

# **Polk County Board of County Commissioners**

# **Meeting Minutes - Final**

#### July 16, 2024 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.

# CALL TO ORDER - 9:00 a.m. (BILL BRASWELL, CHAIR)

## INVOCATION

Murphy Hanley, Polk County Fire Rescue Chaplain

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (BILL BRASWELL, CHAIR)

#### A. PRESENTATIONS and RECOGNITIONS

## A.1. Employee Recognition

**Minutes:** The Board recognized Geraldine Irons with the Building Division, Robert Wade Allen with Real Estate Services, and Jorge Frederick with Solid Waste for their years of service.

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

## C.1. Comments.

**Minutes:** Tom Palmer said he read Commissioner Braswell's column in the Sun's newspaper on impact fees and he thinks that we are a little further behind. He said Osceola is increasing the building fee to \$25,000 for single-family. He said they are doing that because there is a provision in the law that allows under extraordinary circumstances for them to raise it above the state level. He said you have to justify it and he said it can be done. He said Polk has low-balled their impact fees. He said they differentiate between urban and they charge more for rural because they will drive

more out on the roads living in the country. He said he has never heard that discussed here.

Chair Braswell said he had that but the only complete list was from 2022 for all the other counties.

Cassandra Richards said they have a problem in Highland Park Manor. She said they have sent e-mails and invited Commissioner Wilson to their community meetings. She said they have a retention pond that fills. She said last week they had a hard rain and she said they need something done. She said the children cannot walk on the sidewalks because of the water. She discussed traffic and said there are no lights. She asked them to look into this. She said she has been there 32 years. She said after they built the sidewalks that is when they saw the water and the retention pond still is not full.

Commissioner Combee said it sounds like an engineering problem.

County Manager Bill Beasley said they will look into the drainage issue specific to the sidewalk concern and the traffic office regarding signalization. He said he will also have a conversation with the Sheriff's Chief of Staff.

## D. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

D.1. Approve Consent Agenda.

RESULT: APPROVED

MOVER: Neil Combee

SECONDER: Martha Santiago

AYE: Lindsey, Braswell, Combee, Santiago, and Wilson

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

E.1. Disbursements.

RESULT: APPROVED
MOVER: Neil Combee
SECONDER: Rick Wilson

AYE: Lindsey, Braswell, Combee, Santiago, and Wilson

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

RESULT: APPROVED

MOVER: Neil Combee

SECONDER: Martha Santiago

AYE: Lindsey, Braswell, Combee, Santiago, and Wilson

E.3. Consider adoption of Resolution authorizing the issuance of Utility System

Revenue and Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2024 not to exceed \$105,000,000.

**Minutes:** Clerk and County Comptroller Stacy Butterfield, CPA, discussed the Resolution authorizing the issuance of Utility System Revenue and Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2024. She recommended approval.

Upon question, Ms. Butterfield said they will use an underwriter who will handle the sale of the bonds. She said it will go out and there is a local preference. She confirmed that the bonds will be satisfied by utility rates and revenues and not taxes. She said it is based on utility rates and the utility rate study.

RESULT: APPROVED

MOVER: George Lindsey

SECONDER: Martha Santiago

AYE: Lindsey, Braswell, Combee, Santiago, and Wilson

# G. COUNTY ATTORNEY (RANDY MINK)

G.1. Yarborough Lane Extension Impact Fee Credit Agreement.

**Minutes:** County Attorney Randy Mink discussed the Yarborough Lane Extension Impact Fee Credit Agreement.

Commissioner Lindsey recused from voting.

RESULT: APPROVED

MOVER: Neil Combee

SECONDER: Martha Santiago

AYE: Braswell, Combee, Santiago, and Wilson

Recused: Lindsey

# H. COUNTY MANAGER (BILL BEASLEY)

H.1. Approve a Construction Manager at Risk, Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) Addendum with Rodda Construction, Inc. for Phase I to convert five soccer fields at Simmers Young Park to artificial turf fields. (\$5,813,279.00 one-time expense)

**Minutes:** County Manager Bill Beasley discussed the contract with Rodda Construction, Inc., for Phase I to convert five soccer fields at Simmers Young Park to artificial turf fields. He recommended approval.

Upon question, Mike Callendar, Parks and Recreation Manager, said all of these parks will be taken out at the same time. He said they are making arrangements with the youth league and they have alternative sites set up. He said with the artificial turf they will be able to expand the time that they use them. He said they will be able to pull some activities from those fields and give a break on some of the other fields. He said those fields they would be patching them up and they hope to get more funding for artificial turf also.

Commissioner Combee said he knows that Rodda Construction is capable and they have demonstrated their ability to construct sports facilities. He asked that going forward that this project is a construction project just like all other construction projects. He requested that they look at the next project like this at a competitive bid process for the construction. He said he has a friend in the artificial turf business and most of his work is outside of Polk County. He said his friend could save a lot of money if he could bid on this.

RESULT: APPROVED

MOVER: George Lindsey

SECONDER: Rick Wilson

AYE: Lindsey, Braswell, Combee, Santiago, and Wilson

H.2. Ratify Agreement No. 2022-100 with Trane U.S. Inc. and approve increased annual estimated recurring expense amount of \$3,500,000.

**Minutes:** County Manager Bill Beasley discussed the ratification of agreement with Trane U.S. Inc., for preventative maintenance and repairs for various types of equipment at over 16 county buildings. He recommended approval.

RESULT: APPROVED

MOVER: Neil Combee

SECONDER: Martha Santiago

AYE: Lindsey, Braswell, Combee, Santiago, and Wilson

H.3. Approve Consultant Services Authorization (CSA) No. 2021-032-04 with CMHM Architects for Architectural and Engineering (A&E) services for a new Lakeland Hills Fire Rescue EMS Station project. (\$213,700.00 one-time expense)

**Minutes:** County Manager Bill Beasley discussed the contract with CMHM Architects for architectural and engineering services for a new Lakeland Hills Fire Rescue EMS Station project. He recommended approval.

RESULT: APPROVED
MOVER: Neil Combee
SECONDER: Rick Wilson

AYE: Lindsey, Braswell, Combee, Santiago, and Wilson

H.4. Approve the first amendment to contract with Lakeland Volunteers in Medicine, Inc. (LVIM) for medical, dental, and behavioral health services to qualified residents. (Total amount not to exceed: \$1,341,217 for FY 23/24, \$1,376,719 for FY 24/25 and \$1,413,641 for FY 25/26)

**Minutes:** County Manager Bill Beasley discussed the first amendment to contract with Lakeland Volunteers in Medicine, Inc., for medical, dental, and behavioral health services to qualified residents. He recommended approval.

RESULT: APPROVED

MOVER: Neil Combee

SECONDER: Martha Santiago

AYE: Lindsey, Braswell, Combee, Santiago, and Wilson

H.5. Approve piggyback agreement with Lifeline Mobile, Inc. for the purchase of one new mobile medical unit. (\$602,326.00 one-time expense)

**Minutes:** County Manager Bill Beasley discussed the piggyback agreement with Lifeline Mobile, Inc., for the purchase of one new mobile medical unit. He recommended approval.

Upon question, Mr. Beasley said the two-year warranty is bumper-to-bumper and the only thing excluded is the portable generator. He said their is some reliability to Freightliner with longevity and the availability of parts.

RESULT: APPROVED

MOVER: Rick Wilson

SECONDER: Martha Santiago

AYE: Lindsey, Braswell, Combee, Santiago, and Wilson

H.6. Approve the contract with Central Florida Speech & Hearing Center, Inc. for the purchase and build-out of two mobile audiology services cargo vans. (Total amount not to exceed \$291,606).

**Minutes:** County Manager Bill Beasley discussed the contract with Central Florida Speech & Hearing Center, Inc., for the purchase and build-out of two mobile audiology services cargo vans. He recommended approval.

RESULT: APPROVED

MOVER: George Lindsey

SECONDER: Martha Santiago

AYE: Lindsey, Braswell, Combee, Santiago, and Wilson

# I. COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1 (GEORGE LINDSEY)

I.1. Commissioner Lindsey Comments.

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

## J. COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2 (RICK WILSON)

J.1. Commissioner Wilson Comments.

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

# K. COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 4 (MARTHA SANTIAGO)

K.1. Commissioner Santiago Comments.

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

## L. COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 5 (NEIL COMBEE)

L.1. Commissioner Combee Comments.

Minutes: Commissioner Combee had no comments.

# M. COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3 (BILL BRASWELL, CHAIR)

M.1. Chair Braswell Comments.

Minutes: Chair Braswell 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 (LDCPAS-2024-2 Outdoor Sales Land Use Change CPA) (Adoption Hearing) to consider the Future Land Use Map change from Residential Suburban (RS) to Commercial Enclave (CE) (No Fiscal Impact)

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

Upon question, Mr. Ziskal said the salvage use is not an approved use in Residential Suburban or Commercial Enclave; he said that will have to be removed regardless of this change. He said they are working with Code Enforcement to remove that operation.

The Chair opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

RESULT: APPROVED
MOVER: Martha Santiago
SECONDER: Neil Combee

AYE: Lindsey, Braswell, Combee, Santiago, and Wilson

O.2. Public Hearing (LDCT-2024-11 LDC Chapter 9 Text Amendment) (First Reading) to amend multiple sections of Chapter 9 (No Fiscal Impact).

**Minutes:** Land Development Director Ben Ziskal said they are requesting to continue this to August 20th.

The Chair opened a public hearing, no one spoke.

Continue to August 20, 2024.

RESULT: CONTINUED

MOVER: George Lindsey

SECONDER: Martha Santiago

AYE: Lindsey, Braswell, Combee, Santiago, and Wilson

#### P. PUBLIC HEARINGS

P.1. Public Hearing (LDCPAL-2023-13 Septic to Sewer Text Change CPA) (Adoption Hearing) to consider the adoption of a Large-Scale Comprehensive Plan text amendment to several elements of the Comprehensive Plan will be amended that address new septic tank limitations in areas with Basin Management Action Plans, a new overlay called Nutrient Restoration Plan Overlay (NRPO), and septic tank to sewer conversation in the NRP. (No Fiscal Impact) REQUEST TO CONTINUE

**Minutes:** Land Development Director Ben Ziskal said they have received comments back from the state and they will need time to address those state comments. He said they are requesting that P.1 and P. 2 are continued to the December 17th meeting.

Continue P. 1 and P. 2 to December 17, 2024.

RESULT: CONTINUED

MOVER: Neil Combee

SECONDER: Martha Santiago

AYE: Lindsey, Braswell, Combee, Santiago, and Wilson

P.2. Public Hearing (LDCT-2023-24 Septic to Sewer) (Adoption Hearing) to consider the adoption of a County-initiated request to amend the Land Development Code to add the Nutrient Restoration Plan Overlay, restrictions on septic tanks, and definitions. (No Fiscal Impact). REQUEST TO CONTINUE

**Minutes:** This item was discussed with the previous hearing.

P.3. Public Hearing (LDCPAL-2023-12 Green Swamp Density CPA Text) (Transmittal Hearing) to change Section 2.132-D Rural Special Protection Area (Rural-SPA) and modifications of Policy 2.132-D4 and Policy 2.132-D5. (No Fiscal Impact)

Minutes: Erik Peterson, Land Development, was sworn in my County Attorney Randy Mink. He showed slides and reviewed the text amendment for Green Swamp density. He showed a map of the A/RRX and the COREX areas. He said this would result in 432 additional properties in A/RRX and 67 additional properties in the COREX. He said they have excluded all government lands, conservation easements, vested developments and property that has no public road frontage. He said they recommend that they adopt both of them. He said they have the option to adopt Part A and they would only do the measurement of the boundary to the center line of collector roads and account for an adjustment for the size of the section. He said if they add Part B it would affect just the ARR portion and it would allow the green swamp to be the density of wetlands transferred out would be the same density as the uplands.

Commissioner Combee said that P. 4 does not affect the Core area.

Upon question, Mr. Peterson said P. 3 is the Comprehensive Plan transmittal and P4. is the Land Development Code which is the first reading. He said they will correct P. 4 with what they transmit for P. 3.

Commissioner Combee said nobody is suggesting any change to the Core area in the blue which shows up as being eligible.

Mr. Peterson said it would be eligible to count to the center line of a collector road and it would be eligible to be measured, the one unit per 20 acres, would be based on that fraction. He said not all sections are the same size and a lot of property was subdivided based on the size of the section.

Upon question, Commissioner Combee said this is going in the right direction. He said if you look at the Core area you can have a 20 acre parcel with less than 19 acres of wetlands based on current development standards and get a building permit. He said you can have 10 acres, with 9 acres of uplands and 1 acre of wetlands and you cannot get a building permit. He said it is illogical. He said he had offered an amendment because the lowest density outside of the area of critical state of concern is 5 ARR and it does not have to be 5 acres of uplands it is just 5 acres and if you have enough uplands you can build on it. He said it does fix it.

Mr. Peterson said what Commissioner Combee is talking about they have it as an alternative. He said if they want to modify Part B to require a minimum of 5 acres of uplands in what they subdivide in the ARR. He said staff recommends it being a lot cleaner just to go with the ordinance because it is very difficult to accurately account for every square foot of wetlands. He said first you have to get a delineation to get a surveyor to go out there. He said the Green Swamp is hard to do.

Commissioner Combee said we should rely on the US Fish and Wildlife wetlands map which is accurate in that part of the county. He said when you put a wetlands map up of the entire county it is shocking. He said his suggestion is to have a minimum of 5 acres of wetlands. He asked if it is our call to rely on the US Fish and Wildlife's aerial mapping.

Mr. Peterson said there are three versions of wetlands that are generalized and are estimates. He said if you go by our generalized information it is going to be slightly wrong. He said our policy on wetlands is to have it ground-truthed. He said if you go by our maps that is the best available data.

Commissioner Combee said it is not the best and the best is to send an environmental scientist and surveyor out and spend \$10,000.

Planning and Development Director John Bohde said we use the best available data and they can do their own survey but they do not require it. He said we are only adjusting the Core and the Green Swamp for the whole right-of-way. He said the upland requirement is in the AAR/X and the upland requirement is saying that we do not need 10 acres of upland as it is now we can have 10 gross we just need enough buildable area. He said with Commissioner Combee's proposal they would need 5 acres of upland; he said that is an option.

The Chair opened a public hearing.

Tom Palmer said the map is a lot better now. He asked why you cannot get a variance

just like anywhere else in the county.

Mr. Peterson said we can grant variances to setbacks and height limits to development standards but we cannot grant variances to lot size. He said you have to amend the Comprehensive Plan or the sub-district.

Mr. Palmer said he is curious how this will play out. He said this was below the radar.

Commissioner Combee said his family spent about \$7-8,000 to include a couple more acres of land because they had 12 and 1/2 acres on a parcel that was created in the early 90's. He said without going out you do not know and they had it surveyed. He said it was not under the radar it just took them a while to get here. He said he appreciates that they did bring it here and he said it will not change a whole lot of lives one way or the other.

Mr. Palmer explained what he meant by under the radar.

The Chair closed a public hearing.

Amend to add with a minimum of 5 acres of uplands as best available.

RESULT: APPROVED
MOVER: Neil Combee
SECONDER: George Lindsey

AYE: Lindsey, Braswell, Combee, Santiago, and Wilson

**Minutes:** Mr. Peterson said that this includes Part A and B together with the minimum of five acres of uplands as determined by best available.

Transmit with amendment.

RESULT: APPROVED

MOVER: George Lindsey

SECONDER: Neil Combee

AYE: Lindsey, Braswell, Combee, Santiago, and Wilson

P.4 Public Hearing (LDCT-2024-13 Green Swamp Density Measurement Text Amendment) for a LDC Text amending Chapter 5, Section 502, Table 5.3, and Amending Section 506. (No Fiscal Impact)

**Minutes:** This item was discussed with the previous hearing.

P.5. Public Hearing to consider adoption of a Resolution to vacate portions of platted, unopened, and unmaintained rights-of-way as shown on the Map of Starr Lake Development and the Replat of Starr Lake Development, Lake Wales, Florida. (No fiscal impact)

**Minutes:** Wade Allen, Real Estate Services Administrator, reviewed the proposed vacation of right-of-way as shown on the Map of Starr Lake Development and the

Replat of Starr Lake Development, Lake Wales, Florida. He said there are no objections to the proposed request. He said staff recommends approval.

The Chair opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

RESULT: APPROVED

MOVER: Neil Combee

SECONDER: George Lindsey

AYE: Lindsey, Braswell, Combee, Santiago, and Wilson

P.6. Public Hearing to consider adoption of a Resolution to vacate a portion of a platted public drainage easement as shown on the plat of Country View Estates II. (No fiscal impact)

**Minutes:** Wade Allen, Real Estate Services Administrator, reviewed the proposed vacation of a portion of a platted public drainage easement as shown on the plat of Country View Estates II. He said there are no objections to the proposed request. He said that staff recommends approval.

Upon question, Mr. Allen showed where the easement goes on a map. He said this is a platted-public drainage easement. He said this came in when the plat was recorded and he confirmed that the plat was recorded in 1987.

The Chair opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

RESULT: APPROVED
MOVER: Neil Combee
SECONDER: George Lindsey

AYE: Lindsey, Braswell, Combee, Santiago, and Wilson

P.7. Public Hearing to consider adoption of a Resolution to vacate portions of platted, unopened, and unmaintained rights-of-way as shown on the map of Florida Development Co. Tract and on the Replat of Lakewood Heights. (No fiscal impact)

**Minutes:** Wade Allen, Real Estate Services Administrator reviewed the proposed vacations of portions of platted, unopened, and unmaintained rights-of-way as shown on the map of Florida Development Co. Tract and on the Replat of Lakewood Heights. He said that staff recommends approval. He said there were concerns with an adjacent owner. He said the Property Appraiser's office will split the right-of-way between the two properties.

The Chair opened a public hearing.

Charles Stewart said he would like the right-of-way on his side of the property.

Mr. Allen showed on a map where Mr. Stewart's property is located and he showed his access to the property. He explained how the right-of-way will be split between the two property owners.

The Chair closed the public hearing.

RESULT: APPROVED

MOVER: Neil Combee

SECONDER: George Lindsey

AYE: Lindsey, Braswell, Combee, Santiago, and Wilson

P.8. Public Hearing to consider adoption of a Resolution to vacate a portion of maintained right-of-way for Shady Oaks Drive. (No fiscal impact)

**Minutes:** Real Estate Services Administrator Wade Allen reviewed the proposed vacation of a portion of maintained right-of-way for Shady Oaks Drive. He said there are no objections to the proposed request. He said that staff recommends waiving the petition fee and also recommends approval.

Mr. Allen said that Frontier and Peace River Electric was serving the petitioner's property.

The Chair opened a public hearing.

Scott Stigall, representing the petitioner, said he is available for questions.

The Chair closed the public hearing.

RESULT: APPROVED Neil Combee SECONDER: Rick Wilson

AYE: Lindsey, Braswell, Combee, Santiago, and Wilson

P.9. Public Hearing to consider adoption of a Resolution approving proposed revision to the Utilities Division Schedule of Rates, Charges, and Fees.

**Minutes:** Utilities Director Tamara Richardson showed slides and reviewed the proposed resolution for the revision to the Utilities Division Schedule of Rates, Charges, and Fees. She reviewed the current utility rates, the conditions affecting rate increases, the proposed rate adjustments, the average homeowner impact, proposed connection fees for residential and commercial, proposed fee adjustments, utility deposit, meter installation, and miscellaneous charges.

Upon question, Ms. Richardson said the reduction in the water is actual data they see in the systems.

Chair Braswell discussed waiting so long to change rates. He said every three-five years you would want to re-evaluate these. He said these jumps will catch people off guard.

Commissioner Wilson discussed water saving devices.

Ms. Richardson said she does not have the information on the cost savings per house for water saving devices. She said they could compare it to traditional devices.

Upon question, Ms. Richardson said the Alternative Water Supply (AWS) is a surcharge to everybody to pay for expensive projects. She said the base charge is whether or not you use water or wastewater. She said the base charge is the cost of maintaining the system whether you are using it or not. She said the more you use the more you pay. She said the \$4.20 is for the replacement meter program and she said everyone is charged.

Commissioner Combee said that is not the right way to do this. He asked why I am I going to be charged \$4.20 when I am paying \$50/\$100 a month. He said it is counter-intuitive and unfair.

Murray Hamilton, consultant, said 85% - 90% of the annual budget is a fixed cost and he said very little costs are variable. He said if they set the utility rates based on the way we pay our bills we would have very high minimum charges and low usage rates. He said that is counter intuitive for the water conservation effort and the most at-risk in the community would not be able to afford the minimum charge. He said the fixed versus variable approach is to help augment our planning and cost recovery methodology. He said customers that have potable irrigation have a minimal monthly base charge and they have variable expenses associated with that water use and they also have the AWS surcharge. He said there has been no increase to the reclaimed water rates in many years and there is not a minimum charge for any customer nor an AWS surcharge applied to usage within the reclaimed water system. He said they were looking for areas where they could generate new revenues that makes sense and are equitable. He said those two key areas were for the AWS surcharge which is based on the amount of water the customer uses and the monthly base charge approach and they chose to limit that to \$4.20 that is for the replacement of the reclaimed water meter. He said those customers each have a meter. He said they are looking at it as one water.

The Chair opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

RESULT: APPROVED
MOVER: George Lindsey
SECONDER: Rick Wilson

AYE: Lindsey, Braswell, Combee, Santiago, and Wilson

P.10. Public Hearing to consider adoption of an ordinance granting an Economic Development Ad Valorem Tax Exemption to an expanding business, known as Project Mix, and approval of a Performance Agreement with the company (Withdrawn upon request of applicant).

Minutes: Withdrawn by applicant.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Minutes:** Meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.