>>CHAIR BROWER: Hello, two minute warning, we're going to start promptly at 9:30, it's 9:28.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay, it's 9:30, we will call the may 4th, 2021 Volusia County county council meeting to order, if you will stand with me for the invocation and remain standing for the pledge of allegiance and we will call chaplain Tom --
from the friendship community church in Edgewater. Thank you, sir.
>>SPEAKER: Thank you very much for allowing us the honor to pray for you guys this morning, let's pray. Heavenly father, thank you for the blessings that you pour out on us daily, the blessing of living in this wonderful part of the world we know as Volusia County, Lord, I pray for your leaders that you protect them from the darks of the evil one and Lord, I pray that you give them the knowledge, the wisdom and discernment and temperament to go about carrying their duties throughout today, and throughout the rest of their tenure. Lord, I pray that as always, most important I will, what they do here today, to glorify you, and as I close this in the tradition of my faith, I invite you all to do the same, it is in Jesus' name I pray. Amen.
>>CHAIR BROWER: ( Inaudible ) the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.
>>CHAIR BROWER: And Carissa, would you call the roll?
( Roll call ).
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay. We'll move right into public participation as I call your name, just come up here, speak to the microphone, if you're wearing a mask, you can take your mask off so we can hear you better, you have three minutes, and I'm going to hold everybody to three minutes today, I'm normally very generous, but we've got a lot going on today, so please, be respectful of everyone else, three minutes and just state your name and where you're from, what city you live in, thank you. First off, is Ricky Schrader.
>>SPEAKER: Ricky Schrader, New Smyrna, Florida, I have the request that the Volusia County council members will take the following requests for motions into consideration. Motion number one. Motion to table creation of the short-term rental advisory, using both the senate and the house, if adopt, a motion to table ends any further discussion of the matter. Motion number two, to create an enforcement of short-term advisory. The short-term rental rules, it rely on the evidence found on websites. And it is obvious that if someone has rented a residential home, a violation has occurred. That should be evidence enough. At that point, the burden should shift and it should be the owner's burden of proof to otherwise, as Volusia County now does it, it will only enforce its own rules if someone complains and this has had the effect of pitting neighbor against neighbor. What happens is, if Volusia County enforcement people advise the complaining neighbors to get proof, such as photographs, when those neighbors do that, take photographs of the property, the owners bitterly complain about the nasty neighbors taking photographs and being tattle tails, and in some cases, they do things to retaliate. And again, this pits neighbor against neighbor, it seems to me that the new of New Smyrna Beach would SOV that problem. A motion of confidence, a vote of confidence, for our county chair Jeff Brower. Motion number four. To remove Richard R. --
the fourth from the planning and land development regulation commission. Thank you for your kind attention.
>>CHAIR BROWER: And Robert chew?
>>SPEAKER: Bob chew, Edgewater, I grew up in Rhode Island and I saw the decline in the bay, over the last few decades, Rhode Island made it a top priority to clean up the bay. And I'm happy to say that it was a resound success. -- resounding success.
I'm sure that the commissioners are aware of how compromise Indian river lagoon is.
Renowned biologist Dr. Aaron Adams stated that over 70% of the sea grass in the Indian river lagoon is gone. And as a result of poor water quality and algae blooms. The importance of sea gas is many fold, a nursery for all of the animals and fish and creatures that live in the lagoon, and we're all aware of, you know, the tremendous number of manatees that have passed away this year. Mainly as a result of no sea grass to eat, or chemicals or drugs entering into the lagoon. And a healthy lagoon has three things that are required, a living shoreline with mangroves and oyster reefs, and most importantly, sea grass, and sea grass, you know, I just don't find -- I'm a fisherman, I just don't see any sea grass anymore. I mean, used to be you'd find sand, now, we just see sand everywhere. For those of you who aren't fishermen or get out on the lagoon, I'd be happy to volunteer to take any of the commissioners out to try to find some sea grass. The restoring this natural treasure needs to be a top priority of the commission. You know, it's -- it's -- it's a national treasure. And it's experiencing an ecosystem collapse and unless you're out there on a daily basis the way I am, you might NOO not be aware of it. If we had a forest fire, every time they would drive by, see the stumps of the trees and demand action, but unless those who are out on the bay or the lagoon, you really don't see it. So I'd like to invite anybody out, I can get the marine discovery boat to take you on I a tour, it's pretty sobering when you start to really understand the ecosystem and how challenging it is right now and the damage that's being put at it, so thanks for all of your help, but do make it a high priority, thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Robert, Nancy Griswold?
>>SPEAKER: Good morning, council, chair, and county council members, my name is Reverend Nancy Griswold, I live in Edgewater. And like thousands of other Volusia County residents, I am a member of faith. And the county's 2015-2019 consolidated report, we learned that a needs assessment was taken from 722 community members. And that assessment revealed that the top need in our community is the availability of safe, decent, rental homes. And members of our congregations have struggled with this pressing need, we have heard story after story from our members who can't keep up with the rising costs of rent, so MF to essential worker who have kept our community alive during this pandemic, our NURSing assistants, security guards and the maids and restaurant workers who keep our tourist industry functioning, don't earn enough to afford a standard one-bedroom apartment. Over 20,000 families in our area are paying over half of their income on rent. This isn't acceptable and goes against our shared values of people of faith. We know that the county has done a great job of allocating CARES Act dollars to rental assistance. But we all know that a long-term solution is needed. Local housing trust funds provide grants to developers who create or rehabilitate housing, that is affordable for working families and seniors. Faith is calling on this council to pass an ordinance, creating a county-wide housing trust fund, similar to the funds that have been created by our neighbors in orange, Seminole and Hilsboro counties. We are also calling on the council to join the City of Daytona Beach in commissioning a study on the use of linkage fees as a revenue source for this housing trust fund. And we also ask that the council consider allocating a portion of the funds that our county will receive from the American rescue plan. Into the new housing trust fund. Member of our organization, look forward to attending this afternoon's council housing workshop. To learn more about how we can address this problem together. Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
Gary Cruz?
>>SPEAKER: ( Inaudible ).
>>CHAIR BROWER: Unless you talk.
(Laughing)
>>SPEAKER: Good morning. My name is Gary Cruz, as you already know, I'm from the great City of DeBary, where they have a mayor, a city manager, and city council that listens to us and we're tickled to death that Ron SE Sanits, starting to loosen restrictions on the masks and everything else, and maybe one of these days, that they will be gone from here. During the state of the county, the first time I have attended one of these. And the positive tone that was set here was amazing to me, refreshing and so encouraging. And I have to -- I have to talk about the tone that I think was set by the chairman, and I'm going to quote him. He said, each county chair has their own style and approach to the job and so, too, will I.
Yeah, it might be different from what we've had in the past, but I believe that's why voters elected me. More from Brower, can we set the -- aside, can we not look into each other's eyes on a local level and say we have many things that we all agree on, let's work together on these things, let's truly make Volusia County the best place in Florida to live, to work, and to play, and to do business. Chairman Brower also spoke of the importance of accountability.
Time will tell, time will tell if mentions of setting the aside will be received by those who seem so intent to attack chairman Brower and to maintain some type of control. Makes one wonder where they get their marching orders from, surely not the people. As a local commentator recently wrote, Mr. Brower at the county -- what do you call it? The state of the county, he spoke for a O session of true power, he spoke with an iron fist and a silk glove in reconciliation, everyone in the room knew it.
How was chairman Brower's message? Only time will tell.
Then in contrast, the last council meeting I attended to, it was probably best summed up by a writer to the letter to the editor and our local paper, where that person wrote, after listening to Volusia County member Danny Robins four or five page obviously preplanned attack, aimed at county chair Jeff Brower, and backed up by county member Ben Johnson, I have to say that Robins assertions that Brower was pandering to his constituents was right. He is pandering to his constituents, we're the ones that voted for him. Robins wanted a consensus from the whole council simply unrealistic, 7-0 the way he wants it to the be. The items that Robins was ranting about mostly centered around the beach and the loop, these issues have been around for years. And finally, finally, we have a chairman who is not afraid to deal with them. And if Robins wants the council to work together in the future, what he did was not helpful. When our elected officials accept the results of the last election or listen to the old guard who continue to sneak around in the shadows of Volusia County, only time will tell, and the voter will decide. Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
Kristina Peterson. Christine Peterson.
>>SPEAKER: Good morning, I'm Christine Peterson from Ingram road in Bethune Beach. It was not that long ago that you our elected officials were campaigning for our votes, many things were said and promises made but I still cannot find where you said that if we elect you, one of your first priorities would be to throw out a 16-year ordinance that proHIBs short-term SHOERMs, if we the people choose you as our Government representatives, you would so quickly surrender your power and authority to state of Florida. That you would abandon 50 years of home rule. That it is the very foundation of our county council form of local self-government. Any changes made by you, to Bethune beach and short-term ordinance, preEMGS from the state. Local Government power and control is more equipped and more responsive to the needs and concerns of our communities in Tallahassee. Short-term rentals under 30 days duration should not be allowed to exist, if con train to our residential zoning and ordinances. And they're illegal and must not be condoned, supported or encouraged. This is not an issue about property rights, because we simply cannot do anything we want with our properties. The crux of this issue is zoning, and its preservation. Property rights, are subSESH YANT to zoning low.
I'm tired of special interests getting what they want.
Taxpayers of Volusia County do need a win. And the hope for a better future. As our elected officialed we need you to make informed decisions to act in the best interest of all of your constituents. Regardless of whether we are your friends, through a fundraiser or two, or even voted for you. Which I did, by the way. The new Volusia County power brokers are big money out of county, out of state, real estate investor, LLC ES, Airbnb type corporations, and lobbyists. Who see Volusia County as ripe for the picking.
If you really want to bring people together, and lift up our neighborhoods, so that we can work together and find mutual respect, you must restore our public trust in our elected officials. And in a fair, open responsive and accountable county Government. I'm not opposed to helping businesses grow in Volusia County, I'm opposed to allowing short-term rental businesses to be conducted in residential areas that prohibit hotel-motel. I ask you not to make my changes to our short-term rental ordinance or zoning. But instead, consistently uniformly and proactively enforce the short-term rental laws in unincorporate rated Bethune beach.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Kevin McGuire?
>>SPEAKER: Good morning, chairperson Brower, and council, I'm Kevin McGuire, I'm from --
( name? ) I'm against illegal short-term rentals. I just want to give you some examples.
There's only about 70 illegal short-term rental in Bethune beach and silver sands and these 70 people are causing all of the issue. Just give you more specific example. On Vancleave drive, we have probably about a hundred residential homes. And there are only 3 illegal short-term rentals. And of those 3, only 1 is an investor.
So this is only a 3% issue, only 3% of these things -- of these residents are causing the problem. It's not everybody.
So it's small group. So please, do not change the zoning. Just enforce the zoning that we have.
Let's work together to make this happen. I want to give you another example. The county rental markets, snow birds.
There is no question at all that snow birds provide a significant benefit to Volusia County, year after year. They do not rent short-term. They are long TERMENT term rental, two months to five months, they become part of the community. They permeate the restaurants and generate far more revenue for the community than short-term rentals. Which generate money mostly for invest TORS. And they do so without disrupting our neighbors, they don't party on long hours, they don't cause any damage. They treat the places that they rent for long-term rentals as their own homes. And I believe that some of the condos and some of these area, will allow short-term rentals. If the HOA does allow short-term rentals in their property, I actually have got no problem with that. The reason is, that the condos, they have security, they have parking regulations, and they have garbage control. So they have control over those issues, we do not in the residential areas, we don't have those controls. So I want to make a fair, we support rentals of 30 days and more, and bottom line, we do not want to change the zoning in the unincorporated parts of Volusia County. Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
Bill Redmond?
>>SPEAKER: Good morning. I'm obviously not bill Redmond but bill asked if I could read his statement for him because his allergies have kicked up and he's coughing. I'm Riley Allen, from New Smyrna beach. Bill Redmond from New Smyrna Beach.
Here SPO speak in opposition to any zoning ADZ as it relates to short-term rentals. Some O n the county ordinance believe that changes, grandfathered in, can be done if they are less restrictive. Not so according to the attorney general of Florida Ashley moody. In two separate opinions, she stated any change whatsoever, even setting a trial period for a less restrictive change, would trigger the grandfathering of an existing ordinance to expire.
And bill has attached two opinions, one from Ashley moody in 2019 and one from her in 2020. At that time, the state would take over the oversight of any issues. We elected you to govern and to not do anything that would cause Volusia County to lose their governing right and ABL ability, you expect to do the right thing and see it to, that we the majority continue have the right to quiet and peaceful enJOIM of our properties, your predecessors UT these in place 17 years ago and over a decade ago, reintegrated these zoning laws to ensure the people of Volusia County could count on it. We have never stated in any fashion to change the rules and we do not now.
There are plenty of places where short-term rentals are legal and welcome in those areas and those areas should be where they are, and not in use in our residential neighborhoods. As we have said to you before, how would you like to have a party house with new couple come --
newcomers to party and raise cane 24/7? Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. And that concludes public participation.
>>SPEAKER: I was on the list.
>>CHAIR BROWER: I Don have the a card for you.
>>SPEAKER: What would you like me to do?
>>CHAIR BROWER: Did you fill out a form?
>>SPEAKER: 911.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Come and take your three minutes.
>>SPEAKER: You filled out a form for item 3A.
>>SPEAKER: What would you like me to do? I filled out the form as instructored.
>>CHAIR BROWER: You're welcome to come speak.
>>SPEAKER: Good morning, council members. My name is James GRUMer, I live in Bethune beach for 20 year, registered voter, I'm retired, and I believe in enforcing the rule of law and I'm blessed with time and financial resources. I'm now very, very active and developing a true sense of curiosity about my county council and how they represent me. I'm here to speak against illegal 30 day short-term rentals. While some communities may want short-term rentals, we do not in Bethune. We are organized. We take the high road. We are professional. And we are determined. This is the second time I've spoke to the council about the illegality of this, short-term rentals, 30 days, one thing I have come to here is some council members have already mentally cast their vote on changing the zoning. If that is true, then I'm only speaking to those who are still open minded. No other issue in my 24 years of living in Bethune has caused this much unity among us. Ever. Bethune beach was never intended for motels, hotels, Vrbo and -- loud music, overnight parties. It is our community, we want it preserved, and want it returned to us. I'm personally prepared to fight this in the Courts should the council change our zoning laws.
Two final thoughts. I've done work with the American disabilities association. I've personally worked with the disability -- American disabilities act. The county is taking a potentially great liability if they change the zoning. Regardless to ADA.
Which means you'll have to enforce and inspect.
Unfortunately, many people who have disabilities, want to enjoy the beach. Unfortunately, too, many have disabilities. Such as wheelchairs and other walking devices. Along with stairs.
And rocks and sand, don't mix.
Can you afford that unlimited potential exposure? Lastly, and finally, I respect that no vote or resolution be passed, keep us grandfathered, and enforce the laws, it's what we want. Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. And with that, we'll move --
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Mr. Chair.
It's me.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: It's Ben.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Yes. You're throwing your voice, that was pretty good.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Have you forgotten me.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Councilman Ben Johnson, would you like to speak.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Yes, we were sent a short tape and I think all of us have seen this tape, it might be the appropriate time to show it?
>>CHAIR BROWER: The attorneys?
Would you like to render an opinion on that?
>>SPEAKER: It was my understanding that that was submitted by someone as part of -- that they intended to play it as part of public comment. And the -- do we know if they intended to play it at the agenda item or now?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Had you prefer to play it at the agenda time, do you think that's more appropriate?
>>SPEAKER: That was my understanding as to why --
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: That's fine, okay, thank you.
>>SPEAKER: I could be wrong.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: We can save it until the agenda time.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I don't think all of the council members are aware of what you're talking about. So I haven't seen the video and --
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: There's a short-term rental -- a video about the short-term rental.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I gathered that but I'm saying -- so.
>>CHAIR BROWER: I received it last night in an e-mail.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Okay.
>>CHAIR BROWER: You didn't either, Barb?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Maybe I didn't and haven't --
>>CHAIR BROWER: It was late, so you might have not seen it. So you will see it.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Frequently, this committee, there's different people that bring up different things so I think it would be appropriate at the time, whenever, to do it, even if everybody has not seen it.
I'm requesting that it be seen.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay. All right. And with that, we'll move to the consent agenda.
Wow. Well, I'll tell you what, we have two minutes until 10:00, when we can start the consent agenda. You would WO you like to see the video now? Okay. Do you have it? Pardon me?
( Video ) .
[ APPLAUSE ]
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
Now, we'll move to item 1, the consent agenda, we have several of them that are pulled for discussion, so far. And council, you can add more. And this is just -- this is not to be voted on separately, it's to let mostly Donna butler, who's going to be up here for quite a while, just bring some things to the public's attention, so far I've got H, IJ, K, does anyone have any other items?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Yes. I do.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Heather Post, which one?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: A alpha.
>>CHAIR BROWER: A-alpha.
You're just pulling it for discussion as well. Correct?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: So that one, I want to pull for vote.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay. All right. Do I have a motion to approve the rest of the consent agenda?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Motion to approve.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Second.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Motion to approve.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Minus A.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Minus A by Wheeler, seconded by Lowry. All in favor say aye.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Aye.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed?
Consent agenda minus A passes unanimously. So let's take --
actually let's -- let's let Donna get through with what she's going to doing and then she -- so Donna, H? I, J, K, sounds like a song.
>>SPEAKER: Good morning, Mr.
Chairman, members of council, today, these three items from community assistance, I'm going to let Carmen share this great news, because she really understands these well, so with that, Carmen hall, community assistanceassistance director is going to share all of the good news.
>>SPEAKER: Good morning, Carmen hall, community assistance director, this first item is for our summer food program. And it's for a few thing to renew our agreement with Downey enterprises who delivers the food to our sites and approval to hire staff and for the budget appropriation. So this program provides meals to children 18 years of age and younger who are in areas that have at least 50% of the area receives free or reduce lunch. And so this is during the summer months, our program runs June 7th through August 13th. And we anticipate serving over 121,000 meals during this time. And at this time, we have 63 sites, already identifieded, we do have the ability to add more if there is a need and they're eligible.
All right. Item J. Sorry.
>>CHAIR BROWER: I.
>>SPEAKER: There we go.
Skipped one. I. All right, this item is an amendment for our consolidated plan and home, for home and/or action plan, this transfers $455,000 from projects that are no longer needed to our first time home buyers program. And so this will provide purchase and closing cost assistance to these new homeowners. All right. And then J is for our children, families, advisory board, this is for our summer camp scholarships. And so, this funding is recommended by the children and families advisory board. And it is awarding 15 applications from providers, that can be Government entities or nonprofit entities, provides summer camps to eligible children so they are able to receive scholarships so they can attend camp at these selected locations throughout the county.
And this year, we have around $350,000 budgeted, and there are 12 applicants from existing providers, and then there are three new providers, and two of those providers actually provide scholarships for special needs children. Any questions? Good.
All right.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Are you going to do K? This is just --
>>SPEAKER: Good morning. Tim bayly, parks and recreation culture director, this is the July 4th special event, we handle it every year, except last year, for a while now, it's a good partnership between the county of Volusia County and the City of DeBary, we PR v protocols UT approximate in place for safety and the sheriffs there and the EMTs and fire services, it's a great event.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Tim.
It was rather disruptive last year, with having to cancel it and I wanted everybody to know that DeBary is back on, and they're looking forward to a big crowd, thank you.
[ APPLAUSE ]
Okay, that takes us back to item A. Contract task assignment to faith group consulting, LLC, for the Daytona Beach international airport security system update.
Is there a motion? To be made for this item?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Not yet.
(Laughing)
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay. You just want to open it up for discussion?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Yes, at this point.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Just to clarify, this has nothing to do with the actual faith group.
The religious group, this is actually faith group consulting, which is a consulting company, doing the Daytona Beach security system upgrade, which can haves -- was operating off of windows XP, the reason I pulled this for vote, is specifically based on the answers to the questions, so I didn't want to ask the questions and then be looking to ask for a vote and not have that option. So the questions that I have really are on the time lines. So if you could address some of those questions? That would be great. Either Karen or Rick?
>>SPEAKER: Karen FAESer, airport director, the time line for this task assignment is two months from notes to proceed.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Yes, my questions are, it's a three-year contract. With faith. And it's -- but I did notice that there is a -- it says that the basis is design phase is to be completed within two months of the date of the assigning, correct?
>>SPEAKER: Correct.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: So I just wanted to thoroughly, thoroughly, make sure that I'm looking at tasks 1-8. Does that mean that all of tasks 1-8 are part of the DOD and all 8 will be fulfilled within the two-month time frame, is that correct?
>>SPEAKER: That's correct.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: It gives a --
it gives a caveat in here if they go beyond the date but I know that we are really pushing for them to not go beyond the date, correct?
>>SPEAKER: Absolutely.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Okay. Okay.
>>SPEAKER: Actually, they've already planned their trip for the following week to come down and do their site visit.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: When is the task one starting?
>>SPEAKER: They'll be in town the 11th.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Excellent.
Okay. Okay. So with that, I'll call a vote. Well, I'll move to approve, sorry.
(Laughing)
>>CHAIR BROWER: Motion to approve by Post, seconded by Lowry. All in favor? Say aye?
>>CHAIR BROWER: Aye. Any opposed?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: That brings us to item 2. And this is one that our county manager has been looking forward to, oh, and he's handing it off to Kevin for --
to start.
>>SPEAKER: Good morning, Mr.
Chairman, honorable members of council, Kevin -- item 2 is the confirmation of appointment of Lynne U rice as accounting director. County manager George Recktenwald.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Yes, it's my pleasure and honor to bring forward Lynne U rice as director of accounting. I just want to remind everyone, we just recently went through our comprehensive financial report.
And that's a document that Lynn here actually was in charge of preparing. Also, just some of the accomplishments of this last year where we have really in the accounting department, have just knocked it out of the park. The -- had to bring on things like three different payrolls for our constitutional officers, just amazing amount of work that's been done this year. And Lynne is the person who brought that to be. She started purchasing back in August of 2008. And then went to the accounting division in 2010. She's worked her way up various positions and fiscal resource manager to assistant finance director in 2016. And she -- prior to the county, had also worked in purchasing and supply for the Sanford police department. And for Seminole county, so he's actually had work in other areas. And she has been doing this job as the acting accounting director since March of last year. And through that, like I say, she has oversaw the planning organization and completion of our annual report.
Lynne is also has a bachelor's degree in business and administration and accounting from St. Leo university and has opinion been a certified Government finance officer since 2015. And so it's my pleasure to bring her forth to you for confirmation of appointment to accounting director.
>>CHAIR BROWER:
Congratulations, are you repaired for all of these cameras?
(Laughing) we would like to hear from you.
Congratulations again.
>>SPEAKER: Thank you. Good morning, Mr. Chair. And members of county council. Lynne U rice, accounting director. And thank you for the opportunity to serve as the next accounting direct for Volusia County, I'm proud to work for the county and also live in DeBary, and Volusia County. Mr. Recktenwald and Ms.
-- thank you for your support and confidence in me. Ryan, chief financial officer, thank you for your support, confidence, trust, your leadership, and your unsurmountable knowledge. I'm grateful and fortunate to have the opportunity to work with you almost every day. Thank you to my staff. Thank you to every member of my accounting division for all of the hard work that they do every day. To keep the office running smoothly. I would also like to thank Donna, the former CFO and deputy county manager and Mary Felton, the former assistant accounting director. And they both believed in me and gave me the opportunity to grow as an accountant. And I would not be where I am today if it wasn't for their mentorship along the way. Last but not least, thank you to my husband, Bob, and my son, Dylan. Who are here in the audience. And for the understanding of all of the late nights and weekend work. You are a remarkable support system, thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
Several people wanted to say something to you, I'll just say that yesterday, the staff meeting hearing Ryan confirm why he wanted you there was -- was nothing short of just built confidence, was inspiring. I have a lot of respect for Ryan.
And to know that he has somebody that has that much confidence is good for Volusia County, so Dr. Lowry?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Yeah, I want to continue to brag on our staff here and a continuation of bringing on people like this and I want to move to confirm the appointment of Lynne U rice to the position of accounting director.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Second.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Motion by Lowry, second by wheel E all if favor, say aye. Any opposed?
Congratulations again.
[ APPLAUSE ]
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>>SPEAKER: Mr. Chair, her husband look very proud back there, do they want to come up here for a second?
>>CHAIR BROWER: For a picture, more pictures? I don't think he wanted to.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: He looks very proud. So this is -- when will you have the opportunity to do this again? Is there anything you want to say about your mom?
(Laughing) [ APPLAUSE ]
>>CHAIR BROWER: And that brings us to item 3, presentation of the results of the public employee's feed and need fund drive by -- to be presented by Kevin Captain.
>>SPEAKER: Good morning, Mr.
Chairman, honorable members of council, Kevin Captain, community information director.
I am so excited to be able to give you these results today.
For the public employees annual feed the need food drive, but this year, we called it a FUND drive, as you can recall in Thanksgiving, Christmas time, when we do this collection, there was the food banks were satisfied with food and with donations, so we were strategic and tactical in postponing it until Easter. So those dates were March, and I believe it was the 8th to the 19th. And got some great results today. So just a quick run through a little bit with food and here in the county. Last year, second harvest food bank, was able to feed 66,000 people just here in Central Florida so that everyone knows, one in three kids go hungry. Now, food needs are on the rise. They're expected to rise about 49%. For a multiple of reasons. And as well as school, one in five kids get their meals at school, so the increase in home schooling is also increasing that demand.
And so food banks still continue to struggle for increased demand for food. Now, the wonderful thing about doing a FUND stead of actual tangibles, for every $1 that's donated, second harvest has the buying power to equate that to $9 worth of food.
So it's incredible buying power that they have. The other thing that are benefits to how we did it this year, is we didn't have to quarantine food. Sometimes donated food is -- it can --
food can get spoiled. So certainly, the fund was much more effective. And it's also kind of difficult to socially distance during the pandemic when you're handling food and boxes and those lo gistlogistics.
There's a computation that we used that's provided to us by second harvest. Where we can actually convert the cash multiply it by 9 and then give us the pounds of food, and actual the number of meals. For today's purposes, we're just going to go through the pounds of food. But ultimately, everyone gave from the heart, to GOU Goh through the county departments, the top one on each side here, the Ocean Center 1753 pounds. Business services purchasing, 48069. Quite a bit there. And community services, library services, had 4836. A huge amount. Finance, we also had treasury and billing at 7262. A huge amount there. And GRM, was at 1060 pounds. Public protection, EMS had 2250 pounds and public works, mosquito control got the highest there at 2012. So who's our winner?
Purchasing. Purchasing is our winner, and just so you know, purchasing seems to be a winner every -- right, every year.
(Laughing) but I'll have you know there is a -- a little bit of a competition here, to the point where we almost called Jonathon Edwards to do an internal audit.
(Laughing) treasury and billing came in second. We want to award both of them because they really tried to, you know -- they tried to beat. So Pam and the purchasing team, please come up.
And get your award. As well as Craig bomb GART NER and treasury and billing.
[ APPLAUSE ]
[ APPLAUSE ]
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>>SPEAKER: All right. Well, I'm director of purchasing and contracts and I wanted to take the opportunity to thank the generous staff that I work with, every year, we figured out the dollar per pound a couple of years ago, so that's always been our strategy, is that we donate the dollars so that we get the most impact for our food. I want to especially thank someone who is not here, she's actually taking an exam to better herself as a procurement manager with us this morning, and that's Kathi William, she is one of my contracts manager, she has this up every year for us, I want to give her a shout-out and a thank you for organizing us, and motivating us, keep us on track, so I want to thank her as well, and I can't think of a better way for us to get back to our community -- give back to our community. So thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you very much.
[ APPLAUSE ]
[ APPLAUSE ]
>>SPEAKER: Good morning, Craig Bumgardner, we were this close, but yeah.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Purchasing knows how to purchase.
>>SPEAKER: That's true, you know I'm competitive, but the most important thing here is we're all donating to a good cause, and I think everybody from my division gave from the heart and I've like to specifically thank the leadership team there, for helping me to head this up and spearheading that and taking the lead on that, so thank you all, and Pam, we'll get you next year.
(Laughing)
>>SPEAKER: It's a challenge.
>>SPEAKER: Thank you, Pam, and thank you Craig, and I can --
they're already planning for next year, I know it. For cities, go back here, for cities, and kind of go through these. Okay. So the city winner. Ormond beach was very, very, very close. And they had a tremendous amount but for the city, we have the town of pons inlet as 65 pounds per FTE, a tremendous amount that they were able to donate. I would like to introduce Jeff Miller, the general manager for the Department of Public works for the town of Ponce inlet, Mr. Miller?
>>SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Captain. I would like to say that this is a real honor and a real pleasure to accept this award on behalf of the town of Ponce inlet, I would like to say that being a public servant doesn't mean that you just do your job, whether it's public works, fire department, police, EMS, whatever, but you always should give when you can. To help people that are less fortunate than you, it's really important and it gives me a good feeling in my heart. That's all I can really say, I'm really honored and thank you for your time.
[ APPLAUSE ]
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
Thank you very much.
>>SPEAKER: Congratulations.
>>SPEAKER: Lastly, purchasing, treasury and billing, town of Ponce inlet, everybody who contributed, today, we celebrated those winners, but the real winners are the people that are going to benefit through second harvest. And a total amount was $8,040. And in addition to last week's state of the county, that was 27,000.
Second harvest benefitted cumulatively of close to $40,000, times that by nine, divide by 1.74, amazing amount of food. And so I'd like to bring up LA nor from second harvest, she was with us last week and tremendously happy with this outcome, Lenore?
>>SPEAKER: Yes, thank you so much, Volusia County, has helped us count -- be able to feed so many people. And the funding this year comes out to about $360,000 worth of food that we can give out and we have been able to give out. And we have gotten so much that we have been able to give all of these agencies food for free. For months. And it's -- it's a great pleasure to be here to represent second harvest, and Volusia County. And what you guys do to help us. Feed people that are in need right now, especially right now, we've been able to ramp up the amount of food that we give out and it's been awesome. For our -- for your return on investment, I thought that would be interesting for you to know that for every 97%, 97.64% of all of the donations go directly back into feeding people. And that's unheard of. 97%. So that's a big return on investment, and thankful that you guys could help us feed people with that, that great amount of food that we can give out to the community. So thank you so much.
>>SPEAKER: Thank you.
[ APPLAUSE ]
>>SPEAKER: Thank you so much, Lenore, thank you, members of council, any questions?
>>CHAIR BROWER: No questions but thank you for your help in all of this, you and Gary Davidson, WO who worked hard to get the $27,000 in. $40,000 is a lot of money, it is something to be proud of, but the problem is, is so huge, after a year of shutdowns and lost jobs and unfortunately, it won't last long, but boy, is it -- what a difference it makes and thank you to second harvest for your hard work, and shouldn't mention, there's 75 different agencies that they -- they work with. That is correct.
>>SPEAKER: That is correct, Mr. Chair, and counting, more than that they are looking to support. So when you donate to second harvest, you're donating to a FUND that appropriates all of that food to more than 75 agencies here in Volusia County.
So it's a tremendous appropriation of funds and food.
Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
Heather Post?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: So I just wanted to say and I know I still see her in the back, there was with second harvest, but I wanted to point out to the public, you know, these foods and these moneys are donated to second harvest and they were all told, they're pushed back out into the community. But I don't think that a lot of people truly understand the work to goes into this and the background from second harvest, they are -- I know I volunteered a number of those drives and I've seen other council members at those drives.
And there's a lot of work that goes in to prepping, getting the stuff there, coordinating volunteers, doing a lot of different things. And second harvest has just done an amazing job, and the -- I'll say the one good thing, maybe, about COVID, about this whole process, has been that you guys are rocking it now, right?
(Laughing) when there's a drive, everything is spot on, and it's rolling like a machine. With every agency that I've seen. That you work with. So that's one good thing, I think, and the fact that we're maybe looking at food disparity a little differently in Volusia County, especially after COVID, so I appreciate all of your work, thank you so much.
Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Kevin.
All right. That brings us to item 3A. We still have two council members, district 1 and district 5, to appoint the members to the ad hoc short-term rental advisory committee. And then we will vote on them before we do that, we have not a lot, but a few member OS F -- members of the public who would like to speak to this issue, Ricky SCHADer, you spoke this morning, would you like to speak again?
I'm going to hold you to three minutes. Thank you.
>>SPEAKER: Request. Motion to table, creation of short-term rental advisory committee.
Definition of request. Used in both senate and house. If adopted, a motion to table kills a pending matter, and ends any further discussion of the matter. As background, I would like to point out that the issue of short-term rentals has already been debated, and analyzed in the past by the community in a prior county council, this is how we arrived at the current code provision.
A compromise was struck between no rentals at all, and free for all rentals. And allowing 30-day rentals was that compromise, the state has its own rules, but Volusia County's right to regulate rental was grandfathered in, ifdown now changes the rules, and allows shorter term rentals, that beganed -- grandfathering goes away for good and can never get control back. The reality of fact is you're playing with fire with our family's lives if this continues. When people choose to live in a neighborhood, they are seeking a certain way of life. And one filled with a spirit of community, where people get to know and trust each other. And people have a sense of security, when they know who lives next door to them, there's no such sense of security when there's a parade of strangers living next to you.
There is a reason why the prior council referreded to short-term rentals as hotels, motels because that is what they are, commercial enterprises where people are constantly coming and going. And that's true. That community's place all kind of restrictions on those rights, most often through zoning, for instance, you may not be able to have a pig farm in your backyard. And that restricts your property rights. Likewise, you may not be able to discharge a firearm, rent a movie theater, build a sky scaper, etcetera, and many in m neighborhoods, businesses are prohibited, these are all reasonable limitations to what you can do in neighborhood, the same is true for short-term rentals. The person's property rights who wants to live in a peaceful and secure neighborhood without living next to a commercial enterprise, hotel, motel. Pass and enforce prohibitions of things like loud noise, late parties, garbage issue etcetera, that is an adequate solution for the neighborhoods, it is too late once the violations occur, a breach of peace and annoyance and it can happen again and again which has been the history. Already, with short-term rentals. And there's an unpredictability about living next door to short-term rentals.
With their being a potential of 52 different tenants, you're about to have some who lack normal courtesies, park on your lawn, block your driveway, shoot off fireworks at 4:00 in the morning, they have happened and that's unnerving, and finally, ask yourselves, WUL you like your immediate neighbors on Bobbing sides to use their home sides as weekly rentals? Please do not undo the compromise that was struck for short-term rentals.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
Richard feller?
>>SPEAKER: Hi, Richard feller from -- embarrassed to be from Bethune, beach. Is there anybody here from district 1, 2, 4, or 5? Anybody? Nope.
There's nobody here from 1, 2, 4, or 5, everybody here, this whole thing, green shirts is all Bethune beach. So tiny little sliver. District 3 is a mess down there, figure that out, I get that. We're here to talk about the council. There's going to be a lot of talk about me, taxes, and bring up my divorce, it sucks, you know, do it, that's fine, we can talk about all of that stuff. I'm qualified to sit on the PLD are, C, I don't care what any of you are thinking in the back of your heads but I'm going to talk about this council. Jeff Brower, nominated from district 2. District 4. Fred Lowry is not here, I can't talk to him.
But Fred Lowry has punted twice on his decision. Barbara, you were absent, I know you'll make your decision. Barbara has one person from her district who voluntarily cam forward and said I want to be background checked and I want to sit on this council. She also was reached out to somebody who said I didn't get put on the council for district 2, maybe I'm a good person to put on there. I'm curious to see who you're going to put on the council, when you're going appoint. Okay, well, there were three appointments to district 3, I kind of expected it from district 3. But then Ben Johnson and Billie Wheeler both put somebody on with district 3.
You have a long history with the guy, that's admirable, there's a lot to be said for that. I haven't figured you out, Billie, you had qualified people from district and you chose my neighbor. That's kind of weird.
So I think that this council is actually going to want some direction from you. The CAC is going to want to know, what does Volusia want in what do you want us to do? If you want us to bicker, all the time, and he didn't pay his taxes and he came on my lawn. That's what you're going to get. It's what you're going to get. Hi hope in this council because I this U that the chair had a great idea. And then I think that -- I would like to say this. Out here.
But I think that the leader of this might actually be sitting behind the dais somewhere. I've come to these meetings every day, every meeting, since January. And I've waited until 5:00 to speak. Boy, I was surprised this morning When the CAC was moveded to item 3A, how did that get done, I'd like to know? People are watching. I mean, Gary Cruz, you said it best, people are watching. This is embarrassing. I'm happy, I've got to go to the jail in Deland right after this, so it cuts my day down by a lot. So I just want to tell you that I don't know this f the CAC is going to do much, really interested, I don't know if you can hear me back that, I think you can, but I'm really interested to see how you guys are going to vote.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
Steve Morrow? Murray.
>>SPEAKER: Good morning, council members. Chair. Steve Murray. I own a vacation home in Bethune. And I have paid $45,000 in property taxes last year. And another $10,000 in tourist development taxes.
People have been renting beach front homes in Volusia for decades, against vacation rentals are known to have rented their homes in the past. A significant, unique and critical role in Florida's tourism industry, and that role is different from that of public lodging establishments. Airbnb and other online travel platforms have made it easier to find and host vacation rentals.
I'm sure that at least a few of you have used one of these platforms yourselves. Florida is not only one of the most visited states by both domestic and foreign tourists, but it is the also becoming an international business hub and business visitors translate into demand for vacation homes.
Which translates into money for local businesses, and revenues for the respective county. Many Florida counties are already friendly to short-term rentals.
Unlike many other popular destinations, in the U.S., such as California and New York.
Some of the highest occupancy rates are found in Key West, Orlando, St. Pete, Tampa, west Palm Beach and BOca RA tone.
The world's most famous beach.
The rule of free market economies is supply in demand.
Ultimately, renters pay the bills, and their wants will rule. You can remove homes from the supply in Volusia. But the demand will remain. And until the supply is replenished, tourists will take their money to the other counties where they are appreciated. You have the U pore to get -- you have the power to get Volusia on the bandwagon now or kick the issue down the road again. And play catchup in the future.
Short-term rentals is the new trend and you are letting it pass you by.
That would be a disservice to your communities, your constituents, and your small businesses. You will be remembered for the position that you take or don't. Who do you serve? Your own interests? The hotel lobby? The couple dozen residents of Bethune? Permanent residents. Or were you voted into office to serve the interests of all of the Volusia County? Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
Christine Peterson? New Smyrna Beach? Is there a Christine here? Thank you.
>>SPEAKER: So I wasn't going to speak on this item, because I wanted to wait and see what other appoint tees there were to the advisory committee. But I don't think it's going to matter at this point, who those appointees are, because I pretty much changed my opinion.
Initially, I believed that if fairly instructed group of concerned citizens was a good idea. In this ad hoc advisory short-term rental committee.
But in light of the fact that the state did not pass recently proposed vacation rental legislation and the fact that any changes to Bethune beach's short-term rental ordinance could result in the loss of our grandfathered provisions, and bring about preEMGS by the state, I ask that any discussions or decisions of amending the ordinance or zoning should not even be on the table.
Certain committee member also have opinions in line with my own, and others will not. More of the same, but no resolution.
There are no work arounds that could guarantee that any changes to our nonsingle family zoning will not result in devastating long-term permanent impacts in our residential communities.
And preemtion. Not at the expension of the quiet enjoyment of our homes and not a the expense of the quality of life in our residential neighborhoods. And the committee has to take into account those type of factors.
Not that we're trying to create a hotel-motel role in Bethune beach that everybody else is doing it, why not us? Well, we're trying not to do that and there's a reason why we have zoning. That's pretty much all I wanted to say. I don't want to waste anymore time, you have other people to speak. Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
Tony Kusenza?
>>SPEAKER: I've been coming so often, I now know how to operate the equipment. I want to tell you this is a wonderful for those of us who are short, I thought that stool, you had brought that if for me.
(Laughing) we have to quit meeting like this. Okay? I have a life. I know you don't, but I do. And I want to go home. And do some things I had planned to do in my retirement. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. I have to tell you, I tend to agree with, yes, even Mr. Feller, I can't believe this, but I think that this ad hoc committee has little or no usefulness. The real question here is whether or not to change the existing zoning to allow short-term rentals where they are currently illegal. That's the question. It's a one-way street. If you change the zoning, there's no recommendation that this committee can make that will address frequency, duration, occupancy and those are the underlying problems with short-term rentals, you saw the slides. 17 cars parked at your neighbor's house? Do you really want that? You know, zoning by definition addresses how property can or cannot be used.
And our county attorney Russ brown, at the March 2nd meeting said, that what you're proposing is quote, a change in use.
Okay? And if these short-term rentals are permitted, we're not going to be able to regulate any of those things because it's going to take away our home rule. This council was elected to protect home rule. That's the whole idea behind a county council. It's home rule. Why would you want to give that away? I'm sorry, chairman Brower, I don't know why you feel an urgency to make this change, except that quite frankly, I have been looking through some of your campaign contributions and there were quite a few people of contributions in the short-term rental business. Mr. Robins alluded to pay for play. I think that's a little -- that's kind of indicting. And I am really concern ed concerned when I say wave crest, LLC, and investor from blowing rock, North Carolina, who in blowing rock, North Carolina, cares who gets elected to the county chair seat? Okay, obviously, Mr. Feller, he's got -- he had some donations that he made. You know, let's talk about Krista Goodrich, his a point tee, okay, Krista Goodrich has a forum on a web page called bigger pockets. Bigger pockets is for real estate investors, she owns 17 rentals, she puts together investment groups.
This is just wrong, folks. I should not have to defend my home against the county council.
I'm sorry. Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
[ APPLAUSE ]
Charles rower?
>>SPEAKER: My name is Charles roller, live in New Smyrna Beach but I'm actually in silver sands, not Bethune. And I don't know where to begin. I think that the ad hoc committee is flawed from the beginning.
Honest, the people that are on the side of short-term rentals will profit. People against the short-term rentals won't make a penny, so how is that fair? How is that -- I don't get it. You know, the idea that oh, we've been doing this for 35 years, and nobody is giving us any crap, well, I've been speeding for at least 35 years, off and on.
(Laughing) and if a state trooper pulls me over, oh, don't worry about it, I've spent all of my life, how does that fly? You know? So I had many, many things that I wanted to say. As far as the photos are concerned, I had more, many more photos I could have workeded with but I had to pair it down to three minutes.
So, you know, I want to thank my friends and neighbors, you know, the photo of the guy in the front driveway, urinating, that -- that was taken by my next door neighbor, who has two teenage daughters. He was really upset. So and I had, you know, folks like John, other folks, provided me photos. I took photos. It was no problem.
Like I said, I must have --
maybe a couple of hundred photos to work with. But I'm not good at public speaking, I'm really nerve us up here, but I had points I had to make. Thank you thank you very much. For letting me make those points.
And I hope that the right decision will be made. It's pretty simple. Our homes are our American dream. You know, they're the backbone of our American dream. And I just never expected to have my own Government attack my American dream. So that's it. I'm done.
Thank you.
[ APPLAUSE ]
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>>CHAIR BROWER: Wendy rollen?
>>SPEAKER: Hi, I'm Wendy rollen, Bethune beach, we've maintained all along that a change this the zoning will affect the negative change to our community.
And some of the disputed that, they said it's always gone on, it won't make a change, it will pretty much be the same. And I just would like to read something Tony mentioned, this is posted by Krista Goodrich.
And it gives you a little bit of insight into the view that some of the short-term rental people have, and I think it's a little bit different. This is from two month ago. We have some exciting things happening in Volusia County. Florida, that may be actionable in the very near future, my friend, Jeff Broward is make Iing appoint to up open unincorporated Volusia County, parts of Daytona Beach and surrounding areas for short-term rental and vacation rental, if this goes through and I will no know more, there are 7 commissioner, we need more in support. There will be great opportunities to snatch up properties here, howeverer I think things will go super fast as our inventory is already extremely low and once this happens, smart investors will go for what they can. We expect a huge turnout at the meeting from investors and supporters as well as nonsupporters, should be interesting. I'll be speaking at the meeting, to now owning 17 properties and multiple local businesses, and how all in my growth and investment to the community stemmed from the tin credible returns that I make on my vacation rental investments, I believe you can tune in live to watch the meeting. If you want to hear more about my personal story why I have bam a vacation rental psych Coe and my portfolio using this strategy, reach out to me. And then she has SHE goes on to list a 2 bedroom condo with a $270,000 investment, grossing $4-7,000 a month. Grossing $6-10,000 a month. And I mean, I read this, it's business. It's plain and simple, it's just business, it's just profit. There's nothing else being looked for down there, other than a way to make a lot of money, when you're not there. And we're the ones that have to live next to it. So I ask you not to change the zoning. Thank you.
[ APPLAUSE ]
Sterling Mooney?
And we will have Maurice Moore.
Followed by Michael wine stock and that's it.
>>SPEAKER: Morning. Sterling Mooney, I actually don't live in Bethune, I live in silver sands.
And I only came here today to share some of our experiences with a short-term rental right next door to us. I have to call them at quarter to 11:00 p.m. at night because there's children in the backyard screaming at the top of their lungs. And call the owner, that lives in New York and say, your renter has five minutes before we call the sheriff. And it's a Tuesday night. And we both work. Call them again. To tell them do you realize how many people are in your home? He says, well, by looking at the security cameras, it looks like eight or nine.
No, there's 13. The homeowner even admits to me, he's only allowed to have five or six. We don't have any of these behaviors with anybody else on the whole block. And that's the only short-term rental. Other thing, not four days ago, renters leave in the a.m., and by 6:00 p.m., there were other renters in there. They don't even give it 24 hour, much less 30 days, we don't know who is supposed to be there. We don't feel secure. It's not comfortable. Not knowing who is coming and going or anything.
We feel like we live next to a motel. That home wasn't -- that home wasn't purchased for us to look -- to live next door to a motel 6. No, our home was purchased because it was next to a home, next to a home. And I just wanted to just bring to your attention, the behaviors that are coming out of these short-term rentals and that they are not even the 30 days, they're not even waiting 24 hours and there's new renters already in there. Thank you very much.
[ APPLAUSE ]
>>CHAIR BROWER: Maurice?
Maurice Moore?
>>SPEAKER: Hello, and good morning. Council, chair. My name is Maurice Moore and I'm Bethune county, I'm a full time resident. ( Inaudible ) raise the podium.
>>CHAIR BROWER: She can teach you how.
>>SPEAKER: Technical girl.
(Laughing) thank you.
(Laughing)
>>SPEAKER: I'm a nurse, all in my job description.
(Laughing)
>>SPEAKER: Thank you. All right. So I'll be quick. I won't take near that much time.
But two questions, why the committee? I think that we started out with good intentions. Things didn't turn out because of the Florida's legislature, it done make sense to see what benefit there is without some sort of written objective that's supposed to come out of that. That's clear, because it's all and water, that committee is going to fight and bang heads, nobody is going to want to gave give, there's an ordinance that you can't change.
Repeal it or DWLOU you don't.
Don't lose this ordinance, it's good to have in place and protecting a lot of residents today.
So I just don't see the value there. So my really, my question is, or my request is why not do the right thing for the residents of Volusia County?
That really are being impacted by this? And it's a push of, you know, have's and have not's, whatever the conflict is, we --
we are being invaded and it feels like we have the wrong people on our side. The people that we elected to be there to represent us, we don't feel like we're getting that kind of representation back. So yeah, I -- you know, when I look at your jobs, and what the elect is for you to represent the people of Volusia County and their interests, that's the scope of your job, right? Everybody falls within those boundaries and I would ask that you do that, represent us. Thank you.
[ APPLAUSE ]
>>CHAIR BROWER: And Michael winestock.
>>SPEAKER: Good morning, y'all, I'm Michael wine stock, I live at 7011 south Atlantic, in Bethune. I'm a retired dentist.
And for the last 20 years of my practice, which my office was located in Altamonte springs, I made the drive from Bethune to Altamonte springs to go to work every day. And an hour going, an hour coming back, but I thought it was important enough to be able to live in a real residential neighborhood where you knew your neighbors and when you went to Publix, they knew who you were and you knew them by name, to live here, rather than to live in Sweetwater where I had previously had lived. I even made the drive when 44 was a two-lane road, risked my life every morning, every day, modern and afternoon, so that I could live in a resident -- a true residential neighborhood. I think that the even the thought of changing this law is just very, very ill-conceived. Y'all may think this is a local Bethune or silver sands issue, but I can assure you it's not.
In the rest of Volusia County residents knew that you were considering a change in a law that would make it possible for their neighbor who is a resident homeowner, homestead owner, to change their house into a party house, that would be wildly noisy and destructive to the neighborhood on somebody's whim, I think that the rest of the county residents would be just as outraged as those of us in Bethune or right now. -- are right now. And I can assure you all, that before the next election, those council members who vote to take our homesteads away are going to feel the results of that. I think that the American tradition of peace and tranning quillty, the home is --
tranquilty, the home is your castle idea has existed since the beginning of our country, I mean, it even existed in England before our country. And I think that any of you who think about taking that away are basically going against American principles and American tradition and I think that you all will live to regret it.
That's all I have to say. Thank you.
[ APPLAUSE ]
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>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. Ben Johnson, you have been waiting since almost the first speaker to say something. Go ahead.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I don't know if this is the time or not to do it. But really, we were back in -- on what the state did when we talked about this committee, at the time, we had some thoughts that there might be some wiggle room that the committee might help us work our way through it.
They have not. They did not take it up. And so really, I have to agree with almost both sides of this thing, there's no sense in doing a committee at this time. I make a motion that we not empower the short-term rental committee. And bring it back to our board at our next meeting for a vote on this issue. MRAUZ.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Second.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay. Motion to bring this back at the next meeting, March 18th. To vote for whether or not we have a community citizen advisory committee.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: May 18th.
>>CHAIR BROWER: And seconded by Wheeler.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I don't think that was the motion.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Not having the ad hoc committee and we bring this back and put it on the agenda to vote for this issue.
>>CHAIR BROWER: For for what?
The committee or?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: No, my motion is not to have the committee.
And we bring it back next meeting that we settle this issue, that we vote, on whether or not we keep our ordinance or do away with our ordinance.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I second that.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Motion by Johnson, seconded by Lowry, I wanted it to be clear to everyone that's listening. It's an important issue. And not everybody in the county may have it. Barb Girtman, did you want to speak before we call a vote?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Yeah.
Because there was a question and I agree not to go forward with the committee. I think that we need to make a decision based on the response from the state or the reality that it -- they didn't take it up. But I do want to address because I was asked or it came up about my selection one way or the other.
And I wanted to make the public aware that I had asked Ms.
Jessica livings to apply. She is from my district. However, her and I didn't necessarily agree, so I wanted to have that representation and have her give me an understanding of why I should support it. Because I don't. Right. At this point.
I'm about quiet enjoyment, I'm about the things for our community, but again, I felt she was would be fair and give me a true perspective of why. So I just want to communicate that to the public. To let you know where I stand. Because I was questioned about that. So I just want to put it on record.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Barb, I appreciate you bringing that to the public's attention.
Heather Post?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I'll just say I've been saying for forever, let's just make a decision, so.
That's all I have to say.
>>CHAIR BROWER: And back to Ben Johnson?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: You know, just a reminder, we've heard from about everybody in this crowd, we heard from one new person today. It's gotten to be we know everybody by the first name and they don't have to introduce themselves, just for my -- it's -- we have heard the AURP arguments, pros and cons, information sent to us, so I myself don't really need to hear the same arguments again the next time. If people just keep that in mind, we've been listening to you and we have heard you and we don't need to hear the same argument all over again, thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Barb Girtman?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: So I guess the question is, we need to put it on the agenda to let the public know that we will be voting on it next time. It's not something that can be considered. Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Yes, and that's -- and that's what's going to happen. Unless -- where is he?
Michael Dyer is on my screen.
>>SPEAKER: Yes.
>>CHAIR BROWER: You don't even look like Michael Dyer.
>>SPEAKER: Just filling in today.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: That's a good thing.
(Laughing)
>>SPEAKER: Because you all have already created the committee, I would recommend that you bring -- ask staff to bring back an ordinance at the next meeting, removing the committee. And also, with the recommendation as to how to move forward on the short-term rental ordinance.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, would somebody --
>>SPEAKER: Clarify if that's what you're asking for.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Would you prefer a new motion to that effect?
>>SPEAKER: Or if Mr. Johnson wants to indicate that that is what --
>>CHAIR BROWER: Ben?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I'm fine with what she said, she's our attorney and she can put it in the proper way of doing it. And we'll show up for the meeting to vote.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I'm good with that.
>>CHAIR BROWER: The second is good with that, too. I just wanted to address something very quickly before we vote. Because my name has been brought up multiple times. My wife is sitting over there in the audience, I have nine children that are listening in. I'm not ashamed of the people that I represent. I represent every single person in Volusia County.
That's a hard thing when you run, is it you don't just represent this little group or that little group, however, America is a republic. And in a republic, the individual, the minority, has a voice. That's why we created a republic. Not a 50% plus one bulldozing over what everybody else wants to do, but so that the minority would have a vote. And a voice. And so if you want me to be ashamed for bringing this before the council, I'm not. That's my job. And I don't look at everything that I do, everything that I say up here, towards my next election. That's not why I ran. I ran to serve Volusia County and I believe that when people talk, and they sit down with one another, and look each other in the eye, amazing things happen. I can guarantee you that's true because I sat down with people in the campaign, running for this, that were directly opposed to me, and when we sat down and talked, we have become friends, we're still friends and we'll be lifelong friends, we don't agree on everything. But we respect one another. And we respect our differences. That's -- that's what is supposed to happen in America. I don't know from all of the donations that I have, what organizations everybody is for, I didn't raise that much money. Compared to the opposition. But I was thankful for each one and most of them I did meet. And I'm not ashamed of every -- any one of them and I'm especially not ashamed of Krista Goodrich, who was a friend and a fine human being.
She is a business woman. And she makes a lot of money. And that's America. I want my kids to be able to grow up and make a lot of money and I want them to do it like Krista does, being responsible and respectful of their neighbors because it is possible, even in short-term rentals. There are a lot of short-term rentals in Volusia County. I know that's been denied. But there are. And around the country, they deserve the voice, too, they pay a huge amount of property taxes, just like you do. My primary goal whether you believe it or not, is to protect our neighborhoods, I live in a neighborhood, we have to call the police frequently. In district 1, the sheriff's department is called frequently for noisy parties, from year around residents, who could care less about their neighbors. It's not just the short-term rental issue, it's a -- it's an issue of people that no longer have respect for one another. And I just believe we have to deal with it. I believe that we should have talked about it. I believe that there is great benefit in neighbors sitting down with one another and talking, because this is not going to stop in your neighborhood of the animosity and in some cases, absolute hatred, couched in Bible verses, towards your neighbors. It has to stop. It's dangerous. And I'm not a preacher. I wouldn't be a very good one if I I was.
And but I hope that you will recognize that I have given each one of you the chance to speak and to voice your concern. As I have done with every side. That was my goal and that's what I'll continue to do for however long I sit up here. Is to give people a voice, so that this council can make a decision on one vote. But I want people to be able to come here and make an appeal and be heard by their Government in America, where we're a republic, we're not a dictatorship. With that, Heather, is that you?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Yes, sir. I just wanted to make one additional clarification. If the direction of council at the next meeting is to change the ordinance with regards to SHORPTs, that will need to go through the regular process for changing a zoning ordinance so it would need to go back to the PLDRC and come back to council for a vote. If the direction is to keep the ordinance you KURN currently have, that will not require an additional process, I wanted to provide that clarification.
>>CHAIR BROWER: I believe everyone understands that. No change. No change. With that, I'll call for a vote. And the vote, I guess, is to -- just stated, to end the -- you're actually going to tell us how to end it next month, so all in favor of that, say aye.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Aye.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Any opposed?
>>CHAIR BROWER: I'm going to be opposed because I believe in people talking. Then with that, item 3A is completed. And we move to item 4. And Ben, Fred, council, I just want to thank you for your -- and every council member, for your voicing your beliefs and your concerns, that's what we're here for.
Okay. Item 4 is ordinance 202.9, transmittal hearing for a future land use amendment of 57.19 acres from agricultural resource and forestry resource to rural, located on the South side of lake George in Seville.
Clay?
>>SPEAKER: Good morning, Claire Ervin, director of growth and resource management, before you today, I would like to talk agenda items 4 and 5, they will require two separate hearings and motions, but they are intertwined with each other, because it is a land use amendment and rezoning that affects the same property.
57 acres is located on the South side of lake George, about a mile west of U.S. 17. And the subject property currently has a land use designation of agricultural resource and forestry resource with the zoning of A1. And the 57-acres consistents of a 11 different properties that range in size from 1.28 acres up to 11.17 acres. And so as you can see, we have varying size properties throughout this thing. And the problem is, that the current L.A.P.D. use and the current zoning has a requirement of a minimum of ten acre parcels and actually the forest resource has 25. So what we have an existing land use pattern by ownership, that is not consistent with the land use in the zoning. This came to light to up approximately two years ago.
One of the property owners was attempted to sell their land and ran into difficulties because of that, and so, we have been working with the prop owner to -- property owner to bring this forward to you, so the land use and the zoneing is consistent the land use on lake George.
The planning perspective, you don't want to the do spot zoning where coming in and dropping something in the middle of it that's not anywhere near what is around it. As you can see by on page 0432 of your agenda packet, to the north of this property, we have land that already has this rural land use and already has the A3 zoning, what we're requesting that you approve.
Because this pertains to land that is more than ten acre in size, we have to go through a large scale comprehensive plan amendment and that means we have to transmit this to the Florida Department of Economic opportunity for their review, at that point in time, it will come back to us, if there's no comments, if there's no objections, and it will be back to you for adoption in approximately 60-90 days depending on the time frame to get through those two organizations, and you'll make the final reading to make the change to item number 4 permanent. Item 5 is a rezoning that's contingent on it. The rezoning itself would not follow through. Just kind of talked about the property as we were saying, there's 11 different parcels, and I believe if you look at figure 4.31, that gives you an idea of what we're dealing with, this mosaic that you see there, shows all of the different parcel sizes, and none of them really hit the ten acres except for one. And the majority of them are actually under 5 acres. And so that's why we were looking at the rural land use, and specifically, the A3 zoning because then that gave gives opportunity to take it to parcel 1 acre in size. And as you can see many of these were created BF before we had the change in 2008. And prior to 2008, we had multiple exceptions for agricultural properties, and it allowed for a lot of land to be just divided up relatively quickly, without any planning for infrastructure or anything else. So what you're seeing out here, is right now, we have that situation where people are able to divide the land without necessarily going through the review with council staff to review compliance with the land use and zoning so it's understandable mistake that's occurred in the past, we have a remedy that will address the property owners in the future, and carry them forward, allows for the agricultural use and consistent and compatible with the surrounding properties. So we have the land use amendment going forward with item 4, that will require a motion and a second on that. Five is a separate public hearing for a rezoning will also require a separate hearing -- or separate motion and action.
And I've felt it is best to combine both of them because they are hand in glove situation, if there's any questions I'll be glad to answer it. Ms. Kate is here, the one who brought it to the attention, this misunderstanding and was also helping bringing all of the property owners so, we could work this through in a very cohesive and comprehensive manner, if there are any questions, I'll be glad to answer them.
>>CHAIR BROWER: You're combining four and five?
>>SPEAKER: For presentation purposes.
>>CHAIR BROWER: We need to take them separately. Barb Girtman?
>>SPEAKER: Thank you, chair, Clay, I want to say thank you for working through this, it has been a concern out in the northwest district. With aging land owners and, you know, --
nonconforming and different challenges and making a way for them to figure out what the next best move is so Ms. Kate, thank you very much for being persistent and consistent and I will certainly make that motion.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Second.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Motion to approve by Girtman, seconded by Lowry. All in favor? Hold on one second.
>>SPEAKER: ( Inaudible ) just to be clear, this is a motion for agenda item number 4. For the land use. Item 5, that is a quasi judicial and you would have to declare any ex parte communication prior.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. All in favor of item 4 say aye?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Aye.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed?
Motion passes 7-0. Which brings us to 5. Which is a quasi judicial hearing, does anybody have any ex parte to declare?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Yes, chair, I have met with Ms. CADE and had conversation about the needs of land and the working through those challenges out in the northwest area. Of my district.
Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Excellent. And --
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I will make a motion to approve. Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Motion to approve by Girtman, seconded by Johnson. You're done, Barb?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Yes.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay. All in favor say aye?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Aye.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed?
Passes 7-0. Item 6. Resolution rezoning 2.51 acres from urban single family to transitional agriculture classification located at 1635 van CLEEF road.
>>SPEAKER: Thank you very much, this is a met method to address a situation where a property has split zoning and so what has occurd is that the land has been utilized primarily for residential and use and horse keeping. And that is allowed under the A3, which is the transitional zone --
agricultural zoning classification. However, the urban single family R3 does not allow for that type of use. And there's actually a setback that is required from that zoning split line. And so that's interfering with the property owner's ability to the utilize it for their horses and their own personal residential structure. Staff worked with them to come up with a remedy, which is basically doing a quick and relatively simple rezoning so that the entire property has the same zoning category. We were able to work through that with them, and so, before you today and this will address the concerns that they have in regards to the use of their property, and will ensure that they are continuing to utilize it for these agricultural pursuits. It did go to the planning and land development regulation commission, there is no public comment. PLDRC or planning land development --
recommended unanimously for approval. If there's any questions for staff, I'll be glad to answer them.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Do you have a question?
>>CHAIR BROWER:
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Yes, if this is approved, it's my understanding that they can have the horse?
>>SPEAKER: Uh-huh.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: But then they have to go through another process, the structure that they have now does not fit in with the -- am I correct? What happened to the existing accessory structures that would not meet the setback?
>>SPEAKER: Well, those --
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Is this encompassing the whole thing?
>>SPEAKER: Yes, the legal noncon forming structures and allowed to remain on the site until they are damaged or relocated.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Okay. I wanted to make sure.
>>SPEAKER: Yes.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Got the horse, they need the barn.
>>SPEAKER: Yeah. That's a critical point, these set backs for a single family -- home, again, because we're doing this administratively, those were existing structures and considered noncon forming structures, they will remain in place, if they're damaged beyond 50% of the value or if they're ever destroyed, or otherwise, relocated, they would have to come into compliance with the setbacks for the A3 zoning.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Motion to approve.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Second.
Girtman.
>>CHAIR BROWER: That was quick.
Ben Johnson, motion to approve, seconded by Girtman, all in favor say aye. Any opposed?
Motion passes unanimous, 7-0.
Which takes us to item 7. At 11:24.
>>SPEAKER: Mr. Brower, was there any quasi ex parte communication on that.
>>CHAIR BROWER: No, not on that one, I didn't call for it, but did anybody have any? No.
Okay. Item 7. Transmissional hearing for amendment to chapter 3, public school facilities element of the Volusia County comprehensive plan. Clay?
>>SPEAKER: Again, Clay Ervin, director of growth and resource management. Your staff has been going through and trying to update all 16 elements of our comprehensive plan to ensure that we're consistent with the ten-year planning horizon. The public schools facility element is something that was unique to Volusia County. In 2006-2007, Volusia County school board worked with the county and the cities to come up with a method of assuring that there would be sufficient capacity at our schools if there was ever a proposed land use amendment or rezoning that would increase the density and thereby increasing the amount of school aged children that would be -- have to be addressed by our school board. That was all in advance of the state coming through with a mandate for school concurrency. And so part of this element is talking about how we carry out that program.
And what you'll see is that we actually have in there a series of maps that have been updated in accordance with what the school board is seeing, as in regards to their concurrency zones. So these are areas based on the type of schools, with the facilities that are in place, and the current student population and projected student population, of where they say there could be deficiencies or -- if we face a request for increase in density, or action.
There's other portions of it that also talk about the need to coordinate with shared facilities. There is a situation where we have an agreement with the school board for many of their recreational areas that they have at their schools so that our county residents can enjoy them after school is out and it sets in motion, so that way, both entities, the school board and the county can have, you know, economies of scale, and are not having to duplicate all of the same services everywhere. We also try and make sure that we're coordinating in regards to the annual meetings that we have to talk about what are some of the capital needs in the future and thousand can we piggy-back with each other, this is part of the element that is being updated to change it to the 2035 planning horizon. Update all of the goals and objectives and policieses to be current with current standards and updating the maps. We've not made any substantive changes in the overall policy direction. In that we are still following through with everything that was originally incorporated in it, just basically updating those.
Be glad to answer any questions that you may have.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Heather Post?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I just move approval.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Second.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Motion to approve by Post, seconded by Wheeler. No other comments.
All if favor say aye.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Aye.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed?
Motion passes. Clay, I would --
I would just add now that it's done, having read that tone that you gave us, somebody in your office did a lot of work on that. And they deserve to be commended because it is much clearer now and for me, when I read it, it cleared up some concerns that I had had before about schools going in wetlandseswetlandses this gives us more protection in conservation areas and I believe that the way I read it, it also tightens concurrency and prepares us for the future, thank you for your work.
>>SPEAKER: Chair Brower, thank you very much, Susan Jackson, her planner, they do a great job, they're the ones that are in the cubicals in the offices, plugging away, reading through all of these different things and trying to keep up to speed with all of the changes that are coming from Tallahassee, and I thank you for acknowledging their hard work, thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Yes. You're welcome, item 8. Ordinance 2021-12, chapter 14 interGovernment coordination element of the Volusia County comprehensive plan. And it's you again.
>>SPEAKER: Yes, it is, Clay Ervin, director of resource manage. Florida statute 163 tells us how we're supposed to play nicely with others, basically, we are laying out who we coordinate with, how we coordinate, when we coordinate, and it deals with everything from concurrency capital planning, all of these other thing, also incorporates our interlocal service boundary agreements and joint planning agreements. One thing that I do need to point out is that there is still a pending agreement with Flagler county, already in process, when we get that processed with Flagler county, we will do an amendment as well.
That is a required element, no major changes in any of the policy changes, updating names and dates and interested parties. Making sure that we're consistent with Florida statute and going forward from there.
If there's any questions I'll be glad to answer them.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Heather Post.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: This was down to conform with state statute, but the recent discussions with Flagler and others on this, is badly needed and a great job, so thank you.
>>SPEAKER: Thank you.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I a move approval. Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Do you want to claim it, Barb came in after you? Motion to approve by Post, seconded by Barb Girtman, all in favor say aye.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Aye.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Motion passes unanimously. Which takes us to 8A. Budget resolution, purchase of 14 para transit vehicles and one service vehicle and budget resolution, this is for Votran and welcome.
>>SPEAKER: Good morning.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Good morning, sir.
>>SPEAKER: General manager for Votran and we come before you today to get approval to purchase 15 vehicles, the first of those would be using grant --
let's see. Using grant funds to purchase these vehicles, 5310 grant. Which is a grant that is used for elderly and persons with disabilities. And those grants allow us to use capitol and operating assistance to purchase, using these to purchase vehicles. Capital approach. The other one is a second 5307 formula grant which we get every year from the federal Government. We will use these funds for operating capital as well. These funds we're going to use to purchase vehicles with as well. We come before you today to request appropriation of $920,000, 53 funding, and also, authorization to purchase 14 para transit vehicles, and one service vehicle. The 14 para transit vehicles, the service vehicles for our maintenance department is about $102,000. With the purchase of the 14 para transit vehicles, we will appropriate local funds, $105,000. If you have any questions, I'll be glad to answer.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Heather Post, there was a question?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: The 14 para transit -- I think we added replacement, that was one of the questions I had for staff was ensuring that these aren't newly added to the fleet, in addition, these are replacement vehicles, correct?
>>SPEAKER: Yes, these are replacement vehicles for vehicles that have exceeded the use for life.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Okay, I wanted to clarify that for the public, thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Barb Girtman, I want to make the motion to approve.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I'll second.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Seconded by Heather Post, all in favor say aye.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Aye.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed?
Motion passes unanimous 7-0.
Item 9. 5783, 60th E tension of state of local emergency related to coronavirus, maybe those are coming to an end, M. County manager?
>>SPEAKER: Yeah, I just wanted to point out, that we need to stay in that status to remain eligible for fund for FEMA. And until we have some further clarification on what the state is going to do. So that's the real purpose of staying in that state is to remain eligible for all of the fundings that could be available.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I move the extension.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Lowry moves extension seconded by Wheeler, all in favor say aye. Any opposed? Motion carries unanimous 7-0.
Item 10, coronavirus update.
>>SPEAKER: Good morning, councilcouncil, Department of Public protection, a real quick update today for -- our slides are up?
We have -- nope, okay. All right. So you can see here that our cases kind of bumped up a little bit at the beginning of the April and they started to decline again. Actually for the week of April 25th our positivity rate is 6.5%, wonderful, been in decline.
Where Florida is right now, Florida has to date 2,245,853 cases. With 35,307 deaths.
Volusia has 42,960 cases and 796 death TS. But again, that positivity rate has been declining and cases have been declining. Continue to push the VA vaccines. Hospitals is 102.
It was 82 or 83 at the prior meeting. Our hospital bed capacity is fine, as of this morning, it was actually 23% is 17% ICU capacity, we're okay on that. But we are seeing a decline in cases, which is a good thing, but we do want to continue to stress vaccines. So on the next slide here. Just a real quick run down, tested 148,000 or provided or nearly 148,000 COVID tests, the operations have concluded at the New Smyrna Beach gym as of April 30th, now, there are still a number of places to get a COVID test in all of the other places, CVS, all of those doctor's offices, Urgent Care centers but the demands have been developing significantly. In the addition, we have seen a decline in demand at the Volusia County fairgrounds in the vaccinations that are being provided there.
As you see here, the week of April 5th. We had 5100 doses available and we administered 4293. The following week, 4900 available and only administered 2700. And then the following week, again, we had 7600 available and administered 1400.
So the demand for those vaccines has been dropping. And thus, the last day for first doses at the Volusia County fairgrounds was April 30th. And we will continue to provide the second doses to kind of finish that out at the fairgrounds until the end of May. Vaccines are also going to be provided, though, at the four county health department locations, and across the county, so that's on canal street and New Smyrna Beach, Harley Strickland boulevard in Orange City, and peach street in Daytona Beach and HOL some back in Daytona Beach as well, vaccines can be administered there or are administered at those locations, and if somebody happens to miss their second dose and then the fair grounds closes up, they can finish out the second dose at those sites as well. In addition, on May 22nd from 9:00 to 1:00, vaccine also be offered at HOL SM back drive in Daytona Beach and no appointment is required, and you do need an appointment for the others. Just to kind of give you an idea of what we have done at the fairgrounds, thus far, we have provided or in the county, 213,915 residents actually, that was as of yesterday, as of this morning, it was 214,264 total people vaccinated. That equates to 44% of the eligible population. So we're hovering around -- some counties have done over 50% but about 44% again of our eligible population. And we have 152,808 people with serious complete, so they have done the Johnson & Johnson or they have received both of their doses for the Moderna or the Pfizer vaccine. Additionally, at the fairgrounds, we've done 74,967 total vaccines so, that does include first and second dose, home bound vaccines are continuing as are the underserved community missions, we've got almost 2500 people who have been vaccinated at those sites. So that's really great news, too. Vaccines that have been transferred, so with the extras, you know, that we've had since the demand has been low, they have been able to transfer the Department of Health has been able to transfer doses to other entities to spread that out into the community more, and 7,920 vaccines have been distributed to ten different entities. So again, second doses will continue at the fairgrounds, for those who received first doses, through the month of March and then, if the fair grounds closes up and somebody misses that second dose, they can get that at the health department. And with that, take any questions.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Barb Girtman?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: So from what I have seen, cases are going down, however, we're still up 100 plus daily.
>>SPEAKER: Uh-huh.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Right.
>>SPEAKER: Uh-huh.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: So at one time, that was a high.
>>SPEAKER: Yes.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Right? And we're still seeing four deaths -- I mean, still seeing on going deaths and still seeing an impact directly in the community.
>>SPEAKER: Uh-huh.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I have more people in our community impacted now and relatable deaths than I have seen over the course of time. So it sounds like we're relaxing precautions. Right?
Only I think, less than a third of our community has been vaccinated.
>>SPEAKER: Around 44. Around 44% of the eligible population, so yeah, considering the entire population, it would be lower than that.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Okay. So my question is, what are we doing to encourage, promote, and reduce vaccine hesitancy and what can we do different to make people understand this is not gone away? Right? I mean, we talked about a surge of maybe twice as much of what we've seen recently, when we go down to 100, oh, things are getting better, well, it's better from our worst. Frankly. The age range is lower, it's 18-40 that are now being hospitalized. And it's impacting our younger population. So again, hasn't gone away. So how are we now removing our mask, and removing our precautions and willing to take the hit within our community? So what are we as a council willing to continue to do? Or recommend to our community and I think that it's a fair question. And I'm really interested to hear the perspective.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Heather Post?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I'm curious to discuss that with staff as well and council to figure out where are we headed from here?
I know that the Governor just put out a number of things, and which is going to make a lot of changes. And so this is very fluid and there's a lot of changes made, Orange County put into place their phased step plan to come out of everything.
We've not done anything, where are we on this? Are we going to wait and see what happens? Or?
Do we have a game plan.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: A coup of questionings wrapped in there, the one I want to address is the plan as far as vaccination and vaccination ( Inaudible ) we'll continue -- Kevin's meet people meet on a regular basis with the cities and it's time to probably freshen that message as well.
We'll keep that out in the community. And this other part is as we wind down the bigger vaccination center, fairgrounds, the idea was to start taking resource sresources on more missions deeper into the community, so we're planning those now. And I've talked to one of the hospital systems in the county about working with us on that very same mission so hopefully we cannot duplicate efforts but expand our efforts. I think if we can get into a neighborhood level, like a little bit more trust that would go on, that will help, so we're planning those, as we're -- we again, get out the big fairgrounds commitment, that should free up the resource s for us to be able to go and do more of that. As far as governor's order, we just got that very late last night, so we're still looking at what the effect of that will be. We don't have as a county, we did not go out and have a lot of orders. So there's very little that affects on what we did in the public, as far as within the organization, we'll have to take that, you know, my team will take a look at that and what we can do, we still have a big interest in keeping the workforce safe. It's very important as we went through this entire process, we worked hard to do and that I don't want to the lose what we had, here right as we do have light at the end of the tunnel, so we'll work on how we come out of this systematically, and again, we have put a lot of money and effort into protective systems that are in place now. And so that's I -- people need to remember. We upgraded their handling and have probably several hundred square miles of Plexiglass, and we'll have proper supplies for people that should need it. But we'll start transferring a little bit more people taking again personal responsibility, continuing if they don't feel well, to have protect i masks on when they do that. As the county, we have restrictions that really have to do with the workplace and the Ocean Center. And the Governor's order would not affect businesses, so again, we'll review that and again, I want everyone to understand the work that Tim riddle did in the Ocean Center, we are the busiest convention center in the state of Florida because of the fact that we figured out a way to work and work with protective gear, the masks mainly and social distance ing so we were able to have many, many good events during this time.
Suzanne?
>>SPEAKER: Thank you, George, I wanted to add on to it, I haven't read the latest out of Orange County, but council may recall that at the beginning of the pandemic, we did craft Volusia County plan called relaunch Volusia County, it's available on our website, it had phases, phase 1, 2, 3, we went into phase 3, many months ago.
And unlike some other county and city facilities, we remained open or we reopened facilities that haven't been open like our libraries. Sometime ago. And I think that the very last of our facilities that we had not reopened to the public, may have been the marine science center.
And the LE onia environmental center and they are reopening this week or next. And the very small, especially the marine science center, the area to the public, very small, we had concerns for the animals in our hospital care there, so that's why the delay so we are in final steps of making sure we are open to the public and our services remain available, I know I spoke with Ms. Coolly with the library systems, and our final steps to restore all original library hours, so just a reminder of sort of where we have been and where we are today. Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Girtman?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Thanks, Chair, I want to be assured that even with the order from the Governor that we are still responsible for the people within our county and we still are encouraging precautions.
Votran, I would not want to see, you know, that type of service relax precautions when people cannot distance and they don't have the same options so that and for me, most areas -- I'm not comfortable because you don't know who's vaccinated and who's not, you may not be infected but you can certainly pass it on to someone else, I think it's all still we're in that transitional place and I still think we all need to take that responsibility. So, you know, I'm always going to get it on the record. Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Heather Post.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: We were not under what the Governor just said, because we didn't mandate anything specific, but I do know there has been some questions, even when the -- there was information announcing that the Governor was going to even provide information, and within county Government, is it possible maybe to just, you know, we don't have to lay out our specific game plan but to send something to the employees saying, hey, a heads up or an update as to where we're headed, I think that would be very help.
Ful -- helpful.
>>SPEAKER: And a message to the HR director is out that make sure we get a plan, message crafted so that they understand what we're doing. And we're working on that as we speak. So very important. We got late and I felt to err on the side of caution. Leave things in place, while we do come up with a good plan and we have plans, just see exactly where we are in that.
And the messaging as you point out is very, very important.
And of course, Kevin and I work closely on that as well. So we'll get it out. And I think that we are in a good position.
And we just want to be thoughtful, careful. Ms.
Girtman makes a great point, there are services where we are not going to have social distancing abilities, so we want to make sure we can provide PPE and things, and that's I think what people need to remember is we're such a better place in the idea that we can get supplies, we can get things for people, at the beginning of the this thing, we couldn't even get that. And we were down -- and making masks and so the things have changed.
And so even though the numbers are when you compare, yeah, it was when we were bad. But we had nothing to handle them with.
Or take care of them. Now, we're in a better situation.
And we'll con to do that.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: I see no other questions. And director PO so, did you want to speak.
>>SPEAKER: Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
That takes us to item 11, community events, we have Kevin Captain.
>>SPEAKER: Good morning. I can still say good morning. Good morning, Mr. Chairman, honorable members of council, Kevin Captain, community information director, we'll go through the events, the events first, one to start out with is the spring to spring trail. That's going to happen on 10:30 Saturday may 22nd a ribbon cutting for the 1.2 mile trail segment from Baxter street to U.S. highway 17. And basically, it will close to complete the spring to spring trail. And so, we're going to be doing that along with the association and some other partners as well to help us with that ribbon cutting so that's coming up Saturday. The 22nd. It's a beautiful trail, by the way, going up there to snap this picturer a beautiful day. Also, the junior life guard try outs, June 7th through tend of July. And to qualify, junior life guards must be able to swim 100 yards within 2 minutes and 15 seconds, tread water for five minutes, and swim underwater for ten feet. So you can go to Volusia County's website with the beach page and get more information. Also, I will just let you know, it's not on our PowerPoint, because we just got notified today, Votran is holding additional public workshops for feedback on their TDP, which is their transit development plan. Those meetings will take place from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. on Monday the 17th of May at the Daytona Beach regional library, also, again, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday may 20th. And here at the TCK county council chambers in Deland. And we'll have a press release in more information on that to follow.
Again, for social media --
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Kevin, I'm sorry, on that, specific with the Votran announcement, is that going to be online?
>>SPEAKER: Yes, ma'am.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Okay, thank you.
>>SPEAKER: Absolutely. Yeah.
We got notified today on it, so I wanted to make sure that we brought it to council, it will did distributed.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I'd like to nominate junior -- ( Inaudible ) as the life guard.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I'll second that.
(Laughing)
>>SPEAKER: Social media. So we do have councilwoman Girtman, we do have a campaign which is focused on vaccine hesitancy, particularly towards our younger population and that's ages 18-34, and we are targeting that through paid social media. And in addition to that, we can look at additional platforms, we're also working on our graphic artist is designing updates for our stepup Volusia campaign, so it's wash up, mask up, VAKS up, we have the e-mail signature lines, I can send to you, you can add to your e-mail, so the more we get that message out, definitely, the better. So definitely a different platform and sizes for social media.
We'll be continuing to work with our pen group, and agencies, here in the county to be able to distribute that message. So certainly to your point, the more we can encourage people to take the vaccine, the better.
We definitely want to keep that the message out. So it is good to see this number, albeit slowly, it is rising, that's definitely where we want to go.
Public meetings. Just to give you an update for May. If you look at the Callencalendar, we have a couple more forever listening sessions coming up, may 12th and I ma may 19th at 6:00 p.m. in Ormond and Deltona represent respectively. The jetty in Ponce inlet, if you recall back in the summer of last year, the army corps of engineers as a $7 million upgrade to that, we put together a short two-minute video that briefly describes the process. But there's certainly at lot of activity happening today and if you would like to see the video, we can -- we can -- if you're -- we can play it, it's cue up, if you would like to see it? It is. Two minutes 23 seconds but it's a -- it's a monumental project.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Yeah, just wasted 15 seconds, talking about it.
(Laughing) that would be great to see it, thank you.
>>SPEAKER: Darrell.
>>SPEAKER: ( Video ) a big project is about to get underway. \* [MUSIC] \* and we're talking about the U.S. army corps of engineers north jetty repair project. That is kicking off right now in Volusia County.
\* [MUSIC] \* since the north jetty was constructed back in the early 70s, the rock jetty structure has settled and subsided somewhat into the seabed. \* [MUSIC] \* you can see in this area, where some of these large granite Boulders have been blown off the top of the jetty and been displace by major hurricane impact and northeast storms that have parished over the jetty and moved these large granite Boulders. Now, how this is going to happen, is large granite Boulders are being brought in from a quarry up in the northern states, by rail, to a location in west Volusia and then they're being trucked over to a staging yard right inside of Ponce deLeon inland and they are offer loadeded from those --
off loaded from those trucks and on to a barge that the army corps of engineers -- the inlet and locate that badge here and have crane on it and will pick up large bowed Boulders and place them on the jetty where they have been washed out over time. We're really excited about that. Volusia County is the local sponsor for the U.S.
army corps of engineers inlet project at Ponce and we're looking toward to this work that will improve boating and navigation in our community. \* [MUSIC] \* ( end of video ).
>>SPEAKER: Great project. And that's all I have for events.
Any questions?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Great video.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Ben Johnson.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Good work.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Danny Robins?
Nobody wants to talk to you.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Do you know when that's going to start, that project? That's.
>>SPEAKER: The jetty?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Already kicked off.
>>SPEAKER: It has started months ago, but now there's a much more activity in the water.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I didn't see a whole lot going on, but U heard rumors of a jetty cleanup or something like that, I didn't know if it would overlap or cause issues, I appreciate it.
>>SPEAKER: And I can get Jessica to follow back up with you, if you would like more information. Okay.
>>CHAIR BROWER: All right.
Thank you. Thank you. And let's push on before lunch and then Fred can get his nominations in before you have to leave. Item 12.
Appointments to the library advisory board. I believe we need -- we have 7 nominations to make, and 6 applicants. So we'll have to come back with another one and I will say this, I'm going to have you call the roll to make nominations, I'll go last, which means I won't have one, but I want Deborah that I would have nominated her if somebody else didn't and I was thrilled to see on the nominations the number of retired schoolteachers that are willing to serve. So with that, would you call the roll?
( Roll call ).
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I wanted to ask on -- I finally see it now.
I nominate Christy Jefferson.
>>SPEAKER: Ms. Post?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Cassie Franklin.
>>SPEAKER: Mr. Robins?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Donald ( name? )
>>SPEAKER: Ms. Wheeler?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Okay. Hang on.
(Laughing) this is on the library advisory?
>>SPEAKER: Uh-huh.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Okay, so I didn't see those names, is there an update that I didn't have listed? Marjorie Johnson is the only one in my district.
>>SPEAKER: Ms. Girtman?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER:
( Inaudible ).
>>SPEAKER: They do have to be within your district, when I get an application, I can bring that forward.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Thank you.
>>SPEAKER: Mr. Johnson?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I couldn't hear what her last nomination was?
>>CHAIR BROWER: She doesn't have one in her district.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Deborah --
( Inaudible ).
>>CHAIR BROWER: I told her you probably would. But if you didn't, I would.
(Laughing)
>>SPEAKER: Mr. Brower?
>>CHAIR BROWER: Is there anyone left?
>>SPEAKER: ( Inaudible ) district 4.
>>CHAIR BROWER: I'll nominate him. Entertain a motion to accept everybody as nominated and then Barb, you'll have to --
we'll have to get somebody else from district 1.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Second.
>>CHAIR BROWER: So motion by Lowry, second by Post, all in favor say aye. Any opposed?
Congratulations, thank you for serving. Item 13. Appointments to the tourist development council. We have two positions open there.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Mr. Chair?
>>CHAIR BROWER: Yes.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I'm trying to see if anyone can make a nomination.
>>SPEAKER: Yes.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Correct.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: May I make a nomination.
>>CHAIR BROWER: No. Of course you can.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Andrea.
( Name? )
>>CHAIR BROWER: Post nominates bell.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Robert brunettety.
>>CHAIR BROWER: And Wheeler nominates Robert and that takes care of both of them. Can I I have a motion to accept nominations?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Wheeler.
>>CHAIR BROWER: A second?
Motion to accept by Wheeler and seconded by Post, all in favor say aye.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Aye.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed, there being none, the motion passes 7-0. And one more.
Appointments to the historic preservation board. This has nine positions, nine nominations. For a two-year term, and I believe this is another one where we only have enough applicant s. But would you call the roll again and we'll let --
>>SPEAKER: Dr. Lowry.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: James ZackariZackari.
>>SPEAKER: Ms. Post?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Andre ( name? )
>>SPEAKER: Yes. Mr. Robins?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Gregory HolbrookHolbrook.
>>SPEAKER: Ms. Wheeler?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Ronald HowellHowell.
>>SPEAKER: Ms. Girtman?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I need to come back next time.
>>SPEAKER: Mr. Johnson?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Brian Polk, west side. And VON DA Garrison, east side.
>>SPEAKER: Mr. Brower?
>>SPEAKER: I'm going to hold until next time, I've done an applicant, IENL not going to mention a name, because Barb will steal him, a west Volusia resident, and a true historian, and he's just getting his information in today for hopefully two weeks is long enough to do our background investigations, so. With that, Barb and I will nominate next meeting.
>>SPEAKER: I want to be clear, chair, that you do have two nominationings, one on east side and west side.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Yes.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Motion to approve the board --
>>CHAIR BROWER: Did you make two? Did you get your second?
Okay, motion to approve by Wheeler, seconded by Lowry, all in favor say aye.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Aye.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed?
Okay. Item 16. Chair and district 1 appointments to the agribusiness interrelations committee and I'll start off by saying that the same thing, I'm going to wait again another week, because I've got a great New Smyrna Beach appointment that she's got to -- we've not done her background investigation yet, but she is --
she works with many local farms and the public, and she would be -- that would be a great addition to the board, Barb, do you have a nominee?
>>SPEAKER: >>COUNCIL MEMBER: I will nominate Bernie ( name? )
>>SPEAKER: Got it?
>>CHAIR BROWER: No motion yet.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Motion to approve.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Motion to approve by Wheeler and seconded by --
>>SPEAKER: Second.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Who said second? Post.
(Laughing) sorry. All in favor say aye.
>>SPEAKER: Aye.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed?
And I want it to be known that it's 12:06. And we are done except for the workshop. I would propose whatever the council's wishes are, but I would propose that we break for lunch for 15 minutes.
(Laughing) okay.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Sure.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Anybody opposed to breaking for lunch? All right. Good, staff? So we'll -- it's 12:06. And I just heard a 1:30, I think that's reasonable. We will readjourn for the affordable housing workshop.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: And location?
>>CHAIR BROWER: The workshop is going to be here.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: It will be here for this time.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Chambers.
>>SPEAKER: And in the back, if you watch, you have sandwiches.
>>CHAIR BROWER: A member of the public that would like to speak before he goes to lunch with whoever he's going with, John Nicholson. I was afraid you weren't here today.
>>SPEAKER: It only makes sense not to hold off until the end.
John Nicholson, Daytona Beach side. One, you guys disagree, doesn't bother me. I don't understand it. Nobody has shot anybody. Daytona Beach, we've had fist to cuffs, nobody fought anybody here, nobody cursing each other out. So you guys are relatively calm. So I don't know why these comments are coming from the audience. And if anybody is going to take comments from the audience, it would normally be me. And my thoughts on four of you, everybody knows. And Danny, and I mentioned last time, I'm glad you're speaking forward, I like that, you're not a rubber stamp.
And that's one of the worst things for us as citizens that you guys don't think through things and you guys are showing that you are. So I'm very happy. And I'm extremely happy with you, Jeff. Because you're not what I was anticipating. We had had a -- Mr. Davises in the past, and so scared that that might happen, but you've gotten a raw deal, a couple of things, Ben, I want to thank few you for stopping an ongoing train, if you look behind me, there's no green shirts, and for the last two months, they've been growing, and we -- if we had that council, we would have it for two or three more months, we didn't need that. It's taking too much of your time. So I am other glad, Ben, you stopped that but I'm glad you brought it forward, it's on ongoing thing, not in my neighborhood, where I live, I knew what I was getting used to, I'm a block from the ocean, A1A, a block and a half from sea breeze and Main Street, there's no way I couldn't be affected by that. And yet, I have three short-term rentals.
Only one little problem. The bikers, one time, in four years, they -- eight bikers in one house, took all of the sidewalk and nobody could walk on the sidewalk. So in all of that, one time, they're not I a problem for me, but in the residential neighborhood, I can understand it. So I think that you're handling it very well on that. Two, the affordable housing that you're going to discuss in the future. Please discuss -- think about the idea of what affordable housing is, what workforce housing is, and whether somebody has to own a home before you provide them a place to live. Not everybody wants to own a home, but what everybody needs is a place to stay. That's clean and neat and up to code. Corona update, I don't have a problem with that, I understand people do. But to me, I've had my shots. There are -- what, 44% of those eligible have gotten it. We had a democratic party that pushed for a long time how dangerous the shots would be. And now, they're trying to undo it.
We're not going to get all of the ones you need. Have a good day. I'll see you after lunch.
>>CHAIR BROWER: One more, Linda smiley from Daytona Beach.
>>SPEAKER: Linda smiley. I wanted to talk about having you consider nighttime meetings for people that work. And can't get here. Because many times, I hear, well, we didn't hear anything from people, so, they must be okay, with it. And that's not the truth. It's that they had no way to get here. To speak their thoughts.
I wanted to talk about libraries. Maybe ask when they could get back to regular hours, and I have a lot of people that ask me about when the opening the book donation sections where you get the books and magazines and you can buy them, when those might be open again.
I've been to several meetings where items were brought up to be discussed leek like dogs on the beach and the issue was punted down the road six month partly sunny -- months because the staff is too busy. But now short-term rentals is discuss asked you can make a decision at the next meeting, that seems, I don't know. For the record, I'm not for short-term rentals.
Because I live in a neighborhood and I bought my house, and so that I didn't have a different neighbor every day. I can see where some places, they would be approved. And reasonable. So I'm not totally against them.
But in my neighborhood, I don't want them.
And as far as the dogs on the beach, I don't know, if any of you realize, you can't even bring your dog in your car on the beach. And I live a block from the beach, and I can't bring my dog down to the approach, so we're not on the beach, but we can't even be sitting on the approach. And those are things that, you know, as a lifelong resident, I would like to be able to have. So it's something that I would like you to consider.
But the nighttime meetings, at least, maybe once a quarter?
That's not unreasonable. I mean, when you wanted us to vote for -- to increase our taxes, you didn't have a problem going out and having nighttime meetings to try to convince us of that, so why not have nighttime meetings we can speak?
You get more -- so you need to have it where we can come and talk about things. Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
With that, is the end, and we'll adjourn for lunch until 1:30.
Thank you.
( Adjourned for lunch )
>>
>> Frank Bruno DeLand
>> Hello. This is your CART captioner. I am all set.

KRBANSMIT
Hello. This is Heather, your live CART captioner.

>> This is your one minute warning for anyone who is participating.
staff, George. Suzanne. Are you all waiting for anybody else? Okay.
>> The affordable housing advisory committee chair is coming. Do I have it now? Well, then stop complaining, right? Just while we're waiting, counsel, Billy just brought something up. If anybody has anything to say or add, just speak up. You don't need to raise your hand. Just be respectful of one another. I'm sure you will. Because Donna is going to read this whole book.
>> Donna: Yeah, word by word because I know you wanted nap time, right?
>> This is good, Donna, whoever put it together. There's some really good information in there, thank you!
>> Donna: Yes, good quality of it. Should we go ahead and start the presentation?
>> We'll call the meeting to order at 1:32.
>> All right, good afternoon. Donna butler, community services director. I'm here to start the conversation with you all on affordable housing. So today's conversation, my part, I think, will be pretty fast. I met with pretty much all of you in advance and went over the presentation so I'll try to keep it at a high level and touch on data that I think is important for the community at large to hear and will hear again. We just got everything done, everything printed and Heather from the team said, would you like the new sets of data? No. It took so long to get it all together but we will have it ready for the summit when we get to that point.
So today's conversation, understanding our community and its housing need, generational poverty and physical cliffs. What we need to respond and where we can go from here. So you know, you have all met with me and I am sure you have heard from others, all of the different words that are ascribed to what affordable housing is. I won't read them to you, but attainable, workforce, subsidized, section 8. All of those things make up, and more, what affordable housing means to different people. But according to HUD, the definition of housing is affordable when it cost less than 30 percent of the household income. Important as well is, if it's accessible to households with barriers. So folks might have a lack of rental history, they might have credit problems or a criminal background which makes it very hard to rent affordable housing.
They might be able to afford it too but they can't get a lease. So who in our community needs affordable housing? There's four columns here. For the audience, if they can't see T the first is individuals below the poverty level and then we have extremely low income families, very low income families and low income families.
These are broken up by income levels. Individuals and this is generally seniors and those with disabilities that is less than 12,880 dollars. This is the poverty line of what it takes for someone to exist. Generally people over 65 and those with can disabilities of different types.
So currently, there's 73,400 individuals in Volusia county right now. Extremely low income families, 16,876 and instead of individuals, we moved families, per year, per person household and we don't say whether it's two adults or two children or one adult and three children, it's just four persons.
So less than 30 percent of the area median income, and then very low income which is a range of 26,5 to here. And low income families are 32-7. Within this information, you can see examples of the type of occupations that these that work in these income areas are likely to make. In most cases, it is the starting salary or hourly wage that makes this up. People who have been in the businesses, firefighters, police, construction laborers, even landscapers can move up. It's just this is generally considered the starting wage.
I want to tell you, you have talked about this book but also, the data in here, we would not have been able to do such a good job without one voice for Volusia, Karrie and her staff, as well as Heather from team Volusia who got us some different data.
So we have access to some, but together we were able to get a lot more. So this next slide is very similar except it has on the bottom of it, four different boxes. So 16 percent of the individuals in Volusia county are those that live below the poverty guideline. The amount of rent they can afford going back to that HUD definition of 30 percent or less of their income, is 322 dollars a month. Next, it's 663, and then 663 to 818 and 818 to 1308.
This is some of the data we got from team Volusia. What we're looking at here is the Volusia wage and rent comparison by occupation. So we have listed for you the fair market rent. We call it FMR. Two bedroom, is a 1,050 and a one bedroom is 856. So here's occupations and no other order other than alphabetical and you can see the median hourly wage, the annual, the max affordable rent. This is assuming a one worker household whether they choose a one bedroom or two. But the percent of median income needed for the two bedroom is listed on the side here. Only two of them aren't cost burden. There's some in light Ping An. 1, 2, 3, 4, that are slightly cost burden and then you see the red, completely cost burden which means they have to spend far more than 30 percent of their wages to afford housing.
Now, if you have two workers in a household, it becomes more affordable and you have fewer people that do not exceed. So here's one slide that I think is so valuable! The housing studies is at the University of Florida and they do all of the housing studies in the State of Florida. So their data is considered spot on. So if you look at the blue houses on this graph, you can see the number of households that are in our community and we did this by 0 to 30 percent, 30 to 50 and 50 to 80 which are the three columns on the right hand side of the initial graph.
There are only 5200 affordable rental unit ins this 0 to 3 percent AMI. That's assuming based on what they can afford in the 30 percent of their income. So if they're not cost burden, there are only 5200 affordable units. So as we go ahead, R we have 40,170. So looking here at the first two columns, that absolutely, we don't have enough housing for in our community based on their income and what they can, the percentage they can put towards the rent and not be cost burdened.
On the left here, you can see more affordable units, 15,860 according to this data, that are available than those in the renter income. So you might say, well, how is that possible? Why do we have such a gap here? Well, many times people are cost burden but many people, will sometimes go in the level beneath them because they're trying to be really good about their funds. So that is sometimes gets a little skewed in what is really available for people that are looking for housing.

>> Question: Do we have any data on single-parent familles? The percentage in Volusia?
>> Donna: I don't have it accessible right now but I could get it for you. I am assuming it will be available. Would you like us to wait for the new data? We're going to be giving more data.
>> That's good. If Heather has it, that's great!
>> I had a question about that too. Can you explain a little bit the four person household?
>> Donna: On which slide? Sure.
>> So four person households, what about the single mom and the kids?
>> Donna: We can provide graphs on all of that but what we're trying to show you is income levels based on all of that. So when HUD puts together a diagram of income levels, they do it by one person, two person, three persons. So we're just trying to give one example which is a traditional example of four people in a household and their income levels. So if it was one person and a child, so it would be two member. The extremely low income level, dollar amount would be extremely less. We can provide you more charts on that.
>> For that income and lower, is that typical for the Volusia counties, that there's at least four people in the household?
>> Donna: Yes or no. We can get that information as to the typical household size. That's generally what is used as the presentation model is four people, it's very common, whether it's a single mother and three children.
>> I get T I'm specifically looking for Volusia.
>> This income level is for Volusia county. Is that what you're asking?
>> The income level, but it's for four people in the household. So if you're a single mom with kids, where do you fall?
>> Donna: Yeah, it depends on your income. We can get that in the new census data. It can be really up to date. Give us a month or two, right? Before we get to dig down and deep.
>> Off mic speaking.
>> Donna: So the household income, the calculations that we get from HUD don't differentiate between a single adult and one child and two adults.
>> I understand. So where we -- we're just going by the HUD model, right?
>> Donna: Yes, ma'am.
>> But I'm trying to shift us to think outside of the box and get less section 8 thinking and more, like, what exactly do we have in Volusia county. Where are we at specifically Volusia wise?
>> Donna: HUD goes down that low. We can go down the census tracks. So if you want to know by census track, which is different than zip code, unfortunately. It should have all meshed up, but we can go down to the census track and tell you what the family make ups look like in that census track.
>> Chairman: I would want to know that as soon as we get that information, as to the make up in families of Volusia county. So as we're getting higher but still very low income, so your essential workers, the top two basically, and that's really what I'm looking at in terms of workforce housing or attainable housing is the top two tiers, the aqua and the purple. Really, looking at, so how many people are there typically in those households in Volusia county? Is it two people, three people?
>> I still think that the HUD model is a good model as the base so that's the standard and consistent. So once we get the understanding of that, we can build off of that as we find what is KRIT XWAL to, you know, east west, or specific zip codes or whatever. Thank you!
>> And Donna, I think just to help clarify, when we say there are, for example, in the very low income families, 24,130 households. That is households of all sizes that fit in that categories whether it's one person or four persons or more. So this is posed to your question. If you want to know in Volusia county, how many families we have that fall in these categories, that is what those current number of households reflect.
The income levels at the top, for example, extremely low being less than 26,500. That is if you have four people in your household. There's actually in your tab, entitled area median income, a chart. That will tell you what the income caps for each of those categories are based on the actual number of people in the family. But these households numbers are accurate for each of these categories for Volusia county.
>> Donna: In the top of the chart, it can tell you that the median income for this is for all families
>> Say that again be?
>> Donna: In your notebook, under area meeting income tab.
>> Okay, I see it on the top. Median income 65. Got it. And then on the housing picture that we -- the slide we last left on, the affordable rental units for the low income families, so for our essential workers, we're saying there's more than enough housing for them?
>> Donna: According to the shinburg institute, that's correct. That's what this graph portrays. There's 15,680 more than rental units. So if you're a family of four and specifically, that means the income, 818 to 1330 dollars is not exceeding 30 percent of your monthly income that would go towards housing. So if you're at 32, it's somewhere around 800, if you're at 53,300, it's somewhere around there for not being cost burden. Now, are there new apartments coming on? New housing available that is higher than that? Absolutely. But that's your income level and the requisite 30 percent of your income.
>> Can you tell us more about the Shinburg housing studies at the University?
>> Donna: I'm going to ask Clay. He saved me last time. Since he's sitting in the audience as my back up.
>> Clay: Yes, ma'am. The Shinburg institute was started in the 90s. What happened is it was a think tank type of thing going on at the University of Florida. They have since evolved into basically the data clearinghouse for affordable housing. We are required to use a lot of information when we do the preparation for the affordable housing unit of the comprehensive plan.
They're working with the bureau of economic and business research with the land -- excuse me, with the data they collect and then basically, use different models and information to come up with all of the different types of renter needs, the affordable housing needs.
If you go to their website, they have a variety of different reports by county, throughout Florida.
>> And this one was, how recent? Because I see on the other one, it's 2019 annual report.
>> Donna: So was data was requested.
>> Is the data recent? I know we requested it recently.
>> Donna: It's the most resent that Shinburg has which they use the modeling that happens after the end of the census.
>> Was that 2010 or 2011?
>> Donna: ACS is the American community survey. They do averages. So this the average of the last three years of the ACS but it's the most up to date data that Shinburg had that they can provide to us.
>> The ACS survey, is that the survey that goes out to the individual households?
>> Donna: No, that is provided to us. There's a data base clearinghouse that we can access on a regular basis and they update that annually based on extrapolations from the original census data in the way they see data is made.
>> Heather: Okay. Still not sure how up to date it is.
>> Donna: It's the most up to date information we can possibly get.
>> Heather: Got you. But that doesn't answer the question.
>> Any of this data will have to be tweaked with what our reality is, right?
>> Heather: But we're saying there's plenty of affordable housing for essential workers, that's a big deal.
>> But if you use the benchmark as affordable, you know what housing you can access at that amount and know it's not realistic today. So that's going to be the tweaking, right? Because the new, new rentals coming on, are coming on somewhere around 1700 dollars. So that's why I'm saying, that they're not going to have that data because that tweaking has happened in the last two years, right? That escalation is happening, going forward but especially the last two years you have seen that, escalation and, yeah. So I think the tweaking is going to have to be probably, you know, about 20 percent, 20, 25 percent.
>> Heather: I understand why we're getting the data we're getting, but I'm just trying to ensure I know exactly whether we're at in the data. So that's why I'm asking the question.
>> And I think another important point is, just as Donna mentioned, there are likely families that can afford 50 to 80 percent, the higher represents that are in the lower categories. There's probably families over 65,000, or over 80 percent of the average median income that are in that 50 to 80 percent. So we have people who can afford more, are in some of the lesser costing units.
So it's a free market. People are going to live where they're able to secure housing. So some of that could skew the reality that families are facing out in the marketplace.
>> Donna: And you'll also see, the salaries listed here. The wage, if this is accurate, people are cost burden. So they're going to go in the next area. So even though our data says there's only this many people here and here, your 30 to 50 percent, if there's not enough room, they're either sleeping in their car, or they have gone up into the next level trying to make sure they have housing. And they're cost burdened. It's not a good scenario but we can't really count who is cost burden because that's not something that is collected, you know? We would have to do a survey of the entire community and I'm not sure people would want to share that kind of information with us.

>> Heather: So I'm even looking at the wages, so 2019 annual department of economic opportunity report for us. You know, FLAO, for police sheriffs and patrol, we're saying that the median hourly wage three years ago in Volusia county was 21,081. I can tell you corrections, fire, 21,081. I don't even think we're paying it to start, are we?
>> This is the average rate. It would account for the people who are been many years in service and are making above the minimum. So that number is probably, just slightly above the average minimum salaries across the county. But of course, this is taking into account people who have maybe been on the job five years or longer and are making above the minimum.
>> Donna: So we're going to talk about off the beaten path which is poverty.
So this initiative was started two years ago and they started looking at poverty levels in all of Florida's 983 zip codes. They discovered 870 children living in poverty in those zip codes, half of them live in just 150 zip codes.
One of the things that really interested me is the ten root causes of generational poverty. It's unaffordable and unattainable housing is one of them but there's so much that surrounds the concept of getting out of poverty.
They have a document in your book. I don't know if you had a chance to look at it but it's called less poverty,s more prosperity. The Florida fiscal report. I talked to you about it. It's kind of disturbing because there's fiscal cliffs that are happening that are unintended consequences of people trying to step out of poverty. When you're in poverty, you have different access to different types of assistance.
You might have child care through early learning -- whatever it's called, I forgot the C, oh, ELC. I live in acronyms and sometimes I forget the words. You might have food stamps and Florida healthy kids insurance for your kids. You have all of these great resources and then, your boss offers you a promotion and you know if you take that promotion, that you have what is called a hard cliff and you fall all the way back into poverty again because you don't have free child care for your kids after school so you can continue working longer hours.
You don't have healthcare for your kids so you have to put them on your paycheck now, if that's available to you. So on and so forth. So those are called hard cliffs and there's big discussions about how you can turn hard cliffs into softer cliffs so as you gain more income, you can step down more softly and be able to make your way out of generational poverty.
>> I would like to see us going from cliffs to bridges because that's really what it's about. Creating the bridge to the next best opportunity.
>> And I brought this up the other day with council. I remember last year, someone, a constituent contacted me and I didn't know who she was. She was so distraught because she was getting a lot of financial aid and her son had bought her a dog. For the dog, he was giving her one hundred dollars a month for the food and maintenance of it. That one hundred dollars threw her over the level of what she could have and all of her funds were, you know.
We don't think about that. But to her, that was wonderful she had that little resource but it knocked her out of everything.
>> Donna, one additional question, and I think it's going to be answered, go ahead, thanks.
>> Donna: So they provided in their report, two maps. 2019, 2018, both in your binder. I presented 2019 because it's the most up to date in the report. However, the good news is, from year to year, we are decreasing with the number of children in poverty and the percentage of children in poverty, however, they identified that the 32114 zip code was in very poor shape.
So the over all poverty rate for that area is 23.4 percent but 54 percent of the children in that zip code live in poverty, over half. And it's far greater than the child poverty rate for the entire state of Florida.
So the chamber foundation went around the state and areas that have the highest levels, they have partnered with community leaders to start prosperity initiative. And I know Billie is personally involved in it. They went to the non profit work which has largely been focused on making a difference in children's lives, especially children who don't have homes, don't have support they need in education.
And as well as for hunger. So she started the initiative. They are focusing on education, job opportunities, affordable workforce and health and wellness. They primary goal for this year is to move twelve families that are very low, to low income, into their own houses they own and they have worked out a great program in conjunction with the Daytona beach housing authority and there's a lot of private partners, whether it's banks, closing agencies and they have one new homeowner in the 32114 area. They are focusing on children with families to make this happen. Similarly, to our homeless shelter in Holly Hill.
>> So Donna, that reminds me of a workshop I attended in Orlando. One of the presentations was from local banks that talked about the community commitment that they have to make as part of their, I guess, just their requirement to be in the community and probably received federal state dollars. They were able to give back a certain amount or participate in a partnership with housing partnership and representation.
Is that something that we have been able to look at or how do we?
>> Donna: We haven't personally because we have really been focused on rental and other issues that have been added to our plate. It's a topic that hopefully when we move to our breakout meetings for our potential summit, if you all agree, I think it's really important that we talk about all of the potential public and private partnerships. The banks are there. They have been doing a lot of research on those and developing partnerships. So we haven't done that kind of research yet but I think it's a critical player in making sure we have strong, public private partnerships in moving forward.
>> Great! So if we do a summit, we want to be assured that our local banks and especially anyone we have relationships with, are at the table so we can leverage that.
>> Donna: In large part, it's a lot of the big banks that are doing it. So we'll check and see if our local banks have a requirement too but I know the larger banks have definitely allocated a very large amount of money to make these things happen.
>> Even the credit unions at a local level. Thank you.
>> Donna: So I want to briefly talk about what we do now, both in rental and homeownership. So we have four different, well, five different grant funds in front of you for the rental. We have home which you would think is an acronym because it comes from be HUD but it's not. It's actually just home. We have the trust fund dollars we receive or hope to receive. ESG which is emergency solutions and NSP which is neighborhood solutions program and section 8 which is our housing choice voucher program.
So we provided rental assistance through section 8 in this past, well, on an average, we provide 324 vouchers per year to households in Volusia county.
TBRA is a short term program, we have done housing, development rehab, rapid rehousing and prevention. So the primary focus there is on section 8. And then we also helped to create single family and multi-family rental units.
In the past five years, we have spent 11.3 million dollars. Next is for homeowner housing. So our funding source is there. SGG, home, not an acronym, the trust funds and NSP which we no longer have which is the neighborhood solutions program.
That came out of the original program, back in 2009. We basically created a revolving loan for ourselves so we have just finalized the expenditure of those funds and will roll the small remainder into the CBG program. We have done home buyer assistance.
234 first time home buyers were able to buy a home due to assistance. We have acquired rehab and resold properties. We have done housing rehab. Over the past five years, we have done 110 owner occupied rehabilitation for homeowners and we have done in the past five years, a little more than 12 million dollars in expenditures.
So here's where the real meat of your discussion will come today.
>> Donna, just one question about the rental page and the homeowner page. So all of these federal funds, these federal programs, is that all, which levels are you hitting? Are you only hitting individuals below poverty, extremely low income, very low income families at all? What is the --
>> Donna: So rental is very easy to assist the very low income. It's challenging to assist the very low income in homeownership but each of these programs do provide rental assistance or homeowner assistance to all levels. Homeowner is actually up to moderate income as well. There's few dollars left for moderate and we have requirements from SHIP to provide low and very low as our priority. It's very hard, as I said, to find homeowners who can qualify for a mortgage that are in very low.
We actually sold a home, I know this is probably a year and a half ago. We were so excited in the Holly Hill area near the Hope Place and two older sisters decided they wanted to buy a home together. So they together, were able to qualify and together, they were very low income. So it's very challenging to find folks because it's not just about being able to afford the mortgage. You have to have enough in reserves to afford all of the things that come with homeownership.
>> But for the 324 vouchers for the rental, tell me which group mostly?
>> Donna: That's through section 8.
>> Can you tell me a color? Is that the red? Section 8, you said? That's only for section 8?
>> Donna: It's for 50 percent of the low AMI. So that would be that is your, 32,700 for a family of four. It can differ, and below.
>> I have a question and maybe one is a statement. So over 23 million in the last five years has gone towards affordable, attainable, whatever we want to call it housing. So one of my questions, I think, I have continually asked and it's probably a hard answer to get to. It appears to me that a lot of the more recent affordable, attainable housing has been built on the west side.
I know there are some projects coming to the east side. But I wonder why that is, when it appears that there's greater numbers and greater need on the east side. So is it access to land? Is it affordability? Is it, you know, governmental permitting? What is it that, you know, makes the west side more attractive to the developer than the east side when it would appear to me, and what is being represented here is that, 32117 and 32114 have a greater need?
>> Donna: So when it comes to the homes we have built and sold, that's because we did have a sheet of properties that went through the process that was talked about recently. So we had free land. That made it -- excuse me, very affordable for us to build a home. When it comes to 32114 and 32117, as long as it's in the city limits of Daytona Beach, we can't use the grant funds there. That's one of the challenges that we face in partnering with grant funds.
There may be sneaky ways to figure it out but right now, we haven't figured out a way to over come that jurisdictional issue. Is there a need in Daytona? Absolutely! But unfortunately, we can't use CBG and other funds there because, I believe -- so the entitlement community is very hard.
You will notice that the beach, we have talked about it a lot. They have applied for, when we did notice of funding availability, they have been the only applicant for funding to build their affordable rental housing they keep in rent to very low, to low income individuals.
Sometimes it's a matter of getting people to apply and sometimes, so a lot of those factors that you listed, all play in. And I think there will be something that we need to talk about in the strategy sessions. What strategies can we work together on, to figure out ways to maximize funding in other resources that aren't necessarily funding.
Maybe land or -- you're welcome. So as you all know, things were going gang busters prior to COVID. We had spent 3 to 4 months planning a summit that we planned to be in person and we were going to have some really good keynote speakers. We were going to do multiple breakout sessions and allow people to go to the topics they felt were the best and COVID hit and our plans went kaput.
Interestingly though, we heard a county is putting on a summit and it's all online and in Zoom meetings. So they essentially had breakout sessions in a Zoom mechanism. So that meant everyone could learn about all five topics or however many topics we decided to discuss.
So we like that idea! I'll get to that in a second but our primary goals were to identify the resources both current that we have, community wide not county government with the big C, but county wide small C, that is current resources that we have and are needed resources. We want to identify best practices and new ideas. Sometimes, best practices work great elsewhere but we need to figure out what works right here in Volusia county.
I said, eliminate barriers but sometimes it's just reducing barriers that did the trick for helping people to either become developers in the community or can help households be more creative and able to make accessible housing available.
And then create and implement a plan that works here. So one of the things I want to talk briefly about resources and best practices and I'm not going to present on all of the things that are happening in the other communities that is in your book. Again, great nighttime reading but we did put the two plans from seminal and Orange county and some best practices that I found from across the country.
While some may not work here, some are good ideas. One of the things we have talked a lot is developer flexibility and I like the word flexibility because not every developer wants the same benefit and want to come to build.
Some flat out want money. They want cash but not grant funds because there's a lot of strings with the grant funds. If you get CBG, that's great, but you have all of these rules on bidding the projects. Interview the people working on it, over and over again and follow lots of federal laws and a lot of developers are too busy and don't want to work with that.
In some ways, developers want property or different land regulations. So whatever it looks like, we need to see what can work county wide. The city of DeLand had a workshop and they proposed some to their commission to decide, what would work for them and what doesn't.
In this notebook, you can also see what Volusia county currently does and what other counties you had asked us to look at, do in terms of the flexibility. Housing rehabilitation. We think one of the best ways and it's a best practice that is talked about nationwide and to keep folks in the affordable housing now. Don't have to have them move somewhere else, lose that homeownership, but if that roof is failing, you know, help them get a grant so they can have that roof fixed
Sometimes the whole house is in disrepair and we have to do a whole house rebuild but sometimes that's still cheaper than creating new housing. Dedicated funding, it's a big issue. We do have some but it's not a certain amount every year coming from the federal and the State government. We were all shocked last year.
We were shocked with COVID-19 and we were shocked that we had finally had full funding, 4 million dollars and then it was wiped because of COVID, I totally understand that but unfortunately, if we don't have some sort of dedicated funding, we can't even work to implement and you saw the dollar amounts we have.
And what we're able to accomplish with that. Next is the community land trust. So Anisimov Evans if you don't know her, is the chairman of the affordable housing advisory committee and in 2019, you all gave that advisory board a lot more tasks. For those who are new, you don't realize they got to look at 13 rules in the state legislature and say yes or no, council, please approve this. That was their only job over three years and they had to do it every three years.
Well, the legislature changed and allowed them to have more so we asked you, if you would agree to give them more responsibilities and boy have they gone gang busters.
They invited a speaker to come in and they gave themselves homework to look at various models for community land trust. It's a best practice that is used nationwide. It's really a neat way to preserve fee simple affordable housing. There's a lot of opportunities in a community land trust besides that. But it is very challenging to keep that in place. Our first time home buyers, we provide them down payment assistance and when they sell, they have to pay that back. So that money can be reused. But when they sell, that home is no longer affordable. It goes with the market rate. So while we have invested in it one time, if they sell in five to ten years, maybe it's still affordable, likely not.

With the community land trust, what is really interesting is the land trust holds the property. The land, itself. And this is only the home sold, and the value of the home. So it offers a first time teacher and you have barely enough to get going but you're able to do that.
You grow, or whatever, you start another career or make some promotions so we're able to afford something else. So when you sell it, you get the percentage just like you would of any gain in the house value. But the land stays. Which allows them to keep that home in an affordable status.
So the affordable housing advisory committee did their research and they're really just beginning but they made a recommendation through staff to you all, they would like for us to put on the street, a request for qualifications to hear back from existing community land trusts that are willing to expand here in Volusia County.
We know there's one but we have to do our due diligence. That's something that we hope can, you know, be blessed and can be moved forward with that. It doesn't mean we have to do it but it's a way to learn more about what is out there.
A county on the west side of the state did it recently so we hope to look at what they put on the street so we can see what they really need to do and learn.
>> Donna, I'm on that and also, to take the opportunity to use somebody else's knowledge, that's already set one up and be successful, would certainly save a lot of time and money.
>> Barbara: It's my understanding there is one in Orange county.
>> Donna: It was the bright community land trust and they didn't even start in Orange and they have expanded to Orange and seminal and they're in large part, a project of the redevelopment in the huge affordable housing reconstruction area. So they have been a big part of it.
>> Barbara: Yes, downtown Orlando.
>> Donna: But to be fair, we have to put it out for anyone interested in our direction and we hope to be able to do that. So the last slide, before you can get to discuss whatever you wish on this topic, so this is our road map to moving forward with both a summit and then hopefully a strategic plan. We have asked one voice for Volusia and they have garnered the support of the Florida housing coalition to facilitate this process on our behalf so we can move more quickly.
We have a staff and work group team that was working on this process here, more than a year ago now. So we would like to have them continue working. We will work on developing the virtual workshop agendas, secure experts and develop detailed work plans.
We still believe that having those online virtual workshops greatly increases the inclusiveness of this process. If we were to have a one day summit, we would exclude people who didn't feel comfortable coming together and we would exclude people from being able to get into a break out room.
You can only put so many people in a room right now and we want to be as inclusive as possible. This was a great plan. If you want to go back and look, it's online. Homes for all, I think is the title. You can go back and watch the workshops and people could type in questions and they would have the people on the panel answer the questions, or the staff. The people who were leading each particular workshop would do that.
And then we move into the summit and we would do an in person summit at the Ocean Center so we can spread out as much as possible and we would break into something we're calling affinity work groups.
A long time ago when one voice Volusia was created, they started to focus on different topics they wanted the agency to work on. They created Affinity groups and anyone who is interested in a certain area, private, public partnerships, would break off.
They would have to commit to working in a work group for three months and they gave preselected dates in the evenings. They had all kinds of business folks, people interested in certain topics so they worked on those issues for three months. So the thought would be, each person gets to go to one affinity group if they're interested in committing to that level of work and then they would work for three months and finally, we would come up with a strategic plan. It would come back to you all for a review and approval but it is really supposed to be a community wide document.
This summit is for everyone. It's not just our council but it's for all city commissions and for non profits and be developers in the business of affordable housing. Anyone interested in this topic is welcomed to attend.
You know, there will be a limit based on the number of people we can have in a room. But we will have reservations and make sure that all of those who are trying, making sure all those who are interested can be there.
So with that, that's my presentation and I welcome your conversation.
>> We're looking for dates to move forward?
>> Donna: Yes, ma'am, and be it's your discussion.
>> I love the idea, the road map that we have here! I'm all for it. I think we need to do it as of yesterday, so the urgency is there. I definitely want the summit but I like the idea of the virtual workshop to kind of get a handle on it. It does, those virtual, there's a lot of things you don't get with the face to face but there's, you get more participation. You really do. So I really like your ideas on that! I don't know, because I definitely want to talk about those. You know, the RFPs for the land trust. So I think that's really really important. That we have those discussions. So I would ask, where do you look for us to go?
>> My questions with the virtuals, would we look to have like one a week? Because my concern is, I don't want it to drag out. And if it's not within a certain time frame, you start to lose the momentum. So to me, it needs to be something that keeps everybody connected. Keeps the momentum going. Keeps the information flowing to a decision to move something forward because otherwise, we are building on something that, something else can come and you know, derail it. And I don't want that to happen again.
>> Donna: We don't either. We're looking at five week ins a row, on Fridays. We like the way they did it. From 12 to 1:30. If you're a working professional, you can attend most of it. The end had great discussions, but they post the discussions at the end online. So if you missed a meeting or part of a meeting, you can go back and see the conversation that occurred. It's not a verbal conversation, it's written.
But then it's answered and you can see the written comments and it's answered visually by the panel members. They were really good and interactive.
>> I definitely support that.
>> Can you provide the Ling?
>> Yes, I like it too! Have it on Fridays, let's get it done, five weeks, let's move it!
>> Do you have five different topic?
>> Donna: We're going to work on them. We have five generalized topics but they're not specific enough. We'll probably talking about the prosperity project, community housing development organizations, we essentially have one in Volusia county.
It would make our lives and other cities lives easier if there was more than one community housing development organization.
>> Establishing a trust fund?
>> So that that's in here. Land use and federal mechanisms. So probably funding issues. So what state funds can do, federal funds and others, and private and public partnerships. I think we plan to jazz it up a little bit. We're going to go back and talk about it but we wanted direction for you first, that you want the summit and you want those types of topics and then we can come back with that and start getting our experts lined up for panels.
>> Barbara: We talked about land trusts but not housing trusts. Have you looked at any of the models to consider best practices to bring back as part of this discussion?
>> Donna: We would need a council decision on allocating money or determining other ways to allocate money. We already have funds that we receive and we keep them in our accounts but it's depends whether you want the county wide, again, not Volusia county government trust fund or a county trust fund. We need the direction from you all, in what you think is appropriate.
What you will see in some of the Orange county and some of the other larger counties, I think we were so amazed but they did a huge tax initiative as part of their tax initiative, part of it went to the affordable housing trust fund.
They had a significant amount of dollars being set aside every year to implement some of these ideas that were being talked about.
So we look for your direction on that.
>> Barbara: Right, but my question is, when you look at the wheel of recommendation, that's not part of it. Can you give us feedback on what your findings were and you know, what your recommendations would be? Like you referenced in it the others.
>> Donna: I can't. Islet me jump and say, I can. I think as part of the workshops on the final piece, we can certainly bring to that group, what we have found other communities in Florida are doing in terms of local funding of affordable housing.
So for example, if your with book, you can see everything from a 500 thousand dollars, out of the general fund for three years, being committed by seminal county and then you heard Donna talk about the one penny sales tax, called penny for the county. They reauthorized it three times, I think. And I believe 80 million dollars of the penny for that county is dedicated to affordable housing. So you can see a wide range of community initiative from, you know, one dollar amount to the other in different funding sources and we can certainly, in the financial work group, present examples that we found throughout the state.
We can look out of state but there's some funding mechanisms in other states that are just not constitutionally enabled in Florida. So probably sticking to Florida is a better strategy for us. Is that what you were meaning Barbara?
>> Barbara: I guess I'm still a little -- I'm questioning. We're still getting the early stages of information. So it's not that you're making a decision on anything. You're basically bringing back your findings of what you have seen works or that we should even take a look at. So I'm not understanding the we can't.
>> Donna: I heard you were asking for a recommendation.
>> Barbara: Oh, that's the word. Okay, all right. Let me rephrase that. Not your recommendations but the information from it, from the findings in the area for those that have housing trusts. So we can evaluate it and then give some leadership.
>> I'm happy to provide that information.
>> And what our expectations would be so I apologize for that. I know, you cannot make recommendations on the funds and the spending. So I appreciate that.
>> Donna: While you guys were starting to talk, I have the web address. It's homes for PENELIS.ORG. It's all listed there for the summit meetings and they had a really good keynote speaker that kicked the whole thing off.
>> Barbara: That means you'll still send us the Ling?
>> One other thing before you leave.
>> Donna: Yes, sir.
>> In the greater volume here, you had some really good information and I would really like to encourage that in the summit, maybe as a break out. A topic to study is an area that government has involvement but not necessarily in funding but in encouraging affordable housing through multiple things like ADUs which also help the homeowner keep their home.
And this is risky after this morning, but even zoning and allowing duplexes, tri plexes. With the idea of getting people who need affordable housing out of depressed areas or where they're grouped together, get them into the community where we can get to know one another and learn from each other. Developers set asides. If a developer asked for a zoning change or a compive land use change. That's a negotiation.
And we can require them, ask them, not approve it unless they agreed to, if they're going to build 600 homes at a certain percentage of them being affordable.
Again, it mixes us together and brings people together and then, also, one I have seen worked very well around the country is just encouraging small scale developers. There are people, it's almost a ministry to them.
It's their focus ongoing out and building affordable housing in low income neighborhoods. They don't make a lot of money but they love it! And there's things we can do there in helping them, building and zoning permits. Whatever the government can do. So the government has a role to play in making it easier for us to do. So you have a lot of that information. Thanks for including it.
If we're going to do a summit, I would really like to see that be a part of it.
>> Donna: Absolutely! And that's part of the land use, zoning, all of the things. And we may ask them to be a speaker on a panel and talk about the things as well as some others from different communities to talk about innovative ways they have used land development regulations that might be of interest to other cities and or the county.
>> Thank you. Good work!
>> When can we get the census? I ran into Sabrina and we were talking about the census numbers.
>> Donna: We will get them to you as soon as possible.
>> So do we have them?
>> The county level, that's what I had heard. I'm trying to get a time frame here. So my point is, I want to try to get the accurate numbers for the Volusia county residents and just really an accurate perception of what are we looking at here in Volusia county.
If we're looking at 2011 information or older information, it may not be as accurate. What other ways? Maybe staff can look at other ways to get that information?
>> Donna: If we don't have it from the census bureau, we will be using the same data. A a lot of this data is driven from those numbers.
>> Heather: So there's other ways we can get that information. I understand that getting that specific definitive number about AB or C, if you want that specifically, I understand you have to wait for them to update it. But we're just looking for Volusia county information. So we have all of the non profits. We have second harvest. We have all of these different groups. We have all of these different groups working with people in the community.
One voice, could we not just talk to them. We don't need the exact numbers but just to get a good feel of where we're at in Volusia county. Because when I'm out in the community, I'm not hearing that we have 15 thousand more apartment homes or just housing for that sector of essential workers and that's not what I'm hearing at all.
So I want to make sure, not saying this information is wrong but I just want all of us to have a really good perception before we make these decisions because the decisions are very important, right? And we're trying to do it based on that.
>> Donna: Absolutely. We can gather anecdotal information by contacting them. We started a survey of the cities in their planning departments to talk to them and we'll send it out as well. I'm not sure any of those organizations can give us finite data but we can get anecdotal information and hopefully, that will start mixing and we can get the census data information for 2010. 2020 and start being able to do a deep dive so we have more information, especially for the big summit. So we can hopefully get as close as possible. But in terms of Shinburg, we'll be dependent on them getting their data and analysis as well as our deep dive.
>> Barbara: I just want to say thank you. I know it's been a lot of work done on this in the course of time. I remember you putting together the little map for me where they are. So I do appreciate all of the work and look forward to us being able to move it forward and make a difference out in the community.
>> Donna: Thank you! And as you know, sitting behind me here, and alongside me truly are three exceptional folks who have worked on this but a huge kudos goes to Cory Brown right here who redid, redid, and redid for me as I said. Wait, I have to have the picture say something different than that. So she worked with both Heather and Karrie and others to make sure that the data we have could be best represented even though it's out of date. It's the best information we can get from the data we have.
>> And Donna and Cory, I want to thank you. This is so helpful as you know, and in January, whenever we had our first workshop, we put out our five most important initiative.
I think this is pretty much number one for all of us. So to have this great start with this, we're going to get this done this year. We're going to have a plan done this year. So I'm really excited. A great amount of information. So thank you so much for all of the input we have. This gives us a good basis. I'm ready to go on your little path there.
>> Two more things Donna. I did want to comment on this. So even data aside, I just want to say, to all of the staff, I don't know if your specific division did this in and of itself. Or the community organization helped you or how it was made up.
>> Community organization.
>> So in the five years I have been here, this, just the visual impact of this visual presentation, looks like we're the top ten population in the counties of Florida. So this, just the visual impact presentation. So much better!
>> They worked really hard, to be, fluffy because I'm not very fluffy. This is the --
>> I wouldn't know anything about that Donna.
>> Here it is, just the fax. So I worked hard at make this a sharp looking presentation as well as giving you data. It's not my forte but I learned a lot more about it. Thanks so the young techie person on our staff that saved me multiple times.
>> It looks good and I hope moving forward, we can look past those different surveys and studies and things and really start to figure out, you know, out of the box, within our county, how we can really maintain a realtime idea of what is happening behind section 8 and the low low income level.
The second thing I had was we had the affordable housing committee and I have never heard from the affordable housing committee, besides just generally talk to the members themselves. I would imagine that you guys are discussing lots of things and you have been really working hard this last year.
Is council good with maybe hearing from -- Anisimov, are you ready? I would love to hear what you have been discussing. We haven't had a report from the affordable housing committee. I would love to hear.
>> Barbara: We started this year, reviewing the housing element of a comprehensive plan. We have a really good committee. We appreciate your nominations on the committee because these people got down and worked. We went line by line and section by section and made recommendations for the changes we thought would make the housing element a little bit more understandable and a little bit more broad.
One of the things we added, when we talked about extremely low income and low income. We put workforce housing. We added that terminology to it. We spent a lot of our meetings doing that. Then we decided we wanted to tackle the issue of community land trusts. So we had a presentation, a video Zoom presentation from a representative of the Florida housing coalition that special ized in it. We had a lady from West Palm beach county who ran theirs and so we got the general idea.
We liked the idea because it's sustainable. You know, if you have a housing trust fund with money, that's great! What happens when the money runs out? With the land trust, the land is always there. So the affordable housing never goes away. It's sustainable in everything you put in there can be used for affordable housing. We liked it so much. We investigated that. Everyone on the committee took a task.
We look at the developers who are interested in utilizing land from a land trust and we found out, there's developers in the county who are working to develop land from a community land trust.
We found what it takes to start one from scratch. We talked to a man who developed one in the Tampa area and also developed one in Orange County. That's why we came up with the recommendation to you, to say, let's put out something on the street and see if we can join the existing community land trust without reinventing the wheel and without incurring the start ups. We would still have local control of it. It would just be held in a bigger pot. So that's been the latest task and that's what we have done. That's what we have done right now.
The next task is to look at the shipping incentives and look how to use them.
>> And the community land trust, we have talked a lot about homeownership, building the homes. But that also refers to apartment complexes.
>> It can go either way. You can use it for, a large section of land, a developer can build it with rental property, duplexes, single family homes. Whatever you, or we as the community decide is needed. We would like to see a community land trust. We would like county land, city land in it.
We also found out in one area, there were a group of doctors that bought some land several years ago they were going to develop. Well, it didn't turn out. They developed it, it was nice land but they donated it to the land trust and the land trust in term, gave them the tax ride off for the value of the land. We see it as being private, government, just a true community land trust. We were excited about that possibility here.
>> Thank you. Any other questions? Then we'll open it up to the county manager. This is the last opportunity for public participation. I have not a single -- if you filled out a yellow form, just give it to these. Well, this is the end of the meeting. Yes, the way we did it this time, it was an agenda item within our meeting. John who? Okay, Karen.
>> Karen: I am so impressed that you know how to say my name. That's usually my tell marketer screen. Hello, my name is Karen deLyle and I live at Norman beach and I go to our lady of lords church. We are encouraged this council is taking up this issue and for the last three years, I have been in terms of faith, fighting injustice against harmony housing committee so we're encouraged that you're doing it.
The presentation was lovely and we like the information that a dedicated housing fund is being looked upon. So according from statistics from Volusia county public schools, over 2000 school children in our county are homeless or housing impaired.
Picture, a standard school bus holds 72 kids. That is, 28 school busses. Of kids struggling with the security of a home.
According to stats from Harvard University, over 20 thousand homes in our area, or households, are paying over half of their income on rent. We know that this issue and you have shown it, that it deserves our immediate and definitive action but as you heard, our county does not need to reinvent the wheel. We have some great examples of communities that are making significant progress.
Our neighbors in seminal and orange county started to study this a few years ago and it concluded with key policy recommendations, chief among them, the creation of a county wide housing trust funds.
The new housing funds, in seminal and orange county are in good company because in the last few years, housing trust funds have been established by county governments around our states.
So Hillsborough issues grants to 7 different projects last year and this will result in 260 new units of affordable and workforce housing.
700 communities across the United States have created local housing trust funds. They are popular because they work. They empower non profit and private sector developers to do what they do best.
We can't rely on Washington DC. We cannot rely on tell has see to solve our problems.
We need local solutions. We need local leadership to implement them. So faith is asking our county council to create a housing trust fund. We know money is coming from the American rescue plan to deal with the impacts of the pandemic. The need for affordable housing surely qualifies as our area has been, our children have been, our seniors have been significantly impacted by the pandemic. We know other communities across the country like lexington Kentucky are going to use their rescue funds to support their affordable housing.
I feel like I'm going to be executed. So we're asking the council to consider a portion of the money that our county receives from the American rescue plan to develop a new housing trust fund. Thank you!
>> And you made it, thank you, Karen!
>> John Nicholson: It's only my second time here, it sounds like a lot. One public comment. I'm glad to hear you thinking holistically. When I look at things, it's hole listly, the whole nine yards, not just down the center. Are you doing affordable housing, workforce? Are you doing just homeownership? Are you allowing apartments?
Well, it was really nice to hear that you're looking at not reinventing the wheel because other people have gone through this, so why don't we take advantage of what they know, what they have done and just incorporate it. That's what the Romans did. They did not invent 90 percent of what they created. What we perceive them to have created. They took it from the Greeks or whomever and just improved on it. So that's what I'm asking us to do.
We have a HUD housing in Daytona Beach, but there's HUD housing for the county and elsewhere. They all have homes and SHIP and whatever. They all get funding. Have we ever put them together and said, this is what we need. This is what you have.
I know they can't inter lock. They can't be used from one to the next but you can work on it. You can work on almost anything, the land trust is fantastic!
You can never reinvent land. Whatever we have, we have. Once it's developed, it's developed. No one is going to buy margarita ville and put in HUD housing. It's not going to happen.
For low cost housing, there's plenty of land out there. If you buy it ahead of time, no one is going to complain because they don't have the homes next to it to complain with. There's land that we have in the city of Daytona beach, but the report says, we don't need it. Most of the people that are -- we need fireman, policeman, teachers. They have housing for all of that.
We have 7,000 units for HUD housing. 7,000. In a city of 55,000, or 70 thousand. That's a heck of a lot! And then we have all of this housing for low level. It's about time that we end the talk. It's 100,-- to rent these apartments. I waited 30 years for that level of apartments to come to Daytona beach. We have plenty of it. We need to find placing within the city because it's best for all of us.
We don't want empty cores. So if we're going to look for affordable housing, put it in the core areas. It helps both ways. People can afford them because the land is cheap. Plus, it helps the businesss that are already there to sustain themselves.
I like what you guys are doing, thanks!
>> Thank you, John! Why aren't you on the affordable housing board? I'm not on it. Okay. Mr. County manager.
>> Yes, I was just going to say, the next meeting is schedule today do the infrastructure for our workshop. Are we bringing that forth? And other than that, it was a good meeting and have a great weekend!
>> Were you planning on doing it in the same format?
>> We'll talk. I think this worked pretty well, but I think now, we'll take a look at what we can do downstairs as well. I'll try to talk to everybody and see what they're comfortable with. It will be similar in that we'll have a report of where we're at. I think you have to start off with that. But I can take a look at what our AV needs and stuff are too, as far as showing the data we would like to get out there. Okay.
>> Suzanne, Heather?
>> Heather: We have a couple of updates from the county attorney. One is regarding the amendment ten litigation as you all know, Volusia county filed litigation in order to challenge whether amendment ten applied to Volusia county.
After we were unsuccessful at the appellate level, the direction is to not proceed further with that litigation and we have not. The secretary of state has actually asked the Supreme Court to review that portion and make the decision that applied to the secretary of state and whether secretary of state was a proper party in the litigation or not.
And at the time, that occurred, we came to council again and council said, you still did not want us to pursue, to become involved in the litigation.
At this time, the Supreme Court has accepted the secretary of State's request for review the matter. So we just want to come back to, again, and make sure you were still comfortable with us not being involved in that litigation and pursuing it at the Supreme Court level. So I'm assuming that we're good with that.
Okay, the other issue that we wanted to bring an update on is the human trafficking ordnance. We received direction at the last meeting to bring back an ordnance regarding signage and also an ordnance regarding licensing of entertainment, adult entertainment performers.
We are prepared to bring back the signage ordnance and that's brought back for the next meeting. On the issue of the licensing for the adult entertainment professionals, we are still continuing to monitor the litigation in Jacksonville with a similar ordnance. At this point, a number of the items have been declared unconstitutional. The judge asked for additional briefing on some of the other issues which is just due to the court last Friday.
We are monitoring that litigation. And are keeping an eye on it to see if we can get a road map out of that litigation to see what kind of ordnance we can propose that we know will pass constitutional muster.
In addition to that issue, the Florida legislature just last week passed a bill which prohibits local governments from issuing any kind of local occupational licenses. We don't know what is going to happen with that bill at this point. We don't know if the governor is going to agree to that legislation. So we also feel we need to monitor that in order to see where that goes before we bring back an additional ordnance on licensing. And so we wanted to give you all that update and make sure you're comfortable with us, at this point, bringing the signage ordnance forward and continuing to monitor those issues in regards to the licensing portion.
>> Okay, and the first one, before you started with that, with the amendment ten, I think you read all of the bobbing heads so you got the answer to that. Council, what is your feeling on that?
>> I would like to speak on it since I was the one who brought up the trafficking ordnance. The signage, great! But I'm not hearing any difference in where we were at when we gave direction in the first place. So we knew that this was happening in Jacksonville. We knew and we discussed they had put a whole number of bullet points in their ordnance and we were not looking at doing any of those bullet points including immigration status, age, ya ya, which is all a bit of contention there.
So I hear what you're saying but, nothing has changed on that end since we gave direction. So I don't see why we're delaying on that at all.
>> Well, there's the addition of the legislation which we did not have in place. As I said, we're not sure if the governor is going to move forward and sign that bill or not.
>> An occupational licensing?
>> Well, the way it is written, it could also affect this particular type of regulation. So that's why we're monitoring that as well. It could prevent us from having that type of licensing in place.
>> Mr. Chair, I think we need to put that part aside and let them watch it and not go anywhere. There's no sense in them doing work just to do work. Let's wait and see where this goes before we go any further with that part, with the signage. I don't see any problem with that. But in reference to the licensing, I think we need to slow that down and let them observe it and see what can we do.
>> So I would like to address that. Nothing has changed since we gave direction in the first place. We knew that it's a contentious issue. We went around and around in our discussions on that. Human trafficking is always going to be a contentious issue. That was a major part of our discussion. We discussed what is going on down south with ordnances, what is going on with Jacksonville with ordnances. We did not ask for an occupational license to be put in place. I hear what you're saying, absolutely nothing has changed in terms of our direction that was made to the county attorney's office to come back with an ordnance on this for us to look at.
Six months from now, we're going to be in the same place. It's a contentious issue. But zero has changed in the discussion that council went over and over again. In our meeting. So if we're just making the decision to push the can down the road and discuss it, because it's a contentious issue, great. But if we're saying we're going to hold off and see how things work out in the legal system, I can tell you this has been going on since the 90s in the legal system.
Absolutely zero has changed in the discussion on council's side. I'll leave it up to council but I knew this was going to happen.
>> So unfortunately, I was not here last meeting. But I guess my question is about the state ordnance being considered at this time. And how that impacts the work of creating something that would then become not valid or legal is saying it could impact the ordnance they would write up. So I think for me, it's worth me seeing what that decision will be in order to say, that's what staff should be using their time for. But I'm really pleased to see and hear about the signage because I think that's important and it's a good first step.
Where there has been no steps. So that I can appreciate but I certainly am concerned about human trafficking. I would like to see what strategies we can put forth that are best for the community and safe for that environment and that will make a difference and not just do something, you know, to say we did it.
I didn't hear from the community that deals with this, to have a true understanding of whether that licensing or ordnance is the best path forward. I have some reservation around it but I am glad to hear about the signage and I would support us waiting to get the state response. To see if if the governor signs off on that and what direction we can take from there so we're not duplicating or wasting time. Thank you.
>> I have several people who want to speak. I just have a quick question. What kind of a time frame are you expecting from the state? If you just proceed. You have direction from the council, if you proceed from that, is it going to occupy the same amount of time, what you hear from the state to address what you're working on?
>> We really have two issues. One is legislation that probabilities licensing of occupations at all by a local government. On that issue, we would want to wait to see if the governor assigns it or not. At this point, that shouldn't take a very long time.
The big issue is the litigation currently pending on the Jacksonville ordnance. We know several of the provisions have been declared unconstitutional and the other provisions, we really don't know. They could be declared unconstitutional as well. We just don't know. The court hasn't decided. The latest briefings were due last Friday. Once the judge has the opportunity to review the documents, the plan is to schedule a trial. After that trial, we would have a better idea as to how the court will rule on that type of licensing ordnance. I don't know exactly how long it will take.
We can continue to monitor it as it goes forward.
>> Nobody does, I guess. The state is going to change, probably no matter what. It was not a good year in the state legislature for local control. My feeling is to keep pushing ahead. Ben Johnson?
>> As a former sheriff, law enforcement professional, human trafficking is on my mind all of the time. It's a very big issue! The mere fact about our staff going out and doing something that other people are already doing, is something like that, like that last issue. We were watching other people and learning from them, instead of reinventing the wheel. There's no sense in us doing something that is going to put us in litigation and go and take our staff having to work on something. That somebody else is in the process of doing. I think we're wasting our time and especially wasting our staff's time to do anything with it at this time and wait and see where it goes in the court system before we go any further with this.
>> I agree with you, 110 percent! Council member Post, how about in the mean time, what are your thoughts on this? With the educational point of this, is there something we can team up with the sheriff's office or the educational school system to put together a program for our kids or even our parents in terms of better parenting, and situational awareness and things to look out for.
Even self-defense or defensive tactics. I'm sure we can find an instructor and a couple of things to really bridge gaps between the law enforcement, public, adult entertainers, our teenagers and our students and this council.
So in the mean time while we're waiting for these other court cases to come back, there's some positive we can get out of this in the mean time to bring awareness.
And Suzanne and staff brought it up so I can't take credit for it but I'm on board with Susan on this. To sit back and wait for the legal end but see what other educational ways we can combat with. So thank you!
>> Heather: I like the advocacy part. That is something we had talked about before so if anything, if we can push the signage thing through, that's great! But pushing the signage part of that is getting various businesses on board because the businesses are mandated to do that. The regular businesses in those core areas. So getting them to partnership and do pledges and things like that is something we're working on. But I really want to hit the point home guys. Zero has changed. In the Jacksonville discussion, it is the exact same circumstance of when we made the decision in the first place. The same exact circumstance. So that's great. When we bring people in and we're discussing and we're listening and making these decisions but for us to come back in the very next meeting and say, you know, we're going to change our minds.
When it literally is the same circumstance for the Jacksonville case stuff. We knew that when we discussed it.
We also knew there were cases in Miami, cases everywhere else. They're going to continue to be cases. And we actually discussed that in our meetings. Nothing has changed. On that front. I totally understand county attorney's division not wanting to jump into any area that might be a liability of any kind. We're also policy makers and we're also, counties do these things. That's why we have had the core cases and we have communities that are stepping up and taking this seriously and are addressing it and are creating ordnances and are doing these kinds of things.
And this is -- at that meeting. We had these discussions. So zero has changed on that.
>> Billie: Well, I don't know, Heather. I hear where you're coming from. I definitely do. But you know, I think staff provides a little bit more information to us, also in discussing this. I know I gathered a little bit more information. I'm all for moving for the signage, the ordnance on that 100 percent. That's moving forward.
So we are advancing. I also like Danny's ideas. I don't know but how much education is there in the schools? Man, they should be talking about this in their school system.
So there's things we can do while that process is running its course. I would rather not jump into another lawsuit which we don't know where that one is heading and yes, my thinking is the last time.
Well, we might want to move forward but, as I have gotten more time to think about it, I think that's what we do.
We gather more information and sometimes, we do change our minds or back up but it's not kicking the can down the road. We're certainly moving forward but maybe not in all directions. Maybe, just changing directions a little bit.
Definitely getting the signage thing going out there and then start pursuing other opportunities of education. I think that's critical to get some education. And then we can do that while we're waiting to hear what is going on with that. But that would be my suggestion. I would support the signage. And holding off on the other one. But pursuing other educational ways we can move the message.
>> Heather: So if y'all all remember the last meeting, I mean, we had people from the freedom task force that were here. DCF came and talked to us before. We had counselors from the middle school who have come and talked to us before, and talked to us about cases of the schools and this going on.
We have had people come and talk to us about this stuff. We are working on education and advocacy and I'm certainly for more of that for sure. But they also came to us and bagged us. Look, we can't do it alone and we need some teeth and enforcement. When we discussed all of this in the last meeting but I will say it again. When it was on the agenda, it was in the media. Hey, it was going to be discussed. And one of the things was brought up is there are no cases in Volusia county for like the last ten years for human trafficking.
And then we discussed that, well, the reason why there's no human trafficking cases is because they're not charged with human trafficking. They're charged with drug offenses or kidnapping or a variety of other things but not specifically that, child endangerment.
We went over all of this. For us to make the change specifically because we're afraid because someone else is in a suit, discussing, because they try today push the ordnance through. It is a reminder that the one down south went through. And we said, the one in Jacksonville, because they tried to push through a ton of bullet points on one ordnance and all of those bullet points were being hammered.
We don't want any of those bullet points, we just want one small tooth. One small piece we can put through. So in the final message of that meeting that we had, where we actually said we were going to move forward on an ordnance and have them come back to us with an ordnance just on that one tiny section, of identifying the workers, you heard from the victims.
You heard from the different people. You heard from the task force. You heard from them saying that oh my gosh, this will make such a big difference. I have talked to Chip since then. I'm sure some of you have. What is a difference in that community when they understand that people in Volusia county are noting these things.
We're aware. We're working to stop it. And they will go to other counties and think about it twice when they plan to go to a giant event and human traffic.
We discussed all of that. I hope I can change your mind again, from the changing of the mind now.
We're really in the same spot, guys. I would hope that we can continue with the direction that we had given before because zero has changed on that. Thank you.
>> Let's pause for a second. I think there's a way to do that. Ben, give me a second and let me say this and then we'll -- because I think there's a compromise here. It's like we're talking about something. You're hearing direction move ahead on the signage.
You need direction on whether you keep moving ahead another ordnance. But you -- you I want to put a hard time limit on it? What if it wasn't the next meeting? This month, but the first meeting next month where they will have a better idea. They can be working on it so they don't lose time. Do you have a hard time frame on it?
>> Heather: I would be happy with anything eventually happening. But the direction was to have it at the next meeting. It's not on this agenda. It was, and then -- there was discussion, in my hard discussion was, okay, but please, it needs to be on the May 18th meeting because council gave direction. We need to be listening to council direction and provide them with what we're asking for and it was -- you know. I'm already seeing we're not being provided it.
>> You know, I just heard yesterday afternoon, late, and I had an agenda meeting for this meeting with staff. They approached to me about it then because they got new information yesterday afternoon. It affected what they're doing. That's why we're here today. It's that fluid it's changing every day. They don't want to write something that is a waste of time. I want something. Everybody on this council wants something done.
For me, if it means not bringing it back on the 18th but the next meeting. And in the mean time, like you did for me last night because I was the only one you had an agenda meeting with, you can update us next week as we go. And then all of us are on board of what is happening. But yeah, let's not lose the effort we have already made. And I hate to see us go back and reanything.
I understand. And I agree, Ben, that we don't want to -- there's so many things. We're a target for being sued. There's so many things that staff can work on. I think they can proceed on this cautiously with what they know now and be ready. They're pretty smart people to be able to dodge or dive or go underneath or go up on top. Right now, here's where we are. You have direction to proceed. There's not a motion to stop. I hope there isn't a motion to stop.
I think the county attorneys are smart enough to keep going cautiously and bring back more information Ben.
>> I would like to make a motion we put this on hold, pending the county attorney's outcome until they can bring us back information, one way or another. I'm not saying throw it away. There's no sense to do anything futile. My notion is for them to come back to us at the proper time they deem necessary and we can keep up with it in the mean time until we can do something with it.
>> Okay, there's a motion to table it, second by Danny Robins.
>> Heather: Clarification, is that to table the entire thing? It was one ordnance for the signage and the --
>> Signage, I'm not touching. The other one, go ahead with.
>> Heather: About the identification, not licensing?
>> Right.
>> Any other discussion? The motion on the table? All in favor of Ben's motion say I. Any opposed?
>> Heather: Me.
>> I understand what you're doing, I just hate passing something one week and turning it around in two weeks later and changing it.
>> Well, sometimes we get new information. And so it's our responsibility to look at that sort of thing. And I feel like new information did come to us that we need today evaluate, sit down and realize that we were running off of a cliff. With a car full of people.
>> And we did. We got new information. It was presented to us. I feel like they can still move on and nobody is driving over a cliff.
Did you have anything else, county attorneys?
>> Suzanne: Did you have something? Dr. Lowry is not here for council. Updates? I'll go down the list. Heather Post.
>> Heather: Clarification, the signage is going to be brought back next meeting, correct? I'm going to tell people May 18th.
>> That is correct, yes.
>> I have a question on the animal control services board. I saw a notice that they were opening. Do we know when it's going to be on the agenda?
>> We have plans to put it on the next agenda.
>> I had someone ask. I want to ask about the opening. I have someone for mine. It can be on the next agenda. Okay. Oh, county attorneys, the trespassing in chambers. That's something I want to talk to council about.
Not the issue of trust passing people, but the issue, we need to set a standard or we need to be on the same page. I don't think we're all on the same page collectively on if there is disturbance and it's continued disturbance, meeting after meeting after meeting like we have been having.
That we have some sort of response. I know we have gotten back a lot of information on specifically the trust passing statute. I can see how it's relative on a broad scale. I would like some quick discussion on where we stand. So we have had someone from the short term rental group that came in and cussed and caused a problem, but not killing anybody and not, you know, nobody needed to be dragged out but still, disrupting the meeting, right?
A great example is if someone came in every afternoon and just sat back there and said, I love ice cream over and over out loud, would we allow that? Because it's not killing anyone and they have a first amendment right. Can someone come in and do that? I would say no. If someone was continuously disrupting the meeting. Do you guys want to talk about the standard or perhaps, we can make an announcement of a standard. I'm not saying we drag anybody out of meetings but I think we need to maybe have a little bit of an SOP going where we're all on the same page.
>> I would like to hear from legal on what exactly we're allowed to do.
>> Well, Mr. Dire I think, sent all of you a memo or an e-mail a couple of days ago. What we suggest as the first step would be to look at perhaps, some rules of decor M. I understand that some were drafted a while ago but the council decided at that point, no the to move forward with them.
We could certainly bring it back to you again for your consideration. That would be the first step. And then we would have to make some -- well, if it were the council that decided to have some rules that would prohibit certain people from appearing in chambers, we would have to make some alternate arrangements for them to be able to address the council. Maybe have them in another room and then you can see them on video or something like that.
But we can come up with options for that if you would like and bring it back to you.
>> Heather: I'm saying it in response to the e-mail sent out. The e-mail said, hey, council, we need you to discuss the decor rum. That's why I'm bringing it up. Do we need a motion on that?
>> We could bring them back for your consideration and put them on the agenda and you can look forward about whether you want to move?
>> Let's see what everybody else thinks.
>> Yeah, I would like to just ask, so is there any difference from that, that happened, or the people that come up here and attack a council member. How do we differentiate, when they become very slanderous.
So would one be any worse or greater than the other?
>> Those are the issues you would want to address in those rules. Like I said, there was a draft done previously. We can obviously share it with you. And take any input on what you think should be added and moved.
>> Heather: There's a big difference in having someone come up and give their three minutes. We use today have someone that used to come in and talk about America and how he hated the pledge and everything else. It was his three minutes, I get it.
Not happy about the subject at all but it is what it is. That's the three minutes. He wasn't sitting in the back and just, blah blah blah while we're having our meeting. That's, that's disruptive. So I think we need some sort of judgment there.
>> What I have seen with that though, is that when that happens, the deputy on staff took care of it right away. I saw it where there was a woman in the back of the room, annoying everyone around her, criticizing one of us on the council and he took her out and it stopped. So I have been happy with the way that the deputies have been handling it. If they don't, we can always send George down. He's bigger than most people and I think he has a concealed -- let me take it off of the record. I don't know what he has.
But to me and boy, I hear you. And I have been probably more tolerant -- not probably, but much more tolerant in the past than with signs and hats and cat calls. To me, the person's right to be an idiot if they want to is, I can tolerate it. In my opinion, we haven't had a dangerous situation yet. I understand that it's like that. It could get dangerous. Right, right. So Ben?
>> Ben: Some of them, our local governments have had some real issues with this. It just continues and keeps getting worse and worse. When you're disruptive, fights words and last week, they did it in inviting a fight or two weeks ago, but it sure was fighting words when you start insulting an individual like you did.
The ability of a man who has targeted it, or puts it on, he comes up here and starting filming him. It makes it go up more. We need to have some decor rum. It's easier to get it back in control when it gets out of line. I think we need to have what it takes to show respect with this council. I'm even against the idea of clapping and booing. We haven't had the boos yet and it's going to happen. I think we need to keep it under control. You can take and lose control of this chamber in just a moment's notice.
It starts going from meeting to meeting to meeting. I think that's once again, where we need to start watching where other people have had problems, where they have come to the microphone and said words that my mom would have washed my mouth out with soap.
We can't have that. We need to start thinking about some of these contentious items. We need to start thinking ahead and keep it under control before it gets out of control.
>> You may be surprised but I disagree with it. Everybody has the right to be as vile as they want. I don't like it. I don't want the public to hear it but what I fear more is that there's the heavy hand of government coming down and saying what they can say.
Somebody from legal wants to speak.
>> Should the council wish to go in the direction of being able to -- in the future, we need the rules of decor rum. Someone can be trespassed if they violate a law or ordnance or rule.
So if we had our rules in place, that would give us the ability at some point in the future, so you should decide to look at trespasses. As oppose to removing them from the individual meeting.
That's why I suggested bringing forward the rules at a future date if you would like us to.
>> We have a deputy and security and this can be solved easily, disorderly conduct. If this person is disorderly and disruptive, under state statute, you give them a warning.
Sometimes once. If you want to be in this case, you can give it again, twice. And if you want to really be nice, you can do it three times but in my opinion, two times too many.
But the deputy knows what he has to do. And I think they do a good job of it and we can just leave it up to them. That's their gig. And then you can, 27A, trespass from there. I am more concerned about the security, you know, coming into the actual building.
Think about it. We have metal detectors and anything else protect deputies and people in this chamber. Just a couple of things to think about. There's state statutes. If it gets out of control, these boys will take care of business so I'm not worried about that. Thanks!
>> Barbara Girtman: I certainly don't agree with a citizen coming and being as vile as they want to be. I think there's a certain level of decor rum. I appreciate we have this deputies and others in the room to address concerns. But I do think we need answer ordnance that speaks to it.
So when you come in, you know what it is. If it's broken, again, we know that public safety staff is going to come in and address it. Yeah, not be, where you escalate the situation but at least, someone knows that it's going to be addressed and there's an expectation. So I think, again, people can say what they want to. It doesn't mean you trespass or put it out because they say it. But reference, there's an expectation when you're in this room. I just think that's the appropriate way to deal with anybody.
Chair, I certainly don't agree that people have the right to be as vile as they want in communicating with me.
Now, you may be okay with that but I certainly am not.
>> I'm not okay with it. Certainly you maybe misunderstood but the freedom to voice your opinion, whatever it is, it's a dangerous road we're heading on. If we're going to tell people what they can and can't say and call it decor rum, that they can't disagree and use a bad word, I don't like it. I'm not going to vote and say, their speech is censored. That's my feeling. Heather Post?
>> Barbara: I want to respond. It's different if someone says a bad word. A bad word is not the same as vile, violent, aggressive and attacking a person personally. We're talking about someone being targeted and truly disrespectful and again, very inappropriate.
I know our public safety and the staff will handle it but I still think it's important for people to know there is an expectation.
>> There is an expectation but I don't want to enforce it at the point of a gun. Heather.
>> Heather: Wow! Just to clarify, I'm not in my way, asking for for anybody to be dragged out of our chambers and I have put up with people who had an acting stocking injunction against them for a long time and he was allowed to continue to do ridiculous things. Because you know what? It's America. God bless us.
I'm also working on SOPs and standards. If no one knows the deal, how can we expect to enforce anything? How can a deputy expect to enforce anything? You know, when things happened, a lot of times whoever the deputy is, can look at us because they're not sure what. Do we give them the spiel? Probably not. There's no SOP.
I have been a deputy as a law enforcement officer. I can tell you, if there's a fight, I can jump in. If someone is being, you know, disruptive, not sure I would jump in on that in the chamber. There's not a standard I think that comes in here, or that our staff can understand that comes in here. There's no SOP that we understand or the general staff understands.
So I would just -- I would love to see what we had before. You're saying we had one before. I would love to see that and even if, I know it's in the agenda. There's some kind of decorum saying don't talk about people but I'm just talking about, interrupt ing the meeting. That's not okay.
To have someone continuously interrupt the meeting. It's disruptive. We're the highest government officials in the county. We can't have people doing that.
I think we just need some standards and apparently we had some before.
>> There was a draft prepared previously that was brought to council and council decided not to move forward on it.
>> Do you know when it was?
>> A year ago.
>> I don't remember that, Billie. Do you remember it? So big difference, that's for the signage. Let me get the record okay on that. I'm okay with people bringing in signs and giving opinions. That's totally fine. But if you're disruptive, you can't say things over and over again, while we're having our meeting. That's disruptive. So it's that that you're going to bring back?
>> It's general rules of decorum. It doesn't apply to just signage.
>> I don't want to see anything on signage.
>> I understand. So obviously, yeah, we can share it with you again. That's not a problem, or we can bring it back if that's council's direction. Whatever you need.
>> Heather: I'm just saying what barb said. If the people know what the rules are and abide by them, we're good. If we know where the standards are, then we can make sure they're enforced.
When nobody is on the same page, that leaves it up in the air. Sometimes we have clapping. Sometimes we don't. Sometimes people are yelling, sometimes we don't.
Hopefully we'll talk more about the specific issues so people are going to be heart felt and I think this is a good opportunity for us to just sort of set the standards.
Even if that standard is just a sign on the door. Look at how long it took us, Billie, to get the public participation signage at the door. That's made a tremendous difference in getting public participation and stuff. Even if it's just putting signage out there when people come in saying, hey. Not for nothing. But this is the -- this is a government body and we ask everybody to be respectful. Maybe just having that could help. Then we can be, hey, not for nothing.
>> Mr. Chair, we're about beating it to death. Can we ask the staff to contact the local governments and other places and see what they have and go back to all of us. That won't take any work. If we see we like or something we want to put together but maybe we can get an idea of this. We don't want to take away people's rights but the other people's rights either.
So why don't we just do that. Right now, we're just --
>> Heather: Does it have to be an ordnance?
>> Why don't we just see what the rules are?
>> Heather: Can we just have you come -- I'm going to make a motion. Can we just have staff come up with a sign? Can we start there? Well, that's left up to staff. A one liner.
>> I would like to see, you know, what others have. I agree a sign might work but I want to know what is going to be on it.
>> So you want staff to bring back a set of rules that can apply to chambers?
>> Yes, that's my suggestion.
>> That was a motion. Is there a second on Heather's motion to bring back the sign?
>> Heather: I want to make a motion to bring back the language.
>> We can bring back some suggested rules for deDOR rum within the chamber to determine if you would like us to move forward with it.
>> I will second that.
>> Second by Wheeler. All in favor, say I. Any opposed?
>> I would like to comment. Is it possible to have you, when you open the meeting, reference the decorum?
>> I know they do other places and I know possibly, I offended you, Heather, when I said at the point of a gun but that's what it is. If we have a rule that says you can't do this. Or we're going to take you out of the room and arrest you.
>> It's just saying the expectations and here in -- that's not to say someone is not going to go beyond that. But you're setting a standards. That's all I'm asking. Set the standard in the beginning of the meeting.
>> I understand that and I'm trying to set a standard too. Once we start, I want to be careful that we're not going to say, if you do this, we already have laws in place for someone to be violent.
>> Mr. Chair, I think we need to call for the vote.
>> Call for the vote.
>> Thank you. If you don't mind, I will fin issue my sentence. The task of protecting our liberty, is one of the most important tasks that any of us have. That's all I'm trying to keep clear. All in favor say I. We had that vote.
>> Do you have anything easier?
>> I would like to point out that the courts have a decorum and the state legislature has such a decorum. It's normal in a regular body to have it. It's not thinking outside of the box. I was going to ask about the census but I think we touched on the census numbers. So maybe August or September?
>> That's our expectation and then we can start with the redistricting exercise. I'm glad you brought it up. If I can just clarify from the workshop discussion, those numbers that we were presenting were from the 2019 era. They came out. Just for clarification. They were not a decade old, they weren't 2011. I heard that number out there.

We'll continue to update it. And give it once they are available to us.
>> And then on the redistricting, what's the plan on that? So we get the numbers. What's the plan? What are we looking at? Once we get the information?
>> We will proceed with working with the school board on drawing new maps for redistricting and that will be brought forward to the council at some point in the future. I'm not sure exactly the time line.
>> Were the -- maybe Kevin knows this as well. But the pictures that were in the wonderful presentation for the state of the county, when we talked about the census. I was looking at the video and it was showing maps of the districts and various options.
Are those new maps or the maps from 2010?
>> 2010.
>> Okay, that's what I figured. I was just checking to see if there was any potential examples out there yet.
>> That actually, Al Hill who does all of our GIS, unfortunately, I think, will be retiring shortly. He's done two or three censuses. That's how long he has been with us. It becomes a big mapping exercise to get started and then we'll go from there. And again, we're committed to working with the school board on that.
>> Heather: So there's no suggestions thus far?
>> Nothing. There's been no meeting or anything. Just for us, it's been making sure that we got the technical staff and the people ready to go.
>> Heather: I'm sure there's more, happy mother's day to all of the mothers and anyone who has a mother.
>> Okay, Danny is out so let's go to Billie.
>> Billie Wheeler: Thank you. I don't have much. I just wanted to say on Friday, there's an Florida regional resilience collaborative first summit. It's a virtual meeting and I will be part of the panelist. I'm kind of looking forward to that. I have been instrumental in getting the regional resilience board with the E central Florida region planning.
So Volusia has been on the leading edge with all of the resilience. So we're going to be talking about all of the things that Volusia has done. Staff has done great in giving me the information and they'll be on board also. I'll be a part of the panel lists, thank you!
>> Danny Robins: Thank you, chair! If we can just circle back. Item H for the feeding sites. For summer program. Spruce creek Baptist church would like to be added to the list. I don't know if we need to make a motion for that. I can get you that information if you would like it.
>> Donna:
>> I was going to see, I don't have a big portion of the trail that runs through district three and it goes all the way to DELTNONA. A young woman who was deceased was dumped on the trail. I know for the last couple of months, I have been handing out trespassing crimes but opportunity crimes are happening down there. There's homelessness, burglaries, I heard of car breaks. What I'm trying to do is personal safety and see if we can get law enforcement on board and see what the council's feelings are on getting cameras on the pull offs, through the trail system in all of our districts or we can try to Ling them to law enforcement. Almost like tag readers if it makes sense. Just so we have the opportunity to prevent some of these crimes. Some of the activity happening at some of these pull offs in and along that trail.
Right now, there's just no security for the homeowners and along that trail, it's not lit well and there's crime going on there. So if we can prevent it. Just something to chew on. Like I said, we can bring it back to see the climate of this council.
>> Barbara Girtman: Thank you! So recently I had a presentation by our staff in regards to bus bunches and bus stops. I chair the TDLCB and it was also brought up during our our meeting.
The suggestion was made that we connect with the roundtable to get the cities, the county, the TPO and get everybody on board with where we are now. Where we want to go and what we want the system to look like to serve our community.
I know they're having listening sessions around the county. However, it usually comes back to a city agreement, a county, understanding and you know, how, what dollars are available to make something happen. And I think it's a good time to have that conversation, get it on the landscape. I know staff has done a lot of the work with VOKTRAN to make a presentation.
Whatever it takes to move that forward, I would like to have the board approval to have staff work on it.
>> Mr. Chair, I think Barbara, that would be great for the elected officials roundtable. You have a captive audience of all of the cities so I think that would be a great idea!
>> Barbara: So is everybody okay with doing this?
>> Did you ask for a motion?
>> Barbara: Can I get a motion to request to have this brought up to the roundtable and the collaborative county staff.
>> Second by Wheeler and all in favor, say I. Any opposed, ask away.
Barbara: Through the strive to stride, we had a spring hill survey go out. I want to thank all of the people WO who responded. My understanding is we had good response rate come back. I know staff is working on collecting the data to provide it. So it will be available at a future meeting so I think that's awesome!
And I'm also asking the council, on May 12th, 6 to 8, there's a spring hill community meeting at the DeLand city hall.
It's in coordination of the city of DeLand, Jessica Davis and the sheriff's department. I will also be there. So I'm asking for staff to work with me on this event. It's in response to violence that has happened in the community.
It's also a challenge because spring hill is also very checker board. One is county, one city, there's jurisdictional area issues with response. If the city police stop, you know, stops the one who is doing the crime and then it's in county, you know, who has authority and jurisdiction.
So I want to have a conversation with the sheriff and see how we can have a better relationship going forward with how to address the consensus.
If somebody needs help, all they want is somebody to come and help. It doesn't matter which ones show up, but they just need the help. So I have always been interested in how we can have more of a mutual response and maybe a collaborative agreement. With how to address the needs of the community in a partnership.
This past Saturday, I met with the black clergy in spring hill and surrounding areas and the city chief and captain from the department was there and we just talked about how to go forward. So that's the planning for the May 12th meeting came about.
I would just ask for council to support staff working with me on that event. On the 12th, from 6 to 8 at city hall. That takes a motion? I see a bunch of nods. I appreciate it. Thank you so much. Ben?
>> Ben: I have had all of the fun to stand for one day so I have nothing else to add.
>> Well, I have a couple for you. Just some quick things. These are all positive things I wanted to bring to your attention and to ask also, for council direction which will be easy. I had the privilege of going to embery, and did a little tour with Rodney Cruise and we spent most of the time in the micro plex where I had the privilege of meeting some people that had been students there, graduated and stayed because they had business ideas and now they have multi-million dollar business ideas that are selling, creating products outside of our pool, outside of the county, outside of the state, sometimes, outside of the country bringing that money back into Volusia county.
The fact, while I was there, I swore that Rodney Staged it but, they're renting out space in the micro plex to these young entrepreneurs, well, entrepreneurs of all ages.
While we're there, a man came up and said, you know that 500 feet that is available, I'll take it and he said, I'm sorry, it went this morning. So it's that popular of the technology and the equipment they have to work on. As we talked, we came up with an idea.
This is actually part of our affordable housing problem. We need to create jobs that pay more than ten dollars an hour. We're always going to have tourist trade and we're going to have an issue. We need workforce housing. But the more high paying jobs. Jobs that entrepreneurs bring that are innovative and bring money from outside of our pool are beneficial to all of us.
One of the things that Rodney and I decided is he's going to provide me on a weekly basis with some kind of a positive story about what somebody is doing in at the micro plex. What technology they're working on.
We can do it any way you want. We can talk about community information about putting it on the county website but I would like to be available for the entire council's social media. How they reach out because there will be things that all of us are interested in. My whole point is saying, they're a great partner and doing great things.
San Francisco has silicon valley and we have our emerging technologies Boulevard. That whole stretch is forming into a high-tech center putting Volusia county on the map. Second thing I want to mention, very positive. We have the absolute best in district five, transportation secretaries and the woman was killed on an A1A. I already had a meeting scheduled with him to talk about other things.
While I was there, I asked him, what can you help us do here on A1A. He got a big smile and said, the thing that we care about most is safety. So we have been working on it. We said three step process, immediate results, going out in the community and talking to the community and then after that, more long term results. The immediate results started two days later on A1A with signs to slow down traffic to try to calm traffic and and it was, I was very appreciative.
This week, he sent John Tyler with three other people who have been working on it and they are ready, well, they're preparing the community out reach and I'm certain that you would like to be involve ed, and Billie, because the road runs there but I do think it will be open to all council.
They're talking about doing it at by centennial park and we have even had a suggestion that one of our most beautiful resorts in Daytona beach may house it there.
To bring the public in. They had some complaints. You probably have seen them. The lights are shining bright, but it is working. It's slowing down traffic.
They want to open it up to the community. And I think when they do that, that you will all have an inviation. Some of the new technologies they I wasn't aware of. And some of things that are really helpful in calming traffic are also beautiful. Like, landscaping, trees, on the side of the road to keep people from.
So they have all of that. In mind and they have it laid out and want to present it to us.
Two reasons of mentioning this. Jarred from Purdue is a great secretary of transportation and we need to keep him here. I want him to know how thankful we are and I want the whole council to be include indeed what is going to happen. Or what can happen on A1A with your direction and input. And then for the streets around there. And then, lastly, around the same line. We all hear about over development and the problems it can bring and the opportunities that good responsibility people can bring. I was invited and called numerous times and e-mailed by residents of DeLand that had development going in at their neighborhood.
The first instinct is, there's nothing I can do. It's DeLand and a city issue. But when they told me who the attorney was, it was Mark Watts and I'm going to expose him here. We got together. And we went to the homes, one of the homes of the neighborhood involved, the whole neighborhood came. And then the developer came. And an amazing thing happened.
When people who disagree, stood, toe to toe and looked at each other in the eye. A developer pulled out some panels and said, we're not going to ask the city of DeLand for a zoning change or a land use change. We're going to build the development you want and he started to show pictures of what they could do.
Mark watts looked at me and I looked at him and thought, oh, this is the way things are supposed to go. I don't have to tell the rest of the council this, but I want the public to know. When you hear names of the local attorney or a developer that you think of, oh, they're destroying us. Don't pass up the opportunity to talk to them. They are our neighbors. They love this place too. They can -- in this case, a beautiful home and with lots of donuts and so I just want to tip my hat to Mark Watts for a job well done. And in DeLand, with a lot of the lakes over by the high school, there's not a high density development but a very beautiful development that matches the whole neighborhood. I'm encouraged by that. By FDOT and by Embery, and I think if no one else has anything, we can entertain the motion to adjourn.

>> Can you bare one minute. I want to touch on council Girtman's request. The next roundtable meeting is Monday, the 10th. Typically, they do not have a meeting in July. That leaves the next meeting for September the 13th. I just want to make sure that you are aware of the dates and that is so far the plan. And mayor is now leading the meeting.
I can call the mayor and you could work with the VOCTRAN folks to see if that's enough time for the presentation?
>> Well, the presentation is already put together. You know, other than maybe, just something to update it with. You can ask and I would appreciate it.
>> Absolutely!
>> Thank you, Kevin. Motion to adjourn? Second. All in

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