SPEAKER:

Good morning, it is 9:30. We will open up the public participation portion. If you filled a card out to speak, come forward now. Seeing none, we will close the public participation portion. Everyone, have a great day and we will see you at 10:00.

SPEAKER:

Good morning, it is 10:00 and welcome to the October six, 2020 Council meeting. At this time, we will have the invocation given by pastor Michael Walters followed by the Pledge of Allegiance if you would stand with me.

SPEAKER:

Good morning, before I pray, I would like to share a passage from I Timothy II 1-4. I ask you to pray for all people. Praying this way for kings and all in authority so we can be peaceful, quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. I'm pretty sure that is what everyone would echo that sentiment. Join me as we pray for counsel and all leaders in authority. (Invocation)

(Pledge of Allegiance).

SPEAKER:

For those of you listening online, be made aware is the leader of your faith community would like to attend and offer the invocation, it is open to all. So please contact our deputy clerk and she will make that happen. At this time, we will now go to the phone call.

(roll call).

SPEAKER:

With that, those watching please note we have four members attending virtually which is still permitted by the governor's order which we had hoped at the last meeting would allow us this meeting to continue this way. Does anyone wish to comment on any of the consent agenda is?

SPEAKER:

Mr. chair, I need to pull item E for a quick correction.

SPEAKER:

You needed to be pulled for?

SPEAKER:

I wanted D and E for discussion so if you can expand on your discussion.

SPEAKER:

Okay, I need a motion to approve the consent agenda absent item E. hearing no objection, the motion passes unanimous and we will go first to item E. George.

SPEAKER:

On the table that's attached, the maximum dollar amount for the fleet director should read $154,888 that's in line with all the other directors of that size division. There were notices that went out and it was incorrectly listed at 98. But it's $154,888 that is the top range.

SPEAKER:

I will entertain a motion with the correction to item E to reflect $154,888. Motion made by post and second by Wheeler. Any discussion?

SPEAKER:

George, that's what I was saying that if you can have someone expand on the pay increases.

SPEAKER:

This should decide the ranges. So what it allows should counsel tonight pass the budget that contains the three percent raise in there for the employees. It's also in keeping with some of our union contracts that are out there. What this action here, just moves the range and what it did this particular year is move the top end of the range. The bottom range stayed the same this year. If you recall, every other year it has been our practice when we look at the market for employees, if you just raise the bottom every year, then you get compression. So this particular year, the bottom stays the same. The top goes up to reflect anyone at the top of the range that receives this cost-of-living raise that's in the budget today.

SPEAKER:

I just wanted it highlighted that staff has done an analysis of the pay rates. We are looking at compression and we are pushing for the three percent pay increase. These are definitely things that staff are looking at to move us forward. Thank you.

SPEAKER:

Anyone else comment on item E? We have a motion and a second. Any objection to the motion. Seeing no objection, the motion passes unanimous. Item D, Ms. Pos.

SPEAKER:

I know over my term there have been a number of comments in regards to derelict vessels in the river so I wanted to again quickly highlight this so it wasn't just pushed through in consent. If you wanted to say something, the importance of doing this and also the fact that these things are getting done.

SPEAKER:

Ginger, environmental management director. This is for the removal of five derelict vessels in the St. John's River. This Council has seen numerous times where we had derelict vessels removal. But we've struggled for a while about what to do in the St. John's River. And recently, the fish and wildlife commission changed their rules for this is 100 percent reimbursable grant. In the past, there was some match required. So this is the first time we've been able to bring you something in the St. John's River. We are super excited. We identified seven vessels that need to be removed. One of them. - - has decided to take action against the owner. So we are taking action against these five. Some of these vessels have risky materials on them. So our staff will monitor this and the process and if everything goes well, we will come back for at least that one remaining vessel next year.

SPEAKER:

Thank you for your efforts. Thank you.

SPEAKER:

With that, we will move to item number two.

SPEAKER:

Good morning Mr. chair, honorable members of Council. Agenda item number two is the confirmation of the appointment of Mr. Aaron B. Van Kleeck, - - will provide you with his background.

SPEAKER:

Thank you Mr. counsel. This is an exciting day as we continue to reload our team, as I like to say. As people are moving along, retiring, what have you. We are very lucky to have Aaron B. Van Kleeck today for our director of management and budget. We've been able to grow so many people from within. I have to say that Aaron may be one of our greatest stories. I met him at - - and I have been the director for a few short years. And he came to us. He started at the county working in the field as both a trades worker and heavy equipment operator status. Very bright young man. You can tell he wanted more. He came to me and said what would it take to maybe get a promotion? At the time I'm thinking to equipment operator three or maybe a supervisor. But we talked about it and he had taken some classes. I said really, further education. You are really bright and if you can combine that with the field experience you have, it would be similar to my background. And I thought I was doing pretty good at the time. So Aaron worked his way up through. He took on increasing responsibility and broadened himself. He took positions outside - - bridge, moved on to Parks and Recreation and later in 2016, he landed in budget and management. That's where he found his true calling as an analyst. He's been responsible for the budgeting system since that time and he's directed the preparation of the five-year capital improvement plan. He provided senior management with long-range cost estimates. He's conducted financial analysis. He's managed the budget document and made recommendations to senior management for budgetary adjustments. He's a great team builder himself. Works really well with people. And he's done a great job with budget and administration and strategic planning. And when he's not doing all that, he also stays busy off the clock. It is a sports supervisor at the YMCA. You can see him running back from time to time, all sweaty as he plays basketball often during the lunch hour. He's done this for nearly 20 years. He took my advice and earned his bachelors degree and in fact he is working right now on his masters degree. So we are very, very fortunate and it's a very happy day that I'm able to recommend Aaron B. Van Kleeck as our budget director. I need a motion to confirm Aaron B. Van Kleeck as budget and management director. Discussion, Ms. Post

SPEAKER:

No one came to me to ask for my suggestion for this position obviously. But, if someone did come to me for my suggestion, you would have been my first pick. When I found out you were put up for the position, I do – George and I had good conversation I was very pleased with staff's decision and I'm very excited for you as well. I met you a few years ago coming into this role four years ago. Only heard good things. Certainly coming into this role, there are a lot of budgetary and financial questions you would ask, right? Aaron was gracious enough to go over things and lay it out in layman's terms. Just like my daughters and engineer, I don't know what she's talking about half the time. He did a good job of that and certainly was very helpful. But also one of the things that I really commend you for is the fact you have come up through the ranks. I think that's very, it's very good that staff is getting people that have come up through the ranks because it gives you a unique perspective. You've been down there at the ground level and you fully understand. So when you respond to these situations now at a much higher admin level, you have a much better understanding of how to respond better to those things. And then certainly your willingness to continue to learn every day and to educate yourself. I see you have a wonderful family here, congratulations. I want you all to know that we are very proud of him here. I know that you are proud of him so welcome to the position.

SPEAKER:

Thank you. I think it's reflective of your desire to do better. And recognizing that and that you took the choices. Often, we are given opportunities and we don't make those choices. But you were given the opportunity, you made the choice to better yourself, make a difference and who you are, that's fantastic. Happy that you made the decision could you are given the opportunity and you made the choice to do more with your life and career and found yourself in the place that really fit for you according to George. So we are happy for you. Any other discussion? Any objection to the motion? Hearing no objection, the motion confirms Aaron B. Van Kleeck to the position of budget management and director. You are confirmed at this point.

(Applause)

SPEAKER:

Now if you would like to say a few words other than tell us about the 742 page budget, you can just summarize that briefly. Cliff notes will be fine.

SPEAKER:

You going to put me on the clock?

SPEAKER:

If you want to say there's nothing wrong with being an equipment operator, you can do that as well. (Laughs).

SPEAKER:

First of all, I want to thank God and through him all things are possible. Throughout my career I've had the pleasure of working with hundreds of people that have influenced me and impacted my career. When I was preparing but I would say today, I wanted to thank them all but we really would be here all day if I named everybody. So I do want to name a few. I want to thank Jessica, record specials for the property appraiser's office and more importantly, my beautiful wife for the past 22 years. She gets to put up with me and my - -

I also have to thank Bobby King for giving me the opportunity to expand my skills in the parks division. Her mentorship set me up for the success I've had and she's someone I still consult with regularly. And I have to thank Tammy for recruiting me into the budget division. She's been an amazing mentor and without her, there's no way I would be standing before you today. Trying to absorb the knowledge of county government that she has is a daunting task but there's no better teacher than her. Tammy, Brian, Suzanne and George for selecting me for this position and the staff I'm inhabiting. They are as in Tammy's words, all rock stars. I can't wait to perform with them on a regular basis. I like to thank each of you for your vote of confidence and I will do my best to uphold the high standards of Volusia County through accuracy and transparency.

(Applause) (speaking off microphone)

(Applause)

SPEAKER:

Item 3 is a public hearing. We will open the public hearing and we have a report from - -

SPEAKER:

Good morning. This is item number three. A revision to the parking fines ordinance. On August 4, 2020, Council directed staff to review the parking fines in response to some complaints. Mainly in the southeast portion of Volusia County. So we took a look at the fines. The current fines are $10 for overtime parking, $250 for handicap parking violations and - - for any other violation which includes targeting in a prohibited area which is mainly the complaint you are looking at. This section was last updated in 2006. So it's a good time to look at these fine amounts and see if they make sense and if there an adequate deterrent to parking illegally. The county does have the authority to regulate stop and standing parking as well as the fine amounts pursuant to Florida statutes. We took a look at the area of beach access fees if you want to park in the new summer in a parking lot or park on the beach or Cape Canaveral national seashore parking lot is, $20. Which is kind of a perverse incentive to paying the fine. We took a look at the surrounding communities and the fine amounts run from $50 though – with Daytona Beach being the highest of the jurisdictions. State of Florida being at $30 and the rest, lower than that. So the recommendation we have for County Council is to set both the overtime parking fines and the fines for any other violation including parking in a prohibited area at $35. Which is the highest of the local amounts. Additionally, we are recommending a $10 surcharge which is allowed by Florida statutes. It has to be put in a specific school crossing guard trust fund which is being created by this ordinance and it can only be used for the school crossing guard program and administrative costs. With that, the Council can modified any amounts within your discretion and staff is recommending approval of the ordinance.

SPEAKER:

I know that we have public comment but relative to the motion, get a motion to approve the recommendations by counsel and for discussion. We can discuss those amounts once it's on the floor. So, motion made by Johnson to accept the recommendation, recommended amounts. Is there a second? Seconded by Wheeler. Now we will have public hearing. Bill Redmond.

SPEAKER:

Good morning Mr. Chairman and Council members. 7017 S. Atlantic Avenue. Mr. Chairman, you and I have had this conversation earlier this year about some of the issues about the short-term rentals and the parking issues. Some of the issues we've been experiencing over the last two years.

SPEAKER:

Bill, I'm going to correct you to stick to the issue of what we are voting on is changing the parking violation fees.

SPEAKER:

Okay. So you don't want me to talk about the issues of why we should increase the fines.

SPEAKER:

We have a motion to increase the fines as listed and that's what we are discussing. That's why we are aware of that. You can lay out the issue. We know the issues and that's why we are here.

SPEAKER:

What we've experienced as far as the legal parking is double parking on South Atlantic Avenue. At times, if an emergency vehicle needed to get through, they couldn't get through. I've had my own expenses where I've had to pull out of my own driveway, go down the street and go back to get down to turtle Mountain Road. We've had issues where people are parking in front of driveways. And Gottfried noted in one of her conversations we had that many of these driveways now have signs across them with chains. Do not park in front of my driveway. People needed to get out to go to work and could not go out. Needed to go down to the beach and find these people to move their car to get out of their driveways. The county has increased the number of no parking signs but it doesn't seem to matter. They'll park there anyway because the statement is, the fine is so small, they don't care. They'd rather pay the fine. The sheriff has signed Captain Fortin and his crew to work the areas down there. I think they've issued over - - tickets in the last 45 days. It's helped somewhat but then again, $15 didn't matter so they continue to park. We keep notifying the captain and he sends people down. I think if you made it to where more painful, we might have some resolution to this issue. Thank you.

SPEAKER:

This ordinance is not just for South Atlanta, this is countywide. Not just for that area. What happens is when people can go and park and have a $15 fine instead of paying 20 to go to the beach, they take the $15. Thank you for your involvement and the involvement from others. Any other discussion? With that, we will close the public hearing. The chair recognizes miss Denys.

SPEAKER:

I want to go farther into this because I don't know if you saw the email, the correspondence sent on this agenda item. When I looked at this, the question was of the existing fines that are in the original agenda item. My question is, how long ago were those set? They've been set for quite a few years. So we have a real issue and it's not just down on South Beach, it is the entire coastline. It's a real issue. I will recommend a $50 fine instead of $35, because what Mr. Redman has been talking about and I've been speaking to constituents for months and months. In the emails if you do a public records request.

SPEAKER:

Is that a motion to amend to $50?

SPEAKER:

It is Si.

SPEAKER:

Is there a motion to second the fine from $35 to $50? Hearing no second, the motion to amend dies from lack of a second.

SPEAKER:

So further discussion, what I'd like counsel to take a look at going forward, what the fines are in other cities and jurisdictions and how long those have been on the books. It's easier to pay the fine like Mr. Redman said, then by a beach pass. I'm disappointed it didn't move up but this is at least a first step and I have a feeling we will probably be coming back to that. But then we had the enforcement issue too. We haven't been doing a good job with that. We needed a deterrent. A strong deterrent. I'm not convinced that $35 is going to be a strong enough deterrent to keep our roads open. Thank you Mr. chair.

SPEAKER:

The chair recognizes Ms. Girtman.

SPEAKER:

My concern is not specific to the coastal beach area. It's countywide. So, if there was a way to distinguish and you know, support that concern over impacting the entire county, then I would be open to that. If not, I will go with the recommendation. Thank you.

SPEAKER:

The chair recognizes Ms. Pos.

SPEAKER:

There are a couple issues with this. While I empathize with the property owner's rights. It is horrible to try to be pulling out of the driveway and have people parked all over the place and we do need that enforcement. Luckily, we do have the sheriff who has been faithfully on that. That's been wonderful. But in this case, I'm wondering because I had also requested of staff when we first brought to this, when Councilwoman Denys brought it up. The discussion of lowering the actual beach pass. Because the discussion continues to be that it's easier to pay the find and buy a beach pass. The suggestion I brought up before that I would like staff to have come back with information on was, my suggestion was to make it to where residents do not have to pay to go to the beach to park.

SPEAKER:

Miss Pos, that's not relative to this discussion.

SPEAKER:

It was brought up at that time.

CHAIRMAN:

That's for another day. At the workshop, we can bring that up. Thank you.

SPEAKER:

Okay, well I think that the - - I just keep hearing it's easier to pay the fine and then to buy a beach pass. So I feel it is relevant if we are not charging the residence for a beach pass but perhaps charging out of town residents more to park on the beach. That might help to alleviate the issue a little bit more as well. Thank you.

SPEAKER:

Any other discussion? We have the motion before us which will set the fine for over parking at $35. Fine for handicap parking to $50. Fine for any other violation is $35 - - (Inaudible). Is there any objection to the motion?

SPEAKER:

I don't agree with the motion.

SPEAKER:

Okay, we have one disagreement with the motion. Any other disagreement with the motion? Motion passes 6-1, Post being the one to object.

SPEAKER:

If we are having staff come back with that information, if counsel is an agreement. That would be great.

SPEAKER:

What information? Do you want staff to come back with information.

SPEAKER:

- - Did you hear any of what I said previously?

SPEAKER:

To be clear for everyone, what you are asking is can there be a situation where residents, Volusia County residents can not pay the entrance to the beach. Versus people from out of the county.

SPEAKER:

I'm suggesting that be at the next workshop for discussion.

SPEAKER:

And what I'm suggesting what I had asked for if staff could bring it back to a meeting instead of waiting until I don't know when we will have a workshop.

SPEAKER:

Does anyone else want that information brought back? I don't until we have information to bring forward. That information will not be brought back until we have it put on a workshop where we can discuss it, all of us decide to bring it back. We've had that discussion on the beach fees. Okay, we will move to item 4. John? John is not here. I will go with - - (Inaudible).

SPEAKER:

Ben Bartlett. Got some good news for you today. This item is for approval of a $900,000 cost share agreement with the DEP for the water canal water quality project improvements. A little about the project, it's identified as one of the projects in the recently adopted - - insurance plan. It's a large-scale water runoff project located in Oak Hill near River breeze Park. The Ariel canal itself runs - - (Inaudible). A little about the project benefits. I will try not to turn this into too much of a chemistry conversation here. But basically it will reduce the nutrient loading that flows through the canal and eventually goes into the mosquito Lagoon. We will construct a two-stage treatment system that will consist of a sand filter and a bio absorption activated media which will remove the nitrogen and phosphorus. We anticipate load reductions of the proximate 1300 pounds per year. Total nitrogen. As well as 210 pounds per year of total phosphorus. The estimated construction cost is about $1.8 million so we are getting half of this construction cost from the DEP. The other portion, match will come from the storm water utility. We are not resting on our laurels with this grant. We are actively pursuing other grant opportunities to reduce the amount of money the county is paying out-of-pocket. And we are anticipating putting this out to bid in January. I will be happy to answer questions you may have.

SPEAKER:

Is there a motion to accept the grant? Ms. Wheeler.

SPEAKER:

No, I am making the motion. I am thrilled to death - -

SPEAKER:

There's a motion. This is an example where people don't understand it maybe we don't tell them loud enough what we are doing to protect the quality and quantity of water. People don't seem to understand them. Maybe, the news Journal or the Beacon can put out there, this is just one example of what we are continuing to do to protect your water supply, our water supply and not a single time is coming from the general fund taxes which is your property taxes. This is all coming from another fund which we have like, 90 different funds. It's coming from the storm water fund which is separate from your ad valorem taxes. Ms. Denys.

SPEAKER:

I think it's great because it's part of our reasonable insurance plan that we started years ago. It's just one more project. Do I have that accurate?

SPEAKER:

That is correct.

SPEAKER:

So the planning that this Council and previous councils have done throughout the years and staff going for the funding and bringing it to completion. This is a really big deal and I just want to thank staff because sometimes we have meetings for the sake of meetings and we set goals and we fall short in implementation. But that's not the case. Counsel has done a really good job and staff, I want to thank you. We started in 2014 with that big water quality meeting. And then set up the reasonable insurance plan partnering with our cities. This is new Smyrna, Edgewater and Oak Hill. So this is a great regional approach and I want to thank you for it because we are starting to see more results, so thank you.

CHAIRMAN:

The chair recognizes Mr. Johnson.

SPEAKER:

Almost at every meeting, something comes up about water quality point whether it's an overt project or project tied into our construction work. And people don't realize that but almost every meeting we had at least something on the agenda that works on our water quality. And that needs to be known.

CHAIRMAN:

Okay, any other discussion? Any objection to the motion? Hearing no objection, the motion passes unanimous. We will go to item 5 and this is a public hearing. We are past the time limit so - - this can be heard with the time certain and we will open the public hearing.

SPEAKER:

Clayton Ervin, this is to rezone a 12.04-acre property located at 3157 International Speedway Boulevard. what we are looking at is a nonexisting, nonconformist site so the use itself is allowed by its existing zoning. The zoning is I-1, and it can continue to operate. - - Wanted to get rid of some structures that were there, modify structures and generally improve the site. Because it is a legally, nonconforming developed site. In other words, this site has been operating since 1976 as a junkyard. We can't allow it to just go ahead and modify without trying to bring it into compliance with the code. Unfortunately, the existing situation is that it would be very difficult if not impossible to bring it to 100 percent compliance with the code. The alternative selected was a rezoning to a PUD. you can negotiate setbacks and other types of things that are more in common with the property. As I reference, this properly is located on international Speedway Boulevard adjacent to industrial uses as well as a service yard for a solid waste Hall. So what we looked at, what were the critical issues. How can we make sure this is properly screened for the applicant has agreed to work with us in regards to placement of vegetated landscape buffer in the front. Decorative fencing. Upgrades to the exterior of the buildings. That why when you are driving by, it will be an improvement. Also, installation of buffers on the east side to ensure there was better screening for the type of uses going on there. As well as guaranteeing the existing fencing and any new fencing would have a visual way of buffering and blocking the view of the existing junkyard. After much reiteration with the applicant, trying to get through to common ground. We have before you this rezoning to PUD. And the timing of those improvements. This went through the commission with a recommendation of approval from your staff. At the public meeting, there was no public comment we haven't received anything via email or telephone so therefore, there was no public comment. And it comes to you with a recommendation for approval unanimously. The applicant is here.

SPEAKER:

I will make a motion for discussion.

CHAIRMAN:

Is there a second? Motion made by Post and seconded by Johnson.

SPEAKER:

My name is Glenn Storch and it is really nice to see everybody. I feel like I've been hermetically sealed for a wild. This is one of those that everyone says this is a win-win. This should be easy. We are making something better, which is what we all should be striving to do. I represent somebody that's in in this position and business, paying taxes, employing people, for almost 50 years. The question is, how can we do some things now to make it safer, better for our people. Build a building over the area. Make it environmentally safer and at the same time, make it better for the public without destroying the business. I cannot tell you how much I appreciate staffs dogged pursuit of finding solutions. You don't see that very often. We found solutions here to make this so it is better for the community. It is better for the visual buffer you'll see along 92. It is better for the owner and it solves problems. What more could we ask for? Obviously I'm here to answer any questions. I have a power point, I don't think it's necessary. (Laughs) It basically shows the landscape buffer and the revised elevations and everything we are putting in. It's just better. I think staff has said that. We have planning Board recommendation of approval and I ask that you approve this.

SPEAKER:

As you have another question?

SPEAKER:

Either Mr. Storch or Mr. Ervin, I know we talked about the aesthetic but if you can go through changes they are making them I will say internally. But on the ground in regards to the zoning changes.

SPEAKER:

Hopefully this will go forward and I can get you to the PowerPoint that shows it. But basically what you are seeing, right now we have no visual buffer. Given ugly chain-link fence with barbed wire.

SPEAKER:

Beyond the buffer, beyond the aesthetics. On the internal things that would be affected by the zoning.

SPEAKER:

As far as where the current cars are located, it will continue to be in the back of the property so therefore, nothing will be brought forward. Internally, they are removing some of the equipment used for crushing cars and everything else and then they will put in a new roof structure that has additional mechanics for the operation. So internally, it's really just reconfiguring the existing and getting rid of some of the antiquated. They will also provide parking inside so you will not have cars parked outside, kind of right now, right up against the fence along U.S. 92. This will bring everything back inside and reorienting it so it's more internal and not as visible to anyone traveling. And as I was saying, the exteriors we were looking at is like the 20 foot landscape buffer. There's a five foot landscape buffer on the east side of the property. There will be a decorative fence along the front as well to further screen it. Then the building itself is getting an upgrade as well.

SPEAKER:

I wanted you to go over that simply because there has been so much discussion about changing the zoning for various projects and different things. But really in this case, and again we really need to look at each case individually and see exact work in tales and what's the best for the community. Hang on Mr. Storch. I think you'll be okay with what I'm saying, relax. (Laughs) So this place, you mentioned they've been in business for just about 50 years. And I will tell you, since we've lived in Volusia County, we've passed by their 1 million times. My husband has been there for various junkyard reasons. Whatever manly reasons that is. Aesthetically from the street, from the – which is the main road, it's not really this place I noticed, it's the place next to it which is the solid waste location. I wish we can get some sort of, much better visual impact going there. It's not this place I look at. It's beyond. It's not really a negative visual impact currently. It can be better but it's not what really draws your eye when you come down that major corridor. We've had so much conversation about ISP needing to be visually appealing. We just went through with new Smyrna Beach and Edgewater talking about how important the visual impact is. I know that many have met with the corporate partners and we met with the local representatives from this group. From this company. And had the tour out there. Either they specifically laid out everything they would be doing and I really honestly saw no negative impact whatsoever. It truly is going to make it so much better along that main corridor and really, that's what we are needing. So absolutely in favor of this project. One of the questions I had was the neighbors being in agreement. I also checked on that and talked with staff and all of the neighbors around them are in agreement as well. I think this is one time when rezoning is an absolute yes from the.

SPEAKER:

This is just procedural. Mr. Dyer asked me to make sure it's clear. If any of the members of the Council had any ex parte on applicants, we do need to have you disclose those so as part of the record so we are in compliance.

SPEAKER:

I'm going to add one more thing. You're talking about rezoning. This is an existing use. When we are done with this, it will be conforming. We will have a conforming zoning classification on this site with everything that's permitted. That's a good thing as well. And by the way, you do have an opportunity when you have your new garbage contract to talk about that.

SPEAKER:

It's on the list. (Laughs) I won't bring it up right now Mr. chair.

CHAIRMAN:

Has anyone else had any ex parte conversation other than Ms. Pos.

SPEAKER:

We were all invited for a tour? I think.

SPEAKER:

Just for district.

SPEAKER:

Any other discussion? I had all of the information in the 51 pages. - - Passed it at 7-0. It's a big difference rezoning something to be conforming that's been in existence for 46 years as opposed to being rezoned for something that's off the charts, and different. It's a great improvement. Any objection to the motion? Hearing no objection, the motion passes unanimous and we will close the public hearing and move on to item 6.

SPEAKER:

This is the 30th extension of the coronavirus, I need a motion to approve the motion by Johnson. Second by Wheeler. Any discussion? Any objection to extend the state of local emergency related to coronavirus disease, 30th extension. Hearing no objection, the motion passes unanimously. We moved to item number seven. Suzanne is not here so, George. Update.

SPEAKER:

First off, we will have Doctor - -, up and go through the Corona report.

SPEAKER:

Good morning. - - Department of public attention. Quick update here. In the state of Florida we have 717,874 cases and 14,712 deaths. In Volusia County, there are 11,150 cases and 261 deaths and that's as of yesterday's update. It's not out yet this morning. If we look at the trend. Last week I said we had a steady decline. Really we are hovering around that 50 new cases per day. Kind of smooth average and we've been doing that since the middle of September. I don't know if I would call it a continued studied decline but we are hovering at 50 new cases. If we look at our positivity rate. And again, Holly Smith was right on. I can't disagree with her in her assessment last week in the current positivity rate is important to take a look at so that's why that's presented on the next slide then. Last week, it was five percent positivity rate in the week before last was five percent positivity rate and then this prior week was a little less than that at about 4.8 percent for the week of 9/27. Looking okay with that. As of this morning, there were 59 hospitalizations and we are still hovering about that 33 percent availability for hospital beds and ICU beds as of this morning. If we look at then the performance of the fairgrounds testing. Actually, as of the end of the day yesterday, there were 5629 tests conducted. That continues through October 15 and 8-4 every day. It's only viral COVID-19 testing, so not antibody testing right now. No appointments needed, you just go and check in. And that's all I've got. Thank you.

SPEAKER:

Okay. Next up is community services.

SPEAKER:

Good morning. Donna Butler, community services director. Our COVID-19 program is still going strong but we are starting to see a decline in the number of applications which I think is a good thing. We are averaging 61 applications a day from September 1 until now. We received well over 6600 as of yesterday morning. 4300 applications have been approved and 1000 are under review. Today we expended $2.2 million and approximately $1 million of expenditure right now. So, food banks continue to go strong. I wanted to give you a brief update on - - I just heard this number yesterday and it's a good number. 188,000 masks were distributed to date through the bus system. They just received an additional 50,000 which they will continue to provide to any riders that wish to have them.

CHAIRMAN:

Question from Ms. Girtman.

SPEAKER:

Two questions. One, our last Council meeting you mentioned there were additional funds that were going to target lower income. For a potential second round.

SPEAKER:

So it's not necessarily targeting low income, they will have to meet income guidelines for those funds are Axa going towards folks that have already received assistance. We know are eligible for funds in that they still are unemployed or underemployed. Then they would be eligible. We've sent correspondence to the first that were approved in April, May and June. Because if they're still unemployed at this point, they're facing some consequences whether it be even action or mortgage issues. We target those furs and after they have been assisted, if there's still funds left, we will go to the next group starting in May and so forth.

SPEAKER:

Is that criteria defined where it's transparent who's eligible, who we are contacting, why we aren't reaching out to others?

SPEAKER:

We are trying to start an orderly fashion but for those who have already been assisted, they do have to provide more information. They do have to provide more documentation than they do under this program is it's a different source of funds.

SPEAKER:

But it sounds like we are reaching out - -

SPEAKER:

That is correct.

SPEAKER:

They can apply to the current program that's out there now, which is easier to get money. That's the program to get started on an as Donna is saying, once we have them in the database, we have a lot of the information and then that helps us determine a little more targeted approach on the other dollars which to have higher requirements as far as information. We can casework that a little better come up with that information.

SPEAKER:

For example, you asked about income guidelines. For a family of four, it's the same level that all families are eligible for now which is approximately $78,000. If you're a family of two, three, one, then you are on that sliding scale. It's the sliding scale. And also going up. So we definitely have two income qualify them. They have to identify members of your household and other detailed information.

SPEAKER:

I'm fine with that, I just think we have to be transparent as far as what that criteria is because people will confuse it and wonder why they didn't have a second bite at the apple for opportunity over someone else. I don't know when we spoke about it that it was really clear that someone would hear what that access wires. If we need to put something on our website or make some other information available to be clear to the public, I think that would be good.

SPEAKER:

Okay.

SPEAKER:

Okay. I also last meeting spoke about us reaching out in other ways for the small business, nonprofit for the homebase I think it was that we talked about. So I want to reach back to regarding that.

SPEAKER:

On the small business, that would be Helga but I'm happy to talk about the nonprofits at any point.

SPEAKER:

Thank you.

SPEAKER:

The chair recognizes Ms. Wheeler.

SPEAKER:

I have contacted you about an extenuating circumstance. How are we handling some of these and explain - - I had a restaurant owner bring forward an employee that is a long time employee. Was asking for the rental assistance. And I had suggested he do that. And he lived in a hotel but he has lived for over a year. He's been working consistently and lives in this motel. There's been a problem because of his residence where he lives in a motel of getting the money when he has definitely a letter from the motel saying he's never had any violations and they were concerned about eviction. Staff was concerned about evictions. This is not that type of person. Are we looking at cases like this individually? This is an extenuating circumstance but certainly this gentleman should qualify in my opinion for the rental assistance.

SPEAKER:

I understand your concern but at this point the program does not allow us to fund folks that live in a motel or hotel. It is strictly for people that live either in an apartment or home.

CHAIRMAN:

These are federal guidelines we have to follow, right?

SPEAKER:

This is a federal guideline that says they can't do it if they're living in a hotel?

SPEAKER:

I'm not familiar that it's a federal guideline but I do think - - we don't have a mechanism to do that. We can go back and discuss at a management level but I feel like it's a slippery slope. They don't have a lease. A hotel is normally day by day or a week long stay. In terms of having a relationship there.

SPEAKER:

But if someone has been living there for an extended period of time, that should qualify them an established person. I would think. I'm asking. There's these extenuating circumstances and it's very sad they can't be assisted also when they are trying to show stability. In the world that they can afford.

SPEAKER:

This is not a federal guideline, it would seem it would be something we can address.

SPEAKER:

I have Ms. Post up next.

SPEAKER:

I do have the owner of the restaurant that stands for him as well as the hotel owner.

CHAIRMAN:

Can we leave it that they reevaluate the decisions since it's an internal decision. It's one we can control. If they need direction from us to look at extenuating circumstances, I think they have that on record to look at each one and to say why. I do understand where we can get into worse than a slippery slope situation like this.

SPEAKER:

If it's not just day by day in a hotel, this gentleman is showing - -

CHAIRMAN:

Okay. Ms. Post

SPEAKER:

If we need a motion to have counsel's direction on that, since it is not a federal guideline and it is counsel that made the rental and mortgage assistant grant checkboxes. I would say - - so I will make the motion unless - - you want to.

CHAIRMAN:

We've given direction for them.

SPEAKER:

I just want to make sure there's official direction as of these things, that there is no question in regards to federal guidelines. This is direction from counsel that these can be covered. Because it's literally the point of these funds is to be pushed back on the community to respond to impacts of COVID.

SPEAKER:

I still have concerns and I need to ask the experts about that. I have several significant concerns. If they were here I would ask them but I think we may have to do research.

CHAIRMAN:

And we will do that. I agree that there's definitely concerns.

SPEAKER:

I would hate for there to be delay and if it takes - - whatever we need to do to push that forward. I'd like that to happen.

CHAIRMAN:

We've given direction and that's what we can do on that so there will be no need for a vote. We just gave direction.

SPEAKER:

And then I still have a question. You were talking about the grants in response to Ms. Girtman's question. The follow-up, do we have numbers on that with the applications we received in April and May?

SPEAKER:

I can provide you with that information. I don't have it in my back pocket to report on.

SPEAKER:

I would just like to know. Sounds like we are searching. Sounds like myself and other members of council are searching for information on who and how these people - -

SPEAKER:

We've already contacted the first round of folks which were assisted during April-June. Because their assistant started in April they were given three months worth of assistance. Every client was given three months.

SPEAKER:

I believe in that first three months we had about 2500 applications?

SPEAKER:

I would be happy to get you those numbers.

SPEAKER:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN:

The chair recognizes Ms. Girtman.

SPEAKER:

I think so many low income people have found themselves placed in those types of settings. As their home. As long-term, unfortunate housing. I think it is something that you know, I hope that staff will evaluate and consider where we are today because of those challenges with affordable housing that many have found themselves in those types of situations. I'd like for us to even perhaps talk to the neighborhood center and those community placement organizations. As they are finding the need to do that. So I think a lot of times we are considering the way things have been instead of the way things are. Unfortunate, but it's a reality for a lot of people to keep them out of true homelessness. So please, you know, consider that as well. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN:

The chair recognizes Mr. Johnson. He withdrew. Okay.

SPEAKER:

Mr. chair, I would like one more comment.

CHAIRMAN:

I'm going to make one before you. I'm thinking, wondering, thinking out loud, I know we are looking at those that had April-June help. Is it time to look - - that's utilizing different funding Donna as opposed to the three months we had set up, right?

SPEAKER:

The funds they are currently talking about are those we brought forward last year that were the - - funds and how we anticipated being able to spend them. Those were some of the funds but then CRF, are the funds we are referring to in this. They do have guidelines attached to them. Because of that, we're trying to backfill the folks that might still be in need. Some folks might have gone back to work. We're starting with those we assisted first. We hope they don't still need assistance but targeting those first.

CHAIRMAN:

Staff is evaluating, Ryan was here last week. An update of the funding we have available. I wonder if at a point in time George, to evaluate.

SPEAKER:

Our intention was to come back at the next meeting - -

CHAIRMAN:

Okay, I will leave it at that.

SPEAKER:

That's why we wanted to cleanout accounts and to look at locations going forward. Of course we are always watching what's going on in Washington and trying to discern what paths we can take. So we will do that and give our best recommendation at the next meeting.

CHAIRMAN:

If they wind up think it's a dropdead situation if you don't spend it through September 30, then we have to do something else.

SPEAKER:

Correct. And we have a few other organizations.

CHAIRMAN:

SPEAKER:

That gives us different of attorneys to allocate those funds in other areas. That's what I wanted to make sure. We had discussed that briefly and I wanted to bring that up. You have another question.

SPEAKER:- -

(Inaudible).

CHAIRMAN:

One of the issues that can come up with the hotel situation, there are people who are homeless. When they get their checks to get a hotel or more tell for 4-5 days and then they are back homeless. That's where you have to look at that carefully.

SPEAKER:

I'm looking at the long-term hotel livers.

SPEAKER:

We are working on it so we will come up with something.

CHAIRMAN:

Understand. Who's next? If it's about the same thing Ms. Wheeler? No? Okay.

SPEAKER:

As we are talking about community services.

CHAIRMAN:

Lost you. Lost your voice. Can't hear you.

SPEAKER:

Okay, here we go. It was just brought up to me recently about the evictions and how that has helped those who have been having a problem with the rent and all that. What about the landlords? What have we done at all to help those people that still have the payments on these evictions and the people are in there. Maybe they were people that would be even acted anyway and there trashing their places and they are not getting assistance whatsoever from anything we have set aside for.

SPEAKER:

I know some cases where they are taking the initiative on this rent and mortgage program and getting that information filled out. Because they are the receiver of the money. Not the individuals.

SPEAKER:

This was in the evictions, George. They are saving them from being evicted, you know? Again, they are not doing anything in helping those people who have those - - now that the evictions I guess it will be listed. It's up to them to go back and file to try to get them even acted. And it becomes very costly. I wonder if we have at all looked into assistance for those people who have rentals?

SPEAKER:

To clarify, the eviction notice has not been eliminated. The evictions relative to COVID-19 are separate from other evictions. Just to clarify that for the public. The federal government, the president issued the guidelines affected by COVID-19. You cannot be evicted. Other normal evictions can carry out.

SPEAKER:

Yes. So I was just wondering. It does seem to be a problem where some of these landlords, that they are having.

If it's not relative to COVID-19, that's a thing of doing business.

CHAIRMAN:

Absolutely. How about the people that have AirBnB that can't rent? People can't own rental property. People that own commercial property. I don't know that we have an error in our - - arrow in our sling to address that.

SPEAKER:

The one arrow like I say, if I was in that situation and I had a rental piece of property, I would be down there at the front door with the county program and say, I filled out what I need and I need you to fill out the rest. So that we can get your rent paid.

SPEAKER:

Because the checks would go directly to the landlord. The landlords have to take some initiative if they're not being paid due to COVID because they are unemployed and not paying. They have the upper Trinity to pursue that. So I think that may be something they need to be aware of.

SPEAKER:

That's one of the ways we've attacked this with getting out the word on this. We can all ask - - we can do more advertising with the board of realtors, the property management people. I actually went and saw bank presidents. Because again, they're the ones with evictions.

CHAIRMAN:

They are the ones the checks go to.

SPEAKER:

I know they reached out to tenants in some cases.

CHAIRMAN:

Rights. We've had situations where a landlord would not completely pay for work. So, which is sad. Okay. We can move to the next phase of this. George. Which would be Helga?

SPEAKER:

Next up is Helga with the business section.

SPEAKER:

Good morning, director of economic development. It's a pleasure to bring you the new numbers on the small business grants today. As you can see, in just over a week we've had quite a few additional applications. But more importantly what we've been able to do is lesson the delta between those coming in and those being reviewed and approved. We've been able to get right in line with those applications and they are moving through much quicker today than they were originally. This week I got two emails from businesses thanking us in the Council for putting this program in place because it's helped them tremendously when they received the checks. And then on the homebase grant, we've again been able to shrink that Delta as well. Applications, 529 of those. 377 checks have been issued and distributed for $556,000 plus.

CHAIRMAN:

I think it's great seeing all but one percent of the businesses already finalized and completed. That's a huge percent. One percent or a little less. That's huge.

SPEAKER:

It's a really good feeling. Part of the reason we had the larger Delta before his those were the businesses having difficulty getting their information to us or understanding what needed to be done so staff had to spend extra time putting those things in place.

CHAIRMAN:

The biggest delay before was not having a business County receipt.

SPEAKER:

That we fixed that and hopefully the businesses will stay in compliance going forward so we can keep track of who's out there and what their status is.

CHAIRMAN:

Any questions of Helga? Okay, thank you so much. I think other than - - is that it George?

SPEAKER:

Yes, that concludes.

SPEAKER:

We will move now to item 9 which is a nomination to appoint for the housing finance authority, we have one person. Are you taking care of this? I keep trying to pass through - - sorry about that Kevin.

SPEAKER:

That's okay. Kevin Captain, community events director. The - - amnesty day on Friday, October 9. There are two locations. Anybody that's got tires in their yard where the water can pool and breed for skeeters, you can get rid of up to 24 three thanks to Volusia County solid waste division. One event in Holly Hill and the other in Oak Hill. To remind everyone, this is fire prevention week. I want to remind that we had a lot of effort that went into, what we called bitmoji virtual classroom thanks to - - that put this together. It's on the fire services webpage and it's pretty cool. I'd like to quickly remind, although this is not an event, I want to mention that fire and rescue now has an online community survey going on through the end of the month, October 31. It's 18 questions. It rates the agency on things like response times, and a tentativeness to the community. It takes about 9-10 minutes to complete. But it will help fire rescue develop strategic plans for the agency they really want to hear from their residence. Especially those being served in the unincorporated areas of Volusia, Oak Hill and Pearson. Again, fire rescue page and it's through the end of the month. Also for October is cyber security awareness month. From County government to small business to a private home computer, we all play a role in protecting our devices. When I spoke with the IT director, I said Brian, it's cyber security awareness month in October. He says, Kevin, every month should be that. Just a quick reminder on that. Also for November 3, anyone who has a voter ID card can get a free bus ride to the polls. So - - is offering that and they offer that every two years when there is an election. And Volusia today our radio show, which had - - to talk about grants and Carmen Hall to talk about rental and mortgage programs. And again, we will certainly push that message on rental and mortgage even more. So with that, any questions?

CHAIRMAN:

Just one comment. I will recognize Ms. Girtman.

SPEAKER:

Can we also mention the census has been extended through October 31? I think that's another message that needs to get out in any and always possible. We are still leaving money on the table. We still need people to fill out their census and capture whatever money we can. If you can include that in any messaging, that would be helpful. I think it's been confusing with the start and stop. It was the 30th and then the fifth and now it's the 31st. I think people just over and say to heck with it. I just think whatever information we can put out there would be helpful.

CHAIRMAN:

Thank you for bringing it up. You're right, we cannot afford to leave anything on the table. Because every person can make a difference that's counted. I don't think people are aware of that. They don't look at it that way but a good point to keep in mind. I notice, I saw something today where there was a notice about something. It's everywhere I guess. People reminding us to complete it. Maybe it was downstairs outside.

SPEAKER:

And thank you Councilwoman. That's a great reminder. I will work with Pat on additional messaging for that. Because you're right, the date started and stopped with October. Speaking of Springhill, we are working with public works for a date on December 12. We will come out with messaging as that event develops.

CHAIRMAN:

On the cyber, I really appreciate IT putting a note on emails. This originated outside of County. Maybe I'm paying more attention to those things because I know usually, we will get something after-the-fact. Don't open this, don't do that. I appreciate them putting on there that something originated outside. Which we all get those. Usually is somebody selling us something. Okay, thanks Kevin. Now we will move to item 9. I need a motion to appoint, to nominate someone for the housing finance authority. We have one individual on there who currently serves. Mr. Johnson would like to appoint Gary M. Rous. Any objection? Hearing none, it is done. Moving out to item 10. Districts two and three. And we have, Ms. Wheeler, do you have an appointment?

SPEAKER:

Yes, Mr. chair. I'm going to nominate Donald Needha.

CHAIRMAN:

Donald Needham has been appointed. Any objection to that nomination? Hearing none, consider it done. I don't nominate Andrew Hal. Any objection? Hearing none, the motion passes. Andrew Hall is added to the code enforcement. And we have one more, that would be Ms. Wheeler. Yes ma'am.

SPEAKER:

I would nominate Rick Dwyer.

SPEAKER:

Require has been nominated by Ms. Wheeler. Any objection? Hearing no objection, consider that one done as well. And with that, we will move to public participation, which we have none. Then we will go to George.

SPEAKER:

I do have a couple of items. They are good news items. This week, we received information that we are purchasing division, as we are given the 2020 achievement of excellence and procurement award. Volusia County is one of only 32 agencies in Florida and one of only 40 counties in the United States to receive this award. So we are very happy about our continued excellence and our work in procurement. And as long as we are into the award information, I find this one special. The Volusia County revenue division has received a legacy award for excellence in financial operations from the Florida tax collectors Association. Collaborative network of the 67 tax collectors. So the legacy award is one of the highest honors in the Association, it has given agencies that have previously received awards and have enhanced their procedural operations. Currently, the revenue division is led by Craig Bumgardner and he's done a great job and he's doing a great job as we've gone into this transition that we are currently working on. So, kudos and I think it just shows the staff we have here strive for excellence. Very proud of them.

CHAIRMAN:

Michael?

SPEAKER:

No report.

CHAIRMAN:

We will go to counsel and Mr. Johnson. Doctor Lowr.

SPEAKER:

No report.

CHAIRMAN:

Ms. Post

SPEAKER:

Miss Girtman and I attended the - - and the stats for Volusia County are something that we should not be overlooking. Certainly an area to keep tabs on and see what we can be doing to assist. Again that's the Beacon Center if you'd like to look them up. Also, Saturday, October 17 from 9:00 a.m.-12 PM, there is a job fair in Holly Hill. It's going to be different because of COVID. So it is a drive-through job fair. If you are looking for a job at all, there will be a number of booths with lots of different kinds of jobs. From low-level jobs, entry-level jobs and on up. I'm happy to say in talking with County staff, County HR will have a booth as well. So the county does have quite a few jobs available. Again, both at entry-level and up. If you are looking for a job. Saturday, October 17, 9:00 a.m.-12 P.M. as most of you know, my daughter Megan was married last Saturday. And if you can see on the screen, there's a picture of Megan and her new husband. So, very, very happy for the couple and certainly happy as the mother of the bride to have that over with. (Laughs) Lots to stuff to prepare very excited about that and their new chapter. So I wish them well.

CHAIRMAN:

Beautiful dress. Did you have anything to do with picking the dress out?

SPEAKER:

Megan picked it and it's definitely a Megan dress. Perfect day.

CHAIRMAN:

It's beautiful. Ms. Wheeler.

SPEAKER:

No comments other than congratulations. She looks beautiful and he looks handsome and I wish them nothing but a good future. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN:

Ms. Denys.

SPEAKER:

Nothing, thank you.

SPEAKER:

Ms. Girtman.

SPEAKER:

All clear.

CHAIRMAN:

All clear here. Meeting adjourned. See you tonight at 6:00 p.m.