



# Polk County Board of County Commissioners

## Meeting Minutes - Draft

### February 17, 2026 Regular BoCC meeting

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Any invocation that may be offered before the official start of the Commission meeting shall be the voluntary offering of a private citizen, to and for the benefit of the Commission. The views or beliefs expressed by the invocation speaker have not been previously reviewed or approved by the Commission, and the Commission is not allowed by law to endorse the religious beliefs or views of this, or any other speaker.

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

### CALL TO ORDER - 9:00 a.m. (MARTHA SANTIAGO, CHAIR)

### INVOCATION

Murphy Hanley, Polk County Fire Rescue Chaplain

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (MARTHA SANTIAGO, CHAIR)

### A. PRESENTATIONS and RECOGNITIONS

#### A.1. Employee Recognition

**Minutes:** The Board recognized Timothy Bearden with Land Development, David Harris with Roads and Drainage and Christine Irons with Land Development for their years of service with the county.

### B. PUBLIC COMMENTS CONCERNING AGENDA ITEMS

#### B.1. Comments.

**Minutes:** There was no one from the public wishing to speak regarding Agenda Items.

### C. COUNTY COMPTROLLER (STACY M. BUTTERFIELD, CPA)

#### C.1. Disbursements.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Rick Wilson

<b>SECONDER:</b>	Bill Braswell
<b>AYE:</b>	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

C.2. Minutes of Regular Board meeting held on February 3, 2026.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Becky Troutman
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Bill Braswell
<b>AYE:</b>	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

**D. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**

D.1. Approve Consent Agenda.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Bill Braswell
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Rick Wilson
<b>AYE:</b>	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

**G. COUNTY MANAGER (BILL BEASLEY)**

G.1. Approve Consultant Services Authorization 2024-019-05 with Wright-Pierce, Inc. for Lift Station 302 Replacement Project (\$593,097.00 not-to-exceed, one-time expense)

**Minutes:** County Manager Bill Beasley discussed Consultant Services Authorization 2024-019-05 with Wright-Pierce, Inc., for the Lift Station 302 replacement project. He recommended approval.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Bill Braswell
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Rick Wilson
<b>AYE:</b>	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

G.2. Approve Ninth Amendment to Encroachment Management Agreement Between United States of America and Conservation Florida and Polk County to provide \$1,300,000 of Air Force Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) funds towards acquisition within the Sentinel Landscape (\$1,300,000.00 one-time funding).

**Minutes:** County Manager Bill Beasley discussed the Ninth Amendment to Encroachment Management Agreement Between United States of America, Conservation Florida and Polk County providing \$1,300,000 of Air Force Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration funds towards acquisition within the Sentinel Landscape. He recommended approval.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Rick Wilson

<b>SECONDER:</b>	Michael Scott
<b>AYE:</b>	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

**H. COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1 (BECKY TROUTMAN)**

H.1. Commissioner Troutman Comments.

**Minutes:** Commissioner Troutman said it has been announced that Moffitt Cancer Center will be coming to Polk County. She said she wanted to publicly thank Ashley and Wesley Barnett for their support as well as the Rogers family for the donation of land. She said that is a significant game changer for health care in Polk County.

**I. COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2 (RICK WILSON)**

I.1. Appoint Mr. T. Chad Barron to replace Rob Harper on the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Rick Wilson
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Bill Braswell
<b>AYE:</b>	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

I.2. Commissioner Wilson Comments.

**Minutes:** Commissioner Wilson said on February 24th at 6:00 p.m. they are having a town hall meeting at the Stuart Center in Bartow for the Ag Center. He stated it is something he has worked hard on and everybody has to make this happen. He said we have gotten to a point where we can show what it is going to look like and how things are going to come together.

**J. COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3 (BILL BRASWELL)**

J.1. Commissioner Braswell Comments.

**Minutes:** Commissioner Braswell had no comments.

**K. COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 5 (MICHAEL SCOTT)**

K.1. Commissioner Scott Comments.

**Minutes:** Commissioner Scott said we have the community meeting tonight from 6-8 p.m. at Kathleen Baptist Church. He said it is for the North Lakeland Government Center property purchase. He said it is to seek community input and offer clarification on some of the social topics that have been out there that probably are not accurate. He said we are doing our best as a county to be forthcoming with information and also seeking the input of the community.

**L. COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 4 (MARTHA SANTIAGO, CHAIR)**

L.1. Chair Santiago Comments.

**Minutes:** Chair Santiago had no comments.

**N. EXPEDITED HEARINGS PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION NO. 2022-089**

**Minutes:** County Attorney Randy Mink reminded the audience of the procedures for public hearings and expedited hearings. He swore in those who plan to speak.

N.1. Public Hearing (LDCPAL 2025-8 Noth Ridge SAP PIX Text Change CPA) (Adoption Hearing) to consider the adoption of a Large-Scale Comprehensive Plan Text Amendment to Policy 2.131-Q4. L. c. (g) in the North Ridge Selected Area Plan (SAP) regarding limitations on commercial uses in the Professional Institutional-X (PIX) Future Land Use designation. This request is related to a Land Development Code text amendment (LDCT-2025-14). (No Fiscal Impact)

**Minutes:** Land Development Director Ben Ziskal presented this with N. 2 (LDCT-2025-14). He reviewed the proposed text amendments. He said that staff and the Planning Commission recommend approval.

The Chair opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Bill Braswell
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Becky Troutman
<b>AYE:</b>	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

N.2. Public Hearing (LDCT-2025-14 North Ridge SAP PIX LDC Text) (Adoption Hearing) to consider the adoption of a Land Development Code text amendment to amend Chapter 4, Section 401.06.E in the North Ridge Selected Area Plan (SAP) relating to commercial use limitations in the Professional Institutional-X (PIX) Future Land Use designation. This case is related to Comprehensive Plan Text Amendment case LDCPAS-2025-8. (No Fiscal Impact)

**Minutes:** This case was presented with the previous hearing.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Rick Wilson
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Bill Braswell
<b>AYE:</b>	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

N.3. Public Hearing (LDCPAS-2025-34 CR 546 Map Correction CPA) (Adoption Hearing) to consider the adoption of a Small-Scale Comprehensive Plan Amendment to change the Future Land Use from Agricultural/Residential Rural (A/RR) to Residential Suburban on ±9.7 acres to correct an error in the Future Land Use Map in the Rural Development Area (RDA). (No Fiscal Impact)

**Minutes:** Land Development Director Ben Ziskal reviewed the proposed map correction. He said that staff and the Planning Commission recommend approval.

The Chair opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Becky Troutman
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Rick Wilson
<b>AYE:</b>	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

N.4. Public Hearing (LDCPAS 2025-32 Kathleen & Duff NAC CPA) (Adoption Hearing) to consider the adoption of a Small-Scale Comprehensive Plan Amendment to change the Future Land Use designation on 1.13 +/- acres from Residential Suburban (RS) in the Suburban Development Area (SDA) to Neighborhood Activity Center (NAC) in the Urban Growth Area (UGA). (No Fiscal Impact)

**Minutes:** Land Development Director Ben Ziskal reviewed the proposed land use amendment. He said that staff and the Planning Commission recommend approval.

Upon question, Mr. Ziskal said this is the first step for the land use designation. He said additional approvals depends on what is proposed. He said permitted uses which would be allowed through an administrative site plan or Level 3 Conditional Uses, or a Planning Commission approval. He said depending on how the site is designed it could require future public hearings.

The Chair opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Bill Braswell
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Rick Wilson
<b>AYE:</b>	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

**P. REQUEST FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC/AUDIENCE AND OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD**

P.1. Comments.

**Minutes:** David Butler said when you limit public speaking to 15 people per meeting that is dirty and they wonder why people do not like them. He said that the taxes continue to go up. He said they took the plane to Tallahassee and he said to quit wasting money. He said it is roughly \$1,000 an hour to fly. He said to listen to the people. He said we are rationing water but they approved a data center that will be using millions of gallons of water of a day. He said he cannot make that make sense. He said they have control of the Sheriff's budget.

Debbie Hicks thanked Commissioner Troutman for taking her time at the last meeting to let her know that multiple steps were taken to keep the animals warm. She said she is asking for a new animal control facility. She said she does not have an issue with the 15 people limit but she would have an issue if they tell her she can only talk about the same thing so many times.

Commissioner Troutman thanked Ms. Hicks and she said she received her letter. She said she appreciates that. She said since she has been up here there has never been

15 people here in the general public comments and that is something they can always address.

Commissioner Scott said Ms. Hicks' insight on incremental improvements has helped him in a lot of different ways. He discussed the larger dog run area for the bigger breeds. He said to please keep coming and presenting.

James Abercrombie said he is here for the Constitution and that we have a government for the people by the people. He said he has never seen a Constitution that has that right. He discussed limited government, HOA's and jurisdictions. He said we have an attorney that thinks he can run the show. He said he does not have a right and he answers to them. He said the county manager is supposed to be giving due process. He said they make the final decision on everything in this county.

County Manager Bill Beasley said to keep Deputy County Manager Ryan Taylor and his family in our prayers.

Meeting adjourned at 9:38 a.m.