Own History Taskforce symposium being held on February 26-27, 2024, from the General Fund Contingency, and approval of the associated Budget Amendment; and bring back an agenda item for Board consideration that would require future funding requests greater than $2,500 from General Fund Contingency to be accompanied by an agenda item.
The motion carried 5-1. (Commissioner O'Keefe in opposition and Commissioner Minor out of Chambers).

RECEIPT AND FILE:

- **Children's Services Council of Leon County 2023 Annual Report**

- **Children's Services Council of Leon County FY 2024 First Quarter Financial Report**

- **East Ridge Community Development District Charter**

- **2024 Chair Appointment of Commissioners to Boards, Committees, Councils and Authorities**

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:

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

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