



Polk County Board of County Commissioners

Meeting Minutes - Final

December 03, 2024 Regular BoCC meeting

In accordance with the American with Disabilities Act, persons with disabilities needing special accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact the Communications Office not later than 48 hours prior to the proceeding. Their office is located in the County Administration Building, 330 West Church Street in Bartow. Telephone (863) 534-6090 or TTY (863) 534-7777. If hearing impaired dial 7-1-1 for Florida Relay services or call (800) 955-8771 (TTY); dial (800) 955-1339 if you are using a computer.

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. (RICK WILSON, CHAIR)

INVOCATION

Murphy Hanley, Polk County Fire Rescue Chaplain

A. PRESENTATIONS and RECOGNITIONS

A.1. Employee Recognition

Minutes: The Board recognized Jennifer Huff with Fire Rescue, Marc Zimmerman with Tourism and Sports Marketing, Jonathan Collister with Fire Rescue, and Beth Egbert with Utilities for their years of service.

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

C.1. Comments.

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

D. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

D.1. Approve Consent Agenda.

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Bill Braswell
SECONDER:	Becky Troutman

AYE:	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott
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E. COUNTY COMPTROLLER (STACY M. BUTTERFIELD, CPA)

E.1. Disbursements.

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

E.2. Minutes of Regular Board meeting held on November 19, 2024.

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

H. COUNTY MANAGER (BILL BEASLEY)

H.1. Approve construction contract with Cobb Site Development, Inc. for the South Lake Wales drainage improvement project - ARP (\$3,775,058.51 one-time expense from American Rescue Plan Funds)

Minutes: County Manager Bill Beasley discussed the construction contract with Cobb Site Development, Inc., for the South Lake Wales drainage improvement project. He recommended approval.

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

H.2. Approve construction contract with Kamminga & Roodvoets, Inc. for the Fairway Avenue drainage improvement project - ARP (\$1,805,339.00 one-time expense from American Rescue Plan Funds)

Minutes: County Manager Bill Beasley discussed the construction contract with Kamminga & Roodvoets, Inc., for the Fairway Avenue drainage improvement project. He recommended approval.

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

H.3. Approve construction contract with Harris McBurney Company for the Stonewood subdivision drainage improvement project - ARP (\$1,059,424.62

one-time expense from American Rescue Plan Funds)

Minutes: County Manager Bill Beasley discussed the construction contract with the Harris McBurney Company for the Stonewood subdivision drainage improvement project. He recommended approval.

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

H.4. Request Board approve construction contract with Enviro-Tech Systems, Inc. for the Simmers-Young Park water quality improvement project. (\$2,628,681.66 one-time expense from American Rescue Plan Funds).

Minutes: County Manager Bill Beasley discussed the construction contract with Enviro-Tech Systems, Inc., for the Simmers-Young Park water quality improvement project. He recommended approval.

Commissioner Santiago said the last four items come from American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding.

Mr. Beasley said that the county received \$140 million as part of the ARP initiative about two years ago. He said that the Board designated some of that money for the Social Services Program and most for capital investments. He said these funds must be obligated by December 2024 and must be fully expended by December 2026. He said this is a rush of projects to meet the guidelines.

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

H.5. Approve Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Rural and Family Lands Protection Program (RFLPP) of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and Polk County to facilitate the acquisition of a perpetual conservation easement on EL-104-23 Raley Groves (Property). (one-time expense \$1,500,000)

Minutes: County Manager Bill Beasley discussed the memorandum of agreement between the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and Polk County to facilitate the acquisition of a perpetual conservation easement on EL-104-23 Raley Groves. He recommended approval.

Commissioner Scott thanked staff for looking at properties like this. He said it is a testament to our commitment as a county to not just preserving wetlands; he said this property has a lot of uplands on it. He stated that we are doing a great part of being a steward of the future success.

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

H.6. Approve Standard Grant Agreement #L0124 between State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to fund the Headwaters of the Everglades - Land Acquisition for Septic Prevention Project. (one-time revenue \$1,800,000)

Minutes: County Manager Bill Beasley discussed the Standard Grant Agreement #L0124 between State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection to fund the Headwaters of the Everglades - Land Acquisition for Septic Prevention Project. He recommended approval.

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

H.7. Approve Consultant Services Authorization 2024-011-03 with Dewberry Engineers, Inc. for the Timber Shores, Cypress Knee Cove MHP, and Burlington and Hartman’s Neighborhoods Septic to Sewer Project (\$492,259.06 not to exceed one-time expense).

Minutes: County Manager Bill Beasley discussed the Consultant Services Authorization 2024-011-03 with Dewberry Engineers, Inc., for the Timber Shores, Cypress Knee Cove MHP, and Burlington and Hartman's neighborhoods septic to sewer project. He recommended approval.

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

H.8. Confirm appointment of Mrs. Amber Smith to serve as Communications Division Director for Polk County Government.

Minutes: County Manager Bill Beasley discussed the appointment of Mrs. Amber Smith to serve as the Communications Division Director effective December 3, 2024. He discussed her qualifications. He recommended approval.

Amber Smith said she is honored to be confirmed as the Communications Director. She said she is excited to lead an incredible team. She said public service is very important to her. She introduced her husband, Roger, and said he is the deputy chief for the District Fire Department formally known as Reedy Creek. She discussed her family and friends. She thanked the communications team and recognized those at the meeting.

Commissioner Santiago welcomed Ms. Smith and said we are glad to have her. She stated we look forward to all that she is going to do at the county level to make sure

that our information gets out to the constituents and that she promotes all the good things we are doing.

Commissioner Troutman echoed the comments of Commissioner Santiago. She said Ms. Smith comes to us with an excellent reputation. She said she will coin the term Amber's Army for all the people who just stood up.

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

I. COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1 (BECKY TROUTMAN)

I.1. Commissioner Troutman Comments.

Minutes: Commissioner Troutman had no comments.

J. COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3 (BILL BRASWELL)

J.1. Commissioner Braswell Comments.

Minutes: Commissioner Braswell had no comments.

K. COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 4 (MARTHA SANTIAGO)

K.1. Commissioner Santiago Comments.

Minutes: Commissioner Santiago had no comments.

L. COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 5 (MICHAEL SCOTT)

L.1. Commissioner Scott Comments.

Minutes: Commissioner Santiago had no comments.

M. COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2 (RICK WILSON, CHAIR)

M.1. Chair Wilson Comments.

Minutes: Chair Wilson had no comments.

O. EXPEDITED HEARINGS PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION NO. 2022-089

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

O.1. Public Hearing (LDCT-2024-23 Subdivision of Lots with Multiple Structures) (Adoption Hearing) to consider the adoption of a County-initiated request to allow lots with multiple units in existence for over 20 years to subdivide regardless of the minimum lot size, provided certain conditions can be met.

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

The Chair opened a public hearing.

Peggy Booz discussed her property and said they need to be able to rebuild. She said they are in a small camper. She said approving this will make it possible to have a home again. She asked the Board to help them with this.

The Chair closed the public hearing.

Chair Wilson thanked everybody, staff, Planning and Development Director Ben Dunn, and Deputy County Manager John Bohde for being involved with this. He said this is not changing the rules for everybody and if your house burns down come and see us. He said it is the right thing to do and he is glad we are going to get this done for Ms. Booz.

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

P. PUBLIC HEARINGS

P.1. Public Hearing (LDCDD-2024-5 Lake Hamilton Bluff Third CDD Boundary Amendment) to consider the adoption of an applicant-initiated resolution consenting to the amendment of the external boundaries of an existing Community Development District (CDD) that is mostly within the Lake Hamilton town limits.

Minutes: Erik Peterson, Land Development, showed slides and reviewed the Lake Hamilton Bluff third Community Development District boundary amendment. He discussed the surrounding area.

Upon question, County Attorney Randy Mink said this is for the unincorporated area. He said they have to get Board approval before the city can adopt their ordinance to expand.

The Chair opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

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

P.2. Public Hearing to Consider Adoption of a Resolution Allowing for the Installation of Three Traffic Calming Devices (Speed Humps) on Lamplight Lane, Near Winter Haven. (estimated \$15,000.00 one-time expense)

Minutes: Amy Gregory, Traffic Manager, discussed the resolution allowing for the installation of three traffic calming devices on Lamplight Lane, near Winter Haven. She said that this meets the traffic calming policy criteria and received the required number of favorable votes. She said that staff recommends approval.

The Chair opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Minutes: Meeting adjourned at 9:47 a.m.