

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA  
REGULAR MEETING  
April 9, 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**

Commissioner Minor introduced Elder Dr. Chris A. Burney, Pastor of Greater Saint Mark Primitive Baptist Church, for the Invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was provided by Commissioner Rick Minor.

**Awards and Presentations**

- Presentation of the Florida House of Representative’s Bicentennial Resolution (*Representative Allison Tant*)

Representative Allison Tant presented the Florida House of Representative’s Bicentennial Resolution to the Board and provided a brief narrative on the rich history of Tallahassee/Leon County.

- Commissioner Minor thanked Representative Tant for her work in the Legislature on this resolution. He commended her leadership in the Florida House and stated they are fortunate that she is in this role.
- Vice-Chair Welch echoed the remarks made by Commissioner Minor and thanked Representative Tant for the Resolution and her leadership.
- Proclamation Recognizing Joseph Simmons as Volunteer Firefighter of the Year in the State of Florida (*Vice-Chair Brian Welch*)

Vice-Chair Welch presented Joseph Simmons with the proclamation, recognizing him as the 2024 Volunteer Firefighter of the Year in the State of Florida. He highlighted Simmons’ outstanding qualities and concluded by expressing the Commission’s strong support and appreciation for the service of all firefighters.

- Mr. Simmons thanked the Board for the proclamation and his fellow firefighters for their support.
- Commissioner O’Keefe thanked Mr. Simmons for his dedicated service and stated he clearly deserves this award. He commended him for his service to the community.
- Chair Cummings congratulated Mr. Simmons and stated how much the community values what he does in protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the people in Leon County.

**Citizens to be Heard on Non-Agendaed Items** (3-minute limit per speaker; there will not be any discussion by the Commission).

- Stanley Sims, 1320 Avondale Way, Tallahassee, Fl 32317, stated he is there on behalf of one of his female constituents. He mentioned that the woman thanked him for standing up for the women on the dais.
- Max Epstein, 1001 San Luis Road, Tallahassee, Fl 32304, discussed a concerning trend he has noticed during his exchanges with the Commissioners. He observed that Commissioners often subtly seek the positions of their colleagues before responding, which he believes is setting a troubling precedent and may violate Sunshine Law.

**Consent**

*Commissioner Minor moved, seconded by Vice-Chair Welch, to approve the Consent Agenda, with the exception of Item #13.*

*The motion carried 6-1. (Commissioner Proctor out of Chambers.)*

**1. Minutes: January 22, 2024, Board Retreat, and February 20, 2024, Regular Meeting**

*The Board approved Option #1: Approve the minutes of the January 22, 2024, Board Retreat, and the February 20, 2024, Regular Meeting.*

**2. Payment of Bills and Vouchers**

*The Board approved Option #1: Approve the payment of bills and vouchers submitted for April 9, 2024, and the pre-approval of payment of bills and vouchers for the period of April 10, 2024, through May 13, 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 Ashley Rodgers to the Tallahassee-Leon County Commission on the Status of Women & Girls for the remainder of an unexpired term ending on September 30, 2025.*

**4. Request to Schedule the First and Only Public Hearing to Consider Abandoning the April Road Right-of-Way for May 14, 2024**

*The Board approved Option #1: Schedule the first and only public hearing to consider abandoning the April Road right-of-way for May 14, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., and adopt a resolution declaring that the public hearing is scheduled.*

**5. Acceptance of Funding for the Council on the Status of Men and Boys from the City of Tallahassee and Leon County School Board, for the Leon County Sheriff's Office**

*The Board approved Options #1-#3: Option #1: Authorize the Leon County Sheriff's Office to realize and spend \$300,000 from the City of Tallahassee to support the Tallahassee-Leon County Council on the Status of Men and Boys.*

Option #2: Accept the \$70,000 from the Leon County School Board and authorize the Leon County Sheriff's Office to realize and spend the funds to support the Tallahassee-Leon County Council on the Status of Men and Boys.

Option #3: Approve the Resolution and Budget Amendment to realize the funds into the Sheriff's FY 2024 budget.

**6. Acceptance of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Justice Assistance Grant for the Leon County Sheriff's Office**

The Board approved Options #1-#2: Option #1: Accept the State of Florida, Florida Department of Law Enforcement Pass-through Justice Assistance Grant in the amount of \$30,556 and authorize the County Administrator to execute the Grant Agreement, including any future modifications, subject to legal review by the County Attorney.

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

**7. Acceptance of Report on General Fund Contingency Reserves Funding Requests**

The Board approved Option #1: Accept report on General Fund Contingency Reserves and take no further action.

**8. Ratification of Citizen Review Teams for FY 2025 and FY 2026 Community Human Services Partnership Funding Cycle and Approval to Amend Agreement with FSU Askew School of Public Administration and Policy**

The Board approved Options #1-#2: Option #1: Ratify the volunteers who will serve on Citizen Review Teams for the FY 2025 and FY 2026 Community Human Services Partnership funding cycle.

Option #2: Authorize the County Administrator to amend the current agreement with the City of Tallahassee and the FSU Askew School of Public Administration and Policy to include the evaluation of the uniform outcome measures system, and execute any future amendments, subject to legal review by the County Attorney.

**9. First Amendment to Renew the Interlocal Agreement with the Housing Finance Authority of Leon County**

The Board approved Option #1: Approve the proposed First Amendment to renew the Interlocal Agreement with the Housing Finance Authority of Leon County and authorize the County Administrator to execute the Agreement, and any future amendments, subject to legal review by the County Attorney.

**10. Proposed Revision to Policy No. 19-4, "Springs Restoration Grants and Septic System Upgrades Policy"**

The Board approved Option #1: Adopt the proposed revision to Policy No. 19-4, "Springs Restoration Grants and Septic System Upgrades Policy."

Procurements: (These items are included under Consent.)

**11. Authorization to Negotiate an Agreement for Professional Engineering Services for the Leon County Flooding Vulnerability Assessment**

*The Board approved Option #1: Authorize the County Administrator, or designee, to negotiate fees for the Leon County Vulnerability Assessment with Jones, Edmunds & Associates, Inc., and authorize the County Administrator to execute the Agreement, and any amendments thereto, subject to legal review by the County Attorney. If negotiations are unsuccessful, authorize the County Administrator, or designee, to negotiate with the next highest ranked firms in order of ranking, and authorize the County Administrator to execute the agreement, and any amendments thereto, subject to legal review by the County Attorney.*

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

**12. Status report on Community Reinvestment Act Reports and Home Mortgage Disclosure Act Data for Regulated Banks in Leon County**

*The Board approved Option #1: Accept the status report on Community Reinvestment Act Reports and Home Mortgage Disclosure Act data for regulated banks in Leon County.*

**13. PULLED - Lake Munson Action Plan Status Update**

**CONSENT ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

**#13. PULLED - Lake Munson Action Plan Status Update**

- Item pulled from Consent by Commissioner Proctor.

The following speakers provided in-person comments:

- Max Epstein, 1001 San Luis Road, Tallahassee, FL 32304, expressed his dissatisfaction with the current action plan to clean up Lake Munson. He mentioned the discrepancy in the Board's agenda item and what is happening. He relayed to the Commissioners that he spoke with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), and 3 out of 4 members recommended keeping the gates closed. He also recalled talking with Andy Strickland about closing the gates in May, which will be the best way to go. He concluded his remarks by saying they need to hold a hearing and discuss this with all the parties.
- Commissioner Proctor stated that Mr. Epstein's comments mirrored their conversations two years ago. He mentioned the \$800,000 awarded to clean up Lake Jackson. He inquired whether they could get FWC to come to the table and have a workshop together. He concluded by stating they cannot leave Lake Munson in abeyance. He made a motion for Option #1 and to schedule a workshop, seconded by Commissioner O'Keefe.
- County Administrator Long explained that they have discussed this agenda item extensively. He mentioned that the Commissioners have received a large amount of information and approved an action plan for Lake Munson. He continued by stating that the Commissioners receive updates every six months. He concluded by recommending asking Anna Padilla any questions they may have before scheduling a workshop.
- Commissioner Caban commented that Lake Munson has been an issue since he was elected 18 months ago. He stated that he does not want to deviate from the current action plan. He concluded by recommending that the Commissioners accept staff's

recommendation with one change: have the next status report in 12 months instead of 24 months. He noted that this will give the lake time to restabilize.

- Commissioner O'Keefe sought clarification on whether, by accepting the motion on the report and inviting a workshop, they would still follow the current plan.
  - Chair Cummings responded in the affirmative.
- Commissioner O'Keefe stated he supported the current plan and that it makes sense after reviewing it. He added that they are willing to meet.
  - Commissioner Caban stated that he believed there was a disconnect. He shared that he has met with staff regarding this issue. While he mentioned that he would not oppose a workshop if it would benefit an asset in his district, he does not want to hinder progress with the current plan.
  - County Administrator Long stated that they always accurately reflect the ongoing coordination and cooperation with their state agency partners. He noted that they receive accurate information on the official positions of the state agencies and the individuals making the determinations.
- Commissioner Caban stated he is confident in their current direction and wants to revisit the situation in a year to see if the lake stabilizes before scheduling a workshop. He expressed concern about deviating from the current plan before it has a chance to succeed.
- Commissioner Proctor emphasized that the government is of the people and by the people. He highlighted the importance of citizen input and the value of hearing their perspectives.
- Commissioner Minor commented on seeing staff work on Lake Munson for years and how that has been an educational experience. He mentioned he gives a lot of deference to what Commissioner Caban thinks due to his determined efforts regarding Lake Munson. He concluded by stating he believes the current direction is probably the right one.
- Commissioner Maddox asked County Administrator Long about the workshop that was discussed at Blueprint but not held. He stated that he was unclear whether they agreed to a workshop. He mentioned that they reached out to the City but received no response. He noted that they had initiated a process with Lake Munson and suggested waiting to see the results. Finally, he asked if scheduling a workshop would allow them to continue following the established direction.
  - County Administrator Long reminded the Board of the extensive efforts made prior to adopting the current plan, including months of collaboration with the working committee. He concluded by stating they approved and are implementing the plan, but if they wanted to schedule a workshop in a year that would be fine.
- Commissioner Maddox inquired about when the draw-down process is scheduled for completion.
  - Anna Padilla, Stormwater Management Water Coordinator, reported completion is scheduled for May, followed by two years of enhanced monitoring water quality testing.

- Commissioner Maddox asked if they would receive status updates once the gates are open.
  - County Administrator Long stated they are prepared to bring the report back in one year and as often as the Board deems necessary. He mentioned the need for intervals between reports to allow the staff time to do their necessary work.
- Commissioner Maddox stated he was in favor of the one-year waiting period.
- Chair Cummings questioned Anna Padilla about the draw-down process and how the two-year testing period would work.
  - Ms. Padilla responded that the County would conduct monthly testing for a period of two years, after which testing would revert to the normal quarterly water sampling.
- Chair Cummings shared that she sees a workshop as informational rather than impeding the process or changing direction. She acknowledged citizen concerns regarding Lake Munson and expressed a desire to bring people together through a workshop.
- Commissioner Caban recalled a recommendation from Shawn McGlenn, a scientist who has worked on matters similar to Lake Munson. He pointed out that if they have a workshop this summer or fall, the information they receive would not be the most accurate. This is so because it takes 12-18 months for the lake to stabilize post-drawdown. He ended by stating he thought it would be best for the lake if they finished with the current plan.
- Commissioner Proctor commented on Commissioner Maddox's statement regarding the City's lack of response, emphasizing how it reflects on citizen engagement across the community.
- Commissioner Caban made a substitute motion to accept the status report on the Lake Munson Action Plan and for staff to provide a status report in May 2025, one year after the conclusion of the drawdown.
- Commissioner Proctor noted that this would be the first time they would schedule a workshop based on a quantitative measure.
- Commissioner Maddox emphasized the importance of timing for the workshop, considering the ability of citizens to communicate with staff and Commissioners. He expressed openness to having a workshop sooner based on data.
- County Administrator Long mentioned the abundance of information received regarding Lake Munson and suggested bringing the report back in a year for the Board to decide on the direction.
- Commissioner Maddox stated they should finish the process and have a workshop in a year. He noted the various ways citizens can have their voices heard. He concluded by stating he is in favor of finishing out this process and then having a status report in a year.

- Commissioner Minor commented that Commissioner Maddox is 100% right in his observation. He mentioned that they agreed to a process and that it is still in effect. He concluded by stating he supports the substitute motion that is on the table.
- Commissioner Proctor discussed the third part of the holding ponds, beginning at Cascade Park and going down FAMU Way to Anita Davis Lake. He inquired about the correlation between the build-out of the new ponds and the plan that is underway.
  - Ms. Padilla clarified that all Blueprint stormwater facilities in design have been constructed, with only segment four of the Cascades trail remaining outstanding.
- Commissioner Proctor asked if the most developed lake had been abandoned because it was supposed to be addressed first before the plan was altered.
  - County Administrator Long clarified that they continue to allocate funds for different lakes.
- Autumn Calder, Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Director, mentioned that the Capital Cascade segment IV project is the last piece to be completed, with groundbreaking expected in 2025.
- Chair Cummings stated she gives deference to Commissioner Caban because Lake Munson is in his district. She raised concerns about communication accessibility for citizens and reiterated that a workshop would provide clarity without impeding the current plan.

*Commissioner Caban moved, seconded by Commissioner Minor, to approve Option #1 as amended: Accept the status report on the Lake Munson Action Plan and for staff to provide a status report in May 2025, one year after the conclusion of the drawdown.*

*The motion carried 5-2 (Commissioners Proctor and Chair Cummings in opposition).*

### **General Business**

#### **14. Proposed Dedication of Courtroom 3A in Honor of Judge James C. Hankinson**

County Administrator Long introduced this item seeking the Board's consideration to dedicate Courtroom 3A in honor of Judge James C. Hankinson, as provided by County Policy No. 97-3, by placing a plaque in appreciation of his service to the people of the Second Judicial Circuit.

*Commissioner Maddox moved, seconded by Commissioner Minor, approval of Option #1: Approve the dedication of Courtroom 3A in Honor of Judge James C. Hankinson.*

*The motion carried 7-0.*

#### **15. Acceptance of Opioid Litigation Settlement Funds and Authorization of Agreements with Big Bend Community Based Care, LLC, Doing Business as Northwest Florida Health Network, and DISC Village Inc.**

County Administrator Long introduced this item. It sought the Board's acceptance of \$2,395,366 in opioid litigation settlement funds and authorization to execute agreements with Big Bend Community Based Care, LLC, doing business as Northwest Florida Health Network, on behalf of the State of Florida, to receive and utilize the

settlement funds for the provision of substance abuse treatment services resulting from opioid abuse and the purchase of EMS equipment to address opioid use disorders in the community. The item also sought Board authorization to enter into and execute an agreement with DISC Village, Inc. for substance abuse treatment and ancillary services for individuals with opioid and substance use disorders.

- Commissioner Proctor inquired about Attorney Darryl Parks' employment with the Big Bend Community Based Care, LLC.
- County Attorney O'Steen stated that she has not had any dealings with Attorney Parks and mentioned the portion of funds that attorneys are paid from. She clarified that they do not make any direct payments to outside counsel for their services.
- Commissioner Proctor stated he wished that Attorney Darryl Parks was still a part of the team.

*Vice-Chair Welch moved, seconded by Commissioner O'Keefe, approval of Options #1-#3: Option #1: Accept the \$2,395,366 in opioid litigation settlement funds and authorize the County Administrator to enter into and execute agreements with Big Bend Community Based Care, LLC, doing business as Northwest Florida Health Network, and any amendments thereto, subject to legal review by the County Attorney, to utilize settlement funds for the provision of substance abuse treatment services resulting from opioid abuse and the purchase of EMS equipment to address opioid use disorders in the community.*

*Option #2: Approve the Resolution and associated Budget Amendment to realize the funds into the FY 2024 budget.*

*Option #3: Authorize the County Administrator to enter into and execute an agreement with DISC Village, Inc., to provide substance abuse treatment and ancillary services resulting from opioid abuse, and any amendments thereto, subject to legal review by the County Attorney.*

*The motion carried 6-0. (Chair Cummings out of chambers.)*

**16. Acquisition of Parcel Needed for the Centerville Road at Harpers Ferry Drive Turn Lane Project**

County Administrator Long introduced this item. It sought the Board's approval of a counteroffer received from Ox Bottom Mortgage Holdings, LLC (property owner), for the County to acquire the property interests (the "Parcel") needed for the Centerville Road at Harpers Ferry Drive Turn Lane Improvement Project (the "Project"). The Parcel needed for the Project is 0.84 acres in size, and the County is seeking to acquire fee simple title. Should the Board not wish to accept the counteroffer from the property owner, this item seeks Board approval to exercise its eminent domain authority by authorizing the County Attorney to file an eminent domain lawsuit to acquire said Parcel needed for the Project.

- Vice-Chair Welch commented on this item and stated that it was a long time coming. He thanked staff for their support and acknowledged the staff for their work on the recommendation.

*Vice-Chair Welch moved, seconded by Commissioner Minor, approval of Option #1: Accept the counteroffer from Ox Bottom Mortgage Holdings, LLC, in the amount of*



*\$200,000, inclusive of all fees and costs, as well as any damages caused to the owner's remaining real estate, and authorize the County Administrator or designee to execute any and all documents necessary to effect the settlement, in a manner deemed legally sufficient by the County Attorney.*

*The motion carried 7-0.*

**17. Full Board Appointments to the Minority Women & Small Business Enterprise Citizen Advisory Committee and the Tallahassee Sports Council**

County Administrator Long introduced this item. It sought the full Board's consideration of the appointment of citizens to the Minority Women & Small Business Enterprise Citizen Advisory Committee and the Tallahassee Sports Council.

The following speaker provided in-person comments:

- Stanley Sims, 1320 Avondale Way, Tallahassee, Florida 32317, discussed the importance of broadening the scope of board membership. Mr. Sims emphasized the need for a representative who has experienced eviction or is currently living in affordable housing. He recommended that the Commissioners find an applicant for the board who is currently benefitting from affordable housing assistance.
- Commissioner Proctor inquired about the names and asked if one was an incumbent. He raised concerns about the low number of citizens applying for this board. He recognized and expressed his appreciation for former Commissioner Marjorie Turnbull who was in attendance.

*Commissioner Maddox moved, seconded by Commissioner Caban, to approve Option #1: Appoint one citizen, Danielle Andrews, to the At-Large seat on the Tallahassee-Leon County Minority, Women, and Small Business Enterprise Citizen Advisory Committee for a two-year term ending April 30, 2026.*

*The motion carried 7-0.*

*Commissioner Maddox moved, seconded by Commissioner Caban, to approve Option #2: Reappoint two citizens, Judy Alexander and Jason Pappas, to the At-Large seats on the Tallahassee Sports Council for three-year terms ending April 30, 2027, thereby waiving the conflicting employment relationship disclosed on Mr. Pappas' Form 4A.*

*The motion carried 7-0.*

*The Board recessed at 5:15 p.m. and reconvened at 6:00 p.m.*

**SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS, 6:00 P.M.**

**18. First and Only Public Hearing to Consider Adopting an Ordinance Repealing Chapter 11, Article VI of the Leon County Code of Ordinances, entitled "Peddlers"**

County Administrator Long announced this item. It requests the Board conduct the first and only public hearing to consider adopting an Ordinance repealing Chapter 11, Article VI of the Leon County Code of Ordinances, entitled "Peddlers." The Ordinance was adopted in 1980 to provide a process by which an individual can obtain a permit through the Leon County Sheriff's Office to engage in certain solicitation activities.

There was no public comment.

*Vice-Chair Welch moved, seconded by Commissioner O'Keefe, approval of Option #1: Option #1: Conduct the first and only public hearing and adopt the proposed Ordinance repealing Chapter 11, Article VI of the Leon County Code of Ordinances, entitled "Peddlers."*

*The motion carried 7-0.*

**19. First and Only Public Hearing to Consider a Proposed Resolution Adopting Inventory List of County-owned Properties Appropriate for Affordable Housing**

County Administrator Long announced this item. As required by Florida Statutes, this item requested the Board conduct the first and only public hearing to consider a proposed resolution providing an inventory list of County-owned properties deemed appropriate for affordable housing.

There was no public comment.

*Commissioner Proctor moved, seconded by Vice-Chair Welch, approval of Option #1: Option #1: Conduct the First and Only Public Hearing and adopt the Resolution Adopting the Inventory List of County Properties Appropriate for Affordable Housing.*

*The motion carried 7-0.*

**20. First and Only Public Hearing to Consider Adoption of the Annual Update to the Tallahassee-Leon County Comprehensive Plan Capital Improvements Schedule**

County Administrator Long announced this item. It requested the Board conduct the first and only public hearing to adopt an Ordinance updating the Tallahassee-Leon County Comprehensive Plan Capital Improvement Schedule pursuant to Florida Statutes. The Capital Improvements Schedule reflects the capital projects identified in currently adopted federal, state, and local budgets.

There was no public comment.

*Commissioner Proctor moved, seconded by Commissioner Minor, approval of Option #1: Option #1: Conduct the first and only public hearing and adopt the Ordinance updating the Tallahassee-Leon County Comprehensive Plan Capital Improvements Schedule.*

*The motion carried 7-0.*

**21. First and Only Public Hearing to Consider the Adoption of a Small-Scale Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment and Concurrent Rezoning at 2225 Orange Avenue**

County Administrator Long announced this item. It provided for the first and only public hearing on a proposed small-scale map amendment to the Tallahassee-Leon County Comprehensive Plan and a concurrent rezoning for approximately 1.9 acres located at 2225 Orange Avenue near the intersection of Orange Avenue and Capital Circle SE. The subject site is currently split by two land use designations (Activity Center and Urban Residential-2) and two zoning designations (Activity Center and R-3 Single-Family Detached, Attached Two-Family Residential). The proposed map amendment and concurrent rezoning would result in the subject site having one land use designation (Activity Center) and one zoning district (Activity Center).

There was no public comment.

*Vice-Chair Welch moved, seconded by Commissioner Caban, approval of Options #1-#2: Option #1: Conduct the first and only public hearing and adopt the proposed Ordinance, thereby adopting the small-scale map amendment LMA2401 (2225 Orange Avenue) in unincorporated Leon County to the Tallahassee-Leon County 2030 Comprehensive Plan, and;*

*Option #2: Conduct the first and only public hearing and adopt the proposed Ordinance amending the Official Zoning Map to Change the Zoning Classification from the Single-Family Detached, Attached Two-Family Residential (R-3) and High-Intensity Urban Activity Center (AC) to High-Intensity Urban Activity Center (AC).*

*The motion carried 7-0.*

**22. Public Hearing for Transmittal of 2024 Cycle Comprehensive Plan Text Amendments**

County Administrator Long announced this item. It provided for the Transmittal Public Hearing for the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Amendment Cycle. The purpose of the public hearing was to consider the transmittal of the three proposed text amendments to the State Land Planning Agency (Florida Department of Commerce) and other reviewing agencies. If approved for transmittal, a second public hearing for the Board to consider the adoption of the amendments will be held on June 11, 2024.

There was no public comment.

*Commissioner Proctor moved, seconded by Vice-Chair Welch, approval of Options #1-#3: Option #1: Conduct the transmittal public hearing on the 2024 Cycle Comprehensive Plan Text Amendment TTA2024003 (HB 1379 Implementation) and transmit the proposed amendment to the State Land Planning Agency and review agencies.*

*Option #2: Conduct the transmittal public hearing on the 2024 Cycle Comprehensive Plan Text Amendment TTA2024004 (Solar Facilities) and transmit the proposed amendment to the State Land Planning Agency and review agencies.*

*Option #3: Conduct the transmittal public hearing on the 2024 Cycle Comprehensive Plan Text Amendment TTA2024012 (Small-Scale Map Amendments Process) and transmit the proposed amendment to the State Land Planning Agency and review agencies.*

- Commissioner O'Keefe sought clarification on Option #3, asking whether it would reduce the number of hearings needed.
- Laurel Harbin, Director of Planning, stated that since the parcels were 50 acres or fewer, they only required one public hearing from the local planning agency and one public hearing from the County Commission, which is consistent with the current requirements.

*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.)

- Chair Cummings confirmed that there were no speakers on Non-Agendaed Items.

**Comments/Discussion Items**

**County Attorney O’Steen:**

- Had no comments.

**County Administrator Long:**

- Had no comments.

**Commissioner Discussion Items**

**Vice-Chair Welch:**

- Requested a proclamation for retiring Assistant Sheriff Steve Harrelson.

*Vice-Chair Welch moved, seconded by Commissioner Minor, to approve a proclamation recognizing the retirement of Assistant Sheriff Steve Harrison for 35 years of service.*

*The motion carried 7-0.*

- Thanked Staff for the float and their work at the Springtime Tallahassee Parade.
- Made a motion for staff to provide an agenda item on the use of golf carts by Westminster Oaks on Dempsey Mayo Road and to limit the scope to retirement communities.

*Vice-Chair Welch moved, seconded by Commissioner Caban, to have staff bring back an agenda item to consider an ordinance that allows golf carts on County roadways in retirement communities, including Dempsey Mayo Road, for residents of the Westminster Oaks retirement community.*

*The motion carried 7-0.*

**Commissioner Proctor:**

- Acknowledged Theresa Broxton, Director Office of Intervention and Detention Alternatives, on Public Safety Coordinating Council. He thanked her for all that she does.
- Acknowledged Kerri Post, CDME, Director of Tourism, for her work on the Bicentennial Celebration. He gave accolades on the Gospel Concert at Cascades Park.
- He referenced a letter from Vaughn Wilson. He apologized to Chair Cummings and commented on her leadership with Blueprint and the Board.
- Commented on the Summer Youth Program and the excitement that comes with it.
- Shared that the nature of governing has an element of accountability that goes with it. He inquired about the financial health of Leon County and its stability.

- County Administrator Long commented on the annual audit and stated that the audit has come back clean over the last several years. County Administrator Long concluded by mentioning that we are in good shape.
- He acknowledged the County Administrator for his leadership of the County’s finances.
- Commented on the \$11.4 million collected from unincorporated area citizens, and questioned why it is being transferred into the General Fund. He inquired why the collected funds were not being used to sustain the salaries of firefighters.
  - County Attorney O’Steen recalled the outside study that was conducted on the Fire Services rate. She stated the consultant evaluated what rates would be appropriate, and then the recommended rates were brought back and adopted by the Commission. She spoke of the interlocal agreement with the City of Tallahassee for fire services. She added that once the City of Tallahassee receives the money, she is unsure of how it is used.
  - Commissioner Proctor stated that there was no money left in the fire services account. He mentioned that all the money collected is transferred to the General Fund. He expressed his concern that the funds are being used for items unrelated to fire services.

**Commissioner Caban:**

- Thanked Chair Cummings and staff for the robust discussion regarding Lake Munson.
- Thanked FDOT for their work in District 2. He mentioned a study that will be conducted near Woodville Highway, potentially adding a traffic light.
- Thanked Public Works for their efforts on the Fort Braden Sidewalk. He mentioned receiving compliments from his constituents for this project.
- Mentioned the Farmers Market Kick-Off on Saturday, April 13, 2024, at Fort Braden. He invited the Commissioners to join him there.

**Commissioner Minor:**

- Discussed the neighborhoods with rundown properties. He inquired about what can be done. He made a motion for staff to provide the Board with informational materials for sharing with constituents on code requirements, the complaint process, and covenant options.
  - Commissioner O’Keefe commented that it is a problem. He stated he would not support the motion because they already have a process. He stated people have the freedom to choose whether to live in an area with a HOA or not.
- Commissioner Caban noted that this is an issue in his district. He questioned whether this motion was informational or to bring about a change.
  - Chair Cummings responded it is purely informative.

*Commissioner Minor moved, seconded by Commissioner Caban, for the Board to be provided with informational materials on the code compliance process, code compliance regulation information, and covenant creation options to be shared with constituents.*

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

- Acknowledged Nikki Paden, Ken Morris, and the federal lobbyists at Squire Patton Boggs for helping to procure the funding of \$800,000 for the Lake Jackson water restoration project.

**Commissioner O’Keefe:**

- Acknowledged Mr. Stanley Sims for the suggestion of adding citizens who benefit from affordable housing services to the advisory committee.
  - County Administrator Long stated that the qualifications for that committee are dictated by statute, but there may be some flexibility.
- Commissioner O’Keefe made a motion to provide an agenda item to consider adding a member qualification to the County’s Affordable Housing Advisory Committee for someone who has received rental assistance or experienced an eviction.

*Commissioner O’Keefe moved, seconded by Commissioner Caban, to provide an agenda item to consider adding a member qualification to the County’s Affordable Housing Advisory Committee for someone who has received rental assistance or experienced an eviction.*

*The motion carried 7-0.*

**Commissioner Maddox:**

- Had no comments.

**Chair Cummings:**

- Announced the consideration of the John G. Riley House being placed on the National Registry of Historic Places.
- Stated that on Friday, April 12, at 7 p.m., the Florida A&M University will recognize its Football Team by holding a SWAC Champions Ring Reception. She stated the SWAC Championship Ring Celebration will be held at the Grand Ballroom and that Leon County is a sponsor.
- Recognized former Commissioner Marjorie Turnbull.
  - Mrs. Turnbull thanked the Board for carrying out the business of Leon County.
  - Vice-Chair Welch thanked her for her service even in retirement.
  - Commissioner Minor acknowledged former Commissioner Turnbull for her six years of service.
  - Commissioner Proctor thanked her for her service and leadership.
  - Commissioner Maddox commented on former Commissioner Turnbull’s leadership and dedication to her work at the local and state levels.
  - Commissioner O’Keefe commented on her remarkable leadership.
  - Chair Cummings shared she stands on former Commissioner Turnbull’s shoulders and appreciated her presence and advocacy.

**Receipt and File:**

- Florida Development Finance Corporation Financial Statements as of June 30, 2023

**Adjourn:**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

ATTEST:



*Carolyn D. Cummings*

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

*Gwendolyn Marshall Knight*

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