



Polk County Board of County Commissioners

Meeting Minutes - Draft

June 16, 2026 Regular BoCC meeting

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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
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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. The Honorable Scott Franklin, United States House of Representatives, to present the Government Finance Officers' Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement Awards for Financial Reporting for the 2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and the 2024 Popular Annual Financial Report to Stacy M. Butterfield, CPA, Clerk and Comptroller. He will present the GFOA Distinguished Budget Award for 2024 to Commissioner Martha Santiago, Ed.D, Chairman, Board of County Commissioners.

Minutes: Stacy M. Butterfield, CPA, Clerk and Comptroller thanked Congressman Scott Franklin for being here today.

Honorable Scott Franklin recognized the Clerk's office with two awards for the 45th consecutive year for the Government Finance Officers' Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement Awards for Financial Reporting and for the 24th consecutive year for the 2024 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and the 2024 Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR). He said the Budget staff is receiving the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the 34th consecutive year. He said by earning these three awards Polk County has earned the prestigious Triple Crown Award, a distinction that reflects excellence in financial reporting, budgeting, and governmental transparency. He said what is important is the things behind these awards. He said with distrust in government that accountability and transparency are more critical than ever. He said applying for these awards is voluntary. He said this recognition says Polk County is not only doing it right it is among the very best throughout the entire country. He congratulated Clerk Butterfield, the Board and all the staff members for their handwork, commitment, and stewardship.

Chair Santiago thanked Congressman Franklin and Clerk Butterfield for recognizing these important achievements. She said she is proud of the team behind this work and these awards reflect professionalism, dedication, and collaboration that helps keep the county financially strong and accountable. She said public funds is a major responsibility and our team works hard everyday to provide transparent and trustworthy information. She said while voluntary, we continue to participate because accountability and public trust matter. She said the Triple Crown is an outstanding achievement and it speaks to the quality that is done through our team. She congratulated everyone on the team.

Clerk Butterfield said these awards are meaningful because they do show our commitment to accountability, transparency and stewardship. She said they submit an application and they come back with comments and it is not routine. She showed the CAFR and said it is posted online and she showed the PAFR. She said it is a collaboration with the Clerk's office, Budget and Management, the Board's overall management and the external auditors. She recognized the teams with Budget and Management and the Clerk's office. She thanked Congressman Franklin and said it was an honor to have him here today.

A.2. Employee Recognition

Minutes: The Board recognized Alisha Glasscock with Parks and Natural Resources, Katherine Cobern with Court Services, Mark Pilon with Fire Rescue and Jay Jarvis with Roads and Drainage for their years of dedicated services.

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

E. REQUEST FROM ELECTED OFFICIAL and OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY

Approval of precinct changes resulting from newly created districts for US House of Representatives, Florida House of Representatives, and the Florida Senate, as recommended by Melony Bell, Polk County Supervisor of Elections (No fiscal impact).

Minutes: Melony Bell, Supervisor of Elections, said it has been an honor and a privilege to serve as the Supervisor of Elections for 16 months now. She said there are congressional map changes that the governor has signed into effect. She said this is a procedural change that will impact 150,000 voters in Polk. He said Congressman Franklin will take majority of Polk but then it will be divided into three other congressional seats. She said per Florida law they must send out voter registration cards every two years before the election. She stated they have to redo them now and it will cost the citizens \$136,000. She said we had 172 precincts and as a result of the redistricting seven precincts were added and one was removed. She said a map was given to the Board.

Upon question, Ms. Bell confirmed that Webster and Lee are out completely out. She said 16 is an open seat. She said nine was Buchanan and he is leaving and that will be an open seat.

Ms. Bell thanked the Board for their support and for serving.

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Bill Braswell
SECONDER:	Becky Troutman

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

G. COUNTY MANAGER (BILL BEASLEY)

G.1. Confirm Appointment of Mr. Scott Lowery to serve as the Director of the Real Estate Services Division.

Minutes: County Manager Bill Beasley recommended the appointment of Scott Lowery serving as the Director of the Real Estate Services Division effective Monday, August 10, 2026. He said Mr. Lowery has served Polk since 2009 and is currently the Support Manager for the Real Estate Services Division. He reviewed his qualifications and requested Board approval.

Mr. Lowery thanked Mr. Beasley, the Board, his wife, daughter and staff for being here. He said he has the best staff. He thanked and recognized Wade Allen and said he has been a great teacher, mentor and friend. He said Mr. Allen has molded this division into a group that has a reputation for getting things done efficiently, effectively and correctly. He said he looks forward to continuing that mission.

Chair Santiago thanked Mr. Lowery for his service. She said he has big shoes to follow but he will do just as good.

Commissioner Wilson said Mr. Lowery and Mr. Allen have always done a great job. He said they could not ask for anybody better. He said he has big shoes to fill and he knows he can do that very easily.

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

G.2. Request Board approve construction contract with Jr. Davis Construction Company., Inc. for the Thompson Nursery Road Extension Phase 1 - Segment 1 project. (\$33,523,440.79 one-time expense)

Minutes: County Manager Bill Beasley discussed the construction contract with Jr. Davis Construction Company, Inc., for the Thompson Nursery Road Extension Phase 1 - Segment 1 project. He recommended approval.

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

G.3. Request Board Approve Amendment 4 with Kimley-Horn and Associates, for Agreement 2022-041, professional engineering and design services for Thompson Nursery Road (TNR) - Phase II Roadway Widening project. (\$3,453,821.68 one-time expense)

Minutes: County Manager Bill Beasley discussed Amendment 4 with Kimley-Horn and

Associates for professional engineering and design services for Thompson Nursery Road - Phase II Roadway Widening project. He recommended approval.

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

G.4. Request Board approve 1) Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR), Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) Addendum with Miller Construction Management, Inc. for the Caloosa Lake Fire Rescue Station 21 (\$6,390,171.95 one-time expense) and 2) CIP amendment and budget transfer from the Emergency Medical Millage Fund in the amount of \$1,693,204.00, to fully fund the project.

Minutes: County Manager Bill Beasley discussed the Construction Manager at Risk Guaranteed Maximum Price Addendum with Miller Construction Management, Inc., for the Caloosa Lake Fire Rescue Station 21, CIP amendment and budget transfer. He recommended approval.

Commissioner Scott said when we look at the cost escalation the first one built was less than \$4 million and now we are over \$6 million. He said it is a lot of money and it is less now than what we would have to spend in the future. He said it provides additional safety for our residents and this is our prototype fire station. He said it is industry leading for safety for our firefighters. He said hats off to the county for looking from a program perspective.

Mr. Beasley said this is the ninth station they have built within the last six years. He said we have made a huge dent in the infrastructure need. He said we have committed to twelve fire stations and one or two more emergency medical stations.

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

H. COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1 (BECKY TROUTMAN)

H.1. Commissioner Troutman Comments.

Minutes: Commissioner Troutman had no comments.

I. COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2 (RICK WILSON)

I.1. Commissioner Wilson Comments.

Minutes: Commissioner Wilson said he has talked to Mr. Mink and it is time to repeal the Burn Ban.

County Attorney Randy Mink said he spoke to the fire chief and everything seems to be good. He said the plan is to repeal it tomorrow unless there is a substantial change.

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 reminded the residents that hurricane season is upon us. He said to take your time in preparing so that we are not scrambling last minute trying to find resources for water, canned goods, and shelter. He said for those with special needs to reach out to Emergency Management.

County Attorney Randy Mink said today on the agenda it was extended to June 30th for residents to bring yard waste to the landfill in preparation of possible hurricanes.

Commissioner Scott recommended using the landfill.

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

N.1. Public Hearing (LDCPAL 2026-1 OC Text) (Adoption Hearing) to consider the adoption of a Large-Scale Comprehensive Plan Amendment text amendment to modify the characteristics, location criteria and development criteria for the Office Center (OC) Future Land Use designation. (No Fiscal Impact)

Minutes: Land Development Director Ben Ziskal reviewed the proposed text amendment. He said that staff and the Planning Commission recommends approval. He said there were no comments or objections from Florida Commerce.

Upon question, Mr. Ziskal said there is corresponding text within the LDC that defines the types of uses that are permitted on the Office Center designation. He said when the businesses turn over it would be governed by the uses within the use table. He confirmed that a business that blasts music the use would have to be specified and they would have to look at the operations to see if it is considered business or automotive. He said the use would have to be listed in the table and they would be subject to noise and light regulations.

The Chair opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

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

N.2. Public Hearing (LDCT-2026-2 Office Center Consistency) (Adoption Hearing) to consider the adoption of an ordinance amending the Land Development Code to clarify development parameters of the Office Center (OC) district to implement policies in the Comprehensive Plan. (No Fiscal Impact)

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

The Chair opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

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

N.3. Public Hearing (LDCPAS-2025-36 Hwy 540A OCX CPA) (Adoption Hearing) to consider the adoption of a Small-Scale Comprehensive Plan Amendment to change Future Land Use Map designation from Residential Suburban-X (RSX) to Office Center-X (OCX) on 1.35± acres.

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

The Chair opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

Mr. Ziskal confirmed that this is directly adjacent to a church.

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

N.4. Public Hearing (LDCPAS-2026-3 Sumner North Cozart Road CPA) (Adoption Hearing) to consider the adoption of a Small-Scale Comprehensive Plan Amendment to change the Future Land Use Map designation from Business Park Center (BPC) to Industrial (IND) on ±25.8 acres. (No Fiscal Impact)

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

N.5. Public Hearing (LDCPAS-2025-12 Keller Road PM to A/RR CPA) (Adoption Hearing) to consider the adoption of a Small-Scale Comprehensive Plan Amendment to change the Future Land Use Map designation from Phosphate Mining (PM) to Agricultural/Residential Rural (A/RR) on 19.47± acres.

Minutes: Land Development Director Ben Ziskal reviewed the proposed land use map amendment. He said this is for nine parcels that have never been owned or used for the mining operation. He said that staff and the Planning Commission 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.6. Public Hearing (LDCPAS-2025-13 Mt Pisgah Rd PM to A/RR CPA) (Adoption Hearing) to consider the adoption of a Small-Scale Comprehensive Plan Amendment to change the Future Land Use Map designation from Phosphate Mining (PM) to Agricultural/Residential Rural (A/RR) on 2.0± acres.

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

Upon question, Mr. Ziskal said these cases are geographically separated and had to be advertised separately.

The Chair opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

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

N.7. Public Hearing (LDCPAS-2026-4 Fort Groves CPA) (Adoption Hearing) to consider the adoption of a Small-Scale Comprehensive Plan map amendment to change the land use designation from Phosphate Mining (PM) to Agricultural/Rural Residential (A/RR). (No Fiscal Impact)

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

Upon question, Mr. Ziskal said they are continuing to identify properties.

The Chair opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

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

N.8. Public Hearing (LDCT-2026-3 Recreational Use Easements) (Adoption Hearing) to amending Chapter 3, Conditional Uses, Section 303, Criteria for Conditional Uses for High Intensity Recreation to allow access via easement for firearms ranges; providing for severability. (No Fiscal Impact)

Minutes: Land Development Director Ben Ziskal reviewed the proposed amendment regarding Recreational Use Easements. He said that staff and the Planning Commission recommends approval.

Upon question, Mr. Ziskal said the easement is to allow an easement to access a gun range. He said the parcel would be a privately owned parcel.

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.9. Public Hearing (LDCT-2026-8 ATMs & Vending Machines) (Adoption Hearing) to consider the adoption of an ordinance amending the Land Development Code to add standards and definitions for stand-alone vending machines and automated teller machines. (No Fiscal Impact)

Minutes: Land Development Director Ben Ziskal reviewed the proposed amendment regarding ATMs and Vending Machines. He said that staff and the Planning Commission recommends approval.

Upon question, Mr. Ziskal said for an inoperable one they can reach out to Land Development or Code Enforcement to investigate. He said if there is a complaint they can look into it cooperatively with Code Enforcement.

County Attorney Randy Mink said for an ice machine there is an approval process and the Health Department is involved. He said there are regulations in our Utility Code and in the Structural Maintenance Ordinance that would address it.

The Chair opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

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

N.10. Public Hearing (LDCPAL 2026-5 ILE Duplex and Sewer Text Amendment CPA) (Transmittal Hearing) to consider the adoption of a Large-Scale Comprehensive Plan Text Amendment to Policies in Section 2.130 modifying sewer connection

requirements to allow septic tanks for duplexes in Residential Low-X (RL-X) for Indian Lakes Estates (ILE). This case is related to LDC-2026-12, a companion Land Development Code Text Amendment. (No Fiscal Impact)

Minutes: Land Development Director Ben Ziskal reviewed the proposed text amendment regarding Indian Lakes Estates Duplex and Sewer. He said it would allow septic for duplexes and would allow duplexes to share septic tanks. He said this is a transmittal hearing. He said that staff and the Planning Commission recommends approval.

Upon question, Mr. Ziskal said there is no sewer available. He said the regulations require that in order to build a duplex you have to have sewer.

County Manager Bill Beasley said to run sewer it would be ten miles plus.

The Chair opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

Commissioner Scott said allowing this will require the duplex to remain under one ownership.

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

N.11. Public Hearing (LDCT-2026-12 ILE LDC Duplex and Use Table Text Change) (First Reading) to consider the adoption of ordinance amending the Land Development Code regarding Chapter 4, Section 402, c. Indian Lakes Estates (Pre-DRI #2) to add a use table and conditions for duplex units on septic tanks, minimum septic tank requirements, and prohibiting parcel subdivision. This case is related to LDCPAL-2026-5, a companion Comprehensive Plan text amendment. (No Fiscal Impact)

Minutes: Land Development Director Ben Ziskal reviewed the proposed text amendment for the Indian Lakes Estates. He said this is a companion item to N. 10. He said that staff and the Planning Commission recommends approval. He said this is the first reading and no action is required.

The Chair opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

N.12. Public Hearing (LDCT-2026-14 Polk City SPA LCCX Text Amendment) (First Reading) to consider the adoption of an ordinance amending the Land Development Code Chapter 5, Green Swamp Area of Critical State Concern, Section 502, Standards for Land Use Districts in the Green Swamp ACSC, Table 5.2, Use Table for Green Swamp ACSC, removing footnote number 1 to allow for 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: Land Development Director Ben Ziskal reviewed the proposed text amendment. He said that staff and the Planning Commission recommends approval.

He said this is the first reading and no action is required.

The Chair opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

O. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- O.1. Public Hearing (LDCPAS-2026-7 Premier Parking CPA) (Adoption Hearing) to consider the adoption of a Small-Scale Comprehensive Plan map amendment to change the Future Land Use Map designation from Business Park Center (BPC) to Industrial (IND) on +/- 8.59 acres. (No Fiscal Impact)

Minutes: Chanda Bennett, Land Development, reviewed the proposed map amendment. She said that staff and the Planning Commission recommends approval. She said this is adjacent to a railroad and there are vacant and high intensity uses surrounding the site. She showed photos of the site. She confirmed that the railroad abuts the property and is not a spur.

The Chair opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

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

- O.2. Public Hearing to consider adoption of an ordinance amending Polk County Ordinance 2006-024, the Polk County Procurement Ordinance, as amended, to increase the authorized maximum amount the County Manager may enter into without further Board approval to Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000).

Minutes: County Attorney Randy Mink discussed the ordinance amending Polk County Ordinance 2006-024, the Polk County Procurement Ordinance, as amended, to increase the authorized maximum amount the County Manager may enter into without further Board approval to \$200,000. He recommended 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.3. Consider a Resolution amending Resolution No 2016-007, the Guidelines for the Execution of Contracts by the County Manager, to increase the authorized maximum amount the County Manager may enter into without further Board approval to Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000).

Minutes: County Attorney Randy Mink discussed the Resolution amending Resolution No 2016-007, the Guidelines for the Execution of Contracts by the County Manager increasing the authorized maximum amount the County Manager may enter into

without further Board approval to \$200,000.

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

O.4. Consider a Resolution amending Resolution No 2001-094, Polk County Allowance Work policy establishing Allowance Administrator and providing allowance work rates for horizontal and vertical construction.

Minutes: County Attorney Randy Mink discussed the Resolution amending Resolution No 2001-094, Polk County Allowance Work policy establishing Allowance Administrator and providing allowance work rates for horizontal and vertical construction. He recommended approval.

Commissioner Scott said these changes reflect industry increasing costs for construction. He said for efficient operations on projects we need the ability for management staff to approve additional funds to complete projects timely. He said it reduces the impact for our residents.

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

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

P.1. Comments.

Minutes: Kay Bourque congratulated them on the financial awards and she said that people appreciate their efforts. She discussed the animal shelter and thanked those that helped with the recent improvements. She said we must focus on prevention rather than reaction to reduce animals entering the shelter. She discussed programs that are needed and said they can be more effective with ordinances. She discussed community cats and TNVR.

Debbie Hicks said the professionalism she saw when she visited Animal Control has increased. She said it is lofty, they do not have volunteers and they have inmates. She thanked the facility people from the county. She said the cages for the cats are small and they may want to enlarge them. She discussed the kennels and said the fence between the booking center on the west side needs to be fixed. She said the gate does not shut and the improvement is amazing. She said she hopes that volunteers are able to come in.

Martin Bozeman said he is here for praise and support for the sign ordinance. He said it was nice driving through Bartow and not seeing all the eyesores. He said it is a safety hazard for people mowing. He said people are putting them out and not going back. He discussed the legal liability for signs around a stop sign. He stated there are a lot of

other ways to advertise.

Jhoanna Allende congratulated Animal Control and said the report for May there was a 90% release rate for dogs. She said there were 468 cats in May pulled by rescues. She said there are small rescues that use their own resources. She said ear tipped cats have been spayed or neutered and vaccinated. She said if an ear tipped cat is turned into Animal Control it should be turned over to a rescue. She discussed reuniting lost cats and dogs while in the field. She requested an animal advisory board.

Ms. Allende said when a dog or cat is taken from the field the animal would need to be microchipped to be returned to their owner.

Commissioner Scott said a singular entity cannot accomplish this by themselves and they appreciate the rescues helping. He said as a community we need that environment. He said Animal Control staff is diligent and dedicated to finding adoption sources. He said he will be checking out the adoption event in Pasco county. He discussed spreading the word on resources that are needed as a community.

James Abercrombie said there is an awful lot of praise about transparency and the good job they are doing. He said public records are under Chapter 119. He read from that chapter. He said this is a state law based on the Constitution. He said they cannot deny public records based on the interpretation that it is not a public record. He said he should be able to walk in any office in this building and ask for public records.

Tom Palmer said he is here about data centers. He said there are a couple of issues and they need to give staff a chance to figure out how they are going to review these. He said it is a big gap in the Land Development Code and they just passed something for ice machines but they do not have anything for data centers. He said with the air quality and the power generation from the diesel generators there are a lot of issues. He said these are things they should consider and they need to be ahead of the game.

Jennifer Hardeman said people will remember if the commission chose complacency, excuses or whether they chose to save lives. She said she is a veteran with PTSD. She said her dog is not a statistic and tonight in the shelter there may be a dog that someone needs. She said the spending is not producing the results that people expect. She said character is measured by how the vulnerable are treated.

The Regular Agenda session was adjourned at 10:49 a.m.