Volusia Growth Management Commission

MINUTES FOR MEETING HELD
Wednesday, January 27, 2021

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

MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON

Sid Vihlen, Jr., Chairman
Doug Gutierrez
Larry Saffer
Mary Swiderski
Teresa Pope
Loretta Arthur
Joseph Hammett
Robert Storke
Harold Briley
Paul Manning
Jon Greene
John Samuelson
Jack Surrette
Thomas Wright

MEMBERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY

Christy Gillis, Secretary
Sandy Lou Gallagher

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Debbie Connors, Vice Chair

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Stephanie Doster (not present)
Steven Fitzgibbons (not present)

OTHERS PRESENT

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

DEBARY
Daytona Beach
Daytona Beach Shores
DeLand
Edgewater
Holly Hill
Lake Helen
Orange City
Ormond Beach
Ponce Inlet
Volusia County
Volusia County
Volusia County
Volusia County
South Daytona
Deltona
Port Orange

Volusia County Schools
SJRWMED
CALL TO ORDER

VGMC Chairman Sid Vihlen, Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS

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

Chairman Vihlen stated commission action was necessary to address virtual attendance at the meeting.

VGMC General Counsel Heather Ramos provided background relating to the Governor’s former executive order on the subject of virtual meetings, as well as prior attorney general opinions relating to virtual participation. She explained that as long as a quorum of membership is physically present, other members may participate and vote virtually if extraordinary circumstances exist, such as illness, a serious medical condition or physical disability, and she explained the commission’s role in making a finding relating to extraordinary circumstance. Commission member Sandy Lou Gallagher stated she was prevented from physically attending due to a back injury. Secretary Christy Gillis stated that an illness has prevented her from being physically present at the meeting.

Mary Swiderski made a motion that extraordinary circumstances exist, therefore Sandy Lou Gallagher and Christy Gillis are both allowed to participate in commission discussions and vote at the January 27, 2021 commission meeting; motion seconded by Jon Greene. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Harold Briley made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2020 meeting as presented; seconded by Loretta Arthur. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING

There were no items scheduled for public hearing.
REPORT FROM PLANNING CONSULTANT

Chris Dougherty, VGMC planner, reported that the 2020 calendar year concluded with approximately 90 amendment applications reviewed by staff. Additionally, he stated it has been a busy start to 2021 with nine applications received to date.

REPORT FROM LEGAL COUNSEL

Heather Ramos, VGMC legal counsel, stated there were no legal updates at this time.

REPORT FROM COMMISSION OPERATIONS MANAGER

Ms. Smith stated the February 24, 2021 VGMC meeting is currently scheduled to be held in the Daytona Beach City Commission Chambers, however, we are looking at changing the location to either the first floor conference room in Daytona Beach or the County Council Chambers in DeLand in order to maintain social distancing.

REPORT FROM COMMISSION CHAIR

Chairman Vihlen discussed the large number of new applications received in 2020 and the work involved by staff in reviewing and processing the applications. He spoke favorably concerning staff and how smoothly the process runs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

POP Report: Chairman Vihlen chaired the POP Committee meeting in the absence of Committee Chair Debbie Connors. Chairman Vihlen stated the committee met immediately prior to the regular meeting and reviewed the Operations Manager’s performance. He stated the committee members individually completed evaluation forms and all ranked Ms. Smith’s performance as outstanding. Chair Vihlen submitted the completed evaluation forms into the record.

Budget Report: Chairman Vihlen also chaired the Budget Committee meeting held prior to the regular meeting as Committee Chair Christy Gillis attended virtually and assigned her duties to him.

- 2020-21 Year-to-Date Expenses: Chair Vihlen stated the 2020-21 YTD expenses are in order and no concerns were raised by committee.
- 2021-22 Proposed Budget: Chair Vihlen stated the preliminary proposed 2021-22 budget falls in line with the current approved budget. He stated the committee raised no concerns and supports what has been proposed. Chair Vihlen stated no official action was necessary tonight, and the proposed budget will be brought back for a vote at the next meeting.

There were no questions or comments from the commission members.
OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration of VGMC Resolution #2021-01, Apportionment of Voting Weight

Harold Briley made a motion to approve VGMC Resolution #2021-01; motion seconded by Jack Surrette. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONER REQUESTS OR REMARKS

Commissioner Briley asked if there were any updates relating to the Smart Growth Committee discussions that occurred at the County several years ago. Ms. Smith stated that a letter was sent to all of the County Council members from then VGMC Chair Debbie Connors advising that the VGMC would be interested in playing a role in any smart growth efforts. No response to the letter was received and Ms. Smith stated she is not aware of any further discussions within the County relating to this subject since that time.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Attest:  

Chair