Polk County Board of County Commissioners

Meeting Minutes - Final

July 07, 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.

Rollcall

Present:	Commissioner Becky Troutman Commissioner Rick Wilson Commissioner Bill Braswell Commissioner Martha Santiago Commissioner Michael Scott

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

INVOCATION

Murphy Hanley, Polk County Fire Rescue Chaplain

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (MARTHA SANTIAGO, CHAIR)

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS CONCERNING AGENDA ITEMS

B.1. Comments.

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

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

C.1. Disbursements.

RESULT:	**APPROVED**

MOVER:	Rick Wilson
SECONDER:	Bill Braswell
AYE:	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

C.2. Minutes of Regular Board meeting held on June 16, 2026.

RESULT:	**APPROVED**
MOVER:	Becky Troutman
SECONDER:	Michael Scott
AYE:	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

D. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

D.1. Approve Consent Agenda.

RESULT:	**APPROVED**
MOVER:	Becky Troutman
SECONDER:	Rick Wilson
AYE:	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

G. COUNTY MANAGER (BILL BEASLEY)

G.1. Confirm Appointment of Ms. Allison Victoria “Tori” Bateman to serve as the Director of the Human Resources Division.

Minutes: County Manager Bill Beasley recommended the Board confirm the appointment of Ms. Allison Victoria "Tori" Bateman serving as the Director of the Human Resources Division effective July 7, 2026. He reviewed her qualifications.

Ms. Bateman thanked the Commissioners, Mr. Beasley and Ryan Taylor. She said she is very excited to come in and serve Polk County and the community starting today.

Commissioner Scott said he appreciates the ambition coming into this position. He said it is a large position to fill with a lot of employees that are great stewards. He said there is a lot of talent and a lot to manage. He said he looks forward to her maintaining that and he congratulated her.

Chair Santiago welcomed Ms. Bateman. She said we are glad to see her and if there is anything the Board can do she will be taken care of. She said she is coming to work with a wonderful staff.

RESULT:	**APPROVED**
MOVER:	Bill Braswell
SECONDER:	Becky Troutman
AYE:	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

G.2. Approve Amendment Six to the Master Purchase Agreement with Motorola

Solutions, Inc. ($5,135,075.74 expense over 6 years).

Minutes: County Manager Bill Beasley discussed Amendment Six to the Master Purchase Agreement with Motorola Solutions, Inc. He recommended approval.

RESULT:	**APPROVED**
MOVER:	Michael Scott
SECONDER:	Becky Troutman
AYE:	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

G.3. Approve Consultant Services Authorization (CSA) No. 22-089-05 with Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc., (Consultant) for engineering services for the design of improvements to Kathleen Road at West Campbell Road Intersection. ($273,004.60 one-time expense)

Minutes: County Manager Bill Beasley discussed Consultant Services Authorization No. 22-089-05 with Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc., for engineering services for the design of improvements to Kathleen Road at West Campbell Road intersection. He recommended approval.

Commissioner Scott said from a safety aspect this intersection needs signalization. He said this is an interim measure and it is something better than the current stop sign setup that has led to several issues there. He said he is glad to see this moving forward and he hopes this will be an expeditious project.

RESULT:	**APPROVED**
MOVER:	Becky Troutman
SECONDER:	Bill Braswell
AYE:	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

G.4. Approve the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) 2026-013-01, Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) Addendum with Strickland Construction, Inc., for the Eagle Lake Roads & Drainage Maintenance Facility ($6,381,337.57 one-time expense)

Minutes: County Manager Bill Beasley discussed Construction Manager at Risk 2026-013-01, Guaranteed Maximum Price Addendum with Strickland Construction, Inc., for the Eagle Lake Roads and Drainage Maintenance Facility. He recommended approval.

RESULT:	**APPROVED**
MOVER:	Rick Wilson
SECONDER:	Michael Scott
AYE:	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

H. COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1 (BECKY TROUTMAN)

H.1. Reappoint Mike Hickman as a Member (Seat 2) of the Polk County Planning Commission, for the three-year term, September 1, 2026 through August 31, 2029. (District 1 Appointment)

Minutes: Commissioner Troutman said both of her appointments are for the Planning Commission. She said having served on this for six years she thinks this is the second most important board in this county. She stated she is thankful for the people who volunteer their time to serve on this board.

RESULT:	**APPROVED**
MOVER:	Becky Troutman
SECONDER:	Bill Braswell
AYE:	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

H.2. Appoint Tracy Mouncey as an Alternate Member (Seat B) of the Polk County Planning Commission, for the remainder of the three-year term ending September 18, 2027.

Minutes: Commissioner Troutman thanked Ms. Mouncey for coming to this meeting.

RESULT:	**APPROVED**
MOVER:	Becky Troutman
SECONDER:	Bill Braswell
AYE:	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

H.3. Commissioner Troutman Comments.

Minutes: Commissioner Troutman had no comments.

I. COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2 (RICK WILSON)

I.1. Appoint Kevin Updike as a Member (Seat 3) of the Polk County Planning Commission, for the three-year term, September 1, 2026 through August 31, 2029. (District 2 Appointment)

RESULT:	**APPROVED**
MOVER:	Rick Wilson
SECONDER:	Bill Braswell
AYE:	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

I.2. Commissioner Wilson Comments.

Minutes: Commissioner Wilson had no comments.

J. COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3 (BILL BRASWELL)

J.1. Appoint Chad Barron as an Alternate Member (Seat A) on the Polk County Planning Commission, for the three-year term, July 2, 2026 through July 1, 2029.

RESULT:	**APPROVED**
MOVER:	Bill Braswell
SECONDER:	Rick Wilson
AYE:	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

J.2. Commissioner Braswell Comments.

Minutes: Commissioner Braswell had no comments.

K. COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 5 (MICHAEL SCOTT)

K.1. Appoint Shane E. Bevilacqua as a Member of the Polk County Planning Commission for the three-year term, September 1, 2026 to August 31, 2029.

RESULT:	**APPROVED**
MOVER:	Michael Scott
SECONDER:	Bill Braswell
AYE:	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

K.2. Commissioner Scott Comments.

Minutes: Commissioner Scott said he has completed his field visits to Hillsborough and Pasco counties' animal control shelters. He said he took some notes and made some interesting observations. He said as far a comparing them to Polk County there are some notes for us to leverage but all counties are faced with a similar challenge. He said all of us have to approach it in a way that is responsible for the community and there are more things to come.

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 the expedited public hearings. He swore in those who plan to speak.

N.1. Public Hearing: (LDCT-2026-14 Polk City SPA LCCX Text Amendment) (Adoption Hearing) to consider the adoption of an ordinance amending the Land Development Code, Chapter 5, Green Swamp Area of Critical State Concern regarding Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map amendments to the Linear Commercial Corridor-X (LCCX) district in the Polk City Special Protection Area of the Green Swamp Area of Critical State Concern. (No Fiscal Impact)

Minutes: Ben Ziskal, Land Development Director, reviewed the proposed text amendment. He said that the Planning Commission and staff recommends approval.

The Chair opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

RESULT:	**APPROVED**
MOVER:	Becky Troutman

SECONDER:	Michael Scott
AYE:	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

N.2. Public Hearing: (LDCT-2026-5 Shimmering Drive LDC LCCX Text Amendment) (First Reading) to consider the adoption of an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 00-09, as amended, the Polk County Land Development Code, amending Appendix E adding for an activity center plan, related to a Small Scale Comprehensive Plan map amendment (LDCPAS-2025-24) from Residential Low (RL) to Community Activity Center-X (CAC). (No Fiscal Impact)

Minutes: Ben Ziskal, Land Development Director, reviewed the proposed text amendment. He said that this is the first reading and no action is required.

The Chair opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

N.3. Public Hearing: (LDCT-2026-7 GrayLineX LDC Text Amendment) (First Reading) to consider the adoption of an ordinance amending the Land Development Code to Appendix E, Section E105, Parcel Specific Comprehensive Plan Amendments with Conditions, Parcel Specific Comprehensive Plan Amendments with Conditions, to limit the intensity of the proposed Industrial (IND) activity on the site. This case is related to LDCPAS-2026-10. (No Fiscal Impact)

Minutes: Ben Ziskal, Land Development Director, reviewed the proposed text amendment. He said that this is the first reading and no action is required.

Upon question, Mr. Ziskal said there are existing non-residential uses in the area but it is not feasible to develop under the RS standards. He said it is a three-acre site and does not meet the site requirements for RS. He stated the current regulations require single-family residential to be built on State Road 60 and there is no market or interest to build that.

The Chair opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

O. PUBLIC HEARINGS

O.1. Public Hearing to Consider Adoption of a Resolution to vacate a portion of platted, unopened, and unmaintained right-of-way shown as Roosevelt Street on the plat of Bevington Manor, Lakeland, Florida. (No fiscal impact)

Minutes: Scott Lowery, Real Estate Services, showed slides and reviewed the proposed vacation request. He said there are no objections to the proposed request. He said that staff recommends approval.

The Chair opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

RESULT:	**APPROVED**
MOVER:	Becky Troutman
SECONDER:	Bill Braswell
AYE:	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

O.2. Public Hearing to Consider Adoption of a Resolution Allowing for the Installation of One Traffic Calming Device (Speed Hump) on Bay Boulevard North (West), Near Lake Wales. (Estimated $5,000.00 one-time expense)

Minutes: Amy Gregory, Traffic Manager, reviewed the proposed resolution allowing for the installation of one traffic calming device on Bay Boulevard North (West), near Lake Wales. She said this meets the traffic calming policy. She recommended approval.

The Chair opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

RESULT:	**APPROVED**
MOVER:	Rick Wilson
SECONDER:	Michael Scott
AYE:	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

O.3. Public Hearing to Consider Adoption of a Resolution Allowing for the Installation of Three Traffic Calming Devices (Speed Humps) on Eastside Drive South, Near Lakeland. (Estimated $15,000.00 one-time expense)

Minutes: Amy Gregory, Traffic Manager, reviewed the proposed resolution allowing for the installation of three traffic calming devices on Eastside Drive South, near Lakeland. She said this meets the traffic calming policy. She said that staff recommends approval.

The Chair opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

RESULT:	**APPROVED**
MOVER:	Bill Braswell
SECONDER:	Michael Scott
AYE:	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

O.4. Public Hearing to Consider Adoption of a Resolution Allowing for the Installation of Five Traffic Calming Devices (Speed Humps) on Pryor Road, Near Haines City. (Estimated $25,000.00 one-time expense)

Minutes: Amy Gregory, Traffic Manager, reviewed the proposed resolution allowing for the installation of five traffic calming devices on Pryor Road, near Haines City. She said this meets the traffic calming policy. She said that staff recommends approval.

The Chair opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

RESULT:	**APPROVED**
MOVER:	Michael Scott
SECONDER:	Rick Wilson
AYE:	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

O.5. Public Hearing to Consider Adoption of a Resolution Allowing for the Installation of Three Traffic Calming Devices (Speed Humps) on Sixth Street East (Wahneta), Near Winter Haven. (estimated $15,000.00 one-time expense)

Minutes: Amy Gregory, Traffic Manager, reviewed the proposed resolution allowing for the installation of three traffic calming devices on Sixth Street East, near Winter Haven. She said that this meets the traffic calming policy. She said that staff recommends approval.

The Chair opened a public hearing.

Rosa Cabrera said she supports the speed humps and requested that there are also speed humps on Avenue A. She said traffic is fast and children are next to the school.

Rosalinda Santillan said she supports the speed humps. She said there are children playing and there is speeding. She asked for speed humps on Avenue A.

Ms. Gregory said they did look at Avenue A and it did not meet the criteria. She will speak to Ms. Cabrera and Ms. Santillan.

Earnest Oldaker said more of the humps should be on Avenue A instead of Sixth Street. He said they do not slow down with the speeding. He said it is the same constant vehicles speeding.

Brittny Miller said she opposes this. She said there are a lot of trailers and said all speed humps will be in front of her house. She said there is speeding and people park on sidewalks. She said she had to walk her son in a wheelchair to school and she said to address the main issue on Avenue A.

The Chair closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Scott said once the speed humps are installed Avenue A should be reevaluated. He said for staff to get with the Sheriff's office to do speed enforcement along Avenue A.

RESULT:	**APPROVED**
MOVER:	Becky Troutman
SECONDER:	Michael Scott
AYE:	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

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

P.1. Comments.

Minutes: Sue Nelson said she is here to set the record straight. She said that the Board approved the case for Highland Club. She said it was approved based on that the roadway was to be widened to twelve foot lanes. She said she presented the Federal Highway Administration letter. She said the final scope of the project does not reflect the 12-foot lane widening to address roadway departure issues. She discussed an email between Bart Allen and Jay Jarvis. She said the funding was removed because the county was supposed to widen the lanes to twelve feet and they did not. She said not only did Mr. Jarvis misrepresent the letter, he signed off of the changes and he knows full-well why the funding was rescinded. She said Crews Lake Drive was in the CIP and would be approved as soon as Lakeland Electric relocated the utility poles. She said the land use was approved but never happened. She asked how does the county defend this.

Kay Bourque showed slides and discussed animal control. She said shelter leadership drives the initiatives and it is the community that extends the safety net of care. She showed a model of the programs and gave an update. She asked for ordinances, support programs, and for an animal welfare advisory committee.

Debbie Hicks said her thing today is vision. She said her vision is much brighter because the county has stepped up with animal control. She said the foundation of the facility is from 1988 and she discussed the population increase. She said she sees them opening new properties and building new facilities. She asked if some of those facilities are older than 1988. She said she sees a lot of money going into the facilities. She said we need a committee to let the community help.

James Abercrombie said he has been in this building for 26 years. He discussed public records and said he does not understand these people. He said the text messages and anything to do with money is public record. He said he wants to see the contract that George Lindsey was involved in. He said they are responsible for him with their oath and said they are supposed to stand up for them and he needs some responses.

County Attorney Randy Mink said we follow the public records law. He said his paralegal spoke to him and he said he was there for a public records request and if he had he made a specific request they would be happy to fulfill that. He said we fulfill them as much as we have the records and we did not refuse them. He said they will meet with Mr. Abercrombie to see what records he is needing.

Meeting adjourned at 9:59 a.m.