

Volusia Growth Management Commission

MINUTES FOR MEETING HELD

Wednesday, January 22, 2020

Thomas C. Kelly Administration Center
Frank T. Bruno Jr. County Council Chambers
123 W. Indiana Avenue
DeLand, FL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Debbie Connors, Chair
Sid Vihlen, Jr., Vice Chair
Larry Saffer
Mary Swiderski
Joseph Hammett
Robert Storke
Harold Briley
Paul Manning
Christy Gillis
Jon Greene
Daniel Robins
John Samuelson
Jack Surette
Thomas Wright

REPRESENTING

Port Orange
DeBary
Daytona Beach Shores
DeLand
Lake Helen
Orange City
Ormond Beach
Ponce Inlet
South Daytona
Volusia County
Volusia County
Volusia County
Volusia County
Volusia County

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Loretta Arthur, Secretary
Sandy Lou Gallagher
Doug Gutierrez
Teresa Pope

Holly Hill
Deltona
Daytona Beach
Edgewater

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Saralee Morrissey (not present)
Steven Fitzgibbons (not present)

Volusia County School Board
SJRWMD

OTHERS PRESENT

Merry Chris Smith, VGMC Operations Manager
Chris Dougherty, S&ME, VGMC Planner
Heather Ramos, GrayRobinson, VGMC General Counsel

CALL TO ORDER

VGMC Chair Debbie Connors called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken and it was determined there was a quorum present.

Chair Connors welcomed new member Jon Greene representing Volusia County.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizens present who wished to speak at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Harold Briley made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 28, 2019 meeting as presented; seconded by Mary Swiderski. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING

Chair Connors stated there were no items scheduled for public hearing.

REPORT FROM PLANNING CONSULTANT

Chair Connors called on Chris Dougherty, VGMC planner to provide an update. Ms. Connors also wished Mr. Dougherty a happy birthday.

Mr. Dougherty stated that it's been a busy start to the new year and reported that we currently have two applications (VGMC #19-049 and #19-066) from Daytona Beach that we have received petitions for hearing. Additionally, he stated a third application (VGMC #19-069) from Daytona Beach has an outstanding Request for Additional information in which we await the City's response. In response to a question from Mr. Vihlen, Mr. Dougherty stated the public hearings for the two Daytona Beach applications are presently scheduled for February 26, 2020. He added that he spoke with the City recently and they are hopeful to reach some form of resolution on these applications without the need for a public hearing.

REPORT FROM LEGAL COUNSEL

Heather Ramos, VGMC legal counsel, stated there were no legal updates at this time. Ms. Ramos also thanked the commission for approving the legal contract at the last meeting. In addition, she clarified a question from the prior meeting relating to the contract, stating for the record that the attorney rate for litigation would be the same as the rate billed for general representation.

REPORT FROM COMMISSION OPERATIONS MANAGER

Ms. Smith discussed several security procedures in place in the Council Chambers. She also stated that the VGMC application is currently being updated to include revised notary language required by recent changes in law, as well as several other minor cosmetic updates, and will be distributed to all of the units of local government.

REPORT FROM COMMISSION CHAIR

Chair Connors stated at the August meeting, the commission discussed the County's smart growth initiative and directed that a letter be sent to the County Council notifying them the VGMC is willing to be a participant in the process. Ms. Connors read aloud the letter which was sent to the County Council in September, 2019, and she reported that there has been no response received.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

POP Report: POP Committee Chair Sid Vihlen stated that the Operations Manager performance is evaluated annually by the committee. He reported that each of the completed evaluations rated Ms. Smith outstanding in each of the nine established review criteria, and he submitted the evaluations into the record.

Budget Report: VGMC Chair Debbie Connors stated she chaired the Budget Committee meeting earlier in Ms. Arthur's absence. The committee reviewed both the current YTD budget expenses as well as the 2020-21 proposed budget and did not identify any issues. Ms. Connors asked if there were any questions or comments of the commission members on either of the two budget items and there were none.

OLD BUSINESS

With respect to the smart growth letter, Commissioner Surrette asked if any informal responses had been received and if we knew where the County Council currently is on that issue. Chair Connors responded that there were no responses at all received to her letter. Additionally, Ms. Connors stated she's not certain on the current status of the efforts, however, it does not necessarily appear to be as high a priority as it once was.

With respect to the 2020-21 proposed budget, Commissioner Swiderski questioned why the proposed salary for the Operations Manager is the same as in the current budget, and whether that should be increased. Ms. Smith stated that all of the line items within the personal services portion of the budget are determined by the County and will be adjusted. She added that if the Council approves an increase for County employees, she also receives the increase.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Consideration of VGMC Resolution #2020-01, Apportionment of Voting Weight

Jack Surette moved to approve Resolution #2020-01 as presented; seconded by Harold Briley. Motion carried unanimously.

2) Election of Officers

Chair Connors reported that she has served the two term limit as Chair and no longer eligible to serve in this capacity, and she opened the floor for nominations for the office of Chair.

Mary Swiderski nominated Sid Vihlen Jr. to serve as Chairman of the VGMC. There were no further nominations made. The commission unanimously elected Sid Vihlen, Jr. as Chairman of the VGMC. Mr. Vihlen made several comments and stated he gladly accepts the role of Chairman.

Ms. Connors opened the floor for nominations for the office of Vice Chair. Mr. Vihlen commented favorably on Ms. Connors experience and leadership as Chair. Mr. Vihlen then nominated Debbie Connors to serve as Vice Chair of the VGMC. There were no further nominations made. The commission unanimously elected Debbie Connors as Vice Chair of the VGMC.

Ms. Connors opened the floor for nominations for the office of Secretary. At the request of Mr. Vihlen, Ms. Smith described the primary responsibilities of the Commission Secretary. Debbie Connors nominated Christy Gillis to serve as Secretary of the VGMC. There were no further nominations made. The commission unanimously elected Christy Gillis as Secretary of the VGMC.

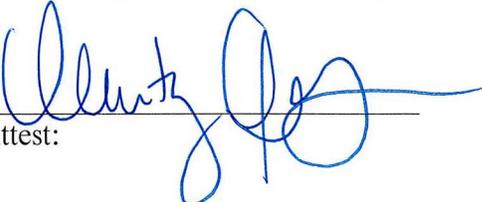
COMMISSIONER REQUESTS OR REMARKS

Commissioner Manning asked when the commission last held a public hearing. Mr. Dougherty stated the commission has held two public hearings within the past couple of years, one involving Daytona Beach and the other Orange City. He added that the VGMC currently has two pending petitions for hearing which may come before the commission in February. Mr. Dougherty also described the staff review process and the coordination with the applicant and adjacent local governments when a petition for hearing is filed. Commissioner Manning commented that it appears VGMC planning staff helps facilitate the resolution of the issues, as well as assisting the local governments through the process. Mr. Dougherty agreed.

Ms. Connors thanked the VGMC staff for their support and efforts.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Attest: 


Chair