>>CHAIR BROWER: Good morning, everybody, we're going to start in five minutes, if you plan to speak this morning, good morning, sir, fill out one of the -- are they yellow or white?
One of the yellow forms in the back, on the subject that you would like to speak -- I believe in UFO's.
(Laughing) hand it to the clerk, Carissa green over here, if you would like to speak at the beginning of the meeting on any subject, also, if you would like to speak on an item, please do the same thing, fill out a form, give it to Carissa, and it's important to us that we hear from the public, I wonder why they gave me two of these today?
(Laughing) .

>>CHAIR BROWER: One minute warning, if everybody would like to find their seats, we're going to start on time because we have a long day. .

>>CHAIR BROWER: It's 930 31, we'll call the meeting to order, we're glad you're here, we have a lot of people that want to speak, so bear with us. We're going to do the -- and some people have asked for priority, and we're going to -- I'll ask the council how they want to deal with that when we get to it.
But we are glad to see a public input is very important.
We start our meetings with an invocation, and then, pledge of allegiance, and I just want to let everybody know that this morning, the invocation will be by pastor Aaron green of thrive community church in Port Orange. I told you, this is going to be a long day.
(Laughing) Our invocation is open to any and all. So if your leader of your faith community would like to be included and be able to come and give the invocation, Carissa green, raise your hand. Just let her know, and you can -- I asked her for permission to do this. So she said yes. K green at Volusia.org, send her an e-mail and tell her that you would like to come and give the invocation, if you're the leader of your faith and -- because it is open to all.
So if you would like to stand for the invocation, please stand. And now, I'll ask everybody to stand for the pledge of allegiance. Thank you.

>> Thank you, for allowing me to be here today. Let us pray.
God, almighty, I thank you, Lord, for the opportunity to be here, I thank you, Lord, for each and every single one of these, your council members.
God, they have been placed here, by your will for this specific time. And I pray, God, that you are with them in their public chambers as well as their private chambers. I pray, God, that you meet with each and every single one of them on an individual level. And I pray, God, that your will, which is being done in heaven will be done here in Volusia County. I pray, God, that you would be glorified throughout our land, I thank you for the land on which we live and forgive us for the sins and trespasses. I pray, God, that justice would flow like a river, that your name would be glorified throughout Volusia County and that you smile upon this meeting and each and every single one of these council members. We love you, we praise you, and it's in Jesus Christ name we pray, amen.

>> Amen. And then I would ask all active duty and Veterans to render the hand salute, everybody else with their hand over heart and direct your attention to the flag. I pledge allegiance to the flag of 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 I don't know how this fits into decorum, but I always feel like we should applaud after the pledge of allegiance.
[ APPLAUSE ]
(Laughing) well, so some agree.

>> Thank you.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Carissa is still busy. Do you want me to -- do you want to the bring those before I ask you do call the roll?

>>CLERK: ( Inaudible ).

>>CHAIR BROWER: You had some more speaking requests.

>>CLERK: For a different item.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay.

>>CLERK: ( Roll call ) .

>>CHAIR BROWER: Let the record reflect, there is a physical quorum present, but I need a motion from the council for the members present to recognize that council member Billie Wheeler could not be here this morning. Due to an extraordinary circumstance. Due to the COVID-19 state of emergency.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Make a motion.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Motion by Johnson, seconded by Lowry. All in favor? Say aye. Thank you.
Get well, Billie. Is she there?

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Thank you.

>>CHAIR BROWER: You're welcome.
Okay. I will begin, we will --
before -- I love changes, we have a change this morning. We have a request, and I love giving the request of our council members who have asked for a special moment, a special privilege or the ability to speak out. That's why they were elected. Barbara Girtman, committee woman -- councilwoman from district 1 has asked to speak before we start. Barbara?

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: This is a perfect segue, with your being out of the council today. The community may be aware or may not know how our numbers are increasing. We are back up to over 200 testing positive daily.
Hospitalizations are increasing.
And many of the people are unvaccinated and I'm not challenging whether you do or cow don't, I'm certainly appealing to you that you do get vaccinated. But I understand should you choose not to. What I do ask, however, and this is from Barb Girtman, we're in a room and we're not socially distanced. I've asked staff to provide masks for anyone who is interested in having one. And I ask that you consider that because I wear this for you. I wear this for your family. And I wear this to hopefully promote a healthier community. So I don't know where we go from here, but I know we're headed in the wrong direction. From my perspective. So I felt that comment needed to be made.
Because we are kind of moving on as though things aren't real, and at least from my circle of people I have more people who have been hospitalized recently and infected recently, than during what we thought was the true spike and surge of this virus. So I take it personally.
And I share this from you, to you, from me. So I thank you for that moment.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. We will open public participation for those that have signed, if you're here to speak this morning, and you haven't filled out one of these sheets in the back, and given it to the clerk over here, you won't be called on because I don't read minds very well. So we will -- we have quite a few, you will have three minutes, when I call your name, please come up, state your name and the city where you live. And I'm going to -- I'm going to keep the three minutes because we have a lot of people that want to speak. This will be interesting. First, we have Crystal Baylor. Who?

>> ( Inaudible ).

>>SPEAKER: I'm Crystal sailor, from New Smyrna, I was raised in Cocoa beach and lived in new New Smyrna Beach for over three decades, Florida was more people and more banned activities, I was going to correct errors regarding other communities and their dog beaches but the Daytona dog beach submitted a document with the corrections and it only took about a half hour to find the dog beaches available near other communities. We're not asking for permission to take leashed dogs on the beach, but asking for the ban of dogs on the beach to be lifted. A person who opposes dogs on the beach stated that if people don't clean up the dog Pooh, they leave by the road side in their yard, they won't clean up dogs at the beach. I'm tired of being punished for other people's poor behavior. The resounding success of Smyrna dunes park and lighthouse point park are evident evidence off how a dog beach would work. I would happily -- my neighbors leaving out cat food all day. Animal control has been no help with the stray cats and the raccoons who have no fear of people.
Raccoons are the number one control of rabies. If you step in dog POO, you would be happy to step in dog POO. Fireworks are banned on the beach, alcohol is banned on the beach, and also, seems to not be a very successful mandate. The fact that the beach is not overrun with dogs, shows that dog owners are following the rules. With age and experience, also sadly come cynicism. I went to the Daytona Beach dog beach and told them that nothing happens and the point to common sense prevents the tourism industry and maximizing the quality of life for dog owning residents is not important, it's all about politics. And one side, wants to take leashed dogs on the beach and the other side wants to keep the ban on dogs, one side will not be happy. The easiest thing is do nothing.
You don't have to do any further work. Wouldn't that make a great campaign slogan, let's keep things the way they are, vote for me. Please remove the ban on dogs. And also, please don't put a parking garage in New Smyrna Beach, thanks.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, John Nicholson? And John, you'll be followed by LENny Wheeler, if you want to get ready, we might set up a bullpen.

>>SPEAKER: We should. John Nicholson, 413, Daytona Beach.
Several cleanup items, please, I've asked you for three years, to work on dolphin park. The weeds that they killed about a month ago is waist high, and still there. They haven't cut the weeds out of that mulch, they haven't clean I had it, the garbage cans lids are all off.
All of the people that walk to the Ocean Center, hundreds a day, walk past it. And people getting off the bus, have to walk right through it to get to A1A. And it is an absolute disgrace, I'm asking you, I said before, please update it. It is just the weeds are just terrible. And you really shouldn't leave it like for a month without any kind of care.
Secondly, Main Street, there was a meeting Thursday, with D.O.T., five streets remained, Main Street was one of them. And all they did was put a couple of barrels across A1A, but you all own that street and at the very ended on the west side, there are two lanes at the peninsula and it goes to four lanes between peninsula and the river.
Those lanes are 15 feet wide.
The lanes on peninsula are nine feet wide. There's a traffic jam every single bike week bike Oktoberfest. If somebody wants to go straight, they have to sit behind me and wait. There's room to make a turn lane, but it isn't there. So I'm asking you, that 70 feet of space, doesn't require two directions. It can involve turn lanes. So when they domain street, I'm asking you all to look at the end of Main Street. And lastly, there used to be a county member on the board for the CRA Main Street CRA board, Frank was on it for years. And you are put in 40% of the funding for CRA and you have no voice. I'm asking you to consider either one of you go on the board, or send a representative on the board. We need your input.
Before our city manager chose the board to do exactly what he wanted, and things did not get done. So I'm asking you to put your input on that board. Thank you very much.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
LENny Wheeler followed by Shirley KEEZing. I know you.

>>SPEAKER: Members of the council, good morning, I'm LENny Wheeler and I reside in Daytona Beach, I serve as the Vice President for the EMS union representing the EMTs and paramedics of the Volusia County EMS, I've been serving as a paramedic for 17 years, and I enjoy coming to work each day and to help the people in their hour of need. Volusia County EMS remains a great asset to the county because of the unwavering commitment to the employees and because of Volusia County's EMS policy to send the closest 911 response unit county wide regardless of the political boundaries. Our jobs are inherently stressful. But it's time has gone by, a great deal of stress has been placed on our members, call volume is creaming upward, the frequency that our paramedics and EMTs get off late is creeping upward, our response times are creeping upward, as members continue to rise to the challenge, these men and women can only sacrifice so much. As it stands right now the average EMS employee has contributed an extra 345 hours of shift work above their base schedule, in the last year. There comes a time when increased demand requires an increased supply.
Our members want to have a good work life balance, and our members want to have fast response time, our members want public safety to remain a top priority. A few years ago, the county sent a specific time analyzing where they had enough resources to get the job done.
Since then, we've been privileged to have b leadership from public protection and the office of the EMS office. Thank you, Heather Post for your support of its members, and their time of need.
Now, that sometime has passed, we again look to the council to rise to the occasion. To ensure that your county wide EMS service has the resources that it needs to meet today's increasing demands. When it comes to answering the we can L call and when it comes to patient care, we want to make sure that Volusia County EMS can always provide for the residents of the entire county. Public safety is our number one priority. And we're asking for it to be the county leadership's number one priority as well.
Thank you for your time.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
Shirley Keesling followed by Paul Richardson.

>>SPEAKER: Good morning.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Good morning.

>>SPEAKER: Shirley -- I live in New Smyrna Beach. I was very disa pointed in the outcome of last month's meeting in our petition to get a suitable dog beach in our county. The research done by the appointed committee seemed more biassed on the side of finding other beaches that did not allow dogs in order to justify Volusia County's decision than it did to research beaches that do allow dogs, what they have done to make it work, and what problems they have encountered and how they have solved those problems, how it has affected the tourism, etcetera, I want you to know that although I am very disappointed, I am determined not to give up. I am here today with a new request. I would like to ask the county to consider changing the ordinances to allow dogs to ride along in cars or leashed into a bicycle basket or pet stroller. Dogs would be able to enjoy time with their owners, without putting paws on beach. It is not what I would prefer, it is a compromise that should negate all of the concerns of dogs causing harm to our beach environment. While I'm sure someone is going to shout, what if some don't keep the rules? I say but what if most people do? You find the ones who don't. My fur baby is a member of the family and enjoys varied recreation, just like we do. As far as dog poop on the beach, if my dog needs to go, I would take him in his STREEL stroller and fine a suitable spot off the beach.
However, the fact S when I took my dog to St. Augustine beach, where we vacationed because we could not do a staycation locally because of my dog, I would always walk him before going down to the beach. Him having to go potty during our walks on the beach was never an issue. I humbly make this request so that my pet and I can enjoy this recreation together.
His presence brings me joy and often eases my sense of loneliness. He also offers a sense of security if I'm approached by a sketchy stranger, with dogs actually being restrained in a car, stroller, or bicycle basket, there should be no reason to limit hours or even locations.
I think you would be surprised by the number of people who would visit our beach and add to our tourism even with the stated restrictions. I still hope that eventually the county will soften the restrictions and let us have more areas where we can actually have paws on the beach.
Until then, I ask you all to consider this compromise. Thank you.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Paul richardson followed by Lisa bringia.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen of the council, my name is Paul Richardson I'm from Deland, I've been up here a couple of times already. I come here speaking on behalf of officer rainer who was -- not fatally shot in the face, after the last council meeting and luckily, he survived and now awake, thankfully. I don't know how much he was injured and how much he'll recover, but he's alive, thank God. But officer rainer had a great history of heroism here in Volusia County, even as just a city police officer. One time, he talked a woman down from a bridge. From committing suicide. So not only do police officers protect us, but they also save lives, too, and we shouldn't forget that. And since this incident happened to him, the community has come together. Because there's a great quote from one classic movie that says, your heart is not judged by how much you love, but how much others love you in return.
And the community came together in ways that make me proud of Volusia County, to live here.
And so in supporting officer Rainier, in his time of need, so while, we also keep our mind other officers like who are at their day-to-day or not getting praise, like the one sheriff's office deputy who rescued that 13-year-old from the kidnapping.
A couple of months ago. We should be thankful for people like them. And so I would just like to say, again, Volusia County rose up to the occasion and came together. And I would like to see that throughout the rest of the country, and throughout the rest of the state of Florida. And so taking an example from our hero --
( Inaudible ) that we are supportive of good people like officer Rainier. Thank you.
You guys have a good day. And again, thankful for both officers and our EMTs, because they also need support in these tough times. Thank you.
[ APPLAUSE ]

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
Lisa -- while she's coming forward, next will be Jennifer Kelly. After Lisa.

>>SPEAKER: Hi, I'm Lisa -- I'm from Edgewater, Florida and speaking public, but I can probably sing karaoke song, bear with me while I read this. I'm a retired RN. Senior citizen of Florida. As I said, I live in Edgewater, I'm hear because I'm requesting and asking the county to stop allowing after the fact permitting to my neighbor on both sides of me, I live on a canal, so I want to read off some of the things that have happened. There's eight of them. About five of these have caused me damage or some form of issue with my property. And two of them are currently existing now. My old concrete sea wall, it was a stable sea wall, it broke it. Cost me about $80,000 in damages, with all of this.
And I am trying to be a retired RN. And wasn't on the plan originally. There was also a fence, a new one placed, the plan was actually for the opposite side, which is probably an oversight, I get that, but they were sitting my new sea wall return and I called the county and one came out. And inway, the way the fence was put up, it's -- I actually on my property some, because there's no marker there. They have built a new retaining wall without plans, permit, and inspections or survey, causing me a erosion, currently. Then on the other side, 165 Charles, they attach to my sea wall without my permission or permit planning, they cut into and trespassed on my property, damaging my retaining wall, deck boards and broke my sea wall. I paid about $4500 to restore this myself. Because I didn't want the contractor who damaged me to do it. Did electrical to boat lift without permit or electrician approved. Moved storage building without permit to front of home between our properties, which is still illegal, it's sitting there now, not 20 feet from the front, this caused damage to my fence, not replaced. Also, they put a water hose through the retaining wall without permit. They put recently a planter with PVC piping back into the planter from steps. That wasn't 25 --
is not 25 feet from the sea wall. And they also have a dry wall, which is currently happening now. I replaced an old carport, I did something wrong after hurricane Harvey, and I did it without a permit.
And I felt like the county was picking on me. Because it was actually from hurricane Harvey.
And anyway. I was trying to get an after the fact permit and can I haves refused. -- I was refused and it's cost me so far $1300 to try to get -- trying to get a variance. So most of this, I want to say it's taking me away from my mom, who has Alzheimer's, because of course, my mom -- mind is on this other stuff. Thank you for listening.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
Jennifer Kelly, followed by Missy her --

>>SPEAKER: Good morning, everyone, my name is Jennifer Kelly. And I live in Ormond by the Sea and thank you for hearing me this morning, I'm deeply concerned about the federal Government's announcement of their door to door vaccine promotion campaign.
The first step I took after hearing about this was to contact my sheriff. I explained to sheriff CHIT wood that I'm 100% against this, and that the Government is abusing their power, I asked him what steps he would be taking to protect the citizens of Volusia County against the unconstitutional act by the federal Government, I was truly scared. His response to me, quote, thanks for the e-mail, stay safe, sheriff CHITwood. That's it. Well, not only did his response not make me feel safer, it made me feel more fearful. If the sheriff won't protect my rights, who will? He, and each of you, as our leaders, took an oath to protect and defend the constitution of the United States. Since you have done that, it would be fitting to take steps to stand to protect our rights of the citizens of Volusia County by making our county a Bill of Rights sanctuary. I ask that you protect the county's residents and stand between county and any entity that attempts to do door to door offering a COVID injection. This is an invasion of privacy, and a far overreach of the Government. Our homes are private and a place of safety. At this point in time, those who want the injection have received it. There is no lack of availability. The federal Government has already offered it for free. Coerced and bribed people to get it, this is an unprecedented move from the federal Government, these individuals unsolicited go door to door, I promise you, it will not be favorably rereceived. We need our local leader to stand b on the constitutional rights of every citizen, we need b, bold leadership. We need you to look critically at attempts such as these to breach our security and safety in our own homes, I ask every member of the council to support making Volusia County a Bill of Rights sanctuary. Thank you very much.
[ CHEERING AND APPLAUSE ]

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Did you want to the address that?

>>CHAIR BROWER: No, I can't.
But I will. Later.
(Laughing)

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Great.

>>SPEAKER: My name is -- I live in Ormond Beach, I'm a native Floridian, I came and spoke to you guys when this conversation about the dog beach first came up CH. . I have a lot to say, so I can fit it in three minutes. I wasn't here for the meeting because I had to work.
But, you know, like so many issues that I feel that are brought to the council, and the residents, it doesn't seem that a sincere effort was made to research this. And I understand data was cited from the last time it came to the council in 2014. Whether you want dogs on the beach is not really your personal opinion. But you're all sitting here because you were elected to represent your constituents, the Daytona Beach dog group has over 800 members since its origination in January. And they provided the 25 page report addressing concerns raised and suggested solutions. You voted, the subject is closed again and I ask you for how many years?
What do you envision for our future? Truck rallies and specials? They trash our beaches, we know they do.
Mr. Davis from the hotel and lodging association said no dogs on the beach, they're dirty.
Trucks, cars, motorcycles, we know what's going on down there.
If you go to visit Florida.com, you see those 12 dog friendly beaches, 8 of which are leash-free. Voters travel both on Florida highlights Jupyter beach, famous, 2.5 miles.
Traffic light pushback we hear is the harm that will be done to the environment, nesting turtles and sea birds. Juno beach and Jupyter beach is 9.5 miles long, 2.5 of those miles are the leash-free -- the leash-free dog beach, that is the busiest --
one of the busiest nesting grounds for logger heads in the world, not the state, the world, and somehow, the dogs and everything gets along in harmony. A publication from the Audubon society, an easy way to protect birds and their chicks.
The Daytona Beach dog group didn't ask for much, a half a mile stretch out of 47 miles of our county beaches. To walk their dogs, on the leash. I ask that you hold a workshop that includes input from residents, residents who live and work here, residents who want a part of the beach to walk their dogs on. They work during the time this meeting is held, in the hospitals that you depend on, to take care of you when you're sick, they teach your kids your grandchildren and they work in the banks and the businesses that we depend on so I ask that you hold a workshop to involve residents and input from everyone. People that can't be here in the middle of the day.
So thanks for your time.
[ APPLAUSE ]

>>CHAIR BROWER: Before we go on, I want to pause just a second, we all have cell phones, now, days, we all have computers in our pocket, if you have a computer in your pocket or jacket, would you please silence it? So that the speaker doesn't think that she's being or he's being asked to stop? One of other thing, Carissa, you had told me there was some people that wanted to speak on item 18 that couldn't stay, I don't see them, are you holding them? Let me ask the council, then, what their prerogative would be if we're going to move them forward, I'll need a motion and an approval, would somebody make that motion.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: So moved.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Second.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Motion by Lowry, second by Post to be allowed to move to the morning participation. I've seen other people out here that told me they want to speak, if you haven't filled out a form, please do so and give it to Carissa. Can we have those?
Thank you. I'll give you as much time as you need. And in the -- thank you, council.
Karen Clark?

>> ( Inaudible ).

>>CHAIR BROWER: Yeah, it says -- yes.
(Laughing) (Laughing)

>>CLERK: If you're speaking on item and cannot stay, if you'll talk to me and I'll put it out to give the card to the chair.

>>CHAIR BROWER: There goes half the audience.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Karen Clark, I was here originally for that, because I can't be here at number 18, but I would reek really like to request a rollback of the military, but I'm also here because they told me I couldn't talk about that now, I'm here on Grand Avnue as everybody know, around west Volusia, the white stripe on the lines on your road, is not there. It's deteriorated, I know that the machine that reflects everything was broken for a long time. Old New York avenue needs to get some done, I'm serious, there will be somebody down that six foot ditch, six inches off the line just past Emmys, also, thank you to the garbage people, sorry, for refuse people that pick up, I have seen them along our area, just pick up stuff on the side of the road. Which is really commendable. You know, they just want to make everything nice. And I forgot what else.
I got side blind here. Again, vote for a complete rollback of the military, if you need to make up for stuff, you have other years in the future to do it. All right. Thanks.
[ APPLAUSE ]

>>CHAIR BROWER: Boyd followed by Jackie Lowell. Your among friends so be calm.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I hope so because -- ( Inaudible ) my back is turned. All right. So good morning, everyone, I live in the City of Daytona Beach. And there's a few things I wanted to do, unlike many of them, I'm here to give y'all something, I would like to invite you all July 31st, chairman Brower, yes, come OU to do the community walks with us, it has been so awesome, people are involved, many people don't know who you are, I know because I'm talking to them, and they don't know when these meetings are, it doesn't cost you anything, it's not a political employ. It is people who are elected listening to the people who are elected them and if they didn't elect you, they didn't know who you were, so it's a great idea and it's been well received and I've been asked to mimic on the west and east side and once the NAACP gives us clearance, this is one of the programs that we will inherent. We can't do face-to-face NAACP. I don't want a dog on the beach. My dog throws up at sporadic times and I would not want to clean that up off the sand, and he gets car sick. Florida has less than 50% of the people that have been vaccinated, the majority, I heard this on fox news driving in, the majority vaccinated of the black and brown, considered the highest at risk because of health condition, I think people should be as you said, Barbara Girtman, chairman Girtman, they should be allowed to wear a mask or should be suggested as such and that's great. Next is --
all right. The next thing is I want to say, y'all know I worked in EMS for five years ago, a problem, we're not paying them enough. I know I did the payroll. We're not paying them enough. The turn over rate is higher than you would ever imagine, corrections, and my significant works there. So the thing that we need to do, we are, I think, the third lowest paying in the state for corrections. In the state.
People think we're hiring in this region, we're doing a per ratio or per arrest, you know, how many people we lock up, the majority are homeless, we can't do anything about that, but we are mandating and they are walking out. You can make 13 or $15 an hour at McDonald's now.
These people are protecting us, saving lives, and they are putting their lives and families second to us. The least we can do is take some of that PPP money and give them raises, insight new people to want to come work here, pay them more, more people will want to come and they won't be -- it's not about them wanting the more money, just that we're not paying enough to attract new people. And then the last thing is, oh, that's it. Thank you thank you very much.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
Take a breath.
[ APPLAUSE ]
Jackie?

>>SPEAKER: Thank you. Good morning. My name is Jackie mole, I live in Port Orange and I attend Allen CHAP Emanuel AME Church, which makes up the faith organization, for the last three years, I have co-chaired the faith housing committee. On behalf of faith, I want to thank you, council, and county staff, for their work on organizing these workshops, and webinars.
As part of the collaborative effort, to address the lack of affordable housing here in Volusia County. And workforce housing. Faith members have attended the weekly briefings and webinars this month and we look forward to participating in the housing summit next month.
At the July 9th webinar, Mr. Michael Anderson, the director of the housing trust fund project, spoke about the vital role, local housing trust fund play in our community across the country. By helping to create working opportunities for working families. For those that was not able to attend, we urge you to get -- go back and watch the presentation on the county's website. In our meeting with Mr. Anderson, over the last several months, he has encouraged us to look closely at the American rescue plan that cities like Philadelphia, Milwaukee, and Cincinnati have already allocated portions of their ARP, to the local housing trust fund and some of the neighbors in Seminole county and they have been discussing doing the same. Canton, Georgia, has actually used money that they received from the ARP to kick start their own local control housing trust fund. That's what faith has called on this body to do. To create and fund a new housing trust fund, this year, with $7 million. Our county received from the American rescue plan, which is over $100 million. The average, the average renter in our county makes just over $13 an hour.
And -- for EMTs and airport securities which are making less than $15 an hour. These are essential jobs but full time workers would need to work, make $16 an hour to afford a one bedroom unit. We hope that next week, during the workshop, you will discuss using a portion of the American rescue plan to fund the new housing trust fund.
Thank you so much.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
Russ molten. Followed by Nanel ( name? )

>>SPEAKER: Good morning, thank you for having me here. My name is Russ molten, I'm with fairest, Floridians for affordability in real estate and sales taxes, a group of residents concerned about the exorbitant property taxes in Volusia County. A few statistics for you, Volusia County ranks in the top 15% highest property tax counties in the nation. And we are one of the top taxed counties in the state of Florida. Frankly, fellow members of the council, we shouldn't be talking about just 100% rollback. We should talk about lower than that.
Actually, cutting taxes. And giving people a break. The reverend that talked about affordable housing is right on.
And if you raise taxes by only doing a partial rollback, you're making housing less affordable.
Because property taxes are most regressive that we have, it affects the working poor. You raise those taxes, those landlords aren't eating it, they're passing UT on to those poor people trying to get affordable homes, and that's a passion of mine. I heard council members with all due respect talking about cutting to the bone, cutting to the bone?
A couple of years ago we hired a resilience manager we pay $75,000 to, how much more nonessential spending do we have in the budget? The news journal, back on June 17th, said, Volusia County has the highest debt ratio in the entire nation. 257%. The cost of living is skyrocketing. Our median income in Volusia County is below the state and the national averages, and the pastor just talked about that at $13 an hour. How are they going to afford it when you raise their real estate taxes and the landlords pass it on to them?
26.4% of our residents have maxed out their credit cards.
These aren't my numbers, it's from the news journal. 27.3% spend more than 35% of their income on housing. And you're going to raise the real estate taxes? And make them pay more?
Folks, this doesn't make any sense. I hear county staff talking about the needs of the staff. The county manager talk about the needs of the county staff. How about the needs of the residents out here? That got impacted by the COVID pandemic and lost their jobs?
Restaurants that shut down.
People who lost their livelihoods. These people know cutting to the bone. So I implore you, do the right thing today. Fully roll it back.
Because anything other than 100% rollback is a tax increase and we just had an election where there was a mandate, Mr. Brower ran on full rollback. And he got 58% of the vote. I think that the voters have spoken.
Thank you.
[ APPLAUSE ]

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
Nanette followed by Gary cruise.

>>SPEAKER: Good morning.
( Name? ) I'm a Daytona Beach resident and president of Daytona dog beach, Inc., to reiterate what I wrote to you on June 23rd, our organization is deeply disappointed in the June 22nd vote not to allow dog friendly options on Volusia County beaches and more disappointed in the handling of the agenda item. We had been led to believe our proposal of the designated area between Zelda and university boulevards would be included in staff's report. It was not. For some reason, it was added in the last minute. But failed to provide supporting information for council to fully consider.
There was several glaring omissions. This area is designated a low sea turtles nesting density area, has low shore bird nesting history, low human use urban area, and all positive factors that should have made this a favorable option, especially since this driving area provides ease of access for those physically challenged or handicapped and their dog. In line with Robert's rules of order, we are asking you to either rescind your vote, to make know change to dog access, or renew the motion to consider allowing locations for dogs to access the beach. This will allow council to fully review this 34--year-old dog ban. And seek a compromise solution that fairly meets the needs of all residents, visitors, and businesses alike. With 47 miles of public beach, council missed an opportunity to find a compromise to meet the request of those constituents seeking their lawful right to access the beach for recreation and customary use. With their leash leashed dog. For many residents, their dogs are their companions,s and family. Being able to walk along the beach with their dog provides healthy, safe exercise, that provides quality of life for both. For many senior residents, waiting 7 more years for this to come to council again is just not an option. We have asked numerous times and are asking again to meet with you and staff to fully discuss this issue, our proposal, or other options. We have volunteered to cover the cost of supplies, perform dog waste and human litter cleanup, and assist in monitoring the areas in support of beach patrol. Please respond to us.
As a Florida nonprofit and pending 501(c)3 organization, we are already becoming a valued partner in the community and seek your commitment to work with us to reach a compromise solution that would bring value to Volusia County. Compromise is something everybody is looking for in this country and in this county. Thank you.
[ APPLAUSE ]

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
Gary cruise? Followed by Renee Patrella.

>>SPEAKER: Good morning!
I my name is Gary cruise. I live in the great City of DeBary, where we're thankful to have a great mayor and a great city council and we have the lowest taxed city in Volusia County. Of which we are proud of. Now, there are folks behind me and all through Volusia County who believe really believe that some representatives on this council do not like and believe and listen to our voices. There are some who believe that instead of doing that, they listen to the person behind the curtain to pull the strings, they believe it's a wasted AEFRT effort to try to convince the council or give our opinions to the council. Well, I'm here to tell you, I'm not one of them. Why else would I be here? Because I didn't believe you would be listening, why would I be here?
But I am here today to ask you one thing. You've already heard it previously. Please, do not raise our taxes. I'm requesting that you vote for a complete rollback of the -- a complete rollback, a complete rollback, a complete rollback. If you vote for anything less than a complete rollback, on the millage rate, it will result in us paying more in taxes, if we pay more in taxes, no matter how you color it, no matter how you word it, what lipstick you put on it, it would be a tax increase. And in my view, and in others, has been previously stated here, that the chairman Brower's huge victory last November was a clear signal, a clear signal that Volusia County is hungry for change and tired of the continued tax increases.
Yes, we believe that the people understand our ultimate power is at the ballot box, and we are prepared to fundamentally change the direction of our county Government. But only if it's necessary. Our request is so simple. We're asking you to listen to the residents, vote for the residents, do the right thing by complete rollback on the millage rate. Did I say a complete rollback? A complete rollback is the only vote, anything less means that we pay more in taxes. Ignoring the voice of the people and not listening to your residents is extremely dangerous. Voting to a fully roll back of the millage increase to avoid another tax increase is your opportunity to do what is best for the KOOUN county, it your opportunity, I love it, every one of you are looking at me now, it is your opportunity to be a hero, be a hero. Please hear our voices.
Don't raise our taxes and Billie Wheeler, I hope you get to feeling better soon, we miss you not being in that chair, thank you.
[ APPLAUSE ]

>>CHAIR BROWER: Renee Patrella, followed by Ron Edmonds.

>>SPEAKER: Good morning, council. My name is Renee --
currently residing in New Smyrna Beach. And I'm here to speak about the Daytona dog beach. I can imagine you as council know how much work and time it takes to come together and to be the voice of an overall county and community. Our group Daytona dog beach has done the same to voice our wishes as a community to improve the economy as a county and union of family. We currently have over 800 members on our FaceBook page. Are all of them in support of our movement? No. But that's okay.
We are here to listen to their voices and to educate them on the impacts that dogs do have to lives. As residents and as tourists. Dogs rehabilitate man, that's not annen opinion but a fact from prison up inmates to Veteran war hero programs, these programs unite a dog's companionship to relieve trauma and stress from such life events, a dog does not impose on our lives. They improve them.
With safe regulations, health codes, volunteers, and funding, partnerships, with marine and wildlife organizations, and team work, together, I believe that we as a whole community can compromise this. Thank you for your time.
[ APPLAUSE ]

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. Ron Edwards followed by Anna Hannah.

>>SPEAKER: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen of Volusia County.
We appreciate the council allowing citizens to come and speak their minds to this morning. If it was not important, we would not take the time to be here. I think it's fair to say that elected officials or politicians, if you will, never really carried around a lot of respect from the people of this country. There's jokes made about them. And as far as actions, it has become even more prominent lately that there is a healthy reason for the citizens of this country, this state, this county, to feel that there is less trust. From the stolen elections to things that are going on right now, for example, the beach paper said that the Mayor of -- awe awed called for a special immediating due to public out cry at the church. Which was a historic landmark. There was a hundred e-mails, 25 public speakers and two from other council members, the city commissioners Susan ( Inaudible ) Rob Littleton, all voted to ignore their constituents. And demand that that church be plowed under.
Now, this sent a ripple effect and it's just very, very consistent, with what's been going on. There's distrust and now that we are looking at a millage rate that is going to increase as many people have talked about, it's more money out of people's pockets. We have suffered a lot due to COVID. We have suffered a lot, many businesses are closed. Who here has gone to a restaurant and said we can't serve you because we can't find help, people are sitting at home, enjoying the unemployment rates that they're going with the extra money. And they want go to work. And that's from the Government. We need less government, not more. We need less taxes.
[ APPLAUSE ]
We need for people who are serving in your positions and I don't doubt for a second that I don't understand the inner working of your job, but I do don't doubt for a second that there are millions and millions of people in this country who are looking very, very closely at those people who demonstrate that they have their constituents foremost in their mind, not lobbyist or special interest groups. And these people, these people will be lifted up. These people are the ones that will be kept in the positions that help their constituents achieve what it is they believe is best for their county and their state. So all that I ask for you to do is listen to the pleas that are being brought to you, this morning, and don't do like the council members of Ormond Beach, and plow us under. Thank you.
[ APPLAUSE ]

>>CHAIR BROWER: Anna Hannah followed by joy BRINly.

>>SPEAKER: Hi, I'm Anna Hannah, and I'm from Ormond Beach. I'm here to talk about the federal agents possibly coming door to door about vaccinations. We have clinics all over the county. We've done a really good job of making it widely available. We have an excellent transportation system. We have a firemenly county with neighbors who I'm sure would give neighbors a ride if they needed a vaccine. We do not need any federal employees coming door to door. If this type of thing happens, it should be run by local agencies, and it should be by appointment-only.
It shouldn't be unannounced.
Whenever the press announced this, in the white house, they said it with a really threatening tone. They don't respect, you know, medical decisions, and, you know, they said that, you know, they will come door to door, if they have to. That's -- that's kind of frightening, I work at home. I don't want somebody coming, when I'm in the middle of a Zoom meeting, my dog starts barking and strangers coming door to door, that's not acceptable. I also have a teenager at home, sometimes I leave for a meeting, and I I don't feel comfortable with a stranger coming door to door. I just think that we cannot allow that in our county.
I think that permits are required, and I don't think that we should authorize them either.
I don't think we need federal oversight here in Volusia County. I don't think that we need it in Florida. You know, they're setting up in Tampa federal police, we've got to stop that and push back, Florida and Volusia County, we can manage ourselves.
[ APPLAUSE ]
Definitely. We really run a good business here. We run a tight ship. We take care of each other. We don't need federal agents. We don't need that Government overreach. Not at all. I also wanted to talk about the signs that we still have out. Everybody has seen, everybody knows, we should mask up, we should get vaccinated, we should social distance. Those signs are just a reminder of an ugly past year. When we go to the beaches, when we go to the parks, I think we need to take those down, I think that when people take some time off, of the stressful year, to go outside, we want to enjoy ourselves. We're there to just breathe the fresh air, be in the Florida sunshine and enjoy the beaches. So I think it's time to take those signs down.
Everybody knows to tend to their business, their own medical personal business. And everybody knows to keep your distance. If you haven't been vaccinated. Or, you know, to just take care of your own health. But we don't need signs telling us what to do. And we don't need other agencies telling us what to do. Thank you.
[ CHEERING AND APPLAUSE ]

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. Joy BRINly? Followed by Sharon Tescot.

>>SPEAKER: My name is joy and I'm a resident of Volusia County, and live in Ormond Beach. My SXHUBD husband and I are also low income seniors, most impacted by tax increases.
Most of you, not all, on the council continue to confirm our beliefs that you do not value the voices of your constituent but rather listen to those who continue to pull your strings, it is reaffirmed to us, our voices do not matter to you, you were elected to represent our voices. The main reason your half cent sales tax went down in flames and the plan did not have plan B. By note voting for a complete roll back on the millage rate. No matter how you word it, it is a tax increase, the term -- ( Inaudible ) nothing could be further from the truth. I believe that we the people will exercise our ultimate power at the ballot box next year and unVEET those who continue to ignore the voices of their constituents. If we are the voice of the people, not listening to your constituent is an extremely thing to do. Is your opportunity to be a hero and for once, go with what your constituents want. I implore you to do the right thing and vote for a full rollback and work towards reduction and spending all departments except for fire, sheriff and EMS. If this were your own business, you would clearly be finding ways to cut expenses and not increase the price of your product or services to your customers for fear of losing those customer, the county needs to do that same thing. My husband and I have actively supported the conserve tiff candidates that we believe in and will do so again in the future elections. Our vote is our voice. And we can assure you that we will be voting for true conservatives, not those who adhere to the few big dollar donors who call for favors. If nothing is done, it an increase to everyone, because the increased property values, it seems that some council members feel a measly $30-40 a year increases on taxes and properties valued under $190,000 is no big deal. Does not take into account our total tax bill, which includes the school board and city property taxes. Both of which will increase. Number two. If you go to rollback, property owners with homestead XEMSs get the same as last year, but the second home and commercial properties taxes are still increased, and likely, this will get passed down to tenants, tenths -- number three, full roll back is the millage rate required to keep every property tax rate the same as last year. Property values have gone up 7%. -- by not increasing the millage rate.
Revenues are already increased from all of the new construction going on everywhere in our county. Thank you, for your time, today, I trust you, we are the voices of the people.
[ APPLAUSE ]

>>CHAIR BROWER: Sharon Trescot.
And then after Sharon, Scott Sheldon.

>>SPEAKER: Sharon, 689 pine land trail, Ormond Beach. I'm here today as I came once before and spoke to the council, and presented a copy of the city council -- city commission meetings of December 2004, with concerns for the airport runway extension that as county residents are getting so heavily impacted by. We as county residents, were never notified what so ever of this project, prior to it even beginning. We have property owners that needed property from them in the county, and that didn't happen.
Right now, I understand that there's a reconsideration for a shrinking back of some of their runway, because they didn't get what they wanted. And I think that the concern for us as county residents far speaks beyond even the 600 foot runway.
Let alone, I feel that the county doesn't know and we really don't know how we might be impacted. I have -- on my property now, when the jets come down, and it depends on which way they take off. And if that is up going on now, I ask you all to be become more involved with all of us out there, I have a petition that I'm going to present today of other county residents, and I think that before one foot is extended, I think that you all need to be with us, we have a evaluation period after their SCA is out.
But we have handled and tried to handle this on our own, and at this point, we've done very well. And we probably have stopped the 400 feet more coming to us, not opposed to any stopping, I merely ask if it's done, it be done right. And if more properties are needed to do this expansion, as a county, we need to see to that and also, I'm asking the county, I've met with staff, we met out above the airport, and I think that some of concerns were taken very well and we have presented good hard facts. There's discrepancies that we found and this continues, so again, I ask you cannot with be involved enough and I don't think you know, because an hour or so wasn't enough time to give you all from a 500 and some odd page report, what you all need to see. And this is still coming, so please, help us be there. It's a city airport, but that city airport is in this county. I thank you so much.
[ APPLAUSE ]

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
Scott Sheldon? Followed by Michael Rogers.

>>SPEAKER: Talking to you guys right now. I'm an idiot if I think that in three minutes I'm going to change anyone's mind here on the board. But I want you to understand what we feel like being here talking to you, we feel like we have no voice, we're gagged. There was a scorpion that needed to cross a large body of water. The scorpion knew he couldn't do DIT on his own, so he asked the frog to help him. The frog reluctantly agreed and said, but you're going to sting me and kill me, and the scorpion said, no, no, no because I need to cross this body of water. And at that time, the frog reluctantly agreed and began to swim across the body of water, halfway through, the frog felt a horrible sting on his back and looked up at the scorpion and said, what's the deal, Mr. Scorpion, we had an agreement? You weren't going to sting me. He goes, now I'm going to drown in the middle of this body of water, and you, yourself, are going to drown in this body of water. And the scorpion looked down at the frog and said, I'm the scorpion.
What do you expect? You know we've elected you guys to be fiscally conservative and you ran on being fiscally serve TIF.
This bandanna can represent something completely different.
This bandanna can represent freedom. The freedom for me to go to work, because I'm off work right now. Because I so believe in talking to you today. But the freedom for me to go to work knowing that you have been --
are going to be at my back, Danny, you're going to have my back, Billie, Jeff, Fred, Heather, and Barbara, you're going to be voting for me while I'm at work. This is what this bandanna represents. I don't want it to be a gag. Now, some of you are scorpions. And when you vote today, you're voting not only for the death of your constituents, you're killing your constituency, you're also ultimately going to kill yourselves. And so, Jeff, and Heather, thank you for being fiscally conservative. We request that all of the rest of you be fiscally conservative, I'm going to leave the bandanna up here, I don't think that I have the voice, they probably aren't going to hear what you say, but they're going to remember this, put this on your head, and tell them that you want a complete rollback, you actually want more than that, but this is what we're asking for today. Thank you.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
[ APPLAUSE ]

>>CHAIR BROWER: Michael?

>>SPEAKER: Yes, Michael Rogers.
667 pine land trail, Orlando beach, Florida. I'm here --
Ormond Beach, Florida, I'm here to talk about the airport and Ormond and the impact it's having on the county residents.
There's approximately 100 of us in that little enclave on an area that that this is impacting directly and an area afterwards.
I'm here to talk about the fact that the county entered into a interlocal agreement with this city back in July of 2017. Your former predecessor, Mr. Brower entered into this with the city mayor at the time. And of course he was also the former mayor. I'm not an attorney, like you have over here, but it EP soed like a bit of a conflict of interest to me there, possibly. The problem I have with this interlocal agreement is -- first of all, it does, by the way, under termination state that any party to this agreement may terminate this agreement with or without cause. I know for a fact that an agreement can be terminated by either one, city or county. And at the time it was entered into, was stated by the city, that this airport noise district overlay map, in the city's current LDC, does not identify -- does not identify any residential or other incompatible land uses within the 65DNL contour. Now, I don't expect anybody in this room to understand what I said. A 65DNL contour is deemed by the federal Government to be harmful to human beings, and yet, even though it states that, I have proof on my chair through an airport layout plan dated nine months earlier, in September of 28th of 2016, approved by the FAA and signed off by them, approved by Joyce Shanahan, city manager of Ormond Beach and signed off that directly conflicts to what that says.
Does not identify any residential or incompassable land uses under the 65DNL. And yet, the airport layout plan that I have to show you clearly shows 65DNL going off airport property, on to my property, on to my neighbor's property and probably three-quarters of the way into her property, there's a conflict here. That was the most recent information given at the time to be able to use and justify the interlocal agreement. But it wasn't used.
The city states there was no issue. Yet, only nine months previous, the most recent approved by FAA document that you have stating that there's a problem, was never looked at.
Why was that? Nobody has ever looked into it, I would like to look into it now, ill like to have this agreement thrown UT.
Out. It appears that the interlocal agreements are lip services and it's not worth the paper it's written on. Thank you.
[ APPLAUSE ]

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
Deanna Griffin. Followed by Elisha Whitaker.

>>SPEAKER: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen of the council, my name is Griffin I reside in Daytona Beach, and I'm here to talk about sickle cell and on behalf of the sickle cell association, along with the Levi long crickal cell association, and the resource center and the -- here in Deland, Florida, I want to say two thing, one, thank you all so much for considering us in the budget.
Thank you so much for allowing us to have the task of servicing 14 sickle cell educational activities, and thank you for giving us the opportunity to educate the east and west Volusia County. My second proposal is to ask that you consider to give us more funding. We have scratched the surface and we've educated and now it's time for tows get the ball going, time for us to reach those family that have gotten educated, advocacy is still needed. I'm grateful to have that task and pushing forward to this, I'm and asking for for --
funding, I ask that you consider this for me. Thank you again.
[ APPLAUSE ]

>>SPEAKER: One of the young people, so may I speak before you speak?

>>CHAIR BROWER: You may speak before he speaks? As his mentor?

>>SPEAKER: No. I'm one of the speakers.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Council, I'll ask for you -- and I'll defer to your wishes.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: She's filled out a card as well, she's asking to go before him, so.

>>SPEAKER: Okay, is that all right?

>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay.

>>SPEAKER: My name is -- and I'm the CEO of catalyst global youth initiatives, we have multiple programs in the city that serve the children of Volusia County. The most recent program is the literacy and leadership academy that meets for six weeks during the summer, we have 990 books, so each one of these children, 150 of them, they come through this academy, are able to take home six books.
They read them with us. They do all kinds of projects around the book. And they have speakers, Jeff was our last speaker this year. We serve the Daytona region, Deltona, and Deland as well. With these children and these a a academies, they have this enriching, exciting experience, they build businesses, they have S.T.E.M.
projects, and they have speakers, and they just have a wonderful time during the summer. Our challenge is funding. We need funding. Not only to stabilize what we do right now, but also to expand what we do. It is important to build b children.
Frederick Douglases said that building a b child is easier than correcting a broken man. And you can -- Carnegie research center over 150 years ago, said it's the social-emotional experience in learning that will stay with the human being for the rest of their life. And yet we don't focus on that, but that's what we do as a program. And our mentoring and our male programs that are in middle schools, and especially with the summer.
Literacy and leadership academy, I'm not sure that you're aware of the fact that I our literacy is 60%. That's 20% less than the national average. You're not going anywhere if you can't read. You can't be a good employee, a good father, a good mother, unless you are learning how to speak, to read, and to write. And so today, we're here, so that you can see what it does to for our children.
Our first child, today, is a young man named Joshua. Joshua, would you come up? They all have filled out their forms.
Okay. Joshua. Where are you?
Oh. And his director is Mr. Stanley. Mr. Stanley, quickly, come up here. Joshua?

>> Good morning, chairman Brower, and all of you county council members, thank you for this time. First, bear with me, this is my first time speaking in a room as such and my speech is much better, but let me know if I need to repeat anything.
All right, we're going to start new, I Joshua Anthony Tyler want to say -- I Joshua Tyler, want to see changes in our community.
First, meet-and-greets. For example, meet and greets. Why drive through stuff, giveaways, live music, and giveaways, game nights, and etcetera, etcetera, I would like this because we have some but not often at all, similar to this kind of. Once a month, maybe, but I know COVID is popping up right now, but still, maybe we can find something after this? That's all. Thank you.
[ APPLAUSE ]

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, son.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Good job.

>>SPEAKER: Great job, Joshua, great job. Good morning, everybody,- hi. All right. My name is germane Stanley, one of the directors for the catalyst leadership academy, I also have my own youth program called mission great youth program, where I teach kids educational development and growth. I teach kids how to be sufficient self-sufficient. One thing I want to talk about is that we need funding. With the programs in Volusia County, alone, give me a second. I'm a little nervous. So in Volusia County, it's a major issue with our youth. They have nothing to do.
And I know that because I have a kid and for the last 11 years, and that's the reason I started my youing program in the first place, I did a march on the capitol before COVID. The chances of someone coming and shooting up a school is 1 in 114,000 but the chances of a young black boy getting shot by the police is 1 in 4 I have a black son that impacted me and made me want to get involved in the community, and the issue is we have nothing for the kids to do. They keep getting in trouble. I know it because I live in the area, where it's happening. And in the urban Carolina village area, one day I was on the phone with -- on a Zoom call, I heard a loud crash outside, it's a car, at least ten kids jumped out. All like probably her size. Or smaller.
And I know that getting in trouble, there's nothing in the commune for them to do, so my issue is it's funding, I know it's funding and I've tried to several programs, but the city is giving me such a hard time.
My kids events, I try to do bounce houses but it's funding, or charging a larger amount.
That's my thing. These programs are beneficial. Like I said, we learn Japanese, sign language, Spanish, coding, and like I said, we all learn businesses, a couple of the scholars have created a business, you know, so that's my thing. And I definitely want you guys to look into funding for our youth, really, seriously. Okay.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.

>>SPEAKER: Thank you.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Pause one second, Alicia, I heard you, pulled an -- and so which is fun, but I've got to sort through these and find all of your speakers, if you see a council member leave, they're not ignoring you, we have great speakers in the back, they can hear you, if somebody has to get up and go, please don't take it as if they don't care what you're saying. They're hearing what you're saying.
Who's next, what is your name.

>>SPEAKER: This is Sharon brown.

>>SPEAKER: Right behind her is -- ( name? )

>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay.

>>SPEAKER: Good morning to the council. And all of the citizens. Today is a good day to have a great day. On behalf of the -- the catalyst academy, it is our honor to be here. I want to share with you all some of the latest thins that we've done this summer. Five weeks, we had an opportunity to impact lives. I have been teaching for over 25 years. I've taught in Texas. Tennessee. Georgia.
And now, Florida. I think I'll retire here. But what I've learned is that kids do not care what you know, they care if you care. Right. And since I've been here in Florida, I mostly am hearing negativity about the kids, bullying, what they're doing on social media, vandalism. Low test grades.
When she reached out to me about catalyst and shared her vision, HOI Howe she wanted to -- how she wanted to do a nontraditional education for the scholars that's what we call them, scholars, I was all the way in. It's different. It's bold. It's remarkable. You instantly see our children come in very shy, and now as you will see, out spoken. I ask that you support this organization. You have many more that are very similar to this. The issue as my brother has said earlier, funding. We cannot change their lives, we cannot change our future, unless we invest in our kids today. I hope that you hear what they have to say because they're going to change our tomorrow. As I begin, I said, today is a good day to have a great day. But we are a team. We are a team. With a team together, everyone achieves more. Say that with me.
Together, everyone achieves more. Let's work together to change our future, once again, thank you.

>>SPEAKER: Thank you.

>>SPEAKER: And I did learn Japanese this summer.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Yes, I heard you.

>>SPEAKER: Thank you, God bless you.
[ APPLAUSE ]
[ APPLAUSE ]

>>SPEAKER: My name is --
( name? ) Brown and catalyst has helped me this summer because usually I would be in second home, bored, calling my friends and not doing anything really productive. But since catalyst, it got me waking up early and it helped me do a lot of exercise, and we did a lot of fun activities. And they liked listening to what we have to say, and they taught us about some people who impacted our lives. And made America better.
And better community for us.
And I know Ms. ( Name? ) She plays the song by James brown, living in America, and I always get pumped in the morning and we get to learn about positivity affirmations, and yeah, and it just made a difference in my life. And I think it can --
they can do that in a bunch of other kids lives, if they get affordable funding to help them.
Thank you.
[ APPLAUSE ]

>> good job.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.

>>SPEAKER: Hi, I'm Ryan.

>>CHAIR BROWER: What's your last name, Ryan.

>>SPEAKER: Thompson.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER:
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay, I'm finding your card. Council, every one of these young people have turned in a slip.

>>SPEAKER: Okay. So I think that catalyst really helps you with finding -- it teaches you everything in every day life.
You learn art, you get new hobbies, they helped us plan, paint, and sometimes they'll even Tom come to your house to help you, they said they can help you even during the school year if you contact them. I also get up really early but I normally don't.
(Laughing) so it's other like a force --
forced me to get up. I don't really do the exercises but I had to do them anyway. Because they will come to my house.
(Laughing) they personally know my grandma, also, so I live with my grandma.
And also, I feel like if this could be put in like school systems and you could sign up before the summer happens, that we'll have way more and sometimes if we get some finances and help, we can keep people off the streets.
[ APPLAUSE ]

>>SPEAKER: We have to be virtual, these past two year, that's why he's talking about us coming to their house.

>>SPEAKER: Hi name is --
( name? ). So catalyst this year was one of the best years I've ever been in because we did a lot of fun activities, painted, we did something with Styrofoam which was cool, and one of the fun parts about it is that we read a book and its was about a guy named John and his dog Bessie, we did I a skit on it and I liked it because our first book to we read, it took place in World War II. And that exact same book that we just read, also took place in World War II, so that also made the time lines even perfect. One of my favorite things were the Haiku and mine said, rain, rain, it can be great, if you don't like it, you can go away. And it also says, final line, it also says, it can also help the environment. And that's really it. That's all I've got right there.

>> Good job.

>>CHAIR BROWER: You got a lot, sir.
[ APPLAUSE ]
[ APPLAUSE ]

>>SPEAKER: Good morning, my name is Elijah Whitaker, I will tell you about my year at catalyst; learning new language.
[ Speaking foreign language ]
Good morning in Japanese. We got to create business here at cat LIS, I created the business called witty team, a game/comic studio. . I hope that it will help me because a better game developer and an artist in the future than I am right now. And that's pretty much what I learned at catalyst this year.
Thank you.
[ APPLAUSE ]

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.

>>SPEAKER: Hi. My name is ( name? ) I have been in catalyst. I have been in catalyst for two years now. I'm going in to the third grade and I'm 18. My favorite activity is the day camp work, like the ( Inaudible ) making the stress ball and the Haiku. Thank you for letting me be in the catalyst program.

>> Excellent.
[ APPLAUSE ]

>> nice.

>>SPEAKER: Hi, I'm Cheyenne Williams, from Deltona, Florida, and I'm part of the catalyst program. This is my second year, this year I'm a director.
And we had a great time this year. We built lasting real relationships and we learned about the scholars, ourselves and the world, I'm honored to be a part of such a great catalyst family. And this year, was very exciting, and even though we were virtual, we did a lot of fun activities, the scholars have said. And this was just a life-changing experience. For both times, virtually, I believe we were able to do more, learn more, and grow more and provide equal opportunities for everyone. Thank you to the scholars, thank you to the facilitators, thank you to the directors, to the speakers and thank you to Dr. Benzo who made this all possible.
[ APPLAUSE ]

>>SPEAKER: Hi, my name is ( name? ) Brown, I've been in catalyst for four years now, I started out as a camper and now I'm a counsel LOR, I teach kids I was once in their position, that so that was pretty cool.
This program gives me an opportunity to make a little bit of money to put on the side that goes to my college fund so that's good too, it's a win-win, but this program really influences kids in a good way, not just because of academic but behavior and they turn -- they start as someone that is not as confident and think they can't do this, but we make their dreams come true, and they dream big, because this world, if you work as hard as you can, then you'll make it, it's just how it is, if you don't give up, you'll do whatever you want, I'm sure you all had to work for something, that's why you're here, and everyone else. Thank you for all listening, and if you really could give funding, it's a great program to invest in. Thank you.
[ APPLAUSE ]

>>SPEAKER: Thank you all first of all for what you do, the time that you invest into the community. I'm ( name? ) A Professor at Stetson university, I have worked with the catalyst program now for six years, since my son started. My daughter also is part of it now. So I get to kind of wear two hats. I get to come in as an educator and scholar, working with them on justice issues. And so every single year, I give the scholars a community challenge. We look at issues right here in our area. In our communities and say what can we do about it?
And so we have done everything from looking at homelessness, and hunger, to looking at environmental issues that was our big focus this year. So the kids all wrote Haikus around it.
They are doing community cleanups, and really getting engaged and involved at an early age to say we are all have agency in our communities. We can all make a difference by coming together. And saying that we care. And to also learning, like that extended piece of learning that is really applicable. One of the things that I really love is, you know, they get a chance to really learn about honest history. And history in a much fuller and richer way. And so, it's really wonderful, we also do a lot WO with arts integration, every year, I've been able to come in and do some sort of artistic project with them and the scholars truly blossom and it's amazing to watch the development from when the young scholars start to as they grow. And you heard my son earlier speak that he now is a counselor himself, right, getting to give back and be a leader and mentor, he's so tall now right, a mentor and leader. So it is a way to kind of positively inspire our youth to teach them about their civic and social responsibilities to our communities. To our world.
And even reaching their own potential. They get to tap in, discover, all of the array of talents, by doing all of these activities, by meet approximating -- meet, environmental justice, I was able to bring in national speaker, the Elizabeth river project. Shoreline DES restrestorationrestoration, looking at food deserts and the scholars, they were able to engage, ask wonderful questions. Really give some of the opportunity to grow in real ways and I think that one of the things that I love is to all of these pieces, they also start to foster lifelong learning. A love for that. Right, that it's not just about going to school and it's about learning always. Even beyond classroom walls. Beyond school walls. In the summer.
The joy of learning is really there as well. But one of the most special parts about it is, you know, the formation of beloved community. We are really a community. We support one another. You know, my sister here, Ms. Sharon brown, you know, Dr. Benzo, we are all with these youth throughout the summer, the youth reach out to us, they text us because something pops up at school and they don't know how to handle it. They need extra support in some other way. In terms of academics or social and emotional well-being, and we're all here for each other. At the end of the day, if we as a community invest in our youth, that is one of the best invests we can make, and if we don't stand up for our children as Marion said, we don't stand for much. So let's collectively continue to impact lives. And catalyst is one way we're making waves and very grateful for your time today, thank you so much and thank you for all that you do, I mean that.
[ APPLAUSE ]

>> thank you.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Thank you very much.

>>CHAIR BROWER: I'd like to ask you something, this is unusual, sometimes you have to savor the moment that we all experience.
And I would like to ask that if the scholars would just hang out for a minute? We have a few more speakers. And I want to be fair to them. And respectful.
Let other speakers speak, and then I would like to ask with the permission of my colleagues, here, if you will all come forward and let us get a picture? So they can remember, they just did one of the things, the number one thing in America when you're asked in a survey, it's public speaking and none of you died, none of you vomited, you did really well. So if you can do that.

>>SPEAKER: Of course we can, and they speak every week. So that's why. They are prepared to do something like this, and I'm so glad they had the opportunity, because now, we now have the preparation and we have the opportunity. That is what makes b children.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Mr. Chair?

>>CHAIR BROWER: Yes.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Ma'am? I'm sorry, but you've spoke for so long and it's an important program, I wanted to say, if you could tell us, if there's anyone listening, that you said funds, funds, funds, so there's anyone listening that would like to get, you know, associated with your program, or donate to your program.

>>SPEAKER: We have a website, WWW.catalyst 2010.org or call me at 386--- I'll come and get the check.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Okay, thank you.

>>SPEAKER: Thank you very much for asking that question.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Okay, thank you.

>>SPEAKER: I appreciate it.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Thank you.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay. Julia Sheldon?

>>SPEAKER: Julia will be followed by Cynthia hale.
Julia, I bet you're not wanting to follow that act.

>>SPEAKER: I'm Julie Sheldon from Ormond Beach, and I am just reiterating a similar message that you've heard earlier, just asking for a complete rollback of the millage rate. The increase in new home construction increases the tax revenue here in Volusia County.
The increase in property values that has occurred, increases tax revenue. So why would we need to increase our taxes? Why put another burden on us when we've all suffered through COVID with closing businesses, losing jobs, and etcetera. So, you know, is there a way that you can cut, you know, excesses, any waste, you can trim there? And not pun you shall, not punish your constituent by increasing our taxes. Just short and sweet.
[ APPLAUSE ]

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. And Cynthia hale? You waited a long time.

>>SPEAKER: ( Inaudible ) I love the kids. So I'm -- I'm Cynthia hale from Deland, Florida, I'm a global ambassador, world peace ambassador. They times author.
I'm a Deland resident. I'm actually here from D.C. and I'm so exited that I got to listen to them because I am talking about a youth pilot program.
And excited that I got to listen to that. That actually inspired me. I was at that youth summit that the young man actually got to listen to, I said, I was there. I got to listen to the same thing. That you got to listen to. And he talked about the statistics of, you know, man actually shooting at another and the thing about is it is that there is a Boston avenue school that is empty. And it's all off Boston avenue; I went to another council meeting with your mayor, and apparently, it wasn't important to him. Mr. Green actually has that school when I asked Mr. Green about that school, it's an empty school, he doesn't have that school. And apparently, from when I talked to him, he purchased a school for about $210,000. And it was supposed to be used for luxury apartments. Or a nursing home.
The property is still sitting there. It's been sitting there for four years. And this school could be utilized for kids pilot program. It could be utilized for them. It could be utilized for any kids pilot program. You see with Deland, it's kids are just around our area. And our statistics here is that Deland has about 38 per 1,000 residents, with our crime u rate that's 38 per thousand of larceny, assault or robbery, DLANLD has one of the highest of crime rates in America.
Compared to all of our communities. And it's done by our kids. That's per capita.
We need to get our kids off the streets. They need to do something. And it's so true.
We need to get them to do something. And we have to our population that can do something. And these kids, you saw them, they came up here, they did something great. I have a -- ( Inaudible ) that domestic violence, human trafficking, sex trafficking and I see this all the time. I actually did one of the largest domestic violence rallies in D.C., I'm doing one again this year. We did one in 2019, 2020.
And now, we're doing one again.
In front of the Washington capitol. And I see this all the time. And what we're trying to do is we're trying to either combine our efforts together and we need your help. You guys have this. Thanks again.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
[ APPLAUSE ]
Okay. That, we have one speaker left, I think I just saw him after several hours have to get up and he'll be back.
So if one -- why don't we take a moment and if y'all want to come forward and let's get a picture taken? Council, are you good with that? Yes.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: There's people -- he just hopped up and said he didn't turn a card in.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Well, I'm sorry.
(Laughing) anymore? No.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Johnny?

>>SPEAKER: Good afternoon, sorry to get you right before the break. My name is Jeremy --
( name? ) I'm the president of Volusia County firefighters association 3574. I'd like to thank Ms. Post for always being an absolutely advocate for public safety for our community, visitors, and whatnot. Your firefighter paramedics have worked and continue to work tirelessly thousands upon thousands of forced and extra hours through this pandemic.
Assisting with staffing and ambulance shortages. To ensure the safety of our community.
Our fire-rescue and EMS system is stressed as Mr. Wheeler pointed out earlier in the meeting. From our staffing to our infrastructure. My members work life balance is suffering.
And if continued, I fear that our level of service for the county will suffer due to the procurement and retention of our firefighter and paramedics. I come here to offer my support in resources from the IFF to help our community receive an official high level fire-rescue service. Everyone in this county from the capitol to the shark bite capitol deserve the high level fire emergency services. We have to make a timely decision, and have the support from this council for a direction in the future of our public safety model. Thank you.
That's all I have.
[ APPLAUSE ]

>>CHAIR BROWER: Arthur Kots?

>>SPEAKER: Thank you, Jeff.
Good morning, y'all. I think it is still morning, I wanted to produce myself, my name is Arthur, I live in Ormond Beach.
I'm a FLAR native and I see that we have this afternoon a couple of vacancies on some boards, and it's two boards that I have deep experience in subject matter of.
I've spent 35 years in eastern Volusia owning and operating a prominent real estate management and investment company. Which has caused me to deal with HUD, section 8, investor, big properties, managing properties, and dealing with politicians, ordinances, variances, and investments, the making it worth everyone's while. And in doing so, I've had the opportunity to work with people all up and down every demographic scale. From banker, tenants, I have a knack for getting a along with people and my experience in this subject matter would make me valuable with your housing authority. I'm experience --
wise, I was the chairman of the UF alumni association, in Volusia-Flagler, and on the board of ( Inaudible ) and chairman of the Holley hill redevelopment agency, and some other non-profits. So I have experience working with people.
And making things happen. I have vision. Hard worker. And quite resourceful. The second position, and I know you can only get so much from the bio that I submitted back to Carissa. The second position is the recreational board. I have two lives, one was my business life; the other is my hobby life. I'm a motorcycle racer.
And the chairman of the national organization, pretty good organization of historic racing motorcycles. Which has caused me be a defactor promoter of events around the country, working with the finances, the promote motion items and other back room things that go along with it. The racing and recreational authority commission, you have here, is also a excellent fit for me.
Why would I want to the be two things like this? Well, I'm retireded and I'm used to going 100 miles per hour an hour and getting things done and I can't sit still. And community driven, I like to give back to my community. So I won't be here this afternoon. When y'all consider these things but I thought I should introduce myself and take a good look at my bio, thank you very much.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Arthur, I Don want to -- I'm not going to embarrass you by saying your age, but I'm going to --
that who you just heard is a local hero. Arthur is above 60 and he's still racing around the asphalt oval at Daytona Beach international speedway with his knee on the black top. At over 100 miles per hour. So you just deserve that recognition, you --
you are a hero. Crazy, but a hero.
(Laughing) okay. 72 next week. He said it. Chuck Collins?

>>SPEAKER: Good morning, council members and participants. My name is Chuck Collins from Ormond Beach. For the last four decades, we've just looked the other way believing that our elected officials across our nations, across our nation will always do the right thing. Shame on us.
For not being more responsible.
As one Japanese World War II commander stated after the attack on Pearl harbor, what exactly are the right words, but you will get the gist. The sleeping tiger is now awakened.
It is now finally our time for us who fell asleep at the wheel all of these years. To cut to the chase. We work in steps, retired or still active, are now beginning to feel the heavy yolk placed on our shoulders, we are not only constantly subjected to higher taxes and held, but in many instances or views and inputs are ignored by our elected public officials on a national scale. Sadly, we were under the misguided assumption that our Government no matter what part of the country, operated under the auspices of we the people. By the people.
For the people.
It is literally impossible for me to go in details in three minutes the impact of a property tax increase will have on so many citizens in our county.
Which by the way, after taking into consideration all of the collected taxes, schools, city, etcetera, and taking into account the income per capita, Florida state rounding the number around 33,000 average, as compared to Volusia, at 29,000.
Which clearly makes Volusia one of the highest taxed counties in the state. A complete roll back of our property millage is not an option, it is what the high majority of Volusia constituents expect. It is high time we start a manager in conquest to reign in the constant, easily misplaced role of raising taxes for whatever reason. Realizing it is always the easy way out.
If we have to budget our household, then that should also hold true over our city, our county, and our state. Thank you for your time and attention.
And God bless.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
[ APPLAUSE ]
We have the last one. Clarence Davin port? I'll wait. And is there -- is somebody here with a camera? Okay, good, kids, when he's done, we'll do that real quick. All of you scholars, you can just come up with your mentors I think a couple of you had to leave, with small children; but anybody who is here with catalyst, come up and we'll get a quick picture when Mr. Davin port is finished.
Thank you.

>>SPEAKER: Thank you.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Yes, sir.

>>SPEAKER: Good morning.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Good morning.

>>SPEAKER: Members, I'm here to as you know who I am, and I need to know who one of your attorneys are. I knew him from a long time, from the school board, and Russ brown, I need to know who he is, so please, I would like to meet you, now, Mr. Recktenwald, the new county manager and I have worked together for years, I worked for the city for 44 years. So I know -- I was in this place so much that you thought I was a county employee. And why I'm here today is the fact, it's not to complain about the problem that I have, but Mr. Dyer know WHAS it is and his assistant, but I'm here to compliment you guys on what you're doing in the southwest section of town.
Spring hill area. For year, I've always, you know, felt that we have been neglected in that area. That's why I live in that area. Because you've always done everything everywhere else around the county but spring hill always forgotten, I was a little pet shy, but you kicked to the side. And now, Mr. Johnson, is over here, and I knew him when he first worked with the county here, as the sheriff. And I knew his daddy, his daddy hired me for the City of Deland. And I am, you know, wanting to just compliment you on the things that you're doing in the spring hill here, the road paving and what have you, it's a long time coming. It's been a long time, but it's an improvement in that area. And I know the citizens are real appreciative of what is really going on, I'm appreciative of it, because I've always advocated for spring hill, you talk about spring hill. And then you would get a fight out of me, you know? Because I live in there and that's why I decide to live in there, I retired from the city, my home is there and my father-in-law, the home that I'm living in now, I bought it from him. And he begged me to stay there. And I had planned to build a new home right down the street. Behind the Phillips service station, I have property there. But I just want to compliment all of you on what job you're doing. Barb Girtman, her mother and my mother are very good friends and I hate to call anybody by the first name but I've been knowing you for a long time. And I serve on many occasions on different positions here in Deland. President of the chamber of commerce. I was rotary president for one year.
And, you know, it's like I say, I've done a lot of things. So I just want to know, do you know who I am? And I feel that I'm sometimes that I'm mistreated, you've GOR forgotten who I am, I need to come alive to let you know who I am, I am alive and I'm going to be before you more than just today. Mr. Dyer, you and Mr. Brown, I thank you, I'll meet you after your meeting, okay? And we'll talk.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Thank you.

>>SPEAKER: And Ben, you know, your daddy hired me with the City of Deland, I I don't know if he was a city manager and the Mayor both at the same time, I think he was.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.

>>SPEAKER: I know him. My time is gone. But.

>>CHAIR BROWER: I was going to let Ben Johnson and Barbara Girtman be recognized because they both serve on the spring hill redevelopment board, so it sounds like you are just applauded.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Might I add that he just recently, I guess owe could call it retired off of the CRA, you've gotta much life in you, BO, you need to come back and work with us.

>>SPEAKER: I've got a walking cane, I didn't have that before, back is giving me problems, tell me doctors they have to do do something for me, I don't like this cane myself. Okay.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, sir.

>>SPEAKER: Thank you for the time.

>>CHAIR BROWER: All right.
Scholar, do you want to come forward? Quickly. And mentors?
The catalyst school, just come forward and we'll gather around behind you and -- time is really important, we have a lot to do today. But this is -- this is an important time for you. And I want you to be able to remember it for the rest of your lives, what you did this morning. ( Break ) .

>>CHAIR BROWER: Are you still with us? You're allowed to take your camera off, but. Just an audible. Yeah. Okay. I'm sorry you mised the picture, we can maybe -- maybe somebody can Photoshop you in, send your favorite picture.
(Laughing) okay, we're going to move to item 1. At 11:28. On this glorious day. It's our consent agenda. And I'm going to ask in a second if there's any council members that have an item that they want to pull. I want to make sure that everybody knows if you -- if you paid attention to county Government and you see us do this every meeting, on the consent agenda. And we vote on a whole lot of things. As one.
I want you to unanimous that that doesn't mean that we --
understand that we didn't pay attention to the lot of things, in fact, every council member pays a lot of attention to them.
Ask questions, the reason that they're on a consent agenda is because of the amount that it's under a million dollars, and there's frequently revenue sources, which is a case in today's consent agenda, there's $993,049 of new revenue that we're going to accept and I didn't think I had to ask any council member if they were going to vote against accepting revenue. You'll also find a note among the regular agenda, where we accept 4.5 million, and I don't think anybody will vote against that either. But so counsel, does anybody have anything they would like to pull for comment?

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Yes. Am I not showing up?

>>CHAIR BROWER: You're not showing up.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Are we all --
is anyone else showing up?

>>CHAIR BROWER: I think they just disconnected yours.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Mine won't work either. Just letting you know.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Let's do this.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Which number?
Which letter did you want to speak to or letters?

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: 2, not for vote, simply for discussion, and like, and W whiskey.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Are you in the military?

>>COUNCIL MEMBER:
( Inaudible ).

>>CHAIR BROWER: Nobody else?

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I move we accept the consent agenda, minus M and W.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Second.

>>CHAIR BROWER: We have a motion to accept a consent agenda, exempt for M and W. And Fred, can you --

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Wait a minute, she wanted to pull it for comment.

>>CHAIR BROWER: For comment.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: For the whole agenda.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Second.

>>CHAIR BROWER: I don't think we need an addendum, I was going to say two words about two things. Is that okay? All right. Motion by Lowry, seconded by Post. All in favor to approve the consent agenda, say aye.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Aye.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Aye.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed?
(Laughing) okay. Heather? M and W.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Yeah, so M, Mike, is the contract for the installation of the bus stop concrete pads, bus shelters, furniture, trash receptacles, and associated items with AG pipe construction company out of Daytona and with that, I see we have a representative from Votran, is wondererful. There has been so many talks about bus stops and I know for a long time, we have been discussing with Votran, working on getting our benches back and getting our bus stops to where they suit the needs of our bus riders and this is part of that momentum. So I just wanted to point that out.
And if you have any comment on that, but if not, I just wanted to make sure that that was pointed out.

>>SPEAKER: Yeah. General manager for Votran. We do have a plan in place, the contract is for $100,000 a year, and of those 100,000, can you hear me?
We have planned to put in about 5-10 bus benches and trash cans.
But 1-2 bus shelter, and other ADA enhancements to bus stops.
And we also have plans in place to do some bus advertising, we are finalizing that scope of services in RFP now as we talk, it should be out pretty soon to put more benches and shelters out.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Thank you, and as some of you know, some of you may not know if you have not ridden the bus, if you have ridden the bus, I have ridden the bus, if you end up going to a bus stop, your bus stops aren't right next to your house, ever.
(Laughing) typically, and so you're walking, and you're trudging and it's in Florida, in the heat N the afternoon rain, it's whatever it is. And you're trudging to that bus stop. And then you finally get to that bus stop and if it is just the poll, you know, your standing there sometimes in knee high grass, sometimes not. And, you know, ants and everything else. And if there is no bench, if there's no concrete pad, if there is none F that, that makes a big difference, especially if you're toting stuff with you, right, that you have to take from one place to the other, so it may seem very small. But it is a huge, huge impact. And I know that councilwoman Girtman has been working very hard on the bus stops issue as well. But huge, huge impacts, so good to see that momentum. Thank you.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Heather, and just quickly, J and K, just in case the public notice, I want you to know this, both J and K are requests to rescind a formerly approved echo grants, that wasn't because staff didn't like it, that wasn't because of the county council didn't like I it, echo has decided not to do those echo citizen advisory committee and that's why they're pull. And lastly, on number AA, it's the -- street, extension, and I just want everybody to know that I get lots of e-mails, when is that going to happen? It's happening, we relief is on the way. That's it.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: And then W, sir.

>>CHAIR BROWER: You didn't do W?

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Not yet. So just to make my mention, W is the budget resolution for the application for the FY2021 national dog abuse investigation prosecution assistance grant.
There's been a lot of discussion about this. And certainly some recent news articles as recent as yesterday as of some horrible animal abuse. So just really wanted to point that out and go ahead.

>>SPEAKER: Good morning, Mr.
Chairman, members of the councils, yes, this is a grant for national dog abuse investigation and what this grant will do is, what we have found is, there are a lot of agencies who will not involve themselves with these types of cases. Because of the cost.
Lab fees, care for the animals, potential sheltering, so this helps offset those costs. So our animal services is director is very in tune with grants out there, as you know, we bring them, I think pretty regularly.
And so this will help him to combat that here in our county, with me today is our operations supervisor, Mr. Leaf is actually up at U of F teaching third year veterinarian students. So we have a very contemporary animal services division. And he's always on these types of grants.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: And it is important to point out that our animal services division is not -- you're not just dogcatchers, you do a whole myriad of tasks and part of that is the investigation, I thank you.

>>SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Thank you.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Are you my neighbor? Do you live off Dawson brown?

>>SPEAKER: I do not.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay, never mind.
(Laughing)

>>CHAIR BROWER: We'll find that person, though. Somebody now in a control truck does, good neighbor, no problem.
(Laughing) Okay. That brings us to item 2A. Confirm MAGSs.

>> 2.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Oh, the first one, where is he? He's been waiting a long time.

>>SPEAKER: Good morning, Mr.
Chairman. Kevin Captain, community information director.
Members of council. Staff.
Agenda item number 2 is the confirmation of appointment of Ben Bartlett to position of public works director. County manager George Recktenwald will be providing you with Mr. Bartlett's background.

>>SPEAKER: Thanks, Kevin. Good morning, Mr. Chairman, council.
It is my pleasure to present Ben Bartlett to you for confirmation. As the new public works director. As you know, I place a high value on promoting from within. And Ben has definitely worked here and done a great job for us. I also, whenever I can get it, I really value that mix of private sector experience and Ben definitely has that as well. He has more than 25 years of experience in buildings, site work, roadway, park, utility construction experience. He started with us in 2016. As a deputy director of road and bridge. Was promoted in October of 2019 to road and bridge director. And prior to coming to the county, he worked for the City of Orange City for nearly four years, and he also did 17 years in the private sector as a project manager and project engineer for a variety of civil construction projects. From Texas through all through Central Florida. He has a bachelor ESs degree from the University of Central Florida and currently serves as the president of the Florida association of county engineers and road superintendents. He's done a great job with the county. He's immentally qualify for the position of public works director, it's my honor to present him here for confirmation.
[ APPLAUSE ]

>>CHAIR BROWER: Do you want to hear from council before you speak?

>>SPEAKER: Sure, yes.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Do you want to hear from Benjamin before you speak?

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: First of all, move approval and then you can speak? Is that --

>>CHAIR BROWER: Do you want to talk to him as the new director?

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: So he can relax and he'll do a little bit better.

>>CHAIR BROWER: He doesn't know what the vote is going to be.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Is there a motion.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I made the motion.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER:
>>CHAIR BROWER: Motion by Post, secondly by Lowry, all in favor say aye. Any opposed? All opposed? Anybody?
(Laughing) okay. Go ahead.

>>SPEAKER: Chair Brower, council members, I want to express my appreciation for this opportunity to be the public works director. Public works offers the unique opportunity to the do work that has immediate positive impacts on the lives of the Volusia County citizens.
This year's scope of what the 400-plus dedicated employees of this department achieve on a daily basis is incredible.
Oftentimes the work that we perform goes unnoticed but is vital to the safety and economic vitality of our community, have worked closely with our divisions over the past five years, I can say with confidence, you won't find a better group of people who are dedicated to providing efficient and effective services that ensure good stewardship of our natural resources, and functioning transportation network and as well as providing important services to all of our citizens. I would especially like to thank. -- ( name? ) For his support and the support from the other division director, the effectiveness of this department is a credit to Mr. ( Name? )'S leadership and I wish him well in the feature endeavors and I would like to thank Mr. Recktenwald for this opportunity and their trust in selecting me to the be public works director. I know public works is near and dear to Mr.
Recktenwald.

Requires a level of dedication that is unmatched and I am forever grateful for her support, thank you again for this opportunity. And I look forward to it going to work.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Would your wife mind standing to be recognized?

>>SPEAKER: Right here.
(Laughing)

>>SPEAKER: You can come up and sit with him.

>>CHAIR BROWER: And Heather Post?

>>SPEAKER: Ben, George mentioned that you are now the president of the state association for county engineers, and road superintendent.

>>SPEAKER: Correct.

>>CHAIR BROWER:
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: And I had the fortunate opportunity to swear you in. At that ceremony, and I can't tell you how proud I was. I learn by the way that he is last year, his responsibility as Vice President was AV for that group, we know you have other attributes that we can maybe take advantage of.

>>SPEAKER: It was the entire conference, yeah.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Yeah, so that was good to find out. But that aside, you know, public works is such an important division, right? Because it does go unnoticed and it -- public works is really the boots on the ground, people behind the scenes that truly keep our county running. And when stuff goes bad, in public works it needs to be fixed immediately, and I mean immediately, and I can -- I know I have reach out to many you many times from day one, and the thing I noticed right away was your very responsive, and not just responsive period, but responsive with information.
Right? So no fluff, no, you know -- all of the answers, and if you don't know it, you go find it. And then in the end, you actually come up with a solution. And, you know, there's quite a few times where I've come to you and said, you know, all right, it is what it is, we know what it is, but where do we go from here and?
You said, you know, already on it. We've -- we're doing A, B and C, so I have been very impressed with that. And you've certainly made my job easier in that role. And going out to citizens' homes has been a great help as well. You've been very good at sort of mediating there and ensuring that the citizens are happy as well. So very happy with your appointment.
I'm sorry to see John go. John really, and I'm assuming he brought you up and basically train you in this role.
Somewhat. So really the same kind of work ethic from John as well. So sorry to see him go, but certainly welcoming you.
And looking forward to the future. So there's good things ahead for Volusia County. Thank you.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Barbara Girtman?

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Thank you, Chair. I can ditto everything that councilwoman Post said.
You have been very responsive to any of my questions, concerns, and needs from the community.
Right. And that's from day one of me meeting you and actually, you did my tour. Right? When I was first elected. And took me through the flood gate and impressed me with the traffic room. Remember? Remember how my eyes lit up, oh, that's why that light is so long. But and what I also think is really important as we go forward, is what I've seen from you, you are a great collaborator. Right?
And the fact that you are the president of the, you know, this organization,- and selected by your peers to be that, says that they look to you. Right? And I think that that is going to be a big part of how we go forward.
For whatever our next is.
Right? And to work more collaboratively throughout Volusia County and the region so I think it's great timing.
Certainly, John has done a great job. But I think that there's new opportunities that we can extend beyond where we have been and I think that you are the right fit for today. And where we're going. So I appreciate it.

>>SPEAKER: Thank you.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Thank you.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Just quickly.
I'm asked in some -- Danny and I are the newest members, I'm asked how are you enjoying it, and U say I am. And what we do up here is important but the things that we all get to work on with people in the community, and so what I'm about to say to you is it applies to you but it's also a reflection of the people that work with you that you and John direct. And now, you. Other than public safety, concerns about public safety or questions, that's probably the number one e-mail, it's a close second to anything that has to do with public works. And you make me look good. Whether it's swoop, whether it's New Smyrna Beach or unincorporated parts of Deland, last week, I got a call about a road that -- a dirt road that was in disrepair. And the gentleman said he had wrote to me a week or two before, and so I went right there and when I got there, the road was beautiful, and you could tell that your crew had just left, and so I sent him an e-mail and said done. There's a lot of dirt roads in Volusia County.
And we're having a tremendous rainy season, and sometimes it just takes a while, because we're -- you're doing them all.
And it was such an interesting experience to get there and so I could talk with the man and it was -- it was all done. Thank you for your good work. I know that you will keep it up. And I am really pleased to see this promotion, so.

>>SPEAKER: Thank you.

>>CHAIR BROWER: George Recktenwald.

>>SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr.
Chairman, and I would be remiss, John, and Julie, doesn't want any kind of recognition, because that's the guy he is. He's always like to be that way. But I can tell you from being as a public works director, and John has been the public works director now for eight years, and he's been with us since 1994, so this is a big loss, this is a big loss of experience and leadership and you're not going to meet a finer person than John and Julie. And the work he's done, we could not have achieved so many things because John's work behind the scenes, he is a very detailed guy. And he doesn't let stuff slip through. And he keeps --
he really does keep things going in public works and always has, from whatever position he has been in. And it's that kind of thing that has allowed so many other big projects to occur, because John doesn't let anything fall to the ground. He makes sure that it gets taken care of and we're going to NASZ and I'm going to miss John personally. He's a good friend, and just a great person. So I do wish him well. And I know he's mad at me behind that mask but that's just the manager's prerogative, so thank you.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I don't think he normally wears a mask, just for today. I think.

>>SPEAKER: (Laughing)

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, George. Are you good?
Congratulations, are we going to do pictures?

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Come on up, wife. .

>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay, now we will move from a promotion to a retirement, which is kind of a promotion to a whole new exciting part of life on item 2A, and Mr. County manager, George Recktenwald, I'll turn U over to you.

>>SPEAKER: Sure, as they come down, I think we'll get started here. Okay. Mr. Chair, I just want to say, Blythewood has been such a wonderful addition to the leadership team and the Department of Public protection.
And we are very lucky to get Pat, she came to us from orange county. Where she worked tirelessly for over 24 years, she served in several different leadership roles, that included budget and human resources. And that was very, very helpful when she came on. To the public protection team. She really helped me kind of truth test things, and figure a lot of things out that I would not have been able to do without her work. She started the public protection in 2014. The operations manager. And was promoted to deputy director in June of 2016. So since being in that role, Pat has had the division oversight of EMS, fire, emergency management, and medical examiner office. Over the years, Pat has provided a great deal of program and policy guidance to the county team members and the fellow leadership colleagues, specifically, Pat play a essential role in the adoption of the county's E911 nurse triage program, which recently received an achievement award from the national association of counties. Over the span of her career, Pat achieved numerous star performance and leadership awards and well deserved participation for producing high quality product, her contributions to county Government and our service delivery systems will be felt for many years to come. Pat plans to enjoy a well-deserved RER retirement with her husband, Aaron. And I'm sure she's going to be doing some traveling and spending quality time with her family and friends. So we will definitely -- this is always bittersweet when someone like this retires, because then we lose that experience but I'm very happy for her because I know she's work very hard and late nights and I've called her on her trip, on her trip home many times, and questioned her on things on how -- how things were going, so it's a lot of these folks work many, many long hours. And I just want to appreciate that. So Pat?

>>SPEAKER: Good morning, council members. Mr. Recktenwald. Thank you, Mr. Recktenwald and I'm truly humbled by those kind words. It was you, Mr. Recktenwald, Mr. Sanders and Marianne Conners who had the trust and confidence in me to hire me as your operations manager and promote me into the position as deputy director. My career in public service has covered 32 years and much of my success can be attributed to the relationships that I have formed over the years. I was hired here at Volusia County in January of 2014. At the beginning of the budget process, therefore, I had to get up to speed quickly to learn about the divisions within public protection and the budget process along with my other duties as operations manager.
It was folks from the budget office, who came over my first week on the job to welcome me aboard. And offer their assistance in getting me up to speed. But, you know, I found that same warm welcome from others that I came in contact with. Here at the county.
Outside of the county, and in an e-mail that I recently received from Dave McAllister about the firefighter sponsorship programs. Dave write, when he learned of my retirement, he says, I am so happy for you, I want you toe no that you are the reason the sponsorship program is a success. Until this experience, your special touch, this effort was unable to provide the opportunity for those who needed it most. Your humility will never let you step into the spotlight. But I will forever remember you for making this happen. Because of you, and the changes you were able to implement, sponsorship programs at Daytona state for EMTs, paramedics, and firefighters, your willingness to see the potential and then masterfully make this happen in fire and EMS is beyond reproach. Thank you, again, and farewell. Your everies also change employees and patients' lives for years to come. As many students will grow into instructors and pass this legacy on for future generations.
But let me bring things closer to home and talk about public protection. My department.
During my 7 and a half years here, we have been faced and have dealt with many challenges.
I stand here today to say to each of you, that I have never been as proud to serve with a group of professionals under Mr. POEZ's leadership, the Department of Public -- the department that touches the lives of so many in this community. It makes me proud to hear about an animal that has been saved from abuse, to see the relief on the face of a family that has been reunited with a lost pet. A family member or a friend thanks a life guard who has saved a beach goer from drowning. Emergency management personnel preparing us for hurricane season and bring springing into action when there is a threat of a hurricane. Emergency medical administration providing leadership and oversight of the entire EMS system, emergency medical services personnel providing patient care and transport for those in need.
Fire-rescue freeing an entrapped motorist during a multiple car accident and yes, let me not forget, corrections, a place for the incarcerated but also providing inmates with the opportunity to get their GED and teaching them important life skills. Thanks to our administrative folks who sometimes don't get the credit they always deserve. They are the enablers who provide support to our operations and enabling them to provide the needed services to the public. Thanks to you, council members, Mr. Recktenwald, and Mr. Pozzof allowing me to serve this community as your deputy director of public protection, all though this chapter in my life's story is coming to a close, a new chapter is being beginning. One spending more time with friends and family, traveling to 15 states that we have never visited, that are on my husband Aaron's bucket list, who is here with me today. And taking pictures. (Laughs) and helping him with his honey-do list. Before I take my seat, I ask that you continue to be vigilant with your diversity and leadership programs. Keeping you in my prayers and make --
and as you make important decisions for the benefit of the community. And God bless each of you, thank you.
[ APPLAUSE ]

>>SPEAKER: Can't say it any better than that, at all. And with that program, she was talking about, that we do with Daytona state, Pat's very passionate about diversifying public protection. And it's tough somedays trying to do that. Whether it be by color, gender, or nationality, etcetera. So she came to me and she said, I have an idea. Ill like to just recruit high school students and get them in to EMS at the lower level, the ambulance supply technician level, and in fire, let us --
let me go out and let's try to recruit even if they just have firefighter certification, let us send them to EMT school and let us organically sort of diversify the department. And those have been very successful programs and in fact, in the county line, we just -- they just ran a story of a paramedic who came in as an AST, went to EMT school, and then, went on to paramedic school and is functioning today as a paramedic, LEN I when I looked at the article, she played softball with my granddaughter and went all the way up, but those programs won't happen and would not have happened without Pat. And to your legacy, we will continue those, and I thank you for everything that you did, and I know George and I have talked a lot about when he brought you on. And what you have done for us, so thank you, Pat.

>>SPEAKER: Thank you.

>>CHAIR BROWER: And pictures?
That's going to move us to item 3, however, Kevin, don't stand up yet. Before we do, I've had a request that we take a -- just a 5-minute break, we'll -- for council. And so we will break, if it pleases the council, if I get a motion? And we all agree.
Just for a five-minute recess.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: So moved.

>>CHAIR BROWER: So moved by Heather Post. And second by everybody else. Second by Girtman, all in favor, say aye.
And so we will readjourn at 12:1112:11. ( Recess for five minutes )
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>>CHAIR BROWER: We're a little over the time, but I think everybody needed a break. So we are just, to let everybody know, especially the press, who sits here through long hours, we're going to try to get through the next three items before we take a lunch break, and then we have just decided that it will be a working lunch break. So that brings us to item 3. Kevin Captain.

>>SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr.
Chairman, members of council, staff, Kevin Captain, item 3 is a proclamation to be presented inside of the council chamber, it was requested by council member Danny Robins to honor four New Smyrna Beach residents for their successful efforts to save a boater's life on June 6th, 2021.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you I'm going to turn this over to Danny Robins to tell this amazing story of heroism.

>>SPEAKER: Thank you, chair, let's make an honorable mention to the New Smyrna Beach police and fire, EMS, and our air 1, our sheriff's deputies that helped out with this. It's a pretty tremendous accomplishment and act, especially by youngsters, here, but just want to let everybody know that Steve and Sarah Doughtery are in my opinion, the example, perfect example of parenting done right.
And it gives us I young parents and really all parents to look to give a perfect example, in my opinion, to look and learn from, and also to Ryan, thank you for that leadership, that you displayed on that day. At such a young age, you have a lot of things to be proud of. With that being said, I would like to read this proclamation and this story and it's going to tell you just so, so much. So it goes, Volusia County, Florida, whereas, not all heroes wear capes, as evidenced by a valiant rescue operation, whereas, Stephen Ryan and Sarah Doughtery were boating with their neighbor along Jeff Landers and saw a person in distress, an artery had been -- the person, needed urgent assistance, the Doughtery's and Landers sprang into action, a tourniquet from a life jacket strap and they jump on to the boat and drove him to the Brandon center where they met the air 1 helicopter and EMS and responded to the assistant.
Piloting the boat to its launch site at the river breeze park, and whereas, because of their keen observation, the NOR underwent successful surgery and is now recovering, now, therefore, we the county council of Volusia County, Florida, proclaim July 20th 2021 as the Doughtery family and Jeff Landers day. Congratulationses and thank you guys so much.

>>SPEAKER: Thank you.
[ APPLAUSE ]

>>SPEAKER: Thank you.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Kevin, before we get pictures, I have one councilman that would like to speak.

>>SPEAKER: How refreshing it is to see a family jumping in to help others, so often we see today instead of acting, and we see people whip out their video cameras and start films and for y'all to jump in like this, you just don't realize what a heroic act that was. That you potentially, and almost assuredly saved someone's life.
There's very few people in this world that ever can look back and say, I saved a life. But for you to do that unselfishly, I commend y'all. I commend the whole family. And the leadership of the family to get them there, congratulations.

>>SPEAKER: Thank you. Air one was there instantly, I was on the phone with 911 and within three minutes, they were on the ground at the center, so the reaction, the quick reaction from New Smyrna Beach and the sheriff's office was amazing.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: But in three minutes time, it may have been a death investigation.

>>SPEAKER: It would have, we got to meet the gentleman yesterday. He came to our factory in Edgewater, and he still is having complications but he's back to work part time, showed us his scar, and he's doing well.

>>SPEAKER: All right.
[ APPLAUSE ]

>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay, and at 12:21, we're item 4 of 26.
Atlantic housing development ensentive agreement, Donna butler, are you in the room?

>>SPEAKER: Butler in is not the room, Mr. Chairman, I'm going to make a couple of introductory comments and introduce mark watts, a request by Clyde Morris landing partners limited for a affordable housing project in Daytona Beach. The ask is for the county to contribute $60,000 annually. For a period of 15 years. To help secure the affordable housing rent for 216 apartments. In their project.
And mark, I would like to invite you up to the podium. He has a presentation in your packet that he'll present.

>>SPEAKER: Good morning, Mr.
Chairman, members of the council. We'll go through this as quickly as we can. Let me just start by introducing Scott cull P, Scott is one of the principals of Atlantic housing partners, the developer on the site that we're going to talk about today. And has been doing affordable housing development in the Volusia county area. He and his company have developed 36,000 affordable and other housing units throughout the ten states, and over the past 30 or so years. And currently, still own and manage 18,000 throughout the state of Florida. So they're fairly experienced. And I want to start by thanking both the City of Daytona and their staff, and also, Claire urban and Donna butler, Carmen hall, and Heather Wallace with your staff, that have worked with us, you know, on the agreement that's here in front of you today. So with that, let me walk through just some quick summary of what we're proposing and then open up for any questions that you might have.
So Clyde Morris landing, you know, one of the great benefits we have talked a lot and been talking a lot for the past several years about affordable housing and this is one of the rare opportunities where you have an opportunity to do something that will have an immediate impact. Because Clyde Morris landings is built. It is mostly constructed, we're just waited for the last couple of COs on a few of the buildings but it's been something that we've been working on for about two years now, this is a summary of the overall project development, there's currently under development 88 senior affordable units, there's 216 affordable family units, the ones that we're here to talk with you about this morning, and then, in the first phase, there's 8 8 market unrestricted units, a mixed income development and it's located on Clyde Morris north of the factory over there on just south of L PGA. Also a second phase that's in design now, in that phase, we're going to be bringing forward 88 additional senior affordable units and 290 unrestricted market rate units that will be coming in with a development partner. And I wanted to run through those numbers and Scott put the presentation together to walk you through, it's mixed income and I think that also, it has relevance when we get into discussion of the tax generated taxes generated by the overall project.
So in just to kind of talk you through, you know, what this means from a cost standpoint, this is the 2021 income limits set by the Florida housing finance corporation. And, you know, we'll get into a little bit more of the detail as we get to the one of the next slides but, you know, the 216 units that we're talking about, in this agreement relates to our finance with bonds issued by the Volusia County housing finance authority. And so, they're required to comply with the rates and the rental rates that you see here. On the annual basis. So when we talk about, you know, the affordability, you know, of the rental rates and using an example here of look at a family of four, at the 60% rate. That's $39,240 as the annual look income and if you look at the rental rate that's over on the far right, you know, at the 60% level, the rental for that unit would be capped at $11038 versus what you see when you get into the, you know, the more market rate, 120%, may go up to as high as $2200. So it's a pretty substantial savings and control on the level of rent.
Now, we -- as we have been working through this with the city, and with your staff, you know, we have -- the proposal initially was to create a tax rebate program. It's a little bit different in the agreement that we've got in front of you today because we have ARPA funding that your staff is recommending, you know, the funding come from. But, you know, our initial discussion and the agreement that the City of Daytona approved on June 16th, basically functions as a tax rebate program. We are -- our client pays the taxes for the affordable units as the 216 family affordable units, and this slide kind of gives you the projected assessment per unit and the amount of taxes generated by each of those affordable units so even looking at it today, we're here talking about a $60,000 a year annual payment, which roughly equals the tax that will be generated by those -- by the affordable units, to Volusia County's general fund, so you can see here the breakdown, the $60039 and Daytona Beach, the $57,269 is the estimated tax that is generated by the affordable unit there is. This by comparison is the -- and this is going to change a little bit because this assumed 428 market rate units, we've made the decision to do another 88, they're going to be senior affordable, so those are tax exempt by statute, this will come down a little bit. But the combined total taxes paid by the market rate portion of the overall project totals just under a million dollars a year to all of the various taxing entities so the county, $225,000 a year, and to the City of Daytona, it's $214,000 a year, roughly. So, you know, I think that one of the great things about this approach you're helping to support affordable housing and doing it within a project that is generating tax revenue, and affordable units that are generating tax revenue as well. So, you know, the summary of what we're proposing is that in instances, you know, we don't think this is something that we need to open up across the board but I think when you're putting together a proposal that uses the various tools that you have, is using the Volusia County housing finance authority to do taxes and financing is using the by right tax credits that come in, not the 9%, you know, credits that come through the lottery program that are very scarce but the 4% by right taxes that are under the code, and Scott is here to answer questions, that's as much as I can repeat without getting it wrong, those things combined with the local participation and the contributions and the deferral of profit and things of that nature for the developer, that makes this a feasible type program. And so, we think, you know, while this is the first one that we're kind of bringing to you to look at, you know, we think that the hopefully this creates a model that we can look around the county for, you know, the ability to try to meet some of our affordable housing needs.
So the summary of this proposal for a 15-year period, we would have a guarantee of affordability for the 216 units, now that affordability would be define by the annual Florida housing authority schedule of rates and it's audited on an annual basis, to show that we're complying with their rates and also included in both the city agreement and the draft agreement in front of you this morning the about ability for you to receive those reports to the state and also at your discretion, have an independent audit of the books and of the numbers, so that you're sure that you're getting what you're paying for. We also included in both agreements, you know, kind of a little bit of a claw back, if those 216 units, if any of them are vacant, there's $500 deduct. For each vacant unit.
Through the course of the year, or over that time period. So we think that it's both got ensent EFs and disincentives to make sure that you're maintaining the affordability for those units for, you know, the duration of the agreement, and the agreement to kind of takes into account what happen ifs that doesn't happen.
Now, in all likelihood, it's highly likely these unit also be affordable for a longer period than 15 years but the way that the bond financing is structure at the 15th year, there's an option to convert to market rate. And so, rather than ask for the county to commit to something NA, you know, has a possibility of expiring at that point in time, we limited the request to 15-year period, where it's guaranteed under the bond KOVenance that it will stay affordable for that duration.
The last thing that I want to show you before, you know, we open it up for questions that you might have, I have worked with Atlantic housing the various projects in Volusia County for 20 years now, one of the projects in Orange City is the one I worked with them on, but, you know, one of the things that I always kind of talk about and compliment them on is they do good work, they build very nice buildings. And in particular, when you're in a mixed income setting like this, you can go into any of their units and not tell the difference between a tax credit and an affordable unit and what is a mark rate unit, I wanted to show you a few of the current prop properties that they own and manage in Volusia County, this is off of VMP, in the park hill, north of the Kohl's area, this is one that we got CO's with them late last year, sometime in December, I think, most of these received their CO's, Taylor place in south ended of woodland boulevard in Deland, a development I worked with them on, 10 or 15 years ago. And but this is a current picture, you can see it's still not only the nice development, but well maintained. And cape Morris cove, another one that is 10-15 years old in Daytona that I worked with them on. And then, Saxon cove in DeBary.
That's a sample of, you know, some of the existing developments that they have throughout Volusia County. We think that this is a really good approach and hopefully again, can kind of, you know, maybe serve as a something we'll consider again and the right instances and circumstances. So just again, a quick summary, 216 affordable family units that are currently being leased and then, this is a opportunity for mixed income development, no up front city or county funding, you have this that will, you know, the funds that will be set aside, you you are staff is recommending using the ARPA funds for it and then paying it out of a designated FUNTD over the next 15 years as we demonstrate compliance. And adding an administrative burden to you, because we're using the efficiency of the reporting that's required to the state to also report to you, to show compliance. So with that, I'm happy to open it up for any questions, and we ask --
hopefully for your support this morning and I think -- this afternoon. But and Scott is here, also, if you have any questions of him. Thank you.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Barbara Girtman?

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I think that it's a good model. I think that it's for our affordable housing needs, I think that we're going to need balance, we're going to need options and variety for different opportunities and I think that this is one of those opportunities. So I would like to make the motion to approve.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Motion to approve the motion for affordable housing.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Second,

>>CHAIR BROWER: Seconded by --
do you want to give it to Wheeler? Who made the second?
Ben Johnson seconded it. Before I call for the vote, there are some questions, and I also have a request to speak, I don't know if Mr. Coley wants to speak, one from reverend Benjamin Collins?
Is he here?

>>SPEAKER: Good morning.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Good morning.

>>SPEAKER: My name is reverend Ben Collins, I'm a founder of united Methodist. One of congregations across the county that make up the congregation faith. That's right, we agree on something this morning. Is that patience is a fruit of the spirit and we've been so patient, I want to ask my colleagues to stand in solidarity with this message and the people in our county who will be helped with affordable housing projects like these. We know people in our congregation who are struggling, monthly to keep up with the cost of rent, half of our small staff at the church is housing insecure.
Like many families in our congregation, regularly having to decide with paying rent, prescriptions and putting food on the table. With the moratorium on evictions coming to an end in a few week, we expect the need for housing to increase. This Clyde Morris landing proposal addresses a critical need in the county with assistance from the county it will provide over 200 unit of rental housing that are affordable for working family ands seniors, faith is here, primarily to support this project and encourage the council to provide this necessary funding, also, as the councilwoman FWIRT girth --
Girtman. Could support year after year. And if the council would establish it.
Housing trust funds are not used by the Government to create housing on their own. That's something that we've been seeing over and over, instead, trust funds are successful because they provide grants to nonprofit and private sector developers like Atlantic housing partner WHOOS are already experts in creating and renovating housing that's affordable for our essential workers, faith housing committee, has met with other affordable housing partners and developers in our state this year, like the ability and --
eve of these developers expressing how support would very likely empower their ability to create housing opportunities in our county.
And we're excited by the progress being made by Atlantic housing partners and we urge the council to provide the resources needed for it to thrive. We look forward to working with you on creating the county wide housing trust fund as one of the a MROECHs that we need to get this done. And that will fuel more great projects like this one, thank you all so much for your time this morning.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Heather Post.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I have a question for staff on the previous COVID funding that we got, so not ARPA funds the previous amount from the federal Government. We allotted so much for -- we allotted so much for the rental and mortgage assistance funding and then I saw posted that we're now posting that we still have moneys in there for rental assist seasons for families. --
assistance for families T. AK money that we're utilizing for emergency rental assistance is federal dollars. Not the county's COVID and administrative -- will be able to --

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Differentiate that and figure out -- go ahead.

>>SPEAKER: I would like to --
the -- obviously the previous clove coronavirus dollars were -- ( Inaudible ) the relaunch Volusia program. And in December, the federal Government passed the consolidated approachappropriationappropriations, a $600 stimulus check, in that same bill, they included some other COVID relief and they copied what they saw a lot of local Governments doing, like our rental program. And we got an allocation about $16 million, in that funding, with the ARPA act they enacted a second round of emergency funding to which we're getting $13 million and the 20 million was that funding that is still available.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: So it was 16 and then 30? Is that correct?
So 46 million?

>>SPEAKER: Actually, ( Inaudible ) the number round up to 17. The first emergency rental assistance, if my memory serves me correctly was 17 million, this one is 13. For a total of 30. And that is exclusive of the amount of money that the council allocated to rental and mortgage assistance.
So the federal emergency rental assistance program, $30 million.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: And then do we have any moneys left in that rental fund?

>>SPEAKER: No. The county's program has been closed out.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: So we have --
we still have -- we have 20 million in that fund for rental assistance.

>>SPEAKER: 20 million available for grants, yes.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Can that be used for anything with affordable housing, if you --
rent or --

>>SPEAKER: It has to be used for current rent payments. It can't be used as a developer contribution like this.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Can it be used for any other affordable housing or specifically the rental assistance program like we were doing -- can be morph into anything.

>>SPEAKER: It's called the emergency represental assistance program, you can cover utilities, it is limited to rent, they have come out with guidance that explicitly says you cannot coverage mortgages with it, for example. There is a program that was included for ARPA for mortgages but run by the state.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Okay. All right. I'd love to talk about that later, and maybe widen our scope since we have 20 million left in that. And maybe wind the scope on who is available, too.

>>SPEAKER: That 20 million is under the emergency assistance rental program and it is restricted only for emergency rent and the utility subsidies.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I'm saying --
I hear you, I -- I understand.
I heard what you said, but what I'm saying is on later on, we can talk about the scope of the am of income, right, maybe we could raise the income level a little bit to make it applicable?

>>SPEAKER: Subject to federal Government guidelines that we're following right now. It's the federal Government's program, it's not our program that we set up with more broad dollars like the emergency rental -- the relaunch Volusia was. The federal program is specific and an 80% I'm based on scale of household restriction in the federal rules.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Okay. All right. Okay. For this program, one of the -- this is a perfect example of public-private partnership and if we're looking at the numbers, it's evident, you know, we've talked about using the ARPA funds for affordable housing in some way, and when you actually do the numbers, so this -- in looking at $900,000 and that seems like a lot but looking at $900,000, over the course of 15 years, and which I'm assumng Ryan, we can gain interest on those funds, so that's a plus. For sure. And but then if we break it down even more, I'm looking at 2 --
not looking at the senior units, the 88, but the 216 affordable units that's $277 a year for one apartment. Or one family.
Which is $23 a month. Is the county willing to pay $23 a month to provide affordable housing to 216 of our need needy family?
s if you break it down to that, in addition to knowing we will gain interest on those funds is beneficial, so I'm definitely in favor. Thank you.

>>SPEAKER: A couple of quick questions for either one of you, you can take it Marc. 15 years seems like a long time for a young person. If at the end of 15 years, if you decide to become a market-based rent, what is your experience, what happens to the people that have been in there for 15 years paying the below market?

>>SPEAKER: Scot, I'll address that question, it's complicated as it seems everything related to affordable housing and finances. And under the multifamily mortgage revenue bond program, the authority is a 30-year set aside. And the 15 years is not at our option or our discretion, at the 15-year period, federal government recognized there might be needs to do some refinancing, or some other mechanism to transfer ownership. So they have something under section 42 of the qualified contract process.
And in that process, you can ask the state to look for a buyer to keep it affordable at that point. If the state finds a buyer, then it stays affordable.
And it stays affordable whether that buyer chooses to buy it, or we choose to keep it. If the state can find a buyerer it stays affordable. If not, there's an option to have it go market rate. It doesn't always go market rate. There's just a determination at that point of what the particular community needs are. Both for that specific community and the area.
And what the owner is willing to do at that point to maintain that affordability. And in our experience, in our portfolio, we have some of those that go market at that point. And some that remain affordable. If they do go market, of course, they become full market with regards to your property tax as well.

>>CHAIR BROWER: So the question was, what happens to the tenants that are there, then, if they can't afford it in 15 years to go market value?

>>SPEAKER: There's a transition period under the qualified contract process, they have an opportunity to stay there for a period of time as you transition from the affordability into market rate. They don't have to immediately be evicted.

>>CHAIR BROWER: How do you find that works?

>>SPEAKER: It's worked very well, we really have not had any issues in our portfolio. The timing I think is a 3-year period, over which they have to transition, so we haven't had a lot of issue. We also need to recognize that in the tax credit communities, as people's incomes grow, they're not required to leave the community. There's no penalty in public housing oftentimes you have to leave or you have to pay a greater percentage, when you move in to an evered affordable housing community under the tax credit program, your rent is based upon that tax credit affordable rent, not based upon your income going up, so you're invent vised to actually improve, you know, where you are, and improve your family's position, in your lifestyle. And not disincentive by having to lease in the event your income increases, going through an affordable housing community that they have gained the opportunity to move on into an unrestricted or into the first time home buyer. Which is what we like to see.

>>CHAIR BROWER: The last question for you and for staff, there are performance standards, first of which, this will be finished or opened in December of this year, are you going to make it?

>>SPEAKER: Almost done. We have over half of them are finished and occupied today.
And it's, you know, well underway, we've been working on this with your staff and your staff was really very adamant about wanting us to make sure that this was a cooperative effort between the city and the county and us so we had to take more time with the city to work through the process with the city, and once we finished that, your staff was ready to come on board and move this forward and so your staff move quickly, the city staff wasn't as quick, but we're almost finished with the development and yes, we will 100% be finished before the end of the year.

>>CHAIR BROWER: And the last question to the staff, since there are these performance standards that must be met before we give money, who from the county is tracking to make sure those standards are met?

>>SPEAKER: Mr. Chair, we will ask your community services department to maintain that role of reviewing the compliance provisions at the contract in your packet, annually, and they're required to be received from the developer on an annual basis. And we will ensure that they have met the compliance standards.

>>CHAIR BROWER: And would you update us, the council?

>>SPEAKER: Yes, sir.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, appreciate it. Ben Johnson?

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I think it's a win-win, we're talking 15 years, you say that comes quick, and yes, it does, but every meeting we have the yellow team show up and this is the way we can do manage is, we can afford even with our tax issues and can't afford not to do it. With 216 apartments, that's a pretty good whack. I mean, it doesn't get us where we're wanting to go with this kind of a model, if it can prove success single family -- success, maybe we can continue. I'm fully supportive of it. Dr. Lowry?

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I was going to move we accept this.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Yes, there's a motion on the table. If there's no other questions, I'll call for the vote, all in favor say aye. Any opposed.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Aye.

>>CHAIR BROWER: You're opposed?

>>COUNCIL MEMBER: It's an aye.
If I'm delayed, I've an aye.
I'm for it. Yes.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Motion passes unanimously.
(Laughing) and affirmatively. Thank you very much.

>>SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr.
Chairman.
[ APPLAUSE ]
And if I might add, thanks to faith has been in this conversation for a long time as well, so we thank them for their support, so.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay. And that brings us to item 5. 16th avenue off beach parking lot update.

>>SPEAKER: Good morning, afternoon. I apologize.
Chairman and council. I'm your coastal perhaps director. And at the last council meeting on June 22nd, we were asked to bring back the 16th avenue beach approach project for an update.
And then, a discussion on cost incurred to date. I know it's close to lunch so I will try to truncate my presentation.
This project originally came up -- prior to you, you got an aerial here, so everybody is ware of what this beach approach looked like the pre2004 hurricane, on the southeast corner, a multifamily condominium with a sea wall, the sea wall is still there today, after the 2004 hurricane, the condominium came down. You can see that's a walk over existing north of that sea wall, the walk over got taken out, once the condominium got demolish, the property got sold and there's a single family residence to the South side and the prop to the the north is still there. So 16th avenue has traditionally been an entrance and egress and right-of-way to provide the public access to the condominiums to the South and provide pedestrian access to the beach. It got washed out. Beach safety used the 16th avenue approach as an unimproved 4 wheel drive access. Bypass all of the traffic and then get to where they needed to go. 2017, we were in our annual preseason traffic operations meeting with the city, and a request was made by the city manager and the commissioner to turn 16th avenue vehicle ramp into a project. If you remember, in October and November of 2017, we went through a beach level of services discussion in which we opened all of the beach ramps and we significantly increased our trash collection, and then we also increased the daily pass from $10 to $20, a portion of your daily passes $4 of every annual and daily pass sale goes into a specific funding account.
Called the beach capital fund, dedicated specifically for beach capital improvements. January 2018, we had a coordinating meeting with county and city staff and included staff, my level and higher, along with our attorneys from both sides as well. And the city was on board. So far, as the manager had an agenda item, the city manager had an agenda item in March of 2018, before her commission, in support of the 16th avenue vehicular ramp project. The day of that meeting, the city manager pulled the agenda item so it was never discussed at the council -- the commission level. Following that pulling of the agenda item, at the time, the chairman of our county issued a letter to the Mayor of New Smyrna Beach saying that the project was on hold at their request. April 2018, at a county council meeting, the district councilman referenced an e-mail from the Mayor of New Smyrna Beach and requested a walk over in lieu of the vehicular beach approach, we were requested to come back with more information. September of 2018, council provided us direction to proceed with the beach parking in lieu of the vehicular beach approach and wanted more information. And so in October, we approved a task assignment through the county council, the ended of May right after Memorial Day, I was there as well. The district counsel woman at time let them know that the upcoming June council meeting was going to have three Al tern tiff TIFs --
alternatives, give your comment and feedback and after which the council was going to make a decision on which alternative they were going to proceed with.
June 19, is when the county council provided direction to proceed with what we call alternative number one. I'll have a visual of that in just a second. So staff proceeded with alternative number one, we proceeded to go through and submitted our applications for our permits like we're doing on any other construction project, March 2020, we received our FDPE stormwater permit and at that time, the state gives you notice that you're getting a permit in 30 days, at the don't give you the permit. Within that 30 daytime period, anybody wants to contest it or appeal your permit, they have the ability to do so. Within that 30 daytime period, the property to the north, submitted a petitioner's request for administrative hearing to review the permit application for complete PS and accuracy. Same thing happened with DEPCCL, we received our permit in September of 2020, since the DEP manages both the CCL permit and the stormwater permit, it was agreed upon that we would do a joint administrative hearing. For both permits at the statement same time, to save time and money on both. June 2021, which was, you know, just a month ago, we had our joint FDE administrative hearing, we were at the time of creation of this PowerPoint and presentation, we were thinking we might have our administrative judgment in September, just due to the process, we think that it's probably going to be more October of before we get the DEP administrative judgment. So the existing conditions of the site, this is a survey. Went ahead, the red outline is pretty much right-of-way limits for the county's beach approach, it shows where our limits end and where the private property limits begin. You can see a dark gray area within the red box. That is your existing asphalt. It's left over from when the condominium was on the site prior to the 2004 hurricanes. And you can see the property on the South, you can see they're impervious, a nice house, they have a big driveway, and they've got a rather large concrete pool, deck, patio on the back. On the north side, there's not a lot of impervious, a house, a driveway, that clips the corner. And you can see squiggly lines on the right, the contour lines that starts where the erosion, run off on the property on the South end and not necessarily our runoff.
This is what we call Al tern alternative one, the option that the council told staff to proceed with. On June 4th, 2019 and this is what we proceeded going and getting permits on.
You can see there are ten parking spaces with an additional -- you have stormwater retention, between the two drainage grates, you have landscaping, you have a shower, a bike rack and then you also have an ADA accessible beach ramp.
It's overlaid over top of an aerial photograph, so you can see that the proposed improvements for the parking area and the concrete do not extend any further east than what a traditional residence would be allowed to build on, you can see the property to the South, our sidewalk goes up to about the edge of their concrete patio. Past that, we took the care to place the ADA walk over, south of the primary dune. And then, just due to being restricted on your right-of-way and slopes and grade with making a ramp ADA compliant, we've got a couple of switch backs and finally a set of stairs to get you out.
Alternative number two, which was not selected, is extremely similar. The only difference is there's no stormwater retention on this site, to the concern was that it may contribute to additional maintenance concerns on hill street, to the west, which is a city maintained unimproved dirt road as well as 16th avenue between hill street, Atlantic avenue, which is also a city maintained unimproved dirt road. And then, the flooding along south Atlantic avenue which is compound. We saw the same ramp, still taking care to go to the South end, I do have a concrete ADA parking space with pad and that is purely to make the ADA walk over ADA compliant.
You have to have parking space.
And it can't be a shell parking space. And then alternative three is pretty much just you don't have an ADA ramp, just a dune walk over with a set of stairs, we were going to try to do split rail fencing to see where the foot traffic would go.
A walk over, it helps prevent erosion, they're not walking down the sides and dragging the coolers. We are going to demo the existing asphalt and natural planting that are Florida friendly, do not require a lot of water or maintenance and have pretty flowers in them.
Project expenses to date. So these are checks cashed or checks to be cashed in the near future. We have spent just about $3300 on vehicular ramp conceptual. Parking lot and dune walk over, $84,000, and the permitting is $2600, and then, the administrative hearing, we had to do some DEP TIGS --
depositions and actual trial time with subject matter experts and had engineers on call, we had environmental specialist on call, and then, staff was
>> Interesting part about Maryanne Clancy is the county purchased the land and the city leases the land. All three of these locations do currently charge a fee for parking. We have a Hile Boulevard off-beach parking, which is outside of the incorporated limits of New Smyrna Beach. There is a restroom facility, a shower, and you do have to walk to the beach. Originally, in 2014, we purchased the land. We just completed a parking lot renovation expansion. We operated since 1984. We did a massive investment a couple years ago, and we did some seawall work at the Bethune Beach Park. Total investment in southeast Volusia is just over $10.5 million dollars. What does the rest of southeast Volusia look like in parking. You have every single one of your numbered streets in New Smyrna Beach is a numbered approach. North of one all the way up to Ocean Avenue up to the park. Some areas have 26 parkings, some areas have 30, some areas have 1. 18th has one because we just built it. What are we doing in the next couple of years. You have the several happening in the next year. 27th avenue ramp rebuild is happening this winter. Once turtle season is over, we're going to rebuild it so you don't have the impact from high tides. It's always the first ramp to close and the last to open. We're going to fix the problem, make it better, it's a big investment in our ramps and south end beach driving. October 1, should you propose the approved budget, we have requested funding to rebuild the Hillsboro Street walk-over. It's called ADA, but it's not currently ADA compliant. It will be brought up to ADA standards. That's anticipated to be a $300,000 investment. Tide Street, is forecasted for FY23, and that's going to be a $500,000 effort. These are extremely long walkovers, which we're very fortunate to not be impacted during either Matthew or Irma. We were fortunate to rebuild a lot of our walk-overs from Matthew and Irma. It is important to note that we just finished, got the seawall on Friday for 18th avenue. 18th avenue was just constructed this year to the tune of $29 ,000 and that's fully ADA compliant, as well. And I'm available for questions. Thank you.

>> You must have done a good job. We do have members of the neighborhood, I think. We have members of the public who would like to speak on this. I'll call them so the council can consider it before we move on in the order that I've been given them. Kenneth Parker?
Followed by Diane Parker.

>> SPEAKER: Good afternoon. A lot is going through my head and three minutes is not a long time. But since we did this back in June, I did a quick calculation. Y'all have probably gone through 1600 + different items on your agenda. There's probably a lot that you've gone over since then and there's two new members. My wife and I own the home on the north side, at the angle. When we spoke here on the 4th, we had concerns about the safety of us and our family and the neighborhood because you're building a commercial parking lot in the middle of the neighborhood. We had concerns to the environmental impact, and if you've seen or been out to the property, there's going to be a tremendous amount of dune and vegetation removed. And we're also concerned with the impact to our home. What this two-dimensional drawing doesn't show you is the elevation property between our property and your parking lot is maybe 7 feet or 8 feet. That red line between the purple and orange line, or maybe it's the orange line is what's called a gravity wall, which we just understood here recently how that works. But that's going to make it go down two more feet. So, within ten feet of our home, you're going to dig out ten linear feet of dune to put in a wall. And we are concerned about the impact to our home. Okay? So, because I passed on the 4th and we really had no other avenue, we had to appeal the permit, right? And to this date, we're still appealing it and going through the hearing. And my wife and I have spent in checks over twice as much as what you have spent. It's unfortunate, but that's how it works and we don't have a choice other than to let you do it. I wanted to go back quickly to the original meaning, since I only have a minute left. Deb Dennys, our councilwoman, made the motion, and nobody seconded the motion, silence, until the chairman passed the gavel, and he made the motion. And then for the next 30 minutes, there was discussion about how the runoff from the neighbor on the south was a problem, how the neighbors on the north built a driveway across county property without permission, and how we have a right to drive on the beach and all the stories we told about growing up driving on the beach, nothing about the parking lot. And when they finally made the motion, three people, three councilwomen voted no. Miss Girtman, Miss Post, and Miss Wheeler, and the others voted to move forward. We're not opposed to solving your problem, but you have other options to solving the problem.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. Diane?

>> Thank you for hearing this issue again. Just real quick, I want to point out that this drawing that you see up here is incorrect. Our driveway will not be moved. We have not agreed to move our driveway, because if we did, we would tear down more of the vegetation that is on the property, and we're just not willing to do that. I don't know if y'all can see this, but if you can see this, all of this dune is being removed by this project. Do you see all of that to the right of this right of way is being removed. And you are charged, and the council is charged you should 202.4 to protect the environment, to protect the beaches, and to protect the dunes. And there doesn't seem to be any concern for that. I will say, There was a Facebook post about this project. Overwhelmingly the response was save the dunes, protect the habitat, ditch the project. I'm emotional because the strain this has put on our family. We tried to engage with the county and it didn't happen. We were forced to hire an attorney to protect our investment in our property, it's been stressful, a financial strain. And as council people, you need to pay attention to that. The feedback really seems to be we need parking because the drive-on permit may go away. Why isn't there a comprehensive plan to build a volume of parking spaces to support the people who want to be on the beach. We haven't seen that. We feel like that's the job of the county staff. Is to review the need that might be there. Building 10 parking spaces, building a gravity wall that's 10 feet from your residents' foundation, we didn't even get construction plans. I think it was March when we finally got, this March, from the county, almost two years later, showing us what would be there. And it wasn't anything put on our elevation. It was an F-DOT drawing. The safety, so, if you look at that diagram, our driveway will hit on the corner. This is 15th coming around on Hill Street. This is 15th. Here is 16th. You're going to have 15 street traffic trying to get to spaces, 16 Street traffic trying to get to spaces, and our driveway is going to be hitting on the corner of that. It's not safe for pedestrians. There's no 16th Street crossover. It's only a 15th Street crossover. There's just a lot of issues that I don't think the county has taken into consideration.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. New Smyrna Beach Vice Mayor Jake Sacks.

>> Good afternoon, esteemed chair, council. It's been a long time. I'm glad to see old faces and new faces. Unfortunately, sometimes people stand before you asking for things, complaining. I'm trying to do a little bit of both, trying to solve a problem and collaborate, but I want to give you a little bit of history. When this first came before you, I was the zone commissioner. I have been the zone commissioner for seven years, and this proposal was never brought before me. It was brought before another commissioner, councilwoman, and a staff member. At a very late point, we learned of an actual ramp. So, we're very glad that you tabled that. But these other iterations of providing access are troubling, except for one. And that would be a walkover. But please, let me preface by saying this. During my seven-year tenure of being a commissioner, I have learned two tenants of good governance, and that is don't let politics get in the way of good governance, and that's what seems to have happened. And also, do things for the people, not to the people. Leave your city better than you have found it. Sorry, that's three. But I said two.
So, I'm here before you today in the interest of safety and the quality of life for New Smyrnans, and the national treasure of a sand dune and the coastal system that protects us. Dunes are endangered and we need to protect it. It's our mission statement. Our city's our county's, most surely our state's mission statement. I ask you, you have three options before you. I ask that you kindly choose option three. I don't see the necessity, although it's nice to do a handicap walkover. But you just built a very nice one at 18th. You will have two very close. My kind recommendation, and I say this as a friend, please do alternative three, which is a walkover. You would save a lot of costs. Yes, there were costs involved. Yes, there was money spent by both the county and the city. But all in all, we've collaborated very nicely and I would like us to help you with traffic and parking problems, but we are just slammed. We have the same problems as the north end, but that traffic is going 50 miles an hour in the south end where we live. Anymore parking is not sustainable. And I'm very afraid that eventually as we retreat or relocate from the ocean, we'll ruin our neighborhood, a beautiful little neighborhood, maybe even historic. I ask you please consider alternate three. We're NSB, New Smyrna Beach, not NSP, New Smyrna Parking. I hope I left you with a little chuckle. Thank you all.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. Leslie Sacks?

>> Good afternoon. I am Leslie Sacks and I reside in New Smyrna Beach. And I'm here because I am opposed to this item five except for alternative three, which is the least impactful and most beneficial because it does not have a parking lot and it also benefits the New Smyrna Beach residents and overnight visitors that stay at our hotels and homes that are allowed to be short-term rented. I would also request that you start lobbying the state now for an extension of the beach driving expiration date in the year 2030 to save our barrier island the fate of becoming a giant parking lot a few spaces at a time. Now, I'm objecting to alternative one and alternative two because of the destruction of the dune and native wind break this dune provides. This dune needs to be saved, not built on and torn down and rebuilt. It has provided protection and rebuilt itself since Hurricane Charlie. I remember when those timeshares were plowed down and totally destroyed and it was horrible. This dune is a good example of a healthy ecosystem that is rebuilt. And without it and our barrier island are dangerously exposed to wind and weather events. Sand dunes provide natural coastal protection against storm surge, high waves, preventing and reducing coastal flooding and structural damage, as well as providing important ecological habitat for wildlife. This area already has parking on the beach because it's the drive-on part of the beach, plus there is that new handicap walkover, which was gigantic, and now it finally finished and now it looks great, on 18th Avenue. Adding an additional parking area on 16th between these two homes when there is already beach parking behind them will only succeed in surrounding them with cars and ruin the quality of life with the continued slamming of car doors, car radio, litter, and exhaust fumes. Alternative one and two will decrease traffic safety. Left turns and U-turns will cause bottlenecks, impacting neighborhood emergency service response times and creating hazards for pedestrians and local traffic on the avenue streets, which I live on one of them, on north 8th, which is not that close, but not far. But people will back up on 16th. You're going to lose a lane on south Atlantic to make that left turn, and then you can't even tell if the parking lot is full, so then people are going to U-turn and it's just going to trap the neighbors and everyone there in their homes. Please keep the charm and keep us safe and real quick, the fee parking that was mentioned, it's free for Volusia County residents.

>> John Nicholeson. I was here two years ago when they had this conversation. I didn't enjoy the conversation and I was shocked that Deb Denny wanted it. Look at the diagram there. Half that property is sand dunes. So, the idea of wiping out two-thirds of the sand dunes for parking, which has never, ever existed there. Yes, there was a road that went to the condominiums, but they never parked in the area. So, the people are given an alternative. You have a choice of putting a roadway to the beach or a modified walkover. Obviously they're going to say walkover. They don't want a major road because it's unpaved roads there. It's like a little cul-de-sac, a very tiny community. And you're asking, you know, you have Volusia Forever. You buy property in its natural state. You want to preserve the natural environment. Now you're going to destroy the natural environment and put wall-to-wall asphalt. Every inch of the property that you own you want to put under asphalt. Every single inch. You will save nothing of the natural environment. You will end up with every beach approach from Flagler to Brevard being artificial. There will never be the natural, normal approach to see what it looks like. This to me, I think is one of only two natural environments left. If you look at it, this is what it was 50 years ago, 70 years ago, 80 years ago. And now you want to bulldoze it down and put asphalt every inch. And the wall that he's got, we have one in Seaview in Daytona Beach. All it is is a road straight to the beach and there's two walls on either side, they're 15-feet tall. All right? And those people have to put fences so their children and dogs don't fall that 10 feet. The same thing would happen to these people. They will have to put a wall there. They can't risk their animals or their children or visiters falling that distance. It just adds to it. It won't just be a 10-foot wall, it could be a 16-foot wall. Everything you're doing is not appealing for a very small, residential neighborhood with dirt roads. If you think about it, you are creating more problems for these people than it's worth because people will go to park there and if those ten spaces, that sounds like a lot, but it's not. It will fill up in a heartbeat. When they're done, where are they going to park? In the neighborhood. Those three house to the north, those three houses to the south will have parking in the front of it. I guarantee it. So, please go to option three. It's best for everybody. Thank you.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Councilwoman Post.

>> HEATHER POST: I was here in 2019 when we discussed this. I was on council. I remember this discussion well. How much money have you spent fighting this? Just a round number?

>> Just past $250,000.

>> HEATHER POST: I'm sorry. Can you come up to the mic please? And definitely speak into the microphone. I'm horrified at what you just said.

>> Well, considering all the needs we heard earlier, it's a little bit embarrassing. But I think our last bill that took us all the way through the administrative hearing took us just over $250,000.

>> HEATHER POST: All right. Okay.

>> I don't know if y'all understand the process. It was an eye opener to us, right? It's not even a right or wrong hearing, which is interesting. But it's an interesting, expensive or deal.

>> HEATHER POST: All right. Thank you. Thank you. Give me one second. So, then I'm just mad.
So, here we have two citizens, two residents who live where we're proposing something. They were obviously against this from day one. We listened to them, Jake, you came in from New Smyrna. So, the city was against this from day one. Back in June of 2019, we listened to many residents who came and said, "We are against this." And so, it was brought forth to council to discuss. You know, I wanted to be sure and make sure that my memory was correct. So, I went back and I watched our council meeting. And it's very interesting that you as a resident brought up what occurred, because I'm going to bring up the same thing. Very interesting. A motion was made by the district council person. The chair hands the gavel to someone else because there was.

>> CHAIR BROWER: I was not the chair.

>> HEATHER POST: Right, right. Long silence, very long silence when you look at the video. When the current chair realized there was going to be no second, handed the gavel to someone else, made the second, took the gavel immediately back, which I believe is completely not appropriate, by the way. It's interesting, we're sort of looking at the fruit of the poisonous tree, because that's not appropriate in any way, and really took control of the situation again, and that's not appropriate for the chair to do. He took it upon himself to go by his own majesty rules at the time.
And here we are two years later, you know, I suggested number three at the time for many reasons. You know, lots of stuff was brought up in the interest of safety, quality of life, the environment, so many different things.
We have spent now $110,000, that's not including labor. I don't like to discuss labor, because we had that big discussion over amendment 10, and said there's no labor costs, there are labor costs. I'm going to set that aside. But just in general $110,000 we've spent and all because we didn't listen to the people. And we said as a governing body we're just going to do whatever we want and we're not going to listen to the city, by the way, that it's in and the public. And so now we're in this position, two years later, from me to you I want to tell you I'm so sorry that you have spent $250,000 of your own money fighting this. I know you came to several meetings. You brought your kids. I think you brought your daughter. I'm truly horrified that we're in this position. It is what it is. We have a new council, so, I'm hopeful that as the new council, and I do think that the new council certainly has the opportunity to listen to the public and to listen to the cities that we collaborate with and to listen to your voice to make these decisions. And so I'm going to make the motion, by the way we additionally got an e-mail again from the Mayor of New Smyrna. Not only Mr. Sacks, but also from the mayor of New Smyrna saying please, for the love of God, I'm not in favor. I'm truly horrified of this whole thing. I move for option three to keep it as absolutely natural as possible without any influence on the surrounding neighborhoods and that we move forward.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Okay, so, you're putting a motion on the table for option three. Is there a second?

>> Jeff, as a council of that district, I would like to speak.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Yes, we have a full vote. I will not call for a vote until then and everybody else. The motion is for three by Post, seconded by Lowry. And Billie wants to speak. Do you mind if she speaks first?

>> By all means.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Go ahead, Billie.

>> BILLIE WHEELER: Thank you. I'm going to have to get a red flag or something. I was there also during all of this. We've heard a lot. And I do want to clarify when people say you're not listening to us. We do have a lot of people that contact us. We may not be agreeing with your decision, but we may have 50 other people behind just your vote saying something opposite. So, I can tell you all my own. I am listening to the people. And each decision I make. This whole thing, from what it appears, going back through everything, and I had to refresh my mind. The city was for it at one point when it was looking at having it a drive-on. But they did back up when we started talking about other options. And it doesn't appear that it was ever clearly agreed upon by the city by everything that I refreshed my memory and went back and reading the minutes. Now, does that mean it's necessarily wrong? No, because we certainly did that with the shores and the city was against that parking area. But we did hear a lot of people that wanted that. So, the city didn't want us to build that parking lot and we did. But this one, I have a real hard time taking out those dunes. I'm absolutely in support of three. Just going back and looking at it again, it refreshes my mind that I don't want all of our access just total concrete. We definitely need parking. Yes, we're out $ 110,050.15 plus 2,200 hours. Maybe at some point we can talk with the city to help request some of those costs maybe towards a parking on some of their property somewhere else. But I just feel like this one, I can only support item three.
Project three.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. Danny Robins?

>> BILLIE WHEELER: End of comments.

>> Thank you. We've heard everything the government wants to do. Mr. And Mrs. Parker, would you mind coming back up and telling us which option you guys would like so we can put this to bed?

>> The question is which option do we support?

>> Yes.
>> Clearly we support the walkover.

>> Thank you.

>> DANNY ROBINS: And so everybody knows, we're not going to use past administrations as a crutch. We are the leaders now, and I believe it is our responsibility to stop the bleeding of this whole process, but what I'm interested in is getting on the same page with our municipalities in this case. And not to get down in the weeds, but we can't go back and forth and flip-flop. It puts everybody, every resident on the hook, not just the people. It doesn't affect just the people who live next to it; it affects everybody. Just for instance, on May 28, 2019 at 6:30 New Smyrna Beach meeting, Councilman Calotti, quote unquote neighborhoods were flooded with vehicles parked in them. They have knowledge there's not enough room to park on the beach. He thinks they should participate in a review of parking and what they should work on with a notification system coming to the town and what they're facing now, meaning signage, et cetera. He said NSB needs to take more aggressive approach with the county and commission and coordination is necessary. I couldn't agree more. Hopefully we can put this to bed. You have my support. But I just want to know if we deviate from the original plan, do we know how much it's going to cost? Is there anything usable that we've done already?

>> I'll have to ask Jessica. It will be hard to estimate on the spot.

>> JESSICA: I believe the cost savings with not going with alterraltive one will pay for any repermitting changes you may have.

>> SPEAKER: Do we know if New Smyrna Beach has any funds, Mr. Sacks, to bring to the table to get some skin in the game?

>> At this time, I don't believe so.

>> Okay, my last question, sorry for taking this long. What risks do we take by not making this an ADA ramp? What are we opening ourselves up to long term?

>> JESSICA: Long term you have public feedback. It sounds like the city and the neighborhood is on board. If you don't have parking, the only people using the walkover are those who live in a biking or a walking distance. Everywhere you go, whether it's ormond by the sea all the way down to Bethune Beach, everybody wants an ADA walkover and it's not because they have a disability necessarily. They want to bring their stuff to the beach. You don't like to walk your bike upstairs or walk it down. You would rather have a ramp. But with the city and the county, you've got an ADA ramp two streets away that's brand new with a brand new parking space. The only thing you might get is feedback on that issue. Just the ease of access through an ADA ramp.

>> And lastly, will this help with the beach dune renourishment. I know I looked at several down the line there and it looks like once these are established, the dunes try to swallow them up and it creates a barrier. Can you tell us a little bit about that, how that works for the public?

>> My dune class. Any time you put an obstruction in the path of moving sand, whether it's a piece of trash, a log, a walkover, you will stop the natural migration of sand and the sand will collect where it's located and it will start accumulating. A big feedback we get is our walkovers are covered in sand. That sand is a buffer to protect our walkover. When we get those noreasters coming, you want those buffers. If we dug our ramps out, then you would be walking up a hole to get out of the bottom of the ramp. Any time you put an object, you will start acreating sand. We do have dune restoration and plantings. Whether it's a walkover, whether it's a tree that the ocean washed up or plants that we plant, sea oats, it will collect sand, it will grow, it does start accumulating and it does provide storm protection in a natural way without doing a full-blown project. Did that answer your question?

>> Yes, thank you. Mr. Sacks, lastly, that recommendation, is that just based off of you as a councilman or you as a council? I'm just trying to alleviate any further ordering steak and changing it to chicken.

>> I'm sorry, sir. I tried to refrain from wearing two hats and coming to you as a council person. I was concerned about Sunshine Law. But as a resident, I this I you're trying very hard to provide us with the services. The beach is a deficit, the sea, new walkovers coming. We would prefer a handicap walkover, but since you're duplicating at 18th, as far as that goes, we would love to keep talking about what we need to do to protect our city and our beach and your beach, our beach. So, does that help answer your question?

>> Sure. I was just trying to get a feeling from you as the Vice Mayor or the council. Are you guys going to be okay with option three? Excuse me? Option three?

>> I shouldn't speak for my colleagues, but I believe they will.

>> Okay, thank you.

>> Chair, I have nothing further.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. Ben Johnson?

>> BEN JOHNSON: Yes, I'm bothered with the fact that the county has been painted as the bad guy where that's not where this started. It started with the fact that New Smyrna was having traffic problems and needed something done. They needed a ramp. This was discussed in open council meetings in New Smyrna Beach. Also when a councilman shows up with the city manager, it's obviously, or should be, that in that point they're speaking for the city. And they did show up speaking for the city and this went on for a long time. Now, I have my concerns. I'm not a beach goer, but the same token, our beaches are the biggest asset we have in this county, and it scares me the fact of that because of mother nature or a federal judge, our beach could be closed down. I agree with you, we need to fight it. But by the same token, it could. At that point, every single parking place in this county is going to be necessary, whether it's 5, 10, 15. And partly behind that is to spread the people out up and down the beach. And there's few places that will buy this piece of property. Why don't y'all buy that piece of property down the road for $1 million or $2 million or something. And you watched this morning people jump up and down about our tax rate and how we're spending money. But then they come here and say why don't we spend more money, y'all can't take the heat. I can understand your same point, but by the same token you have two houses here. Maybe we should have pulled the plug a long time ago when we found out New Smyrna wasn't going to stand with us on it. I guess we should have pulled the plug at this point. Where I stand now, I would say kill the whole project including the walkover. That's only for a few people in the neighborhood. I'm not going to support going on with it. I'm unhappy with the fact that all of a sudden it was turned around and the pistol was pointed at us, making us the bad guys. I wasn't on this council when this originally came up, but I looked at everything that happened. Sometimes we're stuck with what happened. I'm not going to support doing this ramp when I've got issues with it. And I'm concerned that in the future what we are inadvertently doing is going to create a private beach for the people who just live there or the people who are in hotels.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Barbara Girtman?

>> BARBARA GIRTMAN: I had one question. Where is the general public parking that would access number three option?

>> Really, there is none. That was the whole point at the time of adding parking. Remember, the ramp existed. The access has been there for many years and it was used more as an emergency vehicle ramp, but people also walked out to the sand. It was, as was described in 2004, after one of the hurricanes that damaged the condominium in that whole stretch of New Smyrna Beach lost 2-3 feet of elevation of sand at the time. So, that kind of changed the nature of that ramp.

>> BARBARA GIRTMAN: So, if we're not going to have the parking, if we're not going to have the parking, what is the benefit of the walkover? If there's no true public access? Is there an environmental reason? Is there another reason to have the option three?

>> SPEAKER: The public currently has access through there right now. It's not restricted. I got a visual that shows you what they have to traverse in order to get onto the sand. You can see obviously there's bicycle paths, there's feet paths. Adding a set of stairs only provides an improved structure. We have four locations in New Smyrna that have beach approaches that do not have an approved structure. You've got 29th, which has a seawall at the end of it. We're programming in to get a new set of stairs because you can't walk over seawall. You've got 4th Avenue, which is near the Bostons Fish House. You also have Inlet Street, which I believe is just south of beachway. The Volusia County standards is you must have an improved walkover. That's our environmental standards that we hold over any private property that would want to access the beach.

>> BARBARA GIRTMAN: So, that's the answer to why option three. I'm in support of option three then.

>> Ma'am, if I may, if you choose not to do option three, I asked Chief Ethridge if he would be able to use the ramp for emergency access use, he said if he gets another foot of sand in there, he's good. There is a possibility in the near future, maybe by the end of summer, he could easily traverse over that with a Ford F-150.
Mr. Lowry?

>> BARBARA GIRTMAN: That was clear as mud. My question is I'm back to option three. Or you say if you do nothing it can be used by emergency access by our safety?

>> Yes, ma'am. Beach safety could access it. I would have to do a little work on it to make it easily to traverse, but they could go back to using it for public emergency access.

>> BARBARA GIRTMAN: Okay.

>> I concur with Councilman Johnson. I feel like we had the rug pulled out from underneath us on this. We were approached and asked to help. We tried to help and now we're painted as the bad guys on this. I'm almost to the point to just leave the thing alone and not do anything with it at all. I would support that if we want to go there.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Danny Robins?

>> DANNY ROBINS: Do we know what we need to do to help these folks out and squaring away the entrance to their property? I know the county has offered to redo their driveway. That was with option one. What would be able to tighten up there with access to their home if this council decides to go with option three?

>> SPEAKER: With option three, we would most likely not modify their driveway. Alternative one you see here is the exact alternative that was shown to you guys as a conceptual at the June 4th meeting. Since then we've made modifications to our design to allow for their driveway to remain in place under alternative one.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Billie Wheeler, I see you waving.

>> BILLIE WHEELER: Yeah, you're going to hear my dog in the background. I've got people painting my building. I did want to add that the mayor had sent an e-mail to all of us. And he said the city's position remains that we'd like the county to consider pausing the project while alternatives are considered. With that in mind, I would like to see it paused and see if doing nothing and maybe just filling it with sand would be the position that we need to take. Just throwing everything out and just making it usable for staff if they need it, and people can walk over on their own and eliminating the cost altogether. But that is the city's recommendation at this point is to pause. So, I personally would rather pause and make the right decision rather than back up again. Have some more communication with them and just to see is three the option or is doing nothing the option?

>> CHAIR BROWER: Right now the option on the floor, the motion is three. Danny Robins?

>> DANNY ROBINS: I appreciate you allowing me to speak for the third time. I think we do need to consider two at this point. I think it's been put off a lot and we just keeping passing the buck or passing this hot potato. Our residents are continuously monetarily being victimized. And I think with our investment so far, a couple hundred thousand dollars combined with theirs, I would like to go ahead and address the motion that's on the table right now. And let's put this, let's make this bleeding stop so we can move on. Thank you.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Boy, I couldn't agree with that more Councilman Robins. That was exactly my thought. I'm afraid if we choose to do nothing, and boy, I understand that argument. That this just goes on and on. I have no desire and no need to blame the county. Frankly, I don't think there's blame here. I think it's unfortunate. I'll just say quickly, I've been to the area and several people have spoke to the beauty of the dune. Not on the beach, but on the north side of this pathway. It is easily one of the most beautiful natural dunes I've ever seen on a Volusia County beach. It would be horrible, it would be a terrible mistake to destroy that dune, any part of it. And if I own the home just north of there, I would be concerned of its stability if that dune. We in Volusia County are encouraging natural dunes as opposed to armored dunes, both on the ocean, on the river, because they especially, an old dune like this is heavily vegetated as it is, you can't get better protection than that. I think we need to save it. I agree with Danny, let's stick with three. And the reason I do is it is nice to have that access, but also I think it will help with erosion because the picture is not up here anymore. If somebody can get up and down there with a bicycle, a young person can. I've been there. It's pretty steep. I think if we have a walkover like you, Danny, I would really prefer an ADA. But I don't want to hold it up either. I would say let's go with what's on the floor. If we put a walkover, it will keep people from walking up and down that where it's already severely eroded. I think you said it's coming from the south. It appears to me it's coming right down the path. I could be wrong. And that doesn't matter. But the walkway will solve, help solve that erosion problem. I noticed the neighbors, the Parkers have actually constructed snow fences in front of their property because they're very effective at also catching sand. And they are creating, it's been a couple months since I was there, but a substantial dune. So, it can be done. I don't like the fact that we spent $110,000, but I actually think it's good for government to sometimes say, "Let's not throw more money after a project that the city council and the mayor and the residents, haven't found anybody that wants it." So, let's not throw good money after bad. I really feel like we should defer to the New Smyrna Beach council and be good neighbors.
With that, I will, if nobody else wants to speak, I will call for the vote and the vote is just to simply restate the motion. It's for option three, which is just the, can you put that back on the screen real quick?
So, everybody knows what we're voting on. There is no parking place. It's access to walk over, some plantings. And with that, Carissa, I'm going to ask you to call the roll please.

>> Mr. Johnson?

>> No.

>> Dr. Lowry?
>> Yes.
>> Miss Post?
>> Yes.
>> Mr. Robins?
>> Yes.
>> Miss Wheeler?
>> Yes.
>> Miss Girtman?

>> Yes.
>> Mr. Brower?

>> Yes.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Motion passes 6-1. Thank you, council, for good, respectful debate. Thank you to the public. Thank you New Smyrna for coming out and voicing your opinion.

>> Mr. Chair, may I?

>> CHAIR BROWER: No. (Chuckling).

>> I just want to point out, these residents are crying. I just want to point that out. This is a good lesson for me and a good lesson for us to really listen to the public, and I'm very happy.

>> Mr. Nicholson is crying.
(Chuckling).

>> CHAIR BROWER: Okay. Thank you. Congratulations on your hard work. Mr. Vice mayor, your wife, the Parkers, everybody else. And Danny, thank you for your leadership on this.

>> And Mr. Sacks, our phones and our doors are always open for y'all. New Smyrna Beach is a huge part of this county. And in every way. So, whatever you guys need, can't guarantee we're going to be perfect and always agree, but you always have a seat at the table. Thank you, guys. Thank you Mr. Parker and Miss Parker.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Carissa, I'm going to warn you my screen disappeared again. It is 1:52. If it pleases the council, I'll look for nodding of heads. I think we have lunch in the back. I'll call a recess for lunch. And we will be back at let's say 2:10? 2:15? What do you need? 2:15?

>> 30 minutes.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Oh, you want a half an hour?
Okay, 2:30 it is. Thank you all.
(Standing by).

>> Billie Wheeler, are you here?

>> BILLIE WHEELER: I'm here. I'm here.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Okay. Then I think we have a quorum. And the other two can hear us in the back, but it is 2:33. We said we'd start at 2:30. Is somebody barking at me? It's Billie's dog. (Chuckling)
All right. Sorry, we're a little informal today, but it's been a good day. So, let's continue the effort. We're on item six. Before I get there, I need to back up a little bit and do some quick housework on item three, which was a proclamation. And we actually need a motion and a second and a vote to approve the proclamation that Mr. Robins.

>> So moved to approved.

>> Second, Girtman.

>> Motion by Lowry, second by Girtman. All in favor?
>> Aye.

>> You happy now? Item six, beach special event application. Beach trolley services, director Pozzo.

>> SPEAKER: Sir, members of council, this is a special event application. Requesting approval to operate a trolley service in the normal traffic lane on the beach. Current county ordnance allows vehicles up to 33 feet on the beach in length. The vendor is requesting a vehicle trailer combination that equals 55 feet. And this requires council approval as a condition of this special event application. The proposed hours of operation will begin each day in accordance with current beach vehicle access times and will cease one hour prior to beach closure. Approximately 6 p.m. during turtle season, and one hour prior to sunset during non-turtle season. The intended route by the trolley by the permit is the trolley will enter on the ISB approach and then proceed south to Dunlotton approach and exit turning south on Atlantic Avenue. It will rent on Amelia Drive and exit to a trolley loading zone yet to be determined. The vendor plans to contract with a tow truck vendor should there be any mechanical or issues on the beach should they become stuck on the sand. The vendor is also asking to conduct transactions on the beach. As a condition of approving this permit, staff is recommending to council do not allow this to happen as there already is a master concession agreement that has been approved by council that the vendor is not a part of. Other conditions regarding this permit include a waiver approved by the special event permit, which limits any actions by the vendor to Section 20-175 number 4 of the beach code which allows the vehicle and trailer combination of approximately 55 feet in lieu of the maximum of 33 feet. Staff does not recommend any other waivers to the beach code as approved by the permit. Staff recommends that the term of the permit be approved for one year on the effective date of the permit and only council can renew that. And there are some other conditions in there, as well. Staff does not have any other issues. The beach chief is here, the coastal director is here, and an attorney is here who all worked on this application if you have any questions.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Councilman Lowry?

>> FRED LOWRY: I want to call for a motion with the four conditions.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Moved and seconded by Girtman.

>> BARBARA GIRTMAN: Will he have to work with the management contract or what's the expectation?

>> SPEAKER: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair, members of council. Senior attorney. As of right now the master does not need to work with the master concession agreement because they're not doing any transactions on the beach. My understanding is if they want to do transactions on the beach, they would have to be part of that master concession program, which, you know, the council can open up and include this type of tram and trolley service. Currently, the existing agreement does not contemplate this type of service. And in fact, it further limits the maximum size of a vehicle that is associated with concessions. I think they can't be longer or bigger than a Ford 150 truck.

>> BARBARA GIRTMAN: All right. Thank you. Thank you, Chair. Rob, did you want to speak?
We do have a member of the public that you might want to trip on the way up.
(Away from Microphone).

>> BARBARA GIRTMAN: We need to keep him there.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Let's seize the moment and call for the vote. All in favor say aye.

>> All in favor?
>> Aye.
>> That was a delayed aye. The motion passes 7-0. Thank you. Do a good job. Thank you for being brief. Okay. Item 7, contract with Masci General Contractors. Tadd?

>> SPEAKER: Good afternoon, Tadd Kasbeer, county engineer. This is a contract with Masci General Contractor for the county's annual resurfacing contract. They were the low bid at a total of $4.7 million, which is about a million dollars less than what we estimated it would cost. We're happy with that. The lane miles are listed on exhibit pages 07-2 and 07-3. And I will answer any questions you might have.

>> BARBARA GIRTMAN: Motion to approve.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Motion to approve by Girtman and second by Lowry.

>> SPEAKER: Is it true that when we deal with Providence, that they'll work that out.

>> SPEAKER: That's the discussion we have. We don't have an agreement.
>> SPEAKER: Okay, thank you.
>> CHAIR BROWER: We have a motion and a second on the floor to approve. All in favor say aye.

>> Aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed? Motion carries unanimous. 7-0.
Item 8. This should be an easy one. Budget resolution of $4,5 23,976. Cyrus Callum. While you're here, the airport got a tremendous award yesterday. I would like you to share it when you're done making your remarks.

>> SPEAKER: Absolutely. Thank you, Chair. Good afternoon county council, staff. About the budget resolution, the aviation and economic resources department is respectively requesting for the authorization to apply for airport grants available under the American Res cue Plan Act of 2021 and associate budget resolutions. As you mentioned, revenues in the amount of $4,523,976 are allocated from the Federal Aviation Administration. Of that $4,232,001 will go through operating expenses and $291,975 will go towards concession relief. Unless any has any questions regard to that.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Motion to approve by Johnson and second by Lowry. We have a question from Heather Post.

>> HEATHER POST: I want to point out to the fact is this is a specific grant to the airport that is not relative to the separate county funds that we get. So, even more from the federal government, which is fantastic. So, just wanted to point that out that that's completely separate.

>> Absolutely, yes. This is going to be distributed through the Federal Aviation Administration via their airport improvement plan program. These dollars will be spent solely at the airport for the airport.

>> HEATHER POST: Excellent. Thank you.

>> As you mentioned before, Mr. Chair.

>> CHAIR BROWER: No, I want you to have the full sunshine. Motion is to approve. All in favor say aye?

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed. Motion carries 7-0. Mr. Callum. Will you tell us about the award that the airport just received?

>> As you can tell, I'm getting excited to talk about it. This is a very prestigious award that was given to us by the Florida Department of Transportation. It's very competitive. There is approximately 20 commercial service airports throughout the state of Florida. And Daytona Beach International Airport was awarded Commercial Service Apport of the Year. I want to commend the staff. Even though I am new to the organization, I cannot take credit for this opportunity.

>> It's a coming-on-board gift for you.

>> I appreciate that, if that's the case. What I can say is this is something that contributes to the pedigree of the staff and the team we have there running this airport, which I am proud to be a part of.

>> CHAIR BROWER: And again, everybody has told you this, we're glad you're here. This happens to be one of your strengths. So, we are looking forward to more good news from the airport.

>> Well, I can assure you we do have some big plans for Daytona Beach International Airport, and we'll have more announcements to come.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Okay. Thank you very much.

>> Thank you!

>> CHAIR BROWER: And item 9. And Clay you're going to be with us for a while?

>> A few items. Clay Ervin, Director of Growth and Resource Management. This is for the public school facility element of our plan. Volusia County was working with our school board to come up with what is now basically known as con currency, as well as other comprehensive plan issues such as co-location of facilities, coordinated planning efforts. And all of these were incorporated into our public schools facility element. This is an update for the 2035 planning horizon. Y'all looked at this back in May. Authorized staff to transfer it to the Volusia County Planning Commission and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. Both of those agencies have issued certificates of approval, so, therefore we're coming to you for the final adoption today.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Seeing no questions, is there a motion?

>> BEN JOHNSON: Motion to approve.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Motion to approve by Ben Johnson, second by Robins. No questions?
All in favor, say aye.

>> Aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed? Motion carries unanimous 7-0, and Clay take us to item 10. And this also was a public hearing.

>> Once again, Clay Ervin. This is for the intergovernmental coordination element. Similar to the previous item, this is an update. It's required by Florida statutes as part of the Community Planning Act. It identifies how we coordinate with federal, state, and other local agencies within our county and externally also with the surrounding counties. We have been able to update it so that way we can make sure all of the inner-local service boundary agreements and other counties are incorporated into here and it basically takes us through the 2035 planning horizon. As with the last item, the council saw this back in May. Again, both of those agencies have issued letters of authorization or certification for appropriateness. So, therefore, it is coming back to you for final adoption today.

>> CHAIR BROWER: I have a question for ya. Actually, a couple of questions. I believe it's policies. Exist A. 14-11.13, the traffic study requirement is taken out. Why is that?

>> CLAY: Let megalia head and get to that. If memory serves me correct, that's already part of the requirement. In order for us to get funds, you have to have the traffic study TIA in accordance with their guidelines.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Then in 14-1.2, .6, and 1.2.7, I'll let you get there. You're there?

>> SPEAKER: Yes, sir.

>> CHAIR BROWER: There's reference in both of those to bio solids being dispersed, disposed of, spread. The first one is agriculture A2 property, the second one is A1 property. I would really prefer to see that taken out. I don't know if that's possible. But to have biosolids spread, I would like to see that end in Volusia County as a whole. I know at the Debary plant, we're doing a great job of reducing biosolids, so we have a very concentrated product, very high in nutrients, and whatever contaminants, toxins are in it, they are very concentrated. I would very much like to see that product converted to something safe and valuable by composting with paper, card board, with food scraps, with all kinds of trash that we could reduce our landfill needs with and have biosolids be the nitrogen source. And then we actually convert it into a living product full of beneficial bacteria, enzymes, all kinds of things. So, my desire would be to have those taken out. How does that affect what you're doing?

>> SPEAKER: Well, please remember that the overriding policy this is pertaining to the agreement between Port Orange and Volusia County and the jurisdiction regarding the permitted uses and those kinds of things. As you can see, we did not necessarily make any corrections. These are existing uses that were established based on that 2004 agreement between the city and the county. What we can do is this. If the council believes that that needs to be brought back up with the city, we can basically, my recommendation would be go ahead and adopt this as it is today with the direction that city and county staff would get together and discuss the ability to make that correction to that 2004 agreement, and if so, we can bring this forward as an amendment to strike those.

>> CHAIR BROWER: That would be adequate and suitable to me. Will somebody make that motion?

>> So moved.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Motion by Lowry. Second by Johnson. I don't know if you need me to restate it as is. And he is going to bring that issue up with the city.
Okay. All in favor say aye?

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed?

>> Aye.
>> CHAIR BROWER: And motion carries 7-0. Thank you, Clay.
Don't go away. Also a public hearing. Item 11. We're not getting any request to speak. Go ahead.

>> SPEAKER: Once again, this is following up on the direction that was initiated first by the Smart Growth Committee back in 2014-2016. It's also been identified as part of a program that our affordable housing advisory committee and that is to include accessory dwelling units as by right in every zoning district that allows for single family. You've already taken action on the first reading of this ordnance. Because this is an administrative amendment to our zoning ordnance that changes the uses, it has to go through two readings of the ordnance. No changes have been proposed or included since the last time you took action on it. Basically, if you approve this today, it will be in effect and we'll be able to start allowing for accessory dwelling units in other portions of the county.

>> BARBARA GIRTMAN: Motion to approve.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Second by Danny Robins.
There being no questions, I'll ask for the vote. All in favor say aye.

>> Aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed? Motion carries unanimous, 7-0.
Item 12. Clay?

>> SPEAKER: Good afternoon. This is a future land use map amendment for 11 parcels out on Lake George Avenue. A 58-acre tract, roughly. Due to how parcels had been created, it was not consistent with the land use or the zoning. The property owners came to us and sought how could they remedy this. We've initiated this amendment this way we could change the land use and the zoning so that way it's consistent with the way the parcels are laid out. Excuse me. As with the first two comp plan amendments, this was brought to you back in May. You all unanimously recommended for us to transmit it to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and the Volusia Growth Management Commission, we received no objections, so it's coming to you for adoption.

>> Motion for approval.
>> BARBARA GIRTMAN: Second.

>> CHAIR BROWER: There being no questions, call for the vote. All in favor say aye?

>> Aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed? Motion carries unanimous 7-0.
Item 13 is also public hearing. So, we'll open public hearing and Clay, you're still on.

>> SPEAKER: Yes, sir. This is a rezoning of 1.03 acre parcel of 6 .71. The rezone of this parcel would like to grant part of it to their member. But it requires a minimum amount of acreage, and they would not be allowed to do so. Staff proposes to the planning land development regulation commission the they unanimously recommended approval. There's been no objections from the public, so, therefore it's coming to you with a recommendation of approval from both your staff and planning and land development regulation commission out for the rezoning of that one acre to A3.

>> BARBARA GIRTMAN: Motion to approve.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Seconded by Robins. Question by County Attorney, Michael Dyer.

>> MICHAEL DYER: This requires an ex parte, to the degree that there isn't any.

>> CHAIR BROWER: That is true. I neglected that. Ben, did you have a question or statement? Okay. Motion on the floor is to approve. All in favor, say aye.

>> Aye.
>> Aye.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed? Motion carries unanimous, 7-0.
This is also a quasijudicial hearing and an ex parte hearing. Does the council have any ex parte to declare? No, there being none, Clay?

>> SPEAKER: Thank you, Chair. This is a special exception for a farm worker living facility on a 10.4 acre parcel located on Chamberlain Street near the city of Daytona. As such it's allowed to pursue agricultural uses. The owners of the property would like to use it for a horse facility, where they would have stables, trainings, shows, and demonstrations, such as rodeos. In order to facilitate that, they've requested a farm worker living facility, which is allowed in the zoning districts by special exception. There is certain criteria. Staff has reviewed the request, realized that it does comply with the requirements of the code, made a recommendation of approval to the planning and land development regulation commission. Planning, regulation, and development commission received an e-mail as well as spoken testimony at the meeting objecting to the establishment of these farm worker living facilities because the adjacent property owner felt that it was inappropriate because it would increase traffic, increase noise, and would generally not be consistent with their agricultural lifestyle. After a series of debate and discussion, the Planning Land Development and Regulation Commission recommended approval of the special exception. I do need to point out that both staff and the planning and land development regulation members identified that we were going to be passing the Accessory Dwelling Ordnance today. The owner of the property identified that they felt that the size limitations from the accessory dwelling unit, in other words 50% of the primary structure, would be too small for their needs. They're looking to get the principle structure between 2,000 and 2200 square feet, and the farm worker living facility around 1800-2,000 square feet. So, therefore they felt that the ADU ordnance would not be appropriate given the size constraints. So, therefore, they are still going forward with this request to you. It's coming to you with a recommendation of approval from both your advisory committee of the planning and land development and your staff.

>> BEN JOHNSON: Motion.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Second by Lowry. What was the vote? Was it unanimous? Motion by Danny Robins, second by Fred Lowry. No questions, I will close public comments since we have none and call for the vote. All in favor say aye.

>> Aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed by like sign?
Motion carries 7-0.

>> Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR BROWER: And item 15, we're changing guards. This is also a public hearing, so I will open public hearing and Tadd Kasbeer, go ahead.

>> Good afternoon, again. County engineer. This item is a proposed abandonment of Packwood Road, which currently extends through the petitioner's property approximately 1500 feet. It's a total of .5 acres that they're looking to have abandoned. It does provide access to an adjacent lot on the south side. They would provide an easement for that. They would also provide a utility easement as necessary for the city of Edgewater's utilities that run through that section, as well as provide at the proposed end of Packwood Road a turnaround for emergency services and garbage trucks. The staff received no objections and recommends approval.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Motioning to approve by Johnson. Second by Robins. I have one request for staff. I think it's simple that since this is another one where there's a requirement to make sure that there's progress. At 10 months, can you let us know? Let the council know that they've met the requirements for this?

>> Sure. We can do that.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Extra paperwork, but it will reduce criticism for staff and for council. No further questions, all in favor say aye?

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR BROWER: She said aye, didn't she? I saw her lips move.

>> Aye, aye.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed? Motion carries unanimous, 7-0.
Oh, I didn't see her go out. Motion carries 6-0.
Item 16. You're going to be here a while.

>> Yeah.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Budget resolution. We'll see.

>> Good afternoon, council. Ryan Ossowski, Chief Financial Officer. I might be here a while. Item 16 is the general fund transfer of fund balance to the coronavirus Relief Transition Fund. If you recall, we presented a five-year forecast for this fund at the last meeting, whereby we presented the 3.5 million that's already been allocated by council. During the last meeting, it was also approved to spend 5.5 million of it for the radio upgrade, the radio system upgrade. So, the remaining 21 million was listed in the five-year forecast and included its proposed uses. This budget resolution actually enacts that 5-year forecast, transferring the 21 million dollars of remaining savings that we generated from the original coronavirus money we got from the federal government, transferring that balance of $21 million out of the 30 to this separate transition fund for future spending, and also allocates $7 million of that $21 million for the medical examiner facility.

>> Move approval.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Motion to approve by Lowry, second by Johnson.

>> I was going to move.

>> CHAIR BROWER: All in favor say aye?

>> Aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed? Motion carries 7-0 this time.
And item 17, budget resolution. Ryan?

>> Item 17 is for the allocation of the coronavirus local fiscal recovery funds, which was provided under the ARPA Act. And included in that is a recommendation on the use of proposed, using the proposed non, sorry, using the revenue loss provision and the allocation of the non-revenue loss provision of approximately $30 million.
Clicker. Okay. As you recall, Volusia County will receive $ 107,468,931 for coronavirus local fiscal recovery funds, which includes half of it we've already received and half of it we'll receive in the future. We have a list attached to the side, and it will be on the next slide, of recommendationed projects for direct allocation. Those would be in category A, which is COVID response and mitigation, and category D, which is water, sewer and broad band infrastructure. A little bit under the $80 million that I recommended we could use toward revenue loss, but we had some more projects that were able to spend directly. So, we're bringing those forward for approval. Upon enactment of using those revenue loss provisions, that $77 million worth of salaries and benefits we'd charge to the federal government would create a savings in the general fund, which would transition to the ARPA transition fund. And the council workshop set for next Tuesday is to discuss the projects for that ARPA transition fund.
On this slide here are the recommended direct allocations. This is based off of community projects both in discussions with individual council members and mostly with staff for these direct allocation projects. We are recommending $25 million worth of projects for water qualitied benefits for Gemini Springs and Mosquito Lagoon, which are waste water projects in our utility system, shown on the slide here. $400,000 for the Ormond Beach interconnect, which was previously in the state budget, but the governor did veto. And finally a project for flood mitigation for 1.5 million. We are currently recommended for 1.5 million for additional mental health and substance abuse funding. Although I will tell you just last night or this morning, my memory fades, we did receive some additional proposals from Stewart Marchman, and we'll evaluate those. And there might be a usage of those funds, or if there is an excess, we might have to approve some of those in excess of this amount here, which would adjust that, but we'll bring that up at the workshop, since I just received those proposals. We are also recommending a $1 million allocation for remaining COVID-19 expenses such as PPE for public safety testing and advertising. A $4 80,000 allocation for a library social worker program. This actually fits directly under the treasury's guidance for enhanced services for disproportionately impacted communities. The treasury almost specifically identified this type of program as eligible. And this program was actually contemplated before the treasury even released the guidance. What this would do is station two social workers, one on the east side and one on the west side in our libraries to help allocate the resource to the communities who need those resources. The social workers would be able to guide people to the different social resources that are out there. And this funding would be for a three-year period at the recommended amount here including benefits. Finally, paid sick leave for public employees, $250,000. Since March 3rd, which is the beginning date for this funding that we're allowed to use, the county has incurred $250,000 of these costs. So, this would just be reimbursing those funds that have incurred the sick leave cost for that special COVID sick leave. It brings the direct total allocation to the $30,130,000.
And if you need, Mike is here in the audience. He has additional information on the projects. I will say one thing I put on the detailed version, but it's not on this slide, this is not the expected total cost of these projects. This is just the estimated use of ARPA funds. We expect we'll be able to use those ARPA funds to then leverage additional state and St. Johns Water Management District grants. We'll be applying these projects for additional grant funding and hopefully we'll be able to get both of these projects done with the ARPA Funds combined with the state and local funds, totally close to $40 million.
And with that, I'll open it up to any questions.

>> BARBARA GIRTMAN: Thank you, Chair. I think my only question was with the mental health. I know during the one-on-one, you said the $1.5 was established based on prior funding?

>> The amount was, but it would not be able to supplant the current levels of funding because the current levels of funding that council has been approving to our mental health agencies are being applied to other federal grant matches. So, it would be above and beyond those amounts that council has already been approving and those amounts have actually been above the general fund, but this is not intended to make up that difference, buzz because these amounts can't match grants, which is what our partners do. This is on top of that.

>> BARBARA GIRTMAN: So this is on top of that. That's what I wanted to know. Thank you.

>> That was just the basis for the amount, but not meant to replace it.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Councilwoman Post?

>> HEATHER POST: Yes. So, I'm looking at the layout of suggested uses for the ARPA money, but we had the discussion about I think the suggestion initially was we'll put $80 million aside and it's up to council to look at the $27 million. And we said no, we'd really like to look at everything in totality and have the workshop. So, now you're asking for approval on a good portion of it prior to the workshop. Why aren't we waiting until the workshop to discuss all of this in totality like we had asked?

>> We needed to bring this forward for timing purposes. We have a report that's due to the treasury August 31st and it is a lengthy report and it's something we've never done before and we didn't know the projects to work onto start gathering the data. We could put this off another week. It could be done.

>> HEATHER POST: That was part of the discussion in the workshop discussion and so that's why we said we're going to do that workshop very soon. So, that we can then give enough time. So, I'm not sure where in there the direction was given to just go ahead and do it anyway? But ...

>> I think what we understood from that discussion is we would just take a look at this stuff, and that's what he has done here. Fit in the allocation, like he explained last time.

>> HEATHER POST: George, George, George.

>> HEATHER POST: This is excellent information and definitely needed and definitely useful. I'm looking at this as the proposal from staff. But I'm also looking at the recommended motion is approval. That's the part that has me questioning. If you would like to provide us with that information, that's fantastic, prior to the workshop, but I believe that's the direction that council gave.

>> The direction was to have a workshop to direct all the use of the funding. This direct allocation funding is coming in advance of that. If you'd like to delay that, we can do that. But we do need to spend $27 million based off of the estimates directly. These are the only projects that we've come up with that qualify for the direct spending.

>> Motion to approve.

>> Second.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Motion to approve was by Johnson?
Second by Lowry. I will, I think I understood it the same way Heather did, making suggestions. If I understood you correctly, those aren't set in concrete. I would vote to approve this if it's a tentative suggestion which we can change it at the workshop. We may change one, we may change all. Hopefully for your benefit we won't change all, but would that be acceptable to you?

>> HEATHER POST: That was precisely my point. If we're approving, we are saying that we will be doing A, B, and C. If you are simply showing us that this is what you would like done and we're discussing it in the workshop and giving approval then, then that's the direction that we gave and I'm certainly for continuing the direction that we gave. But giving the approval on this today is not what we directed and so.

>> So, the workshop will be held on the 27th, if I understand workshops correctly, we cannot actually make a motion then.

>> That's correct.

>> HEATHER POST: Why did we schedule it for so far out? We literally had this discussion.

>> You have the time. Again, what you're basically doing is kind of giving us just kind of a head start. You're correct. You can change these at any time. You can change these right up to the 31st of August and maybe even after that. I'm sure there's some provision to be able to change a plan in there. So, that's okay to do it exactly like you're talking about. It wasn't meant to say these are set in stone. But these are what we came up for basically the $20 million, the $27 million, based on what we knew would fit those categories. So, it gives us a baseline to work on. Next week, you can say, you know, we can peel that back a little bit and get closer to $80 million that Brian talked about. I wouldn't advise going more than that, because we don't think we would be able to sustain the revenue loss that we're talking about. But that being said, really this is just kind of getting a head start on next week.

>> HEATHER POST: Right. So no approval is needed.

>> That's correct. We could just leave it. The first meeting in August, though, we would then need to start nailing some of that down so he has time to get it out by August 31st.

>> HEATHER POST: Then why are we having? What's the date of our workshop? Our ARPA workshop?

>> Next week, the 27th.

>> HEATHER POST: So, that was the point, right?

>> I will say attached to this is a budget resolution. If you did not approve it, then we could not start charging any PPE testing, advertising, or stuff like that. That would have to wait another two weeks to get all of that stuff done. But that's something we could do. We could just not do anything here. It would give us, it would definitely give us a bit of a challenge from the timing of getting that workshop. The agenda will already be published for the first meeting in August when we have the workshop.

>> Yeah. We start the agenda the next day after this meeting. That's always our challenge. With our current schedule.

>> We're just repeating our discussion.

>> BARBARA GIRTMAN: What's the downside if we've got to spend a certain amount of the money directly and these are what's identified as the direct, so it's not like we can go and then identify something else?
When Ryan is telling us he's gone through what can be directly allocated.

>> It could be changed.

>> HEATHER POST: It's the amounts. The focus is more, there's a myriad of things we could do. And that was the whole point of the workshop. So, if our focus, and it is not, obviously, by the way, but if our focus was to do 100% on mental health, then we could do that at that time. But that was the whole point of the workshop was to figure out what percentage of what was going to what, and this is laying it out for us of what percentage of what is going to what.

>> BARBARA GIRTMAN: Okay. Did I misunderstand you when you said $27 million or there was a specific number that had to be allocated direct?

>> By law, there's no specific number. What I was recommending was no more than $80 million be spent on revenue loss because we don't think we can have more than that. Based off the estimates of the future, because revenue loss is a four-year calculation. Only one of those years is complete. I'm estimating what I think that calculation will be six months from now, a year and six months from now, two years and six months from now. And on a conservative basis, I recommended $80 million.

>> BARBARA GIRTMAN: What's the downside of giving them the leeway to get ahead of this, and then if we make adjustments, then you're making adjustments to maybe one or two of these and they're still ahead of the game because we're cutting the window so short.

>> HEATHER POST: Providing us the information is getting ahead of the game. Like you've gone way ahead of the game and sat down and provided us with information on possible options. And you're asking for approval. And I'm assuming that approval on a budget means that this is going to be the approval of the budget. If we were to decide in the workshop if there were any changes, which I'm assuming could be.

>> We could just have a late addendum on the agenda. The agenda challenge we can overcome. You'd just get the budget resolution later in the week, that's all, than you would normally get the rest of the agenda. It doesn't have to be advertised or anything. We would be fine. Don't be concerned about getting the budget resolution in time for the August 3rd meeting.

>> HEATHER POST: The whole point was to allow us to vet the 107, to allow us to go through and figure out what percentage, what our priorities as a council are, and what we wanted to do. This is sort of being presented to us and what is that keeping you from doing that if we don't in fact just approve whatever you're putting in front of us now? Is there nothing in there that you could be doing ahead of time anyway?

>> I think I have a consensus that these projects, nothing seems to be out of line. So, we would just start working on gathering the required documentation for all of these projects.
Because we do have to gather information to put in the report for the treasury.

>> HEATHER POST: I'm in a quandary, because we knew this was the deadline and the process and then we agreed on vetting the budget and now we're sort of pushing that vetting process ahead, saying we don't have enough time.
This is wonderful that you've presented it to us and we may go 100% this way, but we also may not. And I would really like to look at everything and figure out what our priorities are and what we should and should not be spending the money on and have us make that decision based on recommendations. And so, I would be in favor of accepting the information, not an approval to move forward, but just accepting the information and scheduling a workshop. If we need to schedule an earlier workshop, maybe that's what we need to do.

>> I will tell you we've had one constitutional officer come to us and say we would like to charge some PPE. And I have told them no, we can't do it, council hasn't approved it. That's one small thing. I will just push them off another two weeks until this budget resolution is approved. That's what I was trying to say.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Let me interrupt you for a second to let two other people to speak. I'll come back to you. Fred Lowry?
>> FRED LOWRY: Yeah, I just want to ask. Do we have a list of a hundred different things that would qualify for this or is this a pretty narrow list? When we go to our workshop, we're not going to look at a hundred other things.

>> There are probably one or two other projects that could probably qualify for direct funding, but because they were so large, we didn't put them in here. We're going to put them for consideration on the transition fund. We weren't going to include them in this direct spending.

>> FRED LOWRY: So, if we approve the motion today, you guys can start on these things and if we have our workshop, we can tweak and adjust, we could. I'm going to be for the motion.

>> Even if there's a change on the 27th, it will be changed in the August 31st report. The August 31st report, the federal government doesn't expect you to be set in stone. If we have a change in priorities after August 31st, we will just publish the next year's annual plan with changes to the plan. But I'm looking for something to start with, and this is the recommendation of what will to start with for those direct projects.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Ben Johnson?
>> BEN JOHNSON: Call the question.

>> CHAIR BROWER: The motion is to accept, your name is still up.

>> Oh, sorry.

>> CHAIR BROWER: That's all right. Is to accept the motion. Lowry seconded it. Ben Johnson just called the question. And before I call for the vote, I'll just state that I do feel uncomfortable with this. You've done a lot of work, and I understand why and I appreciate it. But we should have changed the date on the workshop so that the council asked to be included and we're not. We can change it, maybe.
>> The only thing you will lose if you change the priorities of the workshop is the staff time that we've invested in gathering the information to submit to the treasury. But on the same token if I don't gather information on something, then we'll be gathering information on everything.
>> CHAIR BROWER: I understand.

>> We're not going to go out and start spending time money on these projects. You're only losing the amount of time it takes for me and my staff.

>> CHAIR BROWER: I just don't think we, the council, had that understanding of how tight it was. Otherwise we'd have scheduled a workshop at a different time, earlier.

>> The treasury released the guidance in late May. It took me a month to get through it and present it to you guys at the last council meeting in June. We are a week away from the workshop. This is just the timeline that the federal government put under us. I'm not happy with it either. I would rather have more time to prepare the report.

>> CHAIR BROWER: And this is not the only case where we're waiting on the federal government to give us a timeline for drawing of districts, for any number of things. I understand and I appreciate the fact that you've gone ahead.

>> Even if I put it in the annual plan for the treasury, if that's the will of council at the next workshop, we can change it again. It doesn't mean we have to start spending the money on these projects. It's just helping us to get a direction on what projects to start gathering all the required data points for the federal government.

>> HEATHER POST: That's the point of the workshop.

>> CHAIR BROWER: The request was to call the vote. With that, all in favor? Of item 17.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR BROWER: For approving the budget resolution, say aye.

>> Aye.

>> Any opposed.

>> Aye. Opposed.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Aye opposed?
It's 6 in favor, one opposed. Item 18.

>> HEATHER POST: Mr. Chairman, I just want to make that one final point. Ryan, I do greatly appreciate the work that you've done. This is absolutely what we need. We need suggestions, recommendations, but the specific point of council was that we would give direction and that we would go through and we would vet and we would figure out if we wanted $480,000 for library or $1.5 million for mental health. And all of that has been chosen for $27 million. So, that is why I'm voting no, but I greatly appreciate the work and this is the kind of work that needs to be done and I thank you.

>> CHAIR BROWER: And we can still do that.

>> HEATHER POST: Well, we'll see. It's been approved. Okay.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Item 18. Trim rates and budget overview.

>> Mr. Chair, I'd like to open before Aaron gets started. Just for the benefit of the public and again for the council, so they understand the process, today is the day that as far as we're just setting the maximum TRIM rate. The budget is in those boxes right there. So, that the public realizes the council hasn't seen the budget. We've seen numbers that we talked about at the five-year forecast. The budget doesn't go out until today. So, the TRIM rates, what we're asking for is basically a maximum. And that maximum was based on what we feel after discussing with the professional staff that you have, the department heads, division heads, and also the constitutional officers, and what they need in their budgets. So, that's been calculated along with the other factors that we put into a budget to come up with an idea of what the maximum TRIM rate should be. So, as we go through that, I need that to be understood and what we are looking at today will be millages that were established last year, so they're flat. Last year we rolled back nine of the ten funds that we controlled. One of those funds is no longer there. And then we partially rolled back the general fund to just cover what inflation we had, and of course we had some outstanding expenses last year. So, that's what this is made of. The idea that the budget process is final is far from the truth. We have two more meetings in August where we'll discuss it, and of course the actual budget hearings are not until September. So, a lot of time to talk about that. What we're asking for today is just to set the maximum TRIM rate so they can meet the deadline of the property appraiser and then be mailed out. So, with that, I'll turn it over to these guy to go ahead.

>> Before Aaron gets started, we have your recommended budget books. We can either have them distributed by Carissa to you guys up here or we can take them to your offices.

>> How heavy are they?

>> Altogether they're pretty heavy.

>> I noticed. Did you bring them in with one hand?
>> I did.

>> You wore black, too.

>> I did, but it's a purple shirt.

>> Whatever the council prefers. I'll take mine while you're here, when you're done, whatever.
Go ahead, everybody is still smiling for now.

>> Good afternoon, Council. Like George said, we're going to through just an overview of the recommended budget for 2021-2022, and then the goal of this item is to set your maximum TRIM rates and to set your first public budget hearing.
I got it right here, don't I?
All right. So this first slide shows you the taxable value history for our county-wide tax base. Fiscal year 2007-2008 was our highest year at 40.7 billion before the recession hit. Fiscal year 2021-22 had a 5% increase over the 2008 values. We have recovered in our taxable value as of this year. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index, $1 in 2008 is equivalent to the purchasing power of about $1.26 today. The price of the dollar has gone up in that same time period by 26%. This pie chart here shows you the breakdown of taxable value by property class. This is straight from the property appraiser's website. 68.4% of the taxable value is related to residential, and 15.3% is commercial. The overall growth and taxable value from 2020 to 2021 is 7.6%. Your residential growth is 8.6%, while your commercial growth is 6.2%.
This slide here gives you the taxable value of the residential improved properties and it is broken into the dollar ranges to show where the majority of our residential population falls. As you can see, 67.5% fall under $150,000 in taxable value. So, the next couple slides are the same, except we change the assessed value. And just to show you what the impact of the ad valorem taxes levied by Volusia County governance will be for the homestead properties. These do not represent actual tax bills, because there are many factors that could change an individual's actual taxies, as far as other entities levy millages. This doesn't include the cities or the independent districts or the school board. For these examples, we assume the only exemption on the property is the homestead exemption of up to $50,000. There are other exemptions available to citizens, such as senior exemptions, ag exemptions. Those exemptions could change their value. But for this we just changed the homestead. This provision limits a mandate on all homestead properties of 3% or CPI, whichever is lower. The save our homes provision, it has a 2001 maximum increase of 1.4%. So, what that means is the assessed value of the home cannot be increased by more than 1.4% over 2020's assessment with an exception being those properties that had new constructions or additions. So, if they installed a pool, then the homeowner could be taxed on the value of the pool plus the increase in the CPI. That would be the only exception to that. This example here shows a home with an assessed value of $69, 239, which is in the 16th percentile. The taxable value would be $25,000. When you apply the Save our Homes cap increase to the 2021 value, the assessed value goes up to $70,205, but the taxable value does not change, because they will come closer to that $50,000 of homestead exemption. The total annual increase for a property like this would still be $5.32, because we do have ECHO, that is recommended to be levied this year, where we did not levy that tax last year. Also on these examples, this example in the next couple slides, broken down the taxing districts by county-wide funds, unincorporated funds, and east side funds. Not every resident is going to have this complete tax from Volusia County on their bill. If they live on the east side, then they would have the mosquito control, the port district, and potentially Silver Sands depending on their location. If they live in the unincorporated areas, the MSD and the fire rescue district would apply. The county wide funds apply to everyone in Volusia County. This is the same breakdown. It takes an assessed value from 2020, which is the 30th percentile of assessed values in Volusia County. The save our home cap being applied to this changes the assessed value to $96,321. That is a 1.4% increase, however the taxable value would increase by 3% under this example because they are maxed at that 50,000 homestead exemption. The taxes levied would equate to more in taxes for 2021 with $9.26 related to the ECHO fund. The general fund increase is only $7.25.
You apply the 1.4% increase, the taxable value in this example increases by 2.3%. And the tax increase for a prompt like this would be $40.60 if they lived in every one of these taxes districts. $16.70 of that is related to ECHO as you can see. This is the mean, or the most common assessed value in 2020. 150,274, has a taxable valuable. Again, applying this 1 .4% increase on the assessed value, it does increase the taxable value by 2.1%. The total taxes for 2021 would increase by $48.62, providing the homeowner resides in all of our taxing districts with $20.88 or 42% of that increase related to echo. The general fund increase in this example would be $11.62.
The assessed value in this example of $190,146 represents the 75th percentile of assessed values. With the assess value increase by CPI, the taxable value would increase by 1.9% in this example. The total tax increase for Volusia County's levies would be 60.25 with $20 related to echo. The general fund increase would be $14.50 for the year. Back to slide four, 6 0.75% fall under $149,000 in taxable value. With this example being $142,808. The majority of residents in Volusia County will pay no more than $5.28 a month in Volusia taxes provided they live in all these districts. This example here, and this is the last one, unless you guys want to see some different ones. This gives you the average taxable value for homestead residential properties in 2020. The average taxable value was $97,394. So, taking that average and assuming that it was just the $50,000 homestead exemption that got them to that, that would mean the assessed value would be $ 147,394. You apply the save our homes cap to that, you see the taxable value would to $99,458. So, under this example the total tax increase would be $46.71 with $19.89 being related to ECHO. The general fund increase is $11.25 in this example.
So, this gives you your ad valorem tax revenue by fund. As I've been mentioning, the general fund isn't the only fund that collects the taxes. We do have nine taxing funds in 2021. This shows you the breakdown of ad valorem revenue by taxing fund with the general fund representing 67.66% of the ad valorem revenue. ECHO and Volusia Forever represent 5% collectively.
This is a look at our county-wide operating revenue that is being recommended. The operating revenue balances with the operating expenditures of $963,942, 523. Ad valorem taxes represent 32%. If you were equating this to personal finances, this would be your beginning savings or a checking account balance. We take a planned approach with the of our appropriated fund balance, and it's mainly used to fill our reserves as you'll see annually on the next slide. So, this gives you your look at your county-wide operating expenditures by category. The total operating expenses are equal to the operating revenues. Reserves are the highest percent of operating expenditures at 31.15%. The total reserves of $300 million represent 86.4% of the appropriated fund balance brought forward. The reserves shown here are total operating reserves and some are restricted in nature. You have your emergency operating reserves set at 10% by council policy and they account for 3.92% or 37.8 million of the total reserve balance. ECHO and Volusia Forever, they represent 3.82%, or 36.8 million of the total reserves. And transportation reserves for road maintenance and construction represent 4.8% or 46.2 million of the total reserves. You can see here other breakdown by category of personal services representing 1 9.25% of your total operating expenditures and your operating expenses representing 23.1%.
This shows you your operating expenditures by department. This represents 23.02% of the total operating budget and it is important to note that all of these numbers do include reserves. So, public protection represents 17.94%. Other budgetary accounts represent 12.6% and they include your emergency reserves, other non-departmental reserves,ing and transfers, as well as debt service. The office of the sheriff represents 10.99% of the total operating expenditures.

>> Can I hold you up one second?

>> Sure can.

>> Go back there. Tell me the difference between public protection and the office of the sheriff?

>> Public protection would be our fire services, our animal control, EMS, medical examiner, beach safety, corrections.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Everything but sheriff.

>> Everything but sheriff. The sheriff is the sheriff.
>> CHAIR BROWER: What is other budgetary accounts?

>> Your non-departmental reserves, your emergency reserves, your debt service payments, because we do have debt services in other funds, not the general fund, with the exception of Sunrail now.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Name which should not be mentioned.

>> (Chuckling) Sorry.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Basically all your reserves in the general fund are not assigned to the specific department so they show up in the other accounts. The municipal service operates the same way.
>> CHAIR BROWER: I want the public who is listening, this is important to them. They don't understand everything that you know.

>> Absolutely.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.

>> So, then we take a little bit more of a focused approach on the general fund, because that's where the largest part of the ad valorem taxes lie. In these next few slides you saw during the five-year forecast presentation, but they've been updated with the new values and the changes. So, the total recommended budget in the general fund is $352,077,111. The external services and support represent 37.4% of that amount. And you can see off to the right of the pie chart there that what those external expenses and support represent. It is all your constitutional officers, the court costs, CRA payments, Medicaid, drug abuse and mental health, children and families advisory board. I won't bore you and read them all. Reserves are included in the total recommended budget and they represent 17.4%.
Other one-time costs are major capital transfers of 2.4%.
You're left with your reoccurring expenses, which you can expect to occur year after year. $ 283,722,425. External expenses and support represent 47.3% of the total reoccurring expenses, while public protection represents 26.2%.
The remange 26.5% is broken down as follows. You have 12.5% for operational support, which includes support for our internal county departments and the constitutional officers with the exception of the sheriff. This category also includes county council. 10.7% are for other county operations such as community services, parks, recreation, and culture, growth and resource management, and public works, which for the most part is your coastal operations. And then we have 3.3% for subsidies to VOTRAN and economic development.
The slide here gives you a look at the millage rate history in our taxing funds. It shows you the years where we were at rollback, the years where we were below rollback, or the years where we were at partial rollback. So, that's just there for the public to see.
This gives you a little bit more of the history of the general fund millage rate. As you can see, we've either kept the rate flat or gone down since 2014.
And this shows you where your general fund equivalent millage rate lies by category under the recommended flat rate of 545. Your constitutional officers are 1.834 of the millage rate. And then public protection would represent 1.595, while subsidies and direct costs, which include VOTRAN, economic development, CREs, and Sunrail debt represent .4154 of the millage. Other county departments represent the remaining 1.6056. The millage rate was determined by netting out the departmental revenue earned by each operation and then distributing the non-departmental revenue, state sales tax, state sharing, investment income, among the divisions.
So, these last two slides are what we are here for today. It's the main reason for this meeting. Or not this meeting, but this item. First, we must set the tentative rates to be published on the tax notices mailed in August. The rates you set today can be lowered, but they cannot go up. The recommended rates are on the screen. I can read them into record and you can vote on them separately or collectively, but your vote today is what I will put into the electronic TRIM to certify back to the appraiser's office, and this will get published on your TRIM notice.

>> I want to add a couple things. I did put out a document to all the council yesterday. And one of the pages, page six of ten on that document, talks about the breakdown of expenses by category. Can you go back with the clicker?
Stay there. Yes. This year's external expenses and support is $133, 629. Last year's was 117,302 million. The increase in that piece of the pie is $16.3 million. 13.2 of it is for constitutional officers, including judicial. 2.3 of the increase in that piece of the pie this year versus last year is for county direct expenditures on court facilities, of which 1.6 million is capital. I won't read the rest of them, but you get the idea that this piece of the pie has grown quite a bit. Public protection is 74,719,531 on this piece of the pie. Last year, that piece of the pie was 70,052,331, an increase of 4,667,200, which represents a 6.7% increase. Part of that increase is in personnel. Part of it is in operating. I will add that one of the few additions that we're recommended in the general fund for staffing is in corrections. That's why that piece of the pie grows by a larger percentage than the rest of the pie does. In total, the growth between external expenses and public protection in the recommended budget is $21 million. Our total expenditure growth, if you compare the two budgets together, the pink line in my report, is $22.3 million.
Part of this is because we are taking advantage of sustainable balance for a credit of $5 million in that chart. But again, still, the actual individual budget lines that go to each one of those offices and that goes to public protection is $21 million. If you were looking at holding public protection harmless, if you were looking at the other constitutional officers where we have little to no control especially for the tax collector and the property appraiser, the department of revenue sets their budget, not the county, 23 you look at those together, $21 million of increase. Our increase in revenues from the roll-back rate is $5.2 million compared to $21 million in expenditures that several people this morning mentioned holding harmless. If you want to hold those 21 million of expenditure growth harmless, we're going to have to do more than 5.2million of revenue growth.

>> Do you want me to read these individually so you can vote or would you like them collectively?

>> HEATHER POST: I have a question, Mr. Chair?
>> CHAIR BROWER: Sure. I think you may have a couple questions.

>> HEATHER POST: Ryan, if we could go back to that last slide, you mentioned that last year our public protection budget was $70 million.

>> In the general fund.

>> HEATHER POST: And now it's $74 million. Does that have anything to do with the past year with COVID?

>> The expenditures for COVID were charged to the Coronavirus Relief Fund, not to the general fund.

>> HEATHER POST: So there was no correlation to COVID in the increase in the public protection fund for personnel, for anything?

>> I'm sure that in the $70 million we spent, or in the recommended budget for '21 included some expenditures related to COVID, although the majority of them have been charged to the federal grants. I do not believe that any of the $74 million proposed for FY22 was proposed with COVID in mind. It was proposed based off of last year's needs and the projections for personnel that are done based off of existing personnel and then the additional personnel that have been requested specifically the seven additional FTEs and corrections.

>> HEATHER POST: I would just point out, and maybe we can keep in mind when we're talking about public protection, we are talking about expected personnel, current personnel, but there are other various things we can be doing other than raising the taxes to work on the fact that those budgets are going up because we're doing various things. So, the amount of overtime we're spending and the amount of mandating we're doing because we have less personnel, there's just a number, a myriad of things in there we can be doing to offset a lot of that. I just wanted to point that out, as well. Thank you.

>> One thing I need to point out, because it wasn't mentioned in the budget, it does contemplate for this coming year a 4% raise or a $1 an hour for maybe 4%, or a minimum of a $1 an hour, would be the best way to put it. Just a couple questions. First of all, Ryan, you mentioned this document that you sent us. I guess everybody received it last night. I know you just asked for that document. So, it's not, there's no criticism that we just received it. It's a detailed document that required a lot of thought and a lot of time. I would like to make it part of the public record because it would be good for the public to have access to it and see the reasoning that went behind your, both your assumptions and your conclusions and what you're doing here.

>> Absolutely.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Just a couple questions. In the first page of that document, you mentioned new construction, which we talked about last time. Excuse me. The amount of new construction going on in the county. I'm wondering if you also anticipated or included figures, growth rate, anticipated growth rate for resale within the county. Somebody who lives here who sells a home to somebody else.

>> Well, it depends whether we go with the roll-back rate or not. If you go with the flat rate, you're capturing resales. If you go with the roll-back rate, part of the calculation in roll-back is to ignore value changes. When do the largest value changes occur? When somebody moves out of a home and into a home. The homestead exemption changes for that new homeowner. Sorry, not the homestead, the Save our Homes provision. So, any built-up savings would be transferred with the new, or the former owner to wherever they move. Or if they move out of state, it would just be lost. If somebody moves into state, they start at zero. So, that reassessed value on that home is not captured in the roll-back rate. It is captured at a flat rate.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Is the Save our Home homestead exemption, you're saying those are portable?

>> The built-up Save our Homes provision is portable, yes.

>> CHAIR BROWER: And when a person that lives here sells that home, they've been here for 30 years, they're older, their kids are gone, they want to downsize, move into another home, so they get to carry their homestead exemption if they stay in Volusia County.

>> It doesn't even have to be Volusia County; it's portable throughout the state.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Okay, that's good. And then the person who buys that home from out of state, the home jumps up to what the current assessed value would be?

>> The assessed value would then match the just value. The property appraiser matches the just value, essentially the market value. So, every year when the calculation is done, that base year your market value equals your assessed value. But then next year, let's say the market value goes up 10%. The Save our Homes provision would limit the assessed value from going up by more than 3% of CPI. This year, that number is 1.4%. That difference of 8.6 is called the Save our Homes amount. And that amount accumulated through the years is what's portable. I believe it's two years, but the legislator might have just changed it to three years. I think I read a bill.

>> It's three.

>> It's three years and that gets filed through the property appraiser's office.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Excuse me. So, I guess where I'm going with this is the real estate market in Volusia County is hot. We hear every day there's a thousand people moving into the state a day. It's probably more now. Some of those are moving here, they're from out of state, and they're buying a home that was formerly homesteaded. The tax rate jumps and then from there, after the first year, and if they apply, which I assume they would, for a homestead, then Save our Homes applies to them. But at a much higher rate than the previous owner was paying. Do you account for that increased revenue?

>> That increase in value is part of our total increase in values. When you calculate the roll-back rate, you're only allowed to consider new construction; you're not allowed to consider any other growth that would be part of. So, in our recommended budget, it is accounted for. If there were a roll-back rate, it would not be accounted for because we wouldn't be able to take advantage of it.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Okay. I want to read something that you wrote because it's significant. This is on your page two. It said on new construction values. It is sometimes suggested that the property taxes on new construction amounts should be sufficient to cover the government's increase in expenditures, however this is not accurate. In fact, the exclusion of new construction values in the calculation of the roll-back rate is intended to cover new services, demands createdded by that same new construction, specifically new construction leads to increased public safety demands, such as emergency medical service, sheriff, animal control call responses, and unfortunately increases in demand for medical examiner and corrections services. While impact fees are intended to offset that demand by Florida law, you go onto say that impact fees don't cover it. This has to be part of our discussion about a lot of things as we grow. And I'm not tagging you with this. Please don't take it that way. But I said to the council last meeting that they made a tremendous argument that growth doesn't pay for itself. It doesn't look like you believe that growth pays for itself. I think you accurately describe the reality of what happens with each new person that comes in, that's a potential ambulance, a potential fire truck, a potential school and teacher. And lunches and all the stuff that taxes pay for. So, I think we need to get off of that treadmill.

>> GEORGE RECKTENWALD: Especially the type of growth. That's important in that equation. You're correct in maybe the type of growth we're seeing is not because it's so residentially-based, and maybe not of a high-enough value. So, we've talked about this before. You know, certain things like a high-end manufacturing plant in theory could very well pay for itself many times over depending on what it attracts for people in housing. But just on its own, residential has a hard time because it has to be a certain size house. They go over that every so many years to even break even for those services that you're talking about. So, it's certainly a very good thing to talk about and work on. But just growth in itself, you have to really get down to what type of growth. The smart growth, all that stuff that we talk about is putting it toward something that's sustainable. And some of what we have right now is not necessarily sustainable.

>> Thank you.

>> In the budget and it's one of the attachments 18-23, you'll see different things listed as decision units, those are usually where we're looking to add things to the budget. So, under the decision units for personnel, that's where you'll find the additional 7 corrections officers. One could argue that's an expansion of services meant to address growth. If you look at the total decision units, it's 3.4 million. The total collective property taxes for new construction is 5.2. So, we actually are collecting a little bit more than the services that we're adding. And that's part of what I was trying to describe in one of the subsequent paragraphs about often the government does use the new construction to fund existing services, but it doesn't fund all of the existing service level increases.

>> CHAIR BROWER: That's right. We still have maintenance that I call Ben Bartlet about every day. I want to mention one other thing. You've had a mountain to climb this year with Sunrail, with amendment ten, and with the voters having voted for an increase in the minimum wage to $15/hour. That applies to us, too.

>> Unfunded mandates.

>> CHAIR BROWER: I agree. Personally, I believe we didn't, government, and we didn't, but government has any authority or responsibility to tell private business what they pay people. I wish they could pay everybody $100,000 a year, but a new worker has to start somewhere. I think it's going to work against young workers; it's definitely working against government and employers. Unintended consequences. Thank you for this document. I still have the dilemma that the three of us have discussed. I want everybody to know who is listening to this that county manager has made you two more than available to me and you spent a lot of time not arguing, but arguing your reality, what you see. I still have a dilemma for not going to full rollback. I think that we can pay for it with some one-time money to cover reserves and by finding new revenue sources. The problem when I hear the number of it's $10 a year or $40 a year for 70% of the homes is that that doesn't apply to some of the people who can accord it the least, the people who rent, the people who are maids at hotels, that mow the yards and do essential labor that we require and we would be in big trouble without. They rent. And you can't get a homestead on that commercial rental unit. So, their taxes are likely to go up. On the other hand, I think the way for us to solve that problem is for us, and I believe that we are, actively searching to bring new businesses in. Every new business comes with a top layer of executives or an owner. They're not going to live in a $190,000 most likely; they're going to live in a $600,000 or a $1.5 million house. If we're trying to encourage economic development, I don't want to encourage it by offering them a bribe to come here. I want to make Volusia County the safest place and the easiest place to do business and the most affordable. I've seen tax bills of those homes. I don't play class warfare. And I'm not suggesting anyone else up here does. I think we all look at the lowest-paid employees and the highest-paid executive or business owner. We have to consider them all. I've seen the bills of someone, multiple people who come in here and buy a home, they lose the Homestead Exemption, and their taxes jump from $1,000 to 2 or 3 or 4. I've seen big bills. Because they've lost their Homestead. And then the little increases are on top of that, huge increase every year. To me, it's an economic development issue and it's a fairness issue to the people who can afford it the least, the renters of Volusia County. I don't disagree with anything that you have tried to teach me, show me, convince me of. I know we have to pay for things. Somehow. I want to add new revenue. I want to bring in new business so that we're not dependent on the residential homeowner to carry all of the weight. I think we can do that. I didn't intend to make a speech, but I just did. I appreciate the time that you have spent. The county manager and his staff have had long conversations. We agree on, I can't think of something that we disagreed on except what you call the flat rate. And I have a different name for it. So, thank you. If there's any other questions, I think that we probably should take your suggestion and vote for each one separately. I think we can do that quickly.
Council, any other questions?

>> Before you vote, I did give you some public information.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Oh, you did. I'm sorry.

>> In addition to those ones, I had two people who could not stay around. Don Salter of Ormond Beach and Trisha of New Smyrna Beach, they are both for a full rollback.

>> CHAIR BROWER: We had three people, nine minutes. I'll take them in the order that they're numbered here. Bob Vath. He left, didn't he? I saw two people over here had to leave. Jack Blum?
And our own John Nicholson.

>> John, Nicholson. I think I'm the only one mentioned raising taxes. Rollbacks are not raising taxes. All right? You've been hit with several things that the people in the audience this morning never considered. Sunrail is expensive. That's an increase. They're not aware of that. They're thinking that everything is running along like it was last year; it's not.
Secondly, $15 an hour affects you guys. Where does that money come from? It's not the same amount as you had last year. They weren't aware of that. What they're looking at is they're saying everything is going along well; nothing has gone up. Well, guess what? Inflation went up. That does affect you guys on what you buy and all kinds of things, insurance, et cetera, et cetera, always goes along. Thirdly, judicial offices. All right? You have no control over them, but that's an expense. These things the general public doesn't know. Our employees deserve a raise. Are we going to say that the people behind us are saying the policemen don't deserve a raise or that we shouldn't acquire policemen or correctional officers. There's a high need for it and in Daytona Beach, we have 33 less police officers than we need. So, we should not have a rate increase because we need these officers so let's just do without the officers. Let's do without the correctional officers, let's do without the roads. All of these things that you HAVE to provide us, we're forgetting about. All right?
I don't want to say that I opposed Mr. Rectenwald, but when he said he was going to run and decided to run, I wasn't quite happy with that. But he was the best man for the job. And when he tells you that a full roll-back is going to hurt you guys, you better believe him because he's honest, he's thoughtful, and he looked at it. You know, my mother was an accountant. It skipped a generation. I'm not an accountant. I'm a schoolteacher. I teach math. But this stuff is well beyond me and it's well beyond most of the people in Volusia County. They don't understand it. But you all are supposed to look at it and you all are supposed to understand it. So, don't look to politics. Because these people are saying well, we'll vote against you. You can't listen to that. You have to do what needs to be done. Thank you.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. Ben Johnson?

>> BEN JOHNSON: This is all very concerning that there's nobody up here who likes the idea of raising taxes. I'm a taxpayer. I'm a big believer in watching our spending. But you've run into a lot of major issues that we need to think about. Sun rail we were saddled with. Amendment 10, $13 million this year. Raises to keep up. I see people up here, the $1 raises for the people. It's needed; it's necessary. We're going to have to get to the $15 eventually and more if we're going to keep good employees, but we can't vote for these things and then turn around and say we're going to cut taxes. Inflation, we have no choice about. Gas has gone up. All of our materials have gone up. Road building has gone up. We have reserves and I hear people wanting to get into the reserves. The reserves is one of the reasons we're able to take things and keep ourselves ahead at a very good rate. Also, the fact of we don't know when we may be hit by a major storm. We've never been hit by a major storm here. Donna was the last real hurricane Volusia County in 1960. Since then, we've had marginal storms.
And if you've never been somewhere where the houses are sitting on top of cars and the cars are sitting on top of houses and the rest of the houses are a mile offshore, you've never seen it. Or where you've seen a boat, not a boat, it's a building, that used to sit in the ocean, that's now sitting on the other side of the highway. Or you've seen where a bridge is folded up like a deck of cards. And all this has to be replaced and we turn around and we don't have those moneys, now we got to go borrow moneys, now we're in great financial straits. What we leave behind for our children is a big thing. Once you go back and you start going backwards and it's never easy if at all possible to catch up. When you do catch up, it's because of severe tax increase to make up for what we have not used our heads for short-term political gain. I've heard people say I'm getting disgusted with it about somebody pulling my strings. And that's people who disagree with ya. Well, you know, we have constituents, too, that we talk to and we're listening to outside there, not just one side of this fence. Getting a little aggravated. Nobody pulls my strings and nobody is telling me how to vote. When you're talking about a tax increase, it's not popular. But I can tell you this, if we don't use our heads and think about this, especially today, we can look at this further. We have several more chances to do. But if we drop our millage rate today, we can't bring it back up again later. If we want to take and look at how we can cut costs, we can cut back on libraries. I don't need a park. Somebody else does. That's the problem. People want these services. We need to have road repair and buildings. We have so many things out there and if you don't hold public safety harmless, this money has to all come out of these other funds. What we can do is we can set this county back so far, so quick, that we could be known as the council down the road and you better think about that. That council down the road that put a county that was in great financial straits, great financial situation, and put it in a bad situation in the future where we have a broke county like I think, if I'm not mistaken, Lake County having to borrow for their general fund. Aren't I correct in that? Where they're having to borrow from other funds to supply their general fund so they can just keep moving. One-time funds that you've take and cut your tax rates for, you don't have those one-time funds. You're just minus that money that you just spent that you might have needed for something else. Now you're trying to play catchup and eventually you're going to have to take and cut some throats out here and that's going to include where employees is your biggest money is. And we have to start giving out pink slips for our employees and that's the last thing we wanted to do. It's the one thing during the recession we looked at and we took care of our employees and that's something that has to be remembered. We backed up a lot back then. We did a whole lot of that even today we've never put ourselves back there. It's the only good thing that ever came out of the recession. We went back to government and said where can we do better and where can we cut expenses? We cut over 10% out of this budget, which is a lot of money, and we never put ourselves back there again. We had better think today are you going to try to take with people who really don't understand what we're dealing with up here. I'm not calling any of them bad people by any means, but they don't understand our government fund and what we have to do to make sure that our government continues to work, continues to run, and continues to stay financially on financial good grounds. Most people don't understand that. They think just cut, cut, cut, cut. I want to get the budget and show me where to cut. You look at the budget and decide what are we going to take out if we're going to do it. Don't put it down on these people. If that's going to happen, it needs to come right off this dice and say we don't need this and put your name right behind it.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Barbara Girtman?

>> BARBARA GIRTMAN: Thank you, Chair. We hear a lot of times where people say "The people voted" and "let the people vote." Right? And when you look at our $15 an hour, you look at Sunrail locally, you look at amendment ten, our ECHO, our Forever, the people voted. They made a decision that these were the things that they were willing to pay for. And those are the things that have had the highest impact on our increase or our needs for additional funding. So, I'm just keeping it simple. It's what the people said they were willing to accept. And no, nobody wants to pay more. But the people decided that this is what they were willing to pay more for. And I think there still may be some areas that we can cut back on, but this coming year, these are the highest budget items that are going to impact our bottom line. And as Councilman Johnson said, we've got to be ready for that. Maybe we'll be in a better position next year to work through it since we have the additional funding. And if we don't have any additional concerns, I would look at it again, you know, next year. But for this year, I think we've got to hold the line. Thank you.

>> BEN JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Chair, there was one thing you said earlier about economic development. I agree with that 100% about bringing in corporations et cetera with good jobs. We're not there yet. That's what we have to remember. We can think about that in the future and work on getting that here and we're starting to see some of these like Amazon coming into the county, but we're not there yet. It's something we need to work on and in Volusia County, one of the issues is our taxes are upside down. That's about what, 70% on the homes and 30% on business corporations and it should be somewhat more the other way around. But we're not there yet. Once we get there, we can look at some of these issues with a lot more wide open eyes.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Billie Wheeler.

>> BILLIE WHEELER: Yeah, I'm going to keep it short. I totally agree with Ben and Barbara both. Mr. Chair, I understand totally your wanting so desperately to do the rollback. And I know that you want to fulfill that promise. But, you know, one of the things that you said was, you know, we know we can find additional revenue. And what I would really like to do is, yes, let's look for that additional revenue. I mean other ways to bring in additional revenue. But I'm not willing to spend money now with the hopes that we're going to have additional revenue. This is what we're dealing with now and with these additional, huge items, amendment 10, the Sunrail, and the other things that have already been mentioned. I just do not understand at all how we could possibly go to any partial rollback. As much as I would love to. Yes, I listen to all the constituents also, but they did vote for these new items and there is a cost with it. And everything in our lives are going up. And why people wouldn't think that our costs are going up in the county also. So, I'm totally supporting the flat rate.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Danny Robins?

>> DANNY ROBINS: I think we all want cuts, but like everyone else is saying, we need to start bringing some revenue sources, some good ones. Some that really hit home. That's burden on us. That is not their fault. But we can't keep on spending and expect things to change here and keep making cuts. And the last thing, I want like many of you, or all of you is to not put Volusia County long-term in a pickle. There's so many unknowns with this unstable artificial market where this thing can burst so quickly worse in 2008-2009, it's not even funny. But to deplete our reserves for some instant gratification, I don't know. I know that's leaning not a smart move. So, I think we better get our butts in gear and kick up some money somewhere. And look at this and think about this really closely. Thanks.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Heather Post?

>> HEATHER POST: Yes. Sorry, I had that one last thought I wanted to write down. So, being in my second term, you know, I've gone through this process quite a few times and I do want to start out by saying, "Oh my gosh the financial division has always been very accessible and certainly willing to explain any questions I've ever had." And I understand all of our discussions and we've had many, many discussions. And I've given my viewpoint; you've given your viewpoint. And I understand both sides. Fully. But every year, you know, and even today, I've heard inflation, impending storms, the recession, raises, you know, possible pink slips, Armageddon. These are all things that are potential every single year. So, every single year we're just going to, why don't we just come out then and just say why do we even have these discussions every year? Why don't we just come out and say every year we will do a base increase? I'm not in agreement with that. But if we're listening to all of the reasoning behind this year's, that's what I'm hearing. Those same reasonings we deal with every single year. I heard someone say, you know, we should be known as the council to do certain things. And what I would suggest is how about we're known as the council who actually took the opportunity of millions of dollars in federal funds. We took the opportunity to assess and figure out better way to do things because those are the funds. Those are the funds that we have. And if we went to below the rollback, if we went back to where there was no additional assessment, we would be in a position where we would have to do that and what I've been pushing for since day one in both terms is really to work on the priorities. And to ensure that we're focusing the moneys on the correct things. And until I see a shift in that, I'm still with the stance that I'm not willing to raise the taxes on the citizens. But council, we could actually be known as the council that used this phenomenal opportunity, and I do want to point out, you know, out of $250 million or however, I don't know the exact total. But in general, we're getting or gotten from the federal government in totality, we have $107 million left, we just approved this last section away $27 million. So, now we're down to $77,338,000 to be looked at. So, you know, it goes quickly. And we have a tremendous opportunity to really assess and look at each division. I've talked with staff. You know, I've heard for the various divisions, you know, we've looked at everything. There's no way that we can save money. But I tell you, there are lots of people that are coming to me and showing me ways to save money. And then I'm looking at ways to save money. And so there are potential avenues where we could be shifting our gears a little bit and maybe shifting priorities and really looking at saving moneys without doing the pink slips, without having all of this stuff happen. So, perhaps maybe that's what Volusia County needs. We went to zero budget or we went to zero debt, I'm sorry, but when we went to zero debt, did we tremendously improve the numbers in personnel? Did we improve fire? Did we improve EMS? Did we improve all of those divisions that we then came back and assessed that oh my gosh, we needed to reboot? We did not. So, perhaps this, I'm looking at this as a tremendous opportunity. The citizens have had a very rough year, the residents. I'm not making this decision based on the people that were in the room today. I'm making this decision based on what I have experienced, what I have encountered, and my understanding of the process and discussion with staff throughout the years that I've been here. I know we can do better. I think we owe it to the citizens to do better. And would it be tough to do that? Sure. But I think it's doable. And I'm willing to do that for this year. Next year, you know, if we go through and we fix things and we're not spending as much overtime because we're figuring out how to retain and acquire personnel and we're figuring out all these other little loopholes, then great. But at this point, my mind is still made up.

>> BARBARA GIRTMAN: Chair, can we call the vote please?

>> CHAIR BROWER: I would like to give, there's a couple other council people that wanted to speak. I don't want to rob them of their time, and I would like to speak. Danny Robins?

>> DANNY ROBINS: Thanks, chair. Is it our priority to put our piggy back at zero? You know, this firing EMS and first responders, not filling these positions, I don't know where we were going with that. But if we're talking about revenue sources, where are they at? Where are they? Who has revenue sources up there? The blame is on us. Who has them?

>> HEATHER POST: We definitely need to be looking at those things. I have quite a few for open discussion.

>> DANNY ROBINS: The time is now. If we have them, let's get them out on the table before we vote because maybe we need to look at some of these things real quick. It's putting everybody in a bad spot, most importantly the taxpayers. But we're not going to sit here and say we have revenue source and say we have done this. The time is now. Let's stop procrastinating and getting this show on the road.

>> BARBARA GIRTMAN: But the time isn't now. That's why we have a budget workshop. It's through our additional work that we figure out where we can go. I think there is savings opportunity. But I don't think today is the time that we're going to discuss that, correct? So.
Today we need the number.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Ben Johnson?

>> BEN JOHNSON: My recommendation today is we beat this around and we have, this is the first time we're talking. We can lower, we can't raise. My recommendation is and I'll make a motion at this time that we leave the proposed millage rates as they are as we have several more meetings that we can take and work on them. That's my motion.

>> BARBARA: I'll second that motion and I agree.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Motion by Johnson to leave the list of millage rates each one where they are right now printed? Correct? The whole list. Take them as a whole, second by Girtman. I'll call the vote in a minute. I let everybody else speak, I want to answer just a few things. We did have some revenue that was put on the table. One of them that I brought you thought was silly. Naming rights for beach approaches. And it's now been extended to some of the properties that we own, too. And so that will come back. We turned down what $10 million a year with short-term rentals after hearing we could manage them to avoid all the problems that the public spoke about. We can't demand revenue on one hand and then turn them down on the otherhand and say you're not doing anything, give us what you got. I've heard a couple things I'm not going to take personally, but I want to speak to it.
It was said don't do this for political reasons. And I know you need to fulfill a promise. No, I'm not fulfilling a promise. For me it's not a promise, it's a philosophy. I want government to have less power so that people can keep more money in their pockets. I want government to have less power so people can live free. I think I agree somebody who said this afternoon that that's going to start at the local level. It's not a political trick for me; it's my philosophy. And I don't think that we will ever get around to doing it if we don't go to rollback, in my opinion full rollback. Because I don't think we're going to be motivated to do it. I'm not blaming that on the staff. It was said that if you want cuts, don't put that on staff; you do it. Ben, that is not my job. My job is to give direction. Your job is to give direction. I've asked for a 5% reduced budget in everything but public safety. I've not stood on the table and screamed and hollered at the county manager to get that. Everybody in this room knows that's what I called for and what I ran on. I've not seen that. So, what I did was ask for a line-item budget. It's about this tall. And I'm going through the line-item budget. But it's not my job. We are the least, the lowest-paid people in the room compared to that side of the room. Not compared to this side of the room. That's not a slam against them. George Recktenwald is running a Fortune 500 company.
I don't want to take a dollar from him. But it's the staff's job to bring us a budget. If we say we want a 5% less budget, then we look at it and determine if that's possible or not. But that's our job is to look at it and give staff the direction. So, I am fulfilling a promise in that I'm keeping my philosophy and for me it's not instant gratification; it's being honest. It's not changing because I put my finger in the air. And so I'm going to stick with that.

>> BARBARA GIRTMAN: Mayor, may I?

>> CHAIR BROWER: You may.

>> BARBARA GIRTMAN: I'm in agreement with you that maybe naming rights is a good idea, but what it hasn't been is proven and where there are dollars behind it that we can apply. At this point it's conversation. And if we had firm numbers that we could say, okay, we've got $5 million that we can reduce something else because it's firm, I agree with that. So, that's not found revenue until it's found.

>> CHAIR BROWER: But that's the process that this council voted to start. That's all I asked for. We need to put out an RPF and look at the numbers and then decide is that good or bad. I couldn't even start the process.

>> BARBARA GIRTMAN: We're not there now.

>> CHAIR BROWER: We'll never get there, though.
>> BARBARA GIRTMAN: But what I'm saying is we are where we are.

>> BEN JOHNSON: You talk about a 5% budget cut and I've never heard this clarified. You're talking about a 5% overall budget? Or are you talking about 5% of the what's left of the held harmless agencies?

>> CHAIR BROWER: I would like to see a 5% budget cut for everything that we're looking at other than the sheriffs, for public safety.

>> BEN JOHNSON: So, you're saying take out all of the big budget numbers, the public safety numbers, you're saying redact them and 5% off of that?

>> CHAIR BROWER: Off of public safety?

>> BEN JOHNSON: No, no, no.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Everything else.

>> BEN JOHNSON: Taking out all of public safety's budget money, held harmless, and you're talking about just the 5% on the other end?

>> CHAIR BROWER: Of everything else on this list, from general fund.

>> BEN JOHNSON: The general fund.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Not fire and rescue.

>> BEN JOHNSON: The general funds public safety.
You're not answering my question.
>> CHAIR BROWER: I can't answer your question anymore clearly, Ben. I want to cut 5% of everything other than public safety. Other than the sheriff department, other than EMS, other than the life guards. You know good and well what I'm saying.

>> BEN JOHNSON: No, I don't. I don't believe they do either. There's a problem. There's a big difference. You're saying don't harm public safety, but you're saying take a 5% budget cut. It's not clear in my mind are you saying exclude that whole portion right there the percentage of the budget that's left after you take them out is the 5% you're looking for?

>> CHAIR BROWER: No. I've just said repeatedly what I'm looking for. I've let eeverybody on this council speak and I didn't interrupt you and I'm going to finish what I'm going to say and then I'll tell you once again what I've asked for. It's really clear. I want to see a 5% cut in everything so that we can look at it and assess it, other than public safety: Fire, rescue, EMS.

>> Oh my goodness.

>> CHAIR BROWER: I think it was you, Ben, who said use your head. That's what I'm suggesting. I want to use our heads to look at things differently than we ever had. I've already started that conversation with the county manager who is already doing that himself. Because he has to be, we have to be looking at new ways of doing things W. should be looking at Volusia County for not just the county, but all of the cities. How are we providing fire service? Do we need 17 different fire chiefs? Is that the most economical way to do it? I might get crucified for doing that. I think we have to be creative and look at different ways. We have to work with the cities just like we did this morning working with New Smyrna Beach. I've met so many employees here. I want them all to make more money. There's nobody that I have met that I don't have respect for, that I don't think is working hard.
I'm not sitting here suggesting that we cut their throats as you motioned or to get rid of people. We can do things through attrition.
We need to put everything on the table. We will never start if we don't say we're going to end tax increases. I don't care if it's $5 or $40 or $2,000 for the high-end people or another $100 or $50 a month for the two people sharing an apartment that are maids at the Plaza Motel. We need to work at all levels. And economic development is important, yet we're not there yet. We're not ever going to get there if we don't make the county a place where they will want to come and live and not give, pay 70% of their income in taxes. Not to Volusia County. Because I look at taxes as Volusia County, the city's, the state, and the federal government. And I guarantee you that people writing the checks do the same thing. Heather Post?

>> HEATHER POST: So, I'm in agreement with you, Chair, actually.
We're talking about, you know, I was asked do we have ways that we could save money.
Again, this is how we do that. We have said in the past that, you know, we should assess, we should look at ways to save money. We should really look into this to try to save the citizens money. But nothing is really making us do that. And that's precisely my point. If in fact we cannot put the burden on the citizens this year and really make it our priority to really look at the budget. That doesn't mean firing everyone certainly. It certainly doesn't mean cutting public safety. It just really means assessing and looking at what we're doing. It's 2021. There have been many things since George even took over that we have looked at and said you know what? We're in 2021 now. Maybe we should be more efficient in this area. And maybe we should be doing things here instead of here. Because it's not 1960 anymore. And again, just like I always say, we're the top 10th and 11th in land mass and population out of 67 counties. We should be up here. And we have the opportunity to do this. We will not have the ARPA funds again. I would imagine, I would hope not. I don't think the federal government can afford it. But if we talk about using ARPA funds for repetitive purposes, I'm not looking at using ARPA funds from here on out to pay for everything. I'm looking at ARPA funds to give us the boost to get us to 2021 in various areas and really look at where we can save money, where we can consolidate, where we can do better. Why wouldn't we do that? All I keep hearing is arguments of why that can't happen. And I don't understand it. We have the opportunity. We can be the council that really moves us forward into 2021. And we should.

>> BARBARA GIRTMAN: I think I made a motion.

>> I'll second that.

>> CHAIR BROWER: You did. And Danny, and then I'm going to call for the vote. I promise. Danny Robins.

>> DANNY ROBINS: Thanks, Chair. We all want to cut. I want to be tolerant, as well. People have got to understand we're going to be cutting services that we have voted on, not in the past, but today. We are going to be cutting services. We can't keep spending money and then ask for a cut. Is this what the people of Volusia County want?
You know, just to say we cut it and we'll figure this out later, we'll figure it out next year whenever it pops back up, hell, look at what's been going on at New Smyrna Beach with the 16th Avenue approach. This is going to be another hot potato. Make a decision. We can't just say we'll figure it out, not when we're dealing with 500,000 people. I personally don't live paycheck to paycheck, and I damn well will not set up those people to do that. This is Murphy's Law, and we're playing with fire here. I'll shut up now.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Heather Post.

>> HEATHER POST: I'm not asking for us to go through and slash every division by a certain percentage. I'm saying that we should be looking for efficiencies. We found quite a few of them already. There are things like a great example, you asked for examples. Permitting for heaven's sake. The permitting process for Volusia County, every single meeting we have, everyone comes in and says it needs to be revamped. There are so many things with permitting. I just went to the Florida Association of Counties Conference. They went through a whole thing for public works. You can completely streamline stuff because it's 2021. Things can be online. Things can be, the citizens can report things directly via their phone now. There are so many things we can streamline where we don't need to be spending so much money in all of these different areas. There are way to save money and it's not Armageddon. It's not firing everyone. There are ways.
And we just need to look at that.

>> Point of order, Mr. Chair. It's been called the question to vote and it's been seconded. We need to move awith that according to to Robert's Rules of Order.

>> CHAIR BROWER: That's fine. I'm going to call the vote and say the last thing I was going to say. The motion on the table was to accept every millage rate as listed on the graphic before you.

>> I will repeat the motion for the record or clarify it. I believe Mr. Johnson made the motion seconded by Miss Girtman. The motion is to adopt the tentative term rates as follows: The general fund 5.4500 mills. The library fund, 0.5174 mills. Volusia ECHO, 0.2000 mills. Volusia Forever 0 .2000 mills. East Volusia mosquito skins. The Ponce de Leon author. The municipal service district, 0.3218 mills. The silver sands MSD0.01441 mills. The fire rescue district, 3.842 mills. And to set the first public hearing as September 7th, 2021 at 6 p.m.

>> CHAIR BROWER: While you're doing such a good job, would you call the roll?

>> Mr. Johnson?

>> Dr. Lowry?
>> Yes.

>> Miss Post?
>> No.

>> Mr. Robins?

>> Miss Wheeler?

>> BILLIE WHEELER: Yes.

>> Miss Girtman?
>> Yes.
>> Mr. Brower.

>> No.

>> The motions passes 5-2 with Mr. Brower and Miss Post against.

>> CHAIR BROWER: This isn't done. The conversation continues. We're going to a workshop. I want to clarify one thing that Councilwoman Post said. I'm not calling for any slashing of the budget. I'm calling to look at a budget that's five% less. We need the exercise. We'll never start until we do that. We need to see what it looks like. We need to see the horror picture that's been described or yeah, there are things we can do. That's my goal. With that, we will move onto item 19. It gets easier from here.
I think. The rest of the day. I do appreciate every council member. We need to have these kind of spirited debates. I think the public appreciates it. I appreciate everybody's input. Item 20: Sponsorship requests. Kevin, are you doing these?
Oh, I'm sorry. I thought you just walked back there.

>> Good afternoon, Mr. Chair. Members of council, Kevin Captain.

>> HEATHER POST: What about 19?

>> Let's not skip 19.

>> Mr. Chair, I think Kevin Captain has this item, as well. That was a bit of humor.

>> I was going to ask a question, if I could. It's going to take a while. 19 has got quite a bit of information. Is that one we can put off until the next session? Are we allowed to do that? It's getting late. We've got some other things to cover and so forth. I don't know how the council felt maybe we could wait until the next meeting to deal with this. That's just my suggestion.

>> It's not been advertised for adoption. It's just a presentation option.

>> Do I need to make a motion regarding that we postpone and table this and postpone it to the next meeting? I would like to make that.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Motion by Lowry.

>> They can hear.

>> BILLIE WHEELER: Second. Wheeler.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Motion by Lowry, second by Billie Wheeler to table this until the next meeting for sake of time so we do it justice. That must have been why I skipped it.
(Chuckling) I don't like Freud. (Chuckling) All in favor, say aye.

>> Aye.

>> Any opposed? One, two, three, four. The motion passes 5 or 6 with one absent. Okay, Kevin, item 20. Sponsorship request.

>> Item 20. Kevin Captain, community information director. It's a sponsorship request from the New Smyrna Youth Football Association for their Facebook Live raff that will be held on the 19th. It's the first time they've been asking Volusia County to sponsor this event. And the proceeds will go to purchase new jerseys, equipment, and also be used to fund the operating costs for the operating season and go back into what is called the hardship scholarship fund. They are requesting $1500.

>> FRED LOWRY: I would like to make a comment. I'm kind of against this. I think we're opening up Pandora's box here. There's so many sporting organizations in our county, if we do it for one, we got to do it for all of them. This doesn't really fit with what we do for sponsorships.

>> HEATHER POST: I'm pretty much of the same vein. It's a very worthwhile organization, for sure. Absolutely. But this is somewhat of a routine youth activity. So, you know, we're looking at Pop Warner, and I can tell you just in the people I know, I could pick out a number of cheerleading, gymnastics, football, all the youth and then all of our money is gone if we're doing $1500 a pop.
I want to make a motion not to approve. But I have a second caveat. So, Mike, you can tell me if this should be included on the same motion or as a separate item. I'm wondering if maybe we could add a section on the application for these sponsorships for providing a paragraph that can be evaluated by council where the groups tell us the community impact that they have. So, if it has a broad community impact. And certainly, I'm not saying that youth football doesn't have a good community impact.

>> If I could just read what they did list on their application.

>> The New Smyrna Beach raff raffle will benefit over 200 students. All funds will go back to the hardship scholarship program for needy athletes and cheerleaders including a scholarship for a graduating senior who is affiliated with the organization. That's what they listed on their application.

>> HEATHER POST: I guess my motion would remain the same without the caveat then.

>> CHAIR BROWER: There's a motion to not approve by Post, seconded by Lowry. Danny Robins?

>> DANNY ROBINS: Is there anything we can do for these kids? Opening up Pandora's box. Even if we could cut it in half. I donated some tickets. Getting them out of the house, not behind those televisions and video games, and really sports and the leadership that they learn with these programs sets them up for success and being a good part of this community in the future. Thanks.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Well, he asked the question. I don't know the answer other than he said he donated and each one of us has the option to choose to donate. We could put it on the, I don't know if we could or not. We could talk about putting things like this on the website and asking for donations. Actually, I think it would be better if we did that individually on our own websites like we all do with them. So, with that, I'll call for the vote.
All in favor of the motion, which is to disapprove the donation, say aye?

>> Aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR BROWER: All in favor, say aye?
Or any opposed?
Are there any oppose toddies approving this?
Okay, was Danny Robins voting against the motion and six. Is Barb still here? No. Five voting to disapprove it with regret.

>> Mr. Chair, just to make sure I'm on the same page as council. We can report that back to you with the sponsorship policy along the lines, make sure we're capturing the intent if that's acceptable to you.

>> CHAIR BROWER: That would be good.

>> HEATHER POST: We've had many discussions on the sponsorships over the past couple of years. This is where we're going through. I can go through my calendar and there's 12 things this month with kids. And I know all of us can do the same. And again, we were just talking about the budget and so I just think for those youth sports activities, I just want you to understand, not against youth sports or youth football, but that's why.

>> BEN JOHNSON: I have to agree 100%. You know, originally I was the one who brought up when we cut the sponsorship amount and the idea was it was creeping up and getting out of control and using taxpayer money. We've done a pretty good job. I think before you came on, Jeff, actually two years ago it was $65 or 70,000 we gave away. This year we're giving away $17,000. Last year I think we gave away but about $20,000. As much as you hate to do it, because nobody is saying it's not a good program, we just have to draw the line somewhere.

>> HEATHER POST: Danny, do you maybe have their website or something you can say out loud if anybody out there wants to donate?

>> DANNY ROBINS:
>> CHAIR BROWER: You can work with that with Kevin and get it to all of us. We can probably end up getting them more money than they're asking for.

>> HEATHER POST: Thanks.
Ben said he's willing to donate.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Staff is getting tired and so is Fred's knee.

>> I'm doing pretty good.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Good. Community events.

>> Community events. Kevin Captain. Community information director. We continue to have the affordable housing initiatives that are being held every Friday. We have two more coming up. One on the 23rd and the 30th. We are working with community services on the summit for August the 31st. Just wanted to give a mention to our three current social media campaigns that we have for step up, wash up, mask up, vax up Volusia. We also have one on how to talk to your doctor if you questions about the vaccine, and another one on getting back to the moment. We've extended those campaigns through September 30th. We've also increased the amounts of money that are going to be going towards those campaigns. So, they continue. We know that there's a spike that's peaking again in Volusia County for COVID. And if I could, I would like to bring up Ethan Johnson quickly to give us an update on the health department side of things. He's the communications and performance management department with DOH Volusia here in Volusia County. If I could, Mr. Johnson, if you could just give us a quick update from the health department part on your marketing efforts, as well?

>> Sure. I'll be very brief. As you all know, there's been an increase. About a 50% increase over the past two weeks in COVID-19 cases. About 96% of those cases over the past month have been in the unvaccinated population. We're currently investigating about 38 active outbreaks, 19 of which are in long-term care facilities. So, we're making a large push, reaching out. I believe we've reached out to all of our long-term care facilities, and offered on-site vaccination to both staff and the residents there. So far, there's about 15 of the Delta variant cases documented, although that's likely an underestimation. Right now we're continuing to reach out to businesses, community-based organizations, and churches to provide vaccinations, as well as education. I won't list them all. But there's been several. We also have a few planned, one at Holly Hill. I think we have two events planned for county employees, as well as one at Stetson. We're continuing to reach out and ask our organizations to reach out to us if they'd like us to come and provide vaccinations there. We're also vaccinating at all of our health department sites, as well as providing testing to individuals who have either come into close contact with a positive or are symptomatic. If individuals are seeking to travel, they'll still need to reach out to their pharmacy or physician for testing. And lastly, we are providing all three of the vaccines at our locations. So, adolescents who are within that age group, eligible to be vaccinated, they can come to any of our location to be vaccinated.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Just a quick question. I heard from a doctor last night that the Delta variant was much more aggressive, but fortunately less deadly. Can you confirm or deny?

>> Yes, we've heard that it's more transmissible, not necessarily more deadly. We do know out of all of our variants, the U.K. variant makes up the majority of them, but what we're seeing come in the most is the Delta variant. More trans missable, not necessarily more deadly.

>> CHAIR BROWER: How many deaths have we had this month?

>> This month, I'm not sure.

>> CHAIR BROWER: This week? Is it less?

>> We haven't noticed an increase in deaths right now. Mostly hospitalizations, but that data also lags. It will be probably a month before we're seeing the impact of that, the increase in cases now.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Okay. Apologize for putting you on the spot. But death is ultimately, it's a painful disease, I know. But we don't like losing people. All right. Fred?

>> FRED LOWRY: I just want to make a comment that any time you have a mutation off of it it's always less deadly. It gets weaker and weaker. It might be more contagious. Some people are thinking it will be more powerful. It will not do that.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.

>> Thank you, Mr. Johnson. Just to continue with events, today the Nathan F. Cobb interpretive panel was installed at the beach. This was a ship rock from 1896 that set up from Brunswick, Georgia and got caught in a gale and landed in Ormond Beach many years ago. This panel has been installed. This is what it looks like. It gives recognition and acknowledgment of the history of the ship wreck and it was prepared by Coney historian Tom Baskett. I hope Big John is listening and he'll be very happy that it's installed. Just to give you a heads up on the public meeting.

>> Can you tell us the location? Can can you tell the public the location of where it is?

>> The location of where it is, it's on the beach in Ormond Beach just south of the cardinal approach.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Was there gold on board? Because we're looking for new ref revenue sources. (Chuckling) Seriously, was there gold on board?

>> It was mostly timber. The historic society, and there will probably be a Volusia County Magazine feature on this. There's a home in Ormond Beach now that used some of that material. So, the history stays with us. It's interesting.

>> CHAIR BROWER: I asked because I spoke to a treasure hunter from Russia on the beach in ormond by the sea last Friday night. He said Ormond-By-the-sea is well known, at least drawing him from Russia, for having ship wrecks with gold on it.

>> You may want to get a metal detector.

>> We shouldn't be disclosing the locations.

>> CHAIR BROWER: We're getting punchy now.

>> I'll just mention from the website, you can go to the calendar and we have all the affordable housing dates on there, too. Just a correction on the summit. It's August 27th. And also, Mr. Callum from the airport already mentioned this. The award that the airport got, which is great. Also, as I close I'll mention we're working with Brad and resource stewardship with the ECHO program on the grant cycle. More information will be coming up August 3rd. You'll probably get more information before then. We're working with them on that, too. Any questions?

>> CHAIR BROWER: I don't see any. Thank you, sir.
Item 21. Karissa Green. I'm not nominating you.

>> This is for one appointment to the housing finance authority. You do have two applicants. John and Sandra. Any council member can make the nomination.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Is there three nominees?

>> Yes, I apologize. Arthur who spoke this morning. He has also put in his name for the housing authority and the Daytona Beach racing authority.
>> CHAIR BROWER: In the e-mail I got, he said this is his preference. He would take either. But he's really interested in the housing authority.

>> Sandra Boyd and John Adams.

>> HEATHER POST: I'll move to appoint Arthur Cowitz to the housing authority.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Heather nominates Arthur, second by Lowry. Are there other nominations which would make it more complicated?
Seeing none, I'll ask for the vote. All in favor of Arthur Cowitz.

>> Aye.

>> I would like to clarify. The motion is also to adopt the resolution that would appoint Arthur.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Okay. That's what we're voting on. The resolution to appoint Arthur.
Billie has voted yes. All else in favor say aye? Any opposed? The motion carries 6-0.
That's right. Barb.
Okay.

>> BILLIE WHEELER: I'm jumping on the next one.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Okay. Item 22, resolution appointment to the Daytona Beach racing and recreational facilities commission. Do you want to give us more information about that Karissa?

>> This is for one position and the incumbent Jeff Hurt has reapplied.

>> BILLIE WHEELER: I'd like to make a motion to appoint Jeff Hurt, adopt the resolution for appointment.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Motion by Wheeler, second by Lowry. All in favor say aye? Any opposed. Motion carries 6-0. Thank you, bill Lee.. Billie. Item 23. Appointment to the volunteer firefighter advisory board. Heather Post, did you want to say something about the last one?

>> HEATHER POST: This one.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Okay, Karissa, tell us about this one first.

>> This is for an appointment to the volunteer firefighter advisory board. They recommended Mary Yokum who is currently on the board, she just didn't get her application in time. As soon as I got it, I put her application on.

>> HEATHER POST: I'm very proud to nominate or appoint Mary Yokum to the volunteer firefighter advisory board. If you want to talk about someone who is dedicated to fire services in this county, that is this lady. I see her at everything. Very proud to appoint her and get her.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Nomination by Post, second by Lowry. All in favor say aye.
>> Aye.
>> Any opposed?

>> BILLIE WHEELER: Aye.

>> CHAIR BROWER: That was for, wasn't it. There's a delay, Billie, I'm sorry. Motion carries 6-0.
And is this the last one? Yes.
Item 24, appointments to springhill Community Redevelopment Agency. That's who we heard the gentleman from this morning, correct?

>> Yes, Mr. Davenport, who spoke this morning, he resigned and no longer wants to be on that board. One is recommended by the city of DeLand and then appointed by the council. The city of DeLand doesn't have any applicants yet. You did have two applicants for this board that you could appoint that live in that area, however as I sent you guys in the e-mail, Miss Jessie Harris did pass away this weekend unexpectedly. So, the only application that you guys would have is Mr. Anthony Hill.

>> I'll nominate Anthony Hill.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Johnson nominates Anthony Hill.
And Lowry seconds that nomination. All in favor say aye.

>> Aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed? Motion carries 6-0.
And with that, we'll go to comments by council and staff.
And Mr. County manager, George Recktenwald.

>> GEORGE RECKTENWALD: The hour is late, so I have nothing to mention.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Michael Dyer?

>> MICHAEL DYER: Nothing at this time. Thank you.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Suzanne, I always like to ask you, just in case.

>> No.

>> CHAIR BROWER: All right. Before I go to council, I will go to you because we might to respond. So, from the public, John J. Nicholson. His first time appearing in public.

>> John Nicholson. Beach side, Daytona Beach. Three things. One, last planning board for the city of Daytona Beach, there are only two properties left on LPGA before it hits ISB. Remember I told you it was coming down. All right? Has there been anything down on the Tamoca Farms Bridge? Because we need it. We talked about the bridge on the north part of LPGA and Heather was nice enough to say it takes ten years to go through. We don't have time for ten years. The property down at the south end of 95 on the city of Daytona Beach on the east side is being developed and there's talk about the rest of the property north around the dog track of being developed. So, everything is going to move west of 95 and that's where that roadway is. So, I'm asking you to please pay attention to it. Secondly, at a meeting this past week, a board walk was suggested for north of the present board walk. I know that Danine wanted one south. All of the development is north of the board walk. There's several hotels, expensive hotels. It would be a great connector. I just wanted to bring it to your attention. I know at the time Kelly put the money back into ECHO funding. I think it's still there. It hasn't been spent. So, if you could look into the idea of expanding that boardwalk north to the Hard Rock and university, I think it would be fantastic. It's been great to pull that huge number of hotel people down to the board walk and to the pier. Also there was a thing on the agenda for the city of Daytona Beach. An RFP has been issued for a second peer and amusement area at the pier. The city owns several properties there. It's about to be developed. In a couple more days the RFP will come into fruition. That is coming down the pike. And lastly, affordable housing, I want you to be aware you got a bargain. $23 a month for an apartment to help with affordable housing is a bargain compared to what the city of Daytona Beach did. A Project Called Hope helped a woman buy it. Over the next three years they will donate to her $350,000 to help her buy that house, over the next 15 years. Your $23 seems skimpy. If we do affordable housing, I ask you please do not give these people $2,000, 3,000 or 4,000 toward a house. Until you want to pull out a checkbook, that money comes from taxpayers. I want to ask you to be very careful when you give away money for affordable housing.

>> BEN JOHNSON: The other day you mentioned that wall that was waist high. We went down there and it was only knee high.

>> He grew or I'm short.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Familiarity breeds contempt. Now we'll go to Mr. Johnson.

>> BEN JOHNSON: We've been here long enough. Nothing.

>> FRED LOWRY: I grew up in Delaware, and I love board walks. Rehobeth Beach has an awesome one. We need to think about that. That's all.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Heather Post?

>> HEATHER POST: Ewe've been talking a lot about recruiting and retention. There's been a big push over the past however many years at the governor's level, at the federal level, at the county levels for vocations and to get away from the college degrees and focus more on vocational and those benefits. And we've really been looking at the benefits of that in our county. And it's been a big push with Volusia Flagler Career Source and others. In looking at some of the different funds, and it was brought up to me, we are in need of firefighters and I came across, I had asked before are we recruiting. And the response I got was, I said where are we recruiting. And I found out one of the places we were recruiting was Stetson University. I said well that sounds odd to me, as a layman person, that we would be recruiting for firefighters at Stetson University. But in doing a little more questioning is it's because we require a college degree for firefighters. So, now we're wondering why we can't hire firefighters, but then we're requiring a college degree. And then we ask them to go to firefighter college. And later on we would most likely to go to paramedic school. Is that something we can dismiss? I know we say it you must get it within the four years. So, let's look at that aspect, right? We're saying either you need it to get on, or if you don't have it already, as this vocation, we expect you to get it within the four years. So, now you can work for us. We have mandated overtime. We want you to be with your families. When in the world are you going to be able to go to college? So, I don't think that that's fair to our firefighter personnel. Not just being fair, but if we're looking, if we're desperate to find good firefighters, and my question before was why aren't we recruiting out of the high schools? Why aren't we recruiting at some of these other areas. That's actually why. We can't get them out of the high schools. Can we change that.

>> Yes, ma'am. Joe, public protection director. There was a push some years ago to have a degree status in fire services. We've looked at that from time to time and we certainly can look at it again. We do not have trouble recruiting firefighters. We have good numbers when we advertise in fire services. We are having trouble recruiting paramedics. We aren't having trouble recruiting EMTs. As far as the fire goes, and I'll get you the latest numbers, and I'll get you what our recruitment numbers are. I think we owe you that. But we can look at the degree status. I understand the work-life balance that you're talking about when we get them in the door because we have other degree pieces as they get promoted, as well. There are degree requirements. And that was put in. But if it's council's wish and the manager's wish, we'll certainly look at that again.

>> HEATHER POST: Maybe we need to look at that later, the supervisory section. I'm not asking us to get into the weeds, and I don't need recruitment reports or anything like that. If you look at it at a basic level, I don't need any of that.

>> Well the degree requirements, they sort of stair step up. I think it would be fair if we look at one level, we should look at other levels, as well. It sort of steps through the promotional process.

>> HEATHER POST: Well, you're expecting them to be at least four years to get to that next step, I would imagine. Could we not negate it now and then look at work on those steps?

>> Mr. Pozzo came to my office the other day with the discussion about that and the EMTs and the paramedics in particular. That's our biggest concern right now, those two areas, and we'll look at the firefighters, as well. My understanding was more in the promotional areas. We can certainly take a look at what we need to do to make sure we're getting it because we need it. And definitely, like I say, to your point on all vocational issues, we're even looking at that because I believe right now in certain schools, to be a paramedic, you have to have a degree to get the paramedic. But that may be a candidate to go to more of a certificate program and then maybe you can pick up the degree. What we try to do is work with the school to make sure that your credits can kind of count so you can continue to build. And that's what I have asked the schools to do in the past where we can and maybe make some commonalities between certain areas like corrections, fire, these areas so that someone can get started and switch careers or areas and then again not have to restart any kind of a process. Very good points.

>> HEATHER POST: Thank you. And someone had asked about a crosswalk in front of the old courthouse actually here. I don't know if we can look into that? That's actually employees for walking across.
We have the crosswalk on the other side, but we don't have it.

>> GEORGE RECKTENWALD: We'll certainly look into that. We may have more of a need than we thought. We'll look into that. Thank you.

>> HEATHER POST: I wanted to point out the board appointments. I try to reach out to people in my district that provide the board applications, but I have to say it was wonderful to have a board applicant actually come in to us and basically sell himself and show his passion for the position. That was really nice. I just want to throw that out there, as well. On the last part I have is actually, actually I have a side thing. Is that Hardy Smith back there I see? It's good to see you. I haven't seen you in such a long time. If anybody doesn't know, he was working with Daytona before for a very, very long time. Welcome, good to see you. Okay. So, fire and EMS. No one mentioned the Deltona firefighter incident that was all over social media and everybody was calling. But there was an issue with EMS response relative to that one specific issue with the city. The city was unable to respond due to our agreement with them because it wasn't under their required time frame. We ended up responding and there was an issue with response time. I don't want to get into the true discussion of that specific incident, but I want to use that to have this conversation. So, we did have in-person public discussion. I think someone from EMS came in today. Someone from fire came in today. And asked basically for help, asked for us to look at things and really assess some of the things that are happening. There's a couple things I can point out. Paramedics. We've lost 24. The number I have. We've lost 24 paramedics since January. That was the numbers I have. The OBS, the Ormond By the Sea ambulance. Council approved to have an ambulance 24 hours up there. The reason is it's up there because there's no longer a hospital. And we then made it 12 hours, and now it's being driven all over the place, so it's not staying up there. Changes. EMS is routinely at level 0. And we have, there's just a number of things. We have Advent Health. There's discussions with the city. The city is all looking for discussion with exceptional care. The EMS director. This is good timing because the EMS director is leaving. And we're bringing on someone new, so this is very good timing to really sit down. Advent Health is looking at doing their own thing for patient care focus. So, people are pulling out, and I think this is an excellent time for us to really look at those divisions again. And I would bly suggest and I would actually like to have a workshop soon on that, especially since we're looking at the budget, before we do the budget. And finalize the budget. I would really like to have a workshop validating in one workshop those two divisions so that we really get a good idea and lay out where those are accurately.

>> GEORGE RECKTENWALD: As far as making a major model change, that would require more than a few weeks, and we only have a few weeks for the budget.

>> HEATHER POST: Sure.

>> GEORGE RECKTENWALD: We can go over what we used to call the mini budget. But kind of a status of where they're at and what we're doing now. I will say we have talked to the city of Deltona and we are increasing the hours of that municipal agreement. We're also looking at some innovative tools to use for recruitment and retention that will be putting out shortly. But those are not model changes. They're working with what we have and we can report on that. And I can tell you, yes, the EMS system is in constant evolution. And I think that's what we've really talked about through the years is how do we evolve it. And again, Mr. Pozzo is very diligent, in my office, a lot of concerns. Patient care is our number-one priority, as well. So, we'll work on that. We'll put something together. But it will be more on the lines of showing where we're at, what our challenges are, what we've done so far. But as far as a model change, I think it's a much bigger discussion and probably should include because we cover the whole county. It's really something that I would say like we've done in the past involve the cities in that discussion.

>> HEATHER POST: I'm not asking for a blueprint on a model change in two weeks; I'm just asking for a workshop to show the status of where we're at in both divisions. I would really love to hear, because it sounded like they had input, I would really love to hear from those divisions so we get a picture of where we're at.

>> GEORGE RECKTENWALD: Very good.

>> I would just comment that I speak with Jason Laddeman regularly and he is on board with everything that I have presented to him. I'm not aware of any concerns with fire. They have not come to me, the fire chief or me, with any concerns, other than staffing piece. It's two out of six of the engine companies that we have left. We've budgeted for six more in next year's budget. If we get the Safer grant, then my recommendation has been to the manager that we hire the 12 that we do the Safer grant and we add the six. So, we've been chipping away at that for the last three years.

>> HEATHER POST: We've been doing a lot of things for the last three years. We have the city's input, we have Advent Health who now has input. I would just like to know firmly where we are and move forward. Where we need to be. The council proposed, you know, a number of changes over the last few years. One of those changes was the OBS ambulance. No longer happening. To the point.

>> We have two up.

>> HEATHER POST: No longer happening to the point that we initially requested. We went through and we did the model for fire. We did, and I've said this many times. We said we basically do A-Z, and we did A-F, six months later, to find out that that was not done, nobody said anything. So, I just want to, this is not coming specifically from me. I mean you had people talking this morning. We've got, you know, Advent Health asking questions. We have lots of various people asking questions and so I'd just like to know where we're at and make sure we're moving forward in the right direction.

>> Glad to. I'll reach out to Advent Health because they haven't talked to me, as well.

>> GEORGE RECKTENWALD: Exactly. They've made overtures at public meetings and stuff, but they've never come to me or Mr. Pozzo and explained. And the Ormond Beach fire station with the ambulance, we are still part of the coastal unit response on medical. I think it was mentioned today by the person representing EMS. They're there, but yes, when they go to the hospital, if they're called, if they're the closest unit to another call, they would have to go take that call. They don't necessarily drive back to that station. They more or less work their way back. And then the system controller back fills behind that by moving other units up onto the peninsula. It's not a fire station model where they're sitting in there because they're working their way back because there's so many more calls that they're getting versus what happens with a fire call. But we are stationing them up there every day. They just have a much busier day. I get this phone call from time to time down in New Smyrna down at the fire station. Hey, there's no fire truck in there. Yeah, it's out on a call. We do have that that occurs throughout a very large system. So, they're in movement.
That's what we depend on.

>> HEATHER POST: Well, we don't need to discuss it all now. Okay, thank you.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Are you done?

>> HEATHER POST: Yes, I am done. (Chuckling).

>> CHAIR BROWER: Danny Robins.

>> DANNY ROBINS: Thanks, Chair. While digging into the 16th Avenue project, I heard a lot of comments just reviewing some of the old city council meetings and county council meetings dealing with traffic down in that 44 ramp and Flagler Ramp areas. And I want to make sure we're doing our part. Do we know or is council open to exploring ideas of signage or additional signage just advertising where our folks or our visitors or even our residents can get beach passes on their phone or when they pull off to get food and drinks, just to alleviate the congestion at the beach ramps and in our core areas. We can even look at that. It can apply to 92 and 95. Bevel Road, all of our major thoroughfares so we don't clog up and we can get people on our off the beach safely. If council is cool with that, or excuse me, good with that, and send it over to staff, I think it may be a good benefit. Good?

>> CHAIR BROWER: No, I agree. I've talked with the mayor about doing that, doing something with technology and with signs. Even saying we're full, go to Dunlawton. Some bar is asking a discount. Thinking outside of the box.

>> No!

>> On that note, I want to make council and those aware that we launched a new beach app for both android and Apple telephones in the last two weeks. You might have noticed from community information some promotion of that new app. It is live. It is interactive. It tells you which beach ramps are open, which are full, which are not, and does direct beachgoers to those places where capacity exists. I certainly urge everyone to download that app and use it. We also do have protocols, especially for New Smyrna Beach, as well as Port Orange and International Speedway with signage that we post as far west as I-95 as we can to try to direct beachgoers to where capacities are. But right now, for realtime data and the best information, the beach app is providing that. I want to thank community information and the beach services staff and IT. I believe our internal IT department wrote that new app and it is outstanding.

>> DANNY ROBINS: That's excellent news, Suzanne. Yeah, just something to the effect of purchase your beach pass here with our website. The other thing is for business, dealing with some short-term calls with the DOT and some issues we've been facing out there on the west end of 92 with Red John, I just want to give council a little bit of an update. With the incident at the homeless center, I met with DOT district 5, Mike Sanders, we've been putting our heads together to try to find some sort of a solution and work together. DOT has stepped up huge for us there, just letting council know and staff. They've so far completed a safety and operational study in this area. They've installed just a few days ago pedestrian warning signs with flashers installed, both east and west of Red John Road. A new eastbound bus stop is being explored with a turn lane prior to the shelter for safety purposes. But a vehicle speed study has also been completed. That area is in the 85th percentile when it comes to speed and was approximately 70 miles an hour. They're also looking at rumble strip placement in the area and additional lighting at the bus stops. They are going to need help with some immediate short-term goals that really can't be ignored at this point, in my opinion. It's going to require some collaboration, some funding from us, with possibly some of these moneys that we have here and our partners. And I just need council's input on directing staff to come back to the table to possibly help out or supplement a little bit of the state funding for a possible crosswalk and street light enhancements. And the design of that is actually already underway with the DOT. But like I said, it's 9-12 months out and on their construction schedule. And they are going to need some help, but they are just going above and beyond for us and I just wanted to recognize that. Long-term goals, something that I picked up on is partnering and coordination with the state and VOTRAN to look at possibly extending the shoulder, almost making spurs because people are just going at a clip through that area. Making almost like a pull-off or something like you'd see a turn lane by the homeless coalition there or the homeless shelter to get that bus off the road safely and also get that bus to get back up to a partial speed safely while entering that highway when you have cars and trucks going past there at 60-70 miles an hour, and then come together collectively as a body and recommend the River to CTPO to consider prioritizing that corridor for design of long-term solutions in addition to the improvements that are currently being made. I think we should always remember that safety does matter and one life is too much, right? It's too much at any time. So, I think it's something we need to really think about. And they're just looking for input on that. And it's about it.

>> CHAIR BROWER: and lastly, before I get hit with cabbage and tomatoes, we're starting to get calls.

>> DANNY ROBINS: I know on some spots, I've been out to several residents down there where there's 40 foot before someone's back door. I've looked at a couple programs here, Florida Department of Environmental Protection has a couple of funding sources up to 75% of the project cost. I know Bravard has a program, as well, for what it is. Hopefully we can get it on our radar and maybe look on that. And I'll save the funding sources. I have three or four here. When is our next budget workshop for that?

>> We'll talk ARPA next Tuesday. And then we'll be looking at what the schedule will be for your two August meetings. And I think that's where we'll park a workshop for budget issues and these other things you're talking about.

>> DANNY ROBINS: Sounds good. I have a couple. I won't get into them now, but a couple possible revenue sources.

>> GEORGE RECKTENWALD: I got to say, Jessica is very well versed in those and we can talk more about that and the implications of that. It's certainly something we are studying and looking at.

>> DANNY ROBINS: Sounds good. Thank you.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Billie Wheeler?

>> BILLIE WHEELER: Thank you. Real quick, just wanted to have a shout out to G Beach. Two weeks ago I was at the Hard Rock celebrating all of their volunteers. It's one of the events we love in Volusia County. They do it right and are very organized and very structured. And they raise money to put back into Volusia County. And they gave, they had $500,000 to give back to non-profits. And while we were there, Hard Rock presented another check for $10,000 for the money they took in and then they had just a bag of little gifts or whatever that they just did a second auction and ended up getting another $7500. I just wanted to do a big shout out to them. On the other side, talking about the events that create problems. And as Danny was talking about, the traffic and everything else. I've pushed that Stacy from Daytona council has presented a task force. She contacted me and between the two of us, we have eight different beach cities. I guess it's because I have so much of the beach area. Eight of the beach-surrounding areas, plus our sheriff is on board, as well as I got to speak with at the jeep beach event, I got to speak with Frank, our new president of the speedway. He is also on board and Daytona will be sending out the invitation for those people who have agreed to be on it for a task force that we're going to come together and figure out ways that we can all support our police officers and what we can do to curtail some of these special events that aren't sanctioned. And the social media events that get out of control. We've got to figure out a way. It's not fair to the officers trying to take care of it. And it's certainly not fair to the residents in Volusia County and our beaches and everything else. We have representatives from each one of those cities that are willing to do it. Like I said. As well as the county. I'm going to be going and the sheriff'ses department, and even the speedway. So, people want to blame the speedway on that last event. And their event, and the one out there was very well organized and contained. But it was the social media that took it onto another level. And then the last thing. I was moved up in my position to chair of the TPO on July the 1st. And two days before I took that office, we got the resignation of our executive director, Lois Bullenbeck. It has created about four additional meetings for me so far to have emergency meetings that we have to figure out how to handle. I've been meeting with their attorneys and we're moving forward, but it's kind of an emergency that we get an executive director in there. So, yeah. That's another whole ball of wax that we're going through. But we need the TPO working for us and moving forward. So, I will be representing Volusia County on that. So, it's a good time to get any Volusia County items that they want on TPO's list. Now is the time to do it. I think that's everything. Oh, and I did just want to say keep in your thoughts I just appointed Jeff Hurt to the racing and rec. And he is down and out right now with COVID. So, he did have both shots. So, I just want to throw that out to you. So, just keep him in your thoughts and prayers. We just thank him for wanting to make sure he was on the list again. That's all. Thank you.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Bash is . Barb is not here. I just have a couple things to mention. Danny, I think you're spot on with buses and turning lanes. Turning onto Daytona on east ISB, it was an earie thing in the light of what just happened when all of a sudden we realized there's a bus stopped in the traveling lane because there's nowhere to go. That's an issue. You're right about 44 traffic. But it's New Smyrna's own fault because they're so successful with Flagler Avenue. No matter what we do, people will still want to go to Flagler Avenue to eat and drink. We have to try. The board walk issue, I have spoken with the owner of the Plaza and I don't know if you have yet, George, but I know that you will. Even though they don't see it coming all the way up to the Plaza, he's actually lobbying for it for the beach side in general. And I'm thinking after talking to him, the best way I can handle it is to give it to you, to staff, to then take it to ECHO or whatever your choice is because that's probably the best funding mechanism. But it's an interesting idea that at least deserves conversation. I was surprised because I would rather walk in the sand, if I'm at the beach, and get the sand between my toes. But he said no, their guests would like that. I also told him there's no way we're going to get a concrete boardwalk in that soft sand because of turtles. So, we talked about kind of a nostalgic wooden boardwalk. I'm passing it off to you now. I've asked Jonathan to talk to staff about it. What
>> GEORGE RECKTENWALD: What I would like to do with that, because it's a big issue, can I take a look at what we had looked at before and just kind of bring that back as a refresher. And maybe we can go over what some of the issues and stuff were at the time?

>> CHAIR BROWER: Absolutely.

>> GEORGE RECKTENWALD: Okay, thank you.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Michael Dyer, I would like to ask you since you didn't want to talk, where are we on the Impact fee study? Has there been any progress?

>> GEORGE RECKTENWALD: That's actually run out of our growth management. And here he comes now.

>> Pardon me. Clay Ervin. Director of growth and resource management. We've got the preliminary scope identified and now we're going out basically for a continuing services contract so we can utilize a firm to initiate the first study as soon as possible. I've been working with Janine and Pam Wilski to get that out and I hope to get that out as soon as possible.

>> CHAIR BROWER: So it hasn't gone out yet?

>> Not yet.

>> CHAIR BROWER: How long will that take.

>> Our goal is to have that ready to rock and roll before the end of October.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Okay, good. Talking about revenue sources, I think I read in Ryan's report, Impact fees don't pay the bills either, but they help. They make a dent in it. So, I just want to make sure that keeps moving. Thank you.
Director Pozzo is still here? I just want to piggyback on what Heather talked about. I know EMS. I know you. I know the entire staff wants the absolute best response time for EMS. I would also like extended service in Ormond By The Sea. It's an aging population. In talking with different people within EMS, you know, I know you're struggling with a retention problem. You just mentioned it. I've heard the average person works 346 or 7 hours of overtime a year. Some people may say that's not much, that's less than an hour a day. But they don't work every day. Sometimes overtime is a problem, stress. As you and George talk, and I've mentioned this to George and other staff that if you aren't already, I am for talking about a little bit different approach. I know the mobile approach you have works and we don't want to get rid of that completely. But I think one of the things that would help with retention and stress is using some of the COVID money that we have and selecting. You'll have to do this. Select strategic stations, areas around the county where we could have a station maybe by a store front. Where after they get bled on, puked on, go in, get cleaned up, have a refrigerator, collect themselves, and reduce the stress level. I think it would help us to retain people. It's expensive to constantly recruit and train people. So, I'm just throwing that in. I'm not telling you what to do. I would like to hear feedback.

>> May I?

>> CHAIR BROWER: Yes, please.

>> The Ormond model was for 12 hours. We put it up for 12 hours and we kept it up for 12 hours. It is the only ambulance in the system that really has a district. But since we are so busy now and so shorthanded with paramedics and we do have a reduced number of ambulances on the street, we do allow that to post down into the A1A and route 40 zone, and sometimes a little farther west to Nova when we're just at level 0. I just wanted to clear that up. It's not that we abandoned anything. We have looked at putting that unit, you know, around the clock. But that's eight more people we would have to add or shift resources around. But I'd be glad to look at that. And when we have our workshop, I'd be glad to come back and show you how we would be able to do that. We have 19 vacancies today. 17 of those are underfilled with EMTs. So, way to plug the gap. We have a plan now to get 3 BLS units up. Put it in zones that we know have a high density of basic life-support transports. But that's a way to plug the gap to keep the advanced life support units available for those emergency calls. As far as recruitment, I got approval by the manager to do a for new hires a $4500 recruitment bonus that they get in $1500 increments. $1500 when they are hired, $1500 when they clear a paramedic, which they typically do in the first 100 days, and another $1500 at the half-year mark. And a current retention bonus for current paramedics. $500 and $3500 if they sign on for three years immediate. And $2500 at the other mark. And then raising the hourly rate for lead paramedics once you transition to that role. So, there's a number of things on the table right now to recruit paramedics and some things to plug the gaps so we can get them in. We currently have nine EMTs that are in paramedic school that we are sponsoring at Daytona State College. Sponsoring meaning we pay for them to go to school and their commitment back to us is a three-year commitment as a paramedic when they graduate. We also have six other EMTs in various stages of paramedic school. Some will graduate in December. Some will graduate in August. They're just going on their own. And we will make those bonuses available to them when they graduate as a retention tool. So, we are attacking it and the vacancies really started in November. We tracked that back in the November-December timeframe. We were at full staffing. But as soon as the first of the year came, we just had an exodus of paramedics. So, it is hard to recruit right now. It is extremely hard. It's very competitive, particularly in the region, the southeast region, particularly with fire departments because fire department is a 24-48, typically 24-48 schedule. It's more appealing. It's more appealing when you're on an ambulance and a fire station. So, we recognize that. So, you will see when you have your ARPA workshop three EMS stations, two for the east side and one for the west side. We're looking at something probably in downtown DeLand. We really haven't earmarked the east side yet, but we have start/stop stations, other than Ormond By the Sea, which is a fire county station. On Taylor Road, it's a start/stop. We have units that start and stop there and all of the facilities there are available to them. Station 23 off of route 44 and Wallace Road is a service center. It's a fire and EMS service center where we have units start and stop out of there and they have their own station. I think you were there for the gentleman who passed who had COVID. That is one of their places. Station 13 in North ormond off of route one is a start/stop station. Station 36 and Osteen is a start/stop station. We've gone to that model that you are talking about because it is nice and we understand it is nice to get these crews to a place where they can have their lunch or their dinner where they do have a clean bathroom. They're not using a 7/11 bathroom or a Walgreens bathroom. That's been something that the current union president who I've been working with since I've been in this role and before has asked for and we're making that happen. It is sometimes, it appears to be slow progress, but nothing we're doing there is outside of what council agreed to when I came to council in February of 2019 to expand that. So, we are working through those. We do look are there other posting locations where we can include a fire station? You know, during COVID, we reached out to several fire departments, municipal fire departments, Daytona Beach opened every one of their fire stations for us to go into. We've asked other fire departments that didn't quite get that welcome. However, we do try. And we will continue to try and do all that we can for that system. You know, but the fire staffing, you'll also see in the ARPA funding stations that we have currently budgeted for where we have pay as you go money, we've asked to put those into that ARPA so that we maybe could free some of that money up that we may be able to sped spread out over a few years. We may be able to add some people through that, as well. We're looking at everything as much as we can to improve conditions, particularly in EMS, because it is a stressful job and we want to be able to retain as many of those people as we can.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. I think, you know, the illustration that you just used, Director Pozzo, I've heard for four years, you know, we get messed up on some kind of a messy call and then we got to go to 7/11 and remove the heroin needle from the sink and try to get cleaned up. Then we work after 10 o'clock. If you work in west Volusia after 10 o'clock, the fast food is rolled up. You can't find a place to eat. They need a refrigerator and a place to get cleaned up. Anything we can do to help you speed that up, I think you'll find the council is willing. I just talked a lot about going to rollback. I understand the estranged just position - juxtaposition here. Do we need to move money? When somebody dials 9-1-1 and they need a deputy or an ambulance, they need to get it fast with somebody who is able to do the job and our people are. Thank you for that update. Two more are just informational for the council. One, I was going to ask about an RFP for advertising for bus benches and shelters. And I believe I heard this morning that that's already in progress. So, good.
Information for, I had a conversation with Tom Leek yesterday. One of the things we talked about is the Miami tragedy with the collapse and what can be done. There's probably not anything going to be done in Tallahassee. They're not in session. So, it's going to be a while. There's probably not going to be anything done by the Florida Building Commission any time soon. He suggested that I had talked to Miami-Dade about an ordnance that they already have. So, I called your friend, Sally Heymond, who is a lawyer and a county commissioner in Miami-Dade. She's sending me a copy so I can share it with each of you just for information so we can discuss it. I've been invited to talk to the Volusia League of Cities to mention that. I think that it's not just Volusia County that should act; that we should be acting as one with all of the municipalities, because the ones with most of the hotels/motels on the beach. But we need to be known as the safest place to come and visit on vacation. I appreciated Tom's help on that.
Heather Post and her husband, Terry, and my wife ended up in the same place. It was advertised that could happen in the newspaper over the weekend for a fundraiser for a life guard named Matt who is fighting brain cancer. It's usually terminal. It's a horrible disease. He's making tremendous progress, but it is an uphill battle. There was an ongoing fundraiser, Matt Hite, GoFundMe, anybody listening, if you can donate anything, it's extremely expensive to fight cancer. It was great to take part in that fundraiser. Lastly, it's come up today, I've been asked about it. I have submitted a bill of rights sanctuary resolution to our county attorney for feedback on how we could reassure Volusia County citizens that they are protected, that we all took an oath to uphold the constitution and we will take that seriously. So, we're still talking about that and the goal is to bring it to you for debate, not necessarily to pass, but for debate, so that each of you have an input on that and can see what we've come up with. Mike, I appreciate your help, and the debate on that. And that is all I have.
Ryan, you're looking like you wanted to say something in.
So, with that, I will call for a motion to adjourn unless.
Motion by Lowry.

>> BILLIE WHEELER: Motion to adjourn!

>> CHAIR BROWER: All in favor say aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
(Adjourned at 6:08 p.m. ET).