Volusia Growth Management Commission

MINUTES FOR MEETING HELD
Wednesday, June 23, 2021

Daytona Beach City Hall
Conference Room #149B
301 S. Ridgewood Avenue
Daytona Beach, FL

MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON

Sid Vihlen, Jr., Chairman
Debbie Conners, Vice Chair
Christy Gillis, Secretary
Doug Gutierrez
Larry Saffer
Mary Swiderski
Loretta Arthur
Joseph Hammett
Robert Storke
Paul Manning
Jon Greene
John Samuelson
Jack Surrette
Thomas Wright

REPRESENTING

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

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Sandy Lou Gallagher
Teresa Pope
Harold Briley

Deltona
Edgewater
Ormond Beach

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

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

Volusia County Schools
SJRWMD

OTHERS PRESENT

Chris Dougherty, VGMC Planner
Heather Ramos, VGMC General Counsel
Merry Chris Smith, VGMC Operations Manager

CALL TO ORDER

VGMC Chairman Sid Vihlen, Jr. 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.

Chairman Vihlen announced the recent reappointments of the following VGMC members by their respective jurisdictions: Larry Saffer, Loretta Arthur, Harold Briley, Joe Hammett, Debbie Connors and Bob Storke.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mary Swiderski made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2021 meeting as presented; seconded by Doug Gutierrez. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING

Chair Vihlen stated there are two public hearings scheduled relating to the VGMC rules. He explained that in accordance with VGMC procedures, the POP Committee met prior to the regular meeting, reviewed the proposed rules changes and are bringing forward a recommendation for consideration by the full commission. Chair Vihlen then asked POP Committee Chair Debbie Connors to address the commission on these public hearing items.

1) Consideration of draft amendments to the VGMC Consistency Certification Rules to allow for electronic transmission of VGMC applications, and action on VGMC Resolution #2021-02 authorizing transmittal of the proposed amendments to the Volusia County Council for consideration and action.

Ms. Connors stated the first item relates to proposed amendments to the VGMC Consistency Certification Rules which would allow applications to be submitted electronically to the VGMC. She stated the POP considered this item and recommends the VGMC approve Resolution #2021-02 with suggested and proposed amendments to the VGMC Consistency Certification Rules to allow for application packages to be submitted electronically and to authorize transmittal of Resolution #2021-02 with the proposed amendments to the Volusia County Council for consideration and action. The recommendation comes to the full commission as a motion and second from the POP Committee.

Ms. Connors also stated that Chair Vihlen previously reached out to the County Manager relating to this matter, and the County Manager expressed support to the concept of allowing applications to be submitted electronically. She added that if the VGMC approves the proposed amendments, the resolution will be forwarded to the County for consideration by the County Council.
Chair Vihlen commented on the volume of paper that is currently submitted with VGMC applications, adding that most local governments allow documents to be submitted electronically. He also reiterated that the County Manager does support the concept of electronic submissions.

Chair Vihlen asked if there were any questions or comments. Commission member Thomas Wright suggested two changes in the draft language: 1) Page 2, third paragraph, second line – delete the words “provided on paper and”; and 2) Page 5, first paragraph, line 12 – modify to read “…send a dated cover letter and notice of application by either electronic transmission, hand delivery, US Mail or courier service, to the applicant jurisdiction…”. Following discussion, there was general consensus to modify the changes as suggested by Mr. Wright.

Since the original POP committee recommendation did not include these changes, Ms. Connors asked the POP committee members if they accept the suggested changes as part of their recommendation. The committee members agreed their recommended motion and second is to approve as amended.

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

Chair Vihlen called for a vote, and the motion carried unanimously.

2) Consider modifications to the VGMC application which would be implemented upon final adoption of amendments to the Consistency Certification Rules.

Ms. Connors stated this item would make changes to the application to make the amendments to the Consistency Certification Rules possible. She stated the POP committee reviewed this item and recommends the VGMC approve the revised Application for Comprehensive Plan Amendment Consistency Certification to (i) allow application packages to be submitted electronically, (ii) allow application packages to be signed electronically, and (iii) remove the notary requirement with the condition that the revisions to the application will become effective only if and when the Volusia County Council adopts the amendments to Article II of Chapter 90 of the Volusia County Code to allow for comprehensive plan amendments to be submitted online. The recommendation from POP Committee comes forward to the commission as a motion and second.

There was no further discussion and no members of the public who wished to speak.

Chair Vihlen called for a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

REPORT FROM PLANNING CONSULTANT

Chris Dougherty, VGMC Planner, stated that we continue to remain busy with new applications, and provided a brief overview of the pending applications. Chair Vihlen commented that last year we had a record year for the number of new applications received and reviewed.
REPORT FROM LEGAL COUNSEL

Heather Ramos, VGMC General Counsel, stated there were no legal matters to report on.

REPORT FROM COMMISSION OPERATIONS MANAGER

Ms. Smith stated there are several other current member reappointments pending and we will likely receive notification from those local governments soon.

Ms. Smith also stated that each member should have received the annual financial disclosure (Form 1) which was mailed from the Supervisor of Elections office. She reminded the members that the completed forms are due back to the Elections office by July 1st, adding that if not received by September 1st, the State will impose fines of $25/day. Following brief discussion, Ms. Smith stated she would check the State’s website and notify the members whether or not their financial disclosure has been received.

REPORT FROM COMMISSION CHAIR

Chair Vihlen commented favorably on the performance of VGMC staff.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

POP Report: Ms. Connors stated the last item to report from the POP Committee is scheduled for consideration under New Business.

Budget Report: Committee Chair Christy Gillis stated the Budget Committee met immediately prior to the regular meeting.

- 2020-21 Year-to-Date Expenses: Ms. Gillis stated the only question which came up related to the rent. She explained that the office rent is paid quarterly and that there are off-site file storage fees that are also paid out of the rent. There were no questions or comments from the commission members.

- 2021-22 Proposed Budget: Ms. Gillis asked Ms. Smith to discuss the differences between the VGMC approved proposed budget, and that recommended by the County Budget office. Ms. Smith stated all of the line items in the personal services category relating to salary, insurance, etc. are calculated each year by the County and therefore, there are always minor changes in that portion of the budget. The same applies to the computer replacement and liability insurance line items. There were no questions or comments from the commission members.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.
NEW BUSINESS

1) Review VGMC Rules of Procedure for Meetings, Membership, and Operations

Ms. Connors reported that the POP reviewed proposed changes to the Rules of Procedure for Meetings, Membership, and Operations and they are included in the agenda package. She stated the first two changes are clerical corrections, and the proposed change to Article IX, Section 7 is to clarify that in-person attendance is necessary for members to be eligible for travel reimbursement. Ms. Connors stated the proposed changes will be scheduled for a vote at the next regular meeting of the commission. She asked that the commission members review the rules and let Ms. Smith know if there are any additional recommendations for change. Ms. Smith added that the proposed changes will come back before the commission in a Resolution for consideration and vote.

COMMISSIONER REQUESTS OR REMARKS

There were no comments by commission members.

Chair Vihlen announced that Tom Wright, representing Volusia County on the VGMC, did not seek reappointment to the commission and therefore, this would be his last meeting. Mr. Vihlen presented Mr. Wright a certificate of appreciation for his service to the commission.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.