.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Good morning, everybody, we're going to start with public comments in about three minutes.
so I'm just giving you time to be nervous, get your thoughts together.
don't be nervous.
we're a friendly crowd.
and -- well, most of us, and we have a lot of people that want to speak.
so please stick to three minutes.
when you come up, just tell us who you are, and where you live.
what town you're from.
and there's a lot of people that want to speak on graduation issue, and I understand there's some students with parents because of a number of people that we have, if you would come up together, share the podium, that will help us -- we want to the be able to hear from everybody.
so we have 30 minutes to get through enough people for an hour.
But we'll do our best.
And 60 seconds.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay, good morning, we'll get started with public comments, if when I call your name, if you would come up to the podium, you can -- if you remove your mask when you're there, everybody will understand you better. And again, your name, where you're from, and we'll start with Roseanne Tornitor. Roseanne?
>>SPEAKER: My name is rose AEN, my address is 2500 south Melba road, Daytona Beach, Florida, OIM on the board for the first step shelter for the homeless and on behalf of Dr. Victoria, a well deserved mini vacation, she asked me to hello and thank you for considering bus stops at the shelter and I want you to know that the staff and the residents are very excited about this.
And we appreciate you. Thank you very much.
>>SPEAKER: And I'm Bob Williams, Roseanne asked me to come as well and I wanted to personally thank the chair and the vice-chair for coming out to first step, and particularly, I want to thank the county staff, they have done a phenomenal job working with us to help respond to this issue. And we just really appreciate all that you do T thank you very much. --
do, thank you very much.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
Peter van Laniker? Followed by Ricky Schrader?
>>SPEAKER: Good morning, I'm Peter van lanker, 6311 -- I've been here before. Speaking on the STRs. And this weekend was a little bit exceptional.
First, it started out, we have a house across the street at 6340 that is typically had some event there is and some people staying there, usually 6 or 8 cars, which has been fine, and then this weekend was typical, and there was 6-8 cars there again and kind of a spring break theme and then turned out to be a situation where it involved firearms and that sort of thing, and it turned out to be a BB gun, but a enough of a situation that the neighbor's wife across the -- couple houses, really next door, fortunate that her husband was there. This went around the neighborhood quite quickly and people said, gee, oh, we know these people okay, let's not call the police. So we didn't call the police.
Handle it neighborly. And then, last night at 11:00 at night, there was rubbingous in the neighborhood. There was cars leaving, 30 cars in the street if n the neighborhood. We found this upsetting and I have pick you are whicheses -- pictures of it. Beer cans in my driveway.
I built a house there. You know, intending to live there.
And have a nice life. And this is what is -- what you're turning the neighborhood into it seems like, and I had to do --
to bring this agenda during this COVID, you know, recovery is really poor timing. You know, people's attitudes, the way that the people have to live, we're all just trying to recover from this at this point and, you know, if you want to play the middle then, you know, don't manipulate the ordinance. Let the procedure follow through.
You know, you've been manipulateded the ordinance, I don't understand that at all. I feel like that you might be duped by slick presentations, you know, I've seen these kinds of presentations, this is big business at this point, this is the AIR BNB, this involves big business. At this point, what you're doing is you're driving the neighborhood away from the county. We want -- now, are considering to annex to the city because we think we'll be treated better by the city than by the county. So we have had enough. So this is where you're putting us to be. You know, we're a bunch of old people, but we can organize ourselves and I invite you to come see the neighborhood, and I challenge you to come down there and you can lead us all and work your dog with us in the morning. You know, I'm impassioned about this, I haven't paid a lot of attention to this type of politics, but I trust you, I'm paying attention now. Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
Ricky Schrader?
>>SPEAKER: Good morning, Rick Kay Schrader, New Smyrna Beach, I live in Bethune beach.
Short-term, I would like to point out that the issue of short-term rentals has been already been debated and analyzed in the past by the community and in prior county council. That is how we arrive at the current code provision.
A compromise between no rentals at all and free for all rentals, allowing 30 days rentals is that compromise. The state has its own rules, that Volusia County's right to regulate rentals was grandfathered in. If the county changes the rules and allows short-term rentals, that grandfathering goes away for good and the county falls under state control and can never get control back. Straight talk.
Playing with fire. When people choose to live in a neighborhood, they are seeking a certain way of life. One filled with a spirit of community.
People get to know and trust each other. People have a sense of security when they know who lives next door to them.
There's no such sense of security when there's a parade of strangers living next to you, there's a reason why the prior council's referred to short-terms rentals as hotels-motels, that is exactly what they are, commercial enterprises where people are constantly coming and going.
Those in favor of short-term rentals that they should be free to exercise their rights over their property, that's true.
You may not be able to have a pig farm in your backyard. And that restricts your property rights. Likewise, you may not be able to discharge a firearm around a movie theater or build a sky scraper, etcetera.
Businesses are prohibited, these are all reasonable limitations on what you can do in neighborhoods. The same is true of short-term rentals. And think about the violation of a person's property rights, who wants to live in a friendly, peacefull and secure neighborhood without living NOOEKS to a commercial enterprise. Hotel-motel. And it is argued that you can allow short-term rentals and pass and enforce prohibitions of things like loud noise, garbage issues, etcetera, that will not be an adequate solution for the neighbors. And it is too late once the violations occur. It is already been a breach of peace and an annoyance and it can happen again and again.
Which has been the history already with short-term rentals, there's an unpredictability about living next to short-term rentals but there being a potential of 52 different tenants, some who lack normal courtesies. Short-term rentals may have loud parties, park on your lawn, block your driveway, shoot off fireworks at 4:00 in the morning, these types of things have happened. And that unpredictability is unnerving and not what you expect in a normal neighborhood. And finally, ask yourselves honestly, would you like it if your immediate neighbors on both sides used their homes as weekly rentals? Please do not undo the compromise with 30 days rental.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
Micah Smith followed by -- are you together, Micah -- okay.
Thank you.
>>SPEAKER: My name is Micah Smith and I live in Pearson, Florida, I've played football for Taylor high school for the last five years and I can tell you from experience, that a game -- I didn't get breathed on, sweat on, and even spat on. And let's not forget to mention those two hour bus rides packed together like AR sardines to and from away games. Don't get me wrong, appreciate the opportunity to play my final season but I do not understand this double standard of allowing us to play a contact sport like that and don't allow us to sit next to our classmates or the ability for all of my family members to watch my graduation in-person. And in addition to my mom and I dad, I have siblings and grandparents who have been there.
>>SPEAKER: I agree with Micah and I share his frustration.
Give us a creative alternative so my son and other seniors are not put in that position to have to choose among people they love. During Micah's football season, our family was able to sit together in a pod, each held a number of people and distanced six feet away from your neighbor which now according to Dr. Fauci, three foot distance is safe. So why could couldn't the ocean center be set up in a similar way and have a larger grouping for family members to sit together? And I have a picture from TicketMaster of the monster trucks where you're able to buy tickets in groupings for three and two. I believe there is a safe solution to the unfair 30% occupancy rate at the ocean center, if you would be willing to limit the occupancy to the 60% that has been allowed for indoor facilities during bike week, fight for these kids who have already lost so much, they are so worth your time oncoming up with a solution. Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you both.
Jennifer Strickland? Followed by Jennifer Kelly.
>>SPEAKER: Good morning, I'm Jennifer stick land, I'm myca's aunt, one of those who wouldn't get to see him graduate this year. We are asking for you guys to lift the ocean center occupancy to 60%. City commissioners, voted to expand the indoor seating for bars, restaurants, saloons and venues to 60% for bike week and I quote from the news journal that they limited that capacity. So they have been operating above that for this long time. Bike week is really the only two words we should have to present to you guys. 300-400,000 bikers from all over the nation were just in our area. And it's not the same ability that you're giving our high school seniors to graduate together. Corey -- held at the ocean center and we have images from that event that show them sitting at round tables, not socially distanced and wearing masks. I'm not sure what the attendance level there was, but it's not again the same restrictions that the ocean center has put on the graduations. I'm going to reiterate, Dr. Fauci just had a study out of Massachusetts, that shows that high schools with a 3 foot and a 6 foot differential had little to know difference in the COVID transmission rate at those schools. What I'd like to suggest there is just as Micah has been playing football, those kids have been around each other at lunch and buses and at the cafeteria, so the ocean center's plan to socially distance even the graduates who are already interacting with one another doesn't make a lot of sense.
My final thought is this. Our Volusia County seniors are they worth less in the effort to find solutions than our bikers? I know that's not the intended communication that we have to our seniors, but that's kind of what the county is going to say if we continue to limit the high school events, senior activities, but allow other events to go on in our area.
Even mayor Derrick Henry, speaking about bikers not following the social distance guidelines, there's much photographic evidence said, quite naturely, as a leader who wants a safe environment, it disappointing, at the same time, I do respect people's right to make their own individual choice. We have a choice to not wear a mask. And a choice to interact with others that do not wear a mask. So following the same sentiments of the Daytona mayor, do Volusia County school parents not get a choice to attend the graduation or not to attend the graduation, does a grand parent not get that same choice? So what we're allowing you to do is the same courtesies that have been afforded bike week and all of the attendees there, simply open the Ocean Center occupancy to 60%. And relax the social distancing for the seniors specifically, and their seating, currently, the charts have been seating in the lower and -- the arena floor and the lower level, give us the chance whether to attend the graduation or not to attend the graduation. Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
Jennifer Kelly?
>>SPEAKER: Good morning. My name is general FWER FER Kelly, I'm a resident of Ormond by the sea, a mother of a junior attending sea breeze high school. I'm here this morning to address the council concerning the limits placed on the 2021 graduating students and their families. Although I do not currently have a senior, I will next year, and I fully support the effortses made by students, parents and teachers to allow a higher capacity for families to attend this year's graduation. I will be reading for you this morning a letter written by an orange city step mother, who could not be here today. She is broken hearted over the news that there will only be two tickets per family issued to attend her daughter's high school graduation.
Hello, I'm writing on behalf of my 2021 senior. My step daughter, came to live with her father and I in second grade.
At the time, her mother was struggling with an addiction to opioids. Her battle with the disease continued until her daughter was a freshman in high school. When her mother got well, things became easier for our whole family dynamic. We have all been our daughter's supporters. I have been to every parent-teacher conference, I have helped her with home work, science projects, school reports, studying for tests, and I have been to all of her flag football games, weight lifting competitions but with only two tickets per senior, I will not be at her graduation. I love my daughter way too much to make her choose which mom goes to her graduation. This shatters my heart. Please do not make the class of 2021 look back at accomplishing graduating Daytona Beach and surrounding areas. -- will help allow these students to not have to pick and choose which parent they're taking with them. To graduation. I myself grew up as having a bonus mom and a bonus dad. These kids are making decisions that they shouldn't have to be but I'm telling you all, that these kids are watching what we are doing.
They are coming to voting age and that one day, they will be casting their votes hopefully it had be for you drys seeing that you have all made a change on their behalf. Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: We have time for one more. Any other students here? That wanted to speak? Parents? Okay, John nickels? John Nicholson, our resident -- thank you.
>>SPEAKER: John Nicholson, Daytona Beach side. I'll hit this ocean center, it's an easy choice for you guys, when I graduated, there were over 1500 in my class, it was mandatory, you could only get so many people in, you got two tickets, the choice here is not that, the choice is, how scared of you are COVID at this point? All right.
All of the rules have been changing and it's now towards the end of the cycle. There's plenty of room in the ocean center, 7,000, it seats and then the floor, so there's plenty of room to do this. Secondly, when families get together, they don't need the 6 foot rule.
They really don't, they don't need the 3 foot rule, we don't have it here. So you have plenty of choices, look at it and give them what they need.
All right? Secondly, you have seen the newspapers about chip wood and young, I guarantee you, and you've all heard about the meetings, with the numbers and the figures and the whole nine yards, he know his numbers, so if he says that the numbers are 80%, it's 80%. But two years Heather, you corrected me at the time. Juvenile assessment center, Jack, I don't know where it is at this point but I hope that we jump on it like yesterday. Because it's needed.
I have a building, I found a building in Daytona Beach. The old license place. It's empty.
It has plenty of room. Talk to Jim, put it there if you need a place. We have it. Let's do it. Sea breeze, there's a meeting, especially Heather, to show up and Jeff, if you have the opportunity. Beach side Daytona Beach is a gem, it is a money-maker. The time and the place to renovate, not only the sea breeze, but the entire oak ridge to Glenn view area. If that is done, you know, there's -- I made a comment about this, 40 empty lots on the ocean but on A1A, there are 40 projects within the last five years. Of hotels that have been renovated, buildings have been renovated and buildings built, it is our time, so I'm asking you at least you three, and I know Girtman, it's hard for you to drive across the divide especially late at night, but those of you who live there, please come.
And support the renovation.
Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: It's 10:00, but let's -- let's continue this very unusual opening morning, George, if you would like to speak to the students and the parents here?
>>SPEAKER: Sure, just to say that we are in communication with the school board. A decision like this would not be done in a vacuum, it would require both this body and that body to agree. We are as far as a capacity number that's being band DIed around, we're not working like that, we're following the CDC guidelines, the federal CDC guidelines, which is important that we do.
To protect everybody. Both protect everybody's health and also to protect us from a legal standpoint. And so talks will continue, if you want to know the next -- if you want it on the next agenda, that's fine, that gives us time to continue the discussions with the school board and I know Mr. Riddle has already developed some other configurations. That will put more people in the ocean center, it may not be -- it could be that everybody could go, but we might be able to increase the family size that goes. And a lot of that is going to depend on continued improvement in the numbers that are out there. So we have a lot of reasons to be optimistic. It's just that the -- to sit here and say today what it's going be at the end of May, if anything, you know, this pandemic, has proven, that we just continue to get, you know, different information, different times. But I'm very optimistic.
And we can certainly adjust and it's a lot easier to adjust into an expansion than a contraction.
So we'll work on that. We'll work with the school board.
Because that is critical.
Because what we have now is what the school board asked for. So just wanted to make that clear in our discussions with the school board. That's what we have today is the two ticket system and that was what they wanted. So we'll continue to work with them. Tim, of course, not going to find a better convention center manager, at solving things and doing the things that he does, the magic he does. He's already got like I say, configurations that will work to expand the amount of guests. So let's keep hoping for great numbers. And maybe some CDC guidance. And/or maybe a little bit of guidance on a legislature for torte reform.
That would all help us. All right.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
It's 10:02, we have -- we still have a big stack of people that wanted to talk, you can -- we'll have public comments, again, in the afternoon. You can also speak during an item number, if you want to do that. I wanted to take about a two-minute break, and let everybody get ready, we'll start the regular meeting and then, just in light of what was just said, and in light of what councilman Johnson did totally out of order, we will -- we will bring this up again, probably during council member remarks. So that's at the end of the meeting. If you don't want to stay that long, I think you just saw that we all gave you our word. We will put this on the agenda. I would come back for that meeting. And that will be -- you're asking for the date?
>>SPEAKER: ( Inaudible ).
>>CHAIR BROWER: What time today? It may be close to noon.
It depends on how long Dr. Lowry talks this morning.
( Laughter ) so thank you.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: That Baptist minister chicken dinner, we'll get out of here.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Geez.
>>SPEAKER: Before we let them go, does anyone have the date of the next school board meeting?
Is the school board that made this ultimate decision? March 30th. Okay, so, just putting that out there for the public.
March 30th is the school board meeting, and I'm sure that the school board is receptive to your opinion.
>>CHAIR BROWER: And I would fill those chambers, as respectfully as you did this morning. And it is a school board issue. But there's --
there's no problem with the county council communicating with the school board as you have just done this morning, so we'll take two-minute break, come back at 10:07 and we'll start the regular meeting.
( Break taken )

( please stand by )

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>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay, obviously, we didn't keep to the time but we're having issues that we're dealing with, but we're going to call the meeting to order at 10:17. Thank you.

( Please stand by ) .
>>CHAIR BROWER: 10:18, if everyone would take their seats, we'll get started in just a minute. Is Darrell back in the booth? Does anybody know? He is? Everything is ready? Okay.
>>SPEAKER: Yes, sir, I'm here.
>>CHAIR BROWER: But who would know?
Okay, we're going to get started, we'll call the meeting to order. At 10:19. We're going to start with an invocation by pastor Joshua Owen of spruce creek Presbyterian church, if everybody would stand for the invocation and then remain standing for the pledge of allegiance. Thank you.
>>SPEAKER: Thank you. Let's pray together. All mighty God, heavenly father, from whom all authority in heaven and earth is named. You have appointed the governing authorities to be your servants for good. An approver of what is just and honorable.
Each one acknowledging the supreme authority of your son, Jesus Christ to whom you gave the nations for an inheritance.
We give thanks to you for the well-ordered liberty and peace we enjoy in our land. We acknowledge your grace in blessing us beyond our merits.
And despite our demerits. And we ask that by your kindness, we would be led to repent where we are failing you. Seeking your mercy and your paths of righteousness. Father, I pray for these representatives and their families. Thank you for giving them heart to serve others with the strength and skills you have given each of them. May you grant them even this day that wisdom from above.
Which is first purer than peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy, and good fruits. Impartial and sincere.
So may a harvest of righteousness abound from their labors of peaceful Government.
Father, as you lead us in your everlasting ways, we ask that you prosper the Government services and the businesses in our county that are honorable to flourish and service to the community. Bless our hospitality to visitors that we would be genuine and kind as we receive them without partialty.
Remembering the poor, the orphaned and the widow, strengthen your church in this county that your ministers would ever exhort us to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with our God, through Christ we pray, amen.
>>CHAIR BROWER: 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. PF.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Call the roll, please?
>>SPEAKER: Ms. Wheeler? Ms.
Girtman.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Here.
>>SPEAKER: Mr. Johnson? Here -- ( roll call ).
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay, we'll move to the first item, the consent agenda, and I have not had any indication until right now, that anybody wanted to pull anything. And now I've got three, I think, which item did you want to discuss or --
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Item G and item O.
>>CHAIR BROWER: For a separate vote or --
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Just for discussion.
>>CHAIR BROWER: G. And O.
Heather Post?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Item G for discussion only. I had item G for discussion only.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Barbara Girtman?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: E and E1 just for discussion for communication -- ( Inaudible ).
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay. All of these are pulled just for discussion. And.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I move that we accept the consent agenda.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Second, Wheeler.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Motion by Lowry, seconded by Wheeler. All in favor? Any discussion first?
After? All in favor? Say aye?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Aye.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed.
Motion passes unanimously. And we'll start with item E. Barb Girtman?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Thank you. I just think it's important for community assistance and community services to go on the record and be acknowledged for the support that is being provided within the community.
I was hoping that you would speak to that item.
( Laughter ).
>>CHAIR BROWER: ( Laughter ) she ran away.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I didn't understand you wanted me to speak.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I'm sorry.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I apologize.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: You said wonderful things.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I wanted to put it on the record and make them aware of the support.
>>SPEAKER: This is contract is 316187, like an odd number, the remainder of the food brings home contract that you all had approved last year, when we originally got our Corona funds.
And food brings home plans to continue to spend it as they did before but take a year to do so because they feel like that the need isn't quite as great as it was while it's still there. And they also-- to be able to spend it on personal items for children, such as diapers and wipes and formula. That wasn't originally contemplated in our very first contract with them, it was modified at a later time.
So that's what the purpose of this is. I do believe that the health acts ministries will be coming forward with an ask as well. To continue the good work that they did in the community of sharing food. And our presentation, in a little bit, you'll hear how much food you all managed to make sure that was sent out in the community, and it's in the thousands of tons. So it's a huge impact and the need is still there, while it might be diminishing a little, it is definitely still there.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Great, great.
And E1.
>>SPEAKER: So all of this is --
( laughter ) it is the state's new way of providing a contract to us. Several years --
three-year contracts and those three-year contracts were for separately CSBG and -- two funding sources that we get through the Department of Economic opportunity. And this just puts it into one umbrella agreement. And that's all that you're seeing here.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Thank you.
>>SPEAKER: You're welcome.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, and item G, Billie Wheeler?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I don't know who's here to speak on this, but I think that this has been such a front-page and everybody's concern, and this is such a good thing, thank you, if you could just explain it to everyone?
>>SPEAKER: Good morning, I'm Bobby king, community services operations manager. And I'm very happy to bring this item to you today. We reached out to Florida Department of Transportation to try to find an avenue for funding for the bus stop in front of the first step shelter. And they were able to open up a grant that had already closed. And which happened to have $56,000, we needed about $50,000 for the project. So that worked out perfectly. And they were an excellent partner in this situation and so we're bringing this to you for approval today. I would like to recognize three board members here for first step shelter, Roseanne right here, and Mr. Williams right behind me and
Mr. -- is right behind me.
Sorry. Thanks for coming.
>>SPEAKER: I might add that Roseanne was the one that contributed to having the safe -- what is it called? Safe zone. Out in front, so she contributed the amount to build that safe zone, so that -- she needs to have that special recognition for her efforts and she hates when I do that. But that's worthy of celebrating, thank you, Roseanne. Thank you board members.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Roseanne, you did want to stand? ( Laughter ) okay. Item O.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: That it was mine also. And I am hoping someone is here to speak on that? Yes. This is another one of the good things that we have been doing and continue to do.
And these are important things that we get out there. They kind of get lost sometimes in the consent agenda but I like to bring them to everybody's attention. Because they're worthy of people hearing.
>>SPEAKER: Good morning, Jessica with Volusia County coastal division. We are bringing forth a grant agreement today. For the Smyrna dunes septic to sewer project, we will go to bid very shortly, in total we have gotten $221,000 -- 256 -- I'm sorry, $221,256 out of our estimated $350,000 construction project. So it's pretty good overall. We hope to have this upgraded and leaving the ABLT in the project for future expansion. Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you very much. And Danny Robins, item K1.
>>SPEAKER: I just wanted to thank all of the members of the council, my colleagues, the staff, K1 on the agenda was the proclamation for deputy Royce James day, and deputy James in a nutshell, just went above and beyond for a young juvenile victim and a predator in district 3 and I wanted to commend him and thank the council for getting bind our first responder, they just mean so much to us. And thank you so much, I appreciate it, guys, thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
That's all -- was anybody else?
That was all of the ones that I have noted. We'll move to item 2.
Coronavirus assistance program presentation, and Donna butler?
>>SPEAKER: Yes, Donna comes up, I wanted to make a statement that, you know, one of the things I'm most proud of here at Volusia County is the way that staff does step up and wear whatever hat is required of them when it comes time for these emergencies. Coronavirus pandemic has been no different.
And we thought we would just take a few minutes to honor those people and a little bit about the programs that we successfully put together and we'll continue in some cases, as we go -- continue on through this pandemic.
>>SPEAKER: Good morning. So I'm not Donna butler, there are days I wish I was, I'm hill DA, the director for economic development here and Donna and I are both here today because we want to recognize the assistance that we've gotten on the program. And the success of those programs. I really feel you need to celebrate when you have that kind of support. From an economic development standpoint, the support ran from municipal to public sector, private sector, the full gambit.
But the resources and the assistance that we got internally,- I don't know if I can -- from the staff, was amazing. You got it? Okay.
So thanks to the council, we had over $10 million worth of economic development funds to distribute to the community to assist the businesses. Just over 9 million went to actual grants, where they were dollars given to the businesses. And then another million as you know, was contributed to PPE equipment distribution. Okay.
In order to move it forward, COVID hit us kind of quickly.
Right? I mean, nobody really anticipated this kind of situation. And the municipalities and the stakeholders were able to get together very quickly and develop programs that responded to our businesses needs and I think that's all part of the business retention and the expansion programs that are so important. We really didn't experience something of this magnitude in many years. This is just a -- one of the Zoom meetings we held weekly meetings, where we talked best practices and things that we could do, and that's where the programs that this council approved were actually initiated. And the ground work was great. The -- as you know, the relaunch business grant program serviced over 4,000 different businesses. And issued $9.3 million in checks.
So no small feat. I'll tell you there were over 22,000 interactions with businesses here. And the response that we got was so magnificent that the businesses truly appreciated the fact that they had one-on-one interaction, if they had problems with the technology, uploading documents, finding BTRs, your business tax receipts, they were able to call and speak to actual individuals.
Municipals were answering the phones in the first phase. And then, our county staff from all of the different departments came and supported the effort and just joined at emergency operations to respond to those needs.
You know, it's funny because we think that these programs when we put them online, are going to make life easier. But in some cases, the technology is the limiting factor. I know my staff tend to look at me as picnic, I don't know if anybody knows that acronym, problem in chair, not in computer.
( Laughter ) so we did see that with our businesses as well.
These are some of the steps, I'm not going to go through them, but it shows there were multiple levels that we needed to put in place to make sure that the funds were being appropriately spent. And here's the collaboration, these are some of the key county staff that interacted with us, we wanted to put them up there, but they're also where the county department s -- where it was too much to add all of the names so the departments asked that we throw the department name on in general. You know, everybody in the county was affected by COVID in one way or another. And I know some of you are aware that our department and economic development was personally affected, we lost Virgil Kimble to COVID complications after he had finished a fight with cancer so it has a personal touch to be able to do something positive for the community.
This is just some of pictures of the businesses with their checks, thanking us and while the checks weren't a huge amount of money, we did hear from the businesses that they were enough to help them keep the doors open for the hardest months. And if they can keep those doors open, they can keep their business going. Because many of you may know from the emergency response perspective, once a business closes its doors, it's that much more difficult to get started again. Right? Kind of like going to the gym. ( Laughter ) so we also -- the partner with the chambers of commerce, was huge, we distributed over a million dollars of PPE equipment at a time when our businesses were having the most difficult time to get those items. Who knew that, you know, toilet paper and paper towels would be in such high demand?
And then the kits were distributed at nine different lo locations to make sure that all of the businesses in the county had access. Again, the collaboration and the team work is just something that we couldn't -- can't speak enough about. And we're continue, we still have the Volusia business resource website and continuing to work one-on-one with the businesses reaching out. We worked very closely with all of our partners whether it's the county departments and staff, or externally, with private sector and our municipal practitioners, so it's a wonderful experience to see Volusia come together the way it has. Thank you.
>>SPEAKER: Working to feed our families, we partnered with Halifax ministry, which partnereded with the united way, vest Volusia and the Jewish federation to provide a lot community in our community.
United way coordinated their food distribution with several churches, community-wide. And that food distribution did not begin until June 1st. Hundreds of volunteers worked to package food at the ocean center and point out the date, over 1500 tons of food were SDRITHed in those six months -- districted in those six months. $2 million was expended to help folks in our community to put food on their tables. Food brings hope, the contract that you just now approved, distributed 420 tons of food. They're the ones that actually started the process of putting together bags identical, no matter what. Anywhere that someone went in the county seeking assistance through Eau our program, would receive the two same two bags of food that could feed a family of four for a week, it made it easier for buying purposes to buy the same things and we were able to really put food out much more easily. United way also took the lead and helped us to work with non-profits, similar to the business grant that you heard about, we had two different programs, one was with fewer than 25 employees, and they received $3,000, and agencies with 25 employees or more were granted 5,000. And they spent about $576,000. And 180 non-profits were assisted through this program. 162 had fewer than 25 and 18 had 25 or more. So this is the one that everyone really does get excited about, working together to keep our residents housed. And in a little bit, I'm going to tell you about the staff that was involved but I think that you saw a parade come in earlier.
-- $2800 and really only a little bit difference with the rent. 2869, which is 2026. So a total of $24 million and change, almost 24-5 spent.
That's a lot to be put in the community and stay in their hopes and rather than become homes. So I'd hope that you'll indulge me. This is only a fraction. And there are a lot of people in their offices listening right now. And I want you to know how important this was. Ray Monday Allen, Jason Al house -- we did have challenges putting this together, and moving forward, we were one of the first in the state to do this. We did not wait. --
-- ( reading names ) I pray I didn't forget anybody, but I hope you'll join me in thanking them.
[ APPLAUSE ]
Many of these folks were working other jobs. Some of them were actually given to us full-time for a while. But there's one person that I really need to acknowledge. Sorry. I have notes here. For those of you that read KEFens announcements, I hope that you saw that Carmen hall was named an honoree of the 40 under 40, because of the work that she did leading this group, that she got that acknowledgement. I just want to tell you, she's a class act and the video, have a chance, go listen, she gave credit to all of the staff who worked alongside of her. That's what she said about you guys.
So this could not have been possible without your support, making sure we have the funds to be able to provide to residents, the county manager's office going over and over our agreements making sure in conjunction with the county legal department, Ryan, kept telling us the rules that were current and then changing, accounting for processing, all of those millions of dollars of checks. And they weren't done in bulk. They were done individually for every single household that we assisted.
Human resource for helping us with the staffing issues, and the ocean center, especially, for allowing them to come in and put together all of the food for all of those folks in the community that the needed it.
In addition, all of the department division directors, including the clerk of court and constitutional officers who generously shared their staff with this program. Over 100 staff and one way shape or form that came and assisted in this program. So thank you very much for allowing us to do that.
Thank you for allowing us to brag about them today. And give them some recognition that I think is sorely needed. It's not always easy, serving in the roles that they served in.
Sometimes people are scared.
And that makes them angry. And it's also challenging, because of the barriers with the Internet and technology, they don't always understand how to do what they need to do. But these folks, they have a great why, they know why they're serving and it's just wonderful that they share that and help us to get through this program, so thank you very much, and thank you for appreciating all of these wonderful staff up here.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make sure that we get -- I get a copy of this presentation.
>>SPEAKER: Absolutely.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: I thought you were going to ask for Carmen hall to come forward so we could get a picture of her, we want to introduce her to the public.
[ APPLAUSE ]
You can't let her stand up here and shed tears by herself.
>>SPEAKER: Super proud of her.
Well, thank you guys for the recognition. Like Donna said, in my video, and I truly meant it to everybody and not just those that were working with our program across the county. It was just such a great experience. And that kind of sounds funny, but to go through such a stressful program for such a long period of time, would not have been possible and would not have been such a positive experience for me and I think for everybody else who is standing in the back, if they didn't have the support of everybody. It was really a neat feeling to know that everybody in the county was supporting you. And there are people who donated time for months, there's those that are like, I can give five hours a week, but I want to help, just a really need feeling to have to know you're not out therein on your own and you have hundreds of thousands of people supporting you, that was really neat and I'm very grateful to be working here, so. Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. I think you should have a seat right here, because I have a feeling you might not be done.
Councilwoman Post?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Well, I know -- I know I certainly dealt with a lot of -- is Corey brown here, by the way? Corey, I wanted to put a face with -- a face with your name. I know I've dealt with you, many, many times and I want to greatly, greatly thank you, I know the many times I've reached out, I've, you know, really been like -- we've got to get to point B, with this family, and because we know, you know, how anxious the families get and how much they're really relying on this assistance. And you have really, really worked to help everyone that I've sent forward and so has a good, good number of other staff, so I thank you for the people that I have dealt with, personally.
And one of the things I also wanted to point out about this whole giant situation, is this has never been done before. And how impactful that, you know, people say, well, it was only $8600, oh, my gosh, 8600 people, that is a lot -- that's not just 8600 people, that's 8600 households, correct? So 8600 households, so you think of that and then you multiply the ripple effect that that has on those children, on, you know, the people in the household in the workforce, the stress levels and the domestic violence, all kinds of stuff that stem from stress and not having money and being impacted from COVID, and all of the other requirements we're putting on people. So from the bottom of my heart, I thank everyone that has been involved in this. And I know that we basically just created something out of nothing. And we were the -- one of the first to do it in the state, so I greatly appreciate everyone's efforts.
And the fact that we were able to get from point A to point B, 8600 times is fantastic. So thank you very much.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Councilwoman Girtman?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Thank you, Chair. I want to say thank you very much for your prompt responses because I also reached out to assist and there was never any challenge, concern, BHAFR, you could do, you would do. -- whatever, you could do, you would do. That means so much to have that expectation when someone reaches out to us, and I know how difficult this has been through this process, while you've got the same concerns, everyone else has.
For your family, for your own community that's impacted by this pandemic, so I want to say thank you for all of your efforts. I know it's not easy and you still had to balance all of your other expectations, right? On top of doing this.
So I the don't take it for granted, I don't take it lightly, or the efforts that you had had to do and it is a model for the rest of the counties and state, what you've been able to accomplish, so it means a lot.
And thank you for taking the time, you know, to acknowledge the staff and let us -- let us know how important it is but also get it on the record and let the community know all of the hard efforts that our staff takes and for them not to take it for granted either, because your humans, families, parents and you have a lot of the same concerns that you had to work through. So I just want to say thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Councilwoman Wheeler?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I want to go along with both of my council members there. You know, I was contacting you as those passionate pleas were coming in to us, every day, every hour of the day, we were getting pleas of just one heart sick story after another. And I could forward those on to Carmen or Donna or all of the staff and I had a response on every one of them. Whether, you know, it was in the process of -- I had an immediate response. And I can't tell you how helpful that is to all of the council who want to serve their constituents. They -- they need to have an answer.
And all that you have given up to serve and do the jobs that you all have done. Trust me, it has made it easier for each and every one of us, and I think that we can all sit back and just say, we have done a really good job and probably one of the worst situations that we may ever endure, a pandemic of this size. Pandemic, I'm sorry. But we -- we rose to the top. We're still there. On the top. So I just want to thank you personally for each and every time that I have maybe pleaded with you two or three times on one person's case that you were listening and you were finding ways to make it work. I cannot speak enough, George, about our staff. Just incredible support for the council. Thank you very much for all your sacrifices, thank you for the exemplary job that you did. Sincerely appreciate it.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you all.
Every one of us up here could tell you the same stories, I can guarantee you that we have all been -- I don't know if buried is right word, but we received a lot of e-mails, requests for help, all of those requests were towarded on to one of you through Donna, Carmen, through Kevin, and then, the speed of the response is exactly how we hoped Government will work. So you are to be commended and because of that, the speed of the response, from the people asking for help, just saying thank you, thank you for replying, just a simple reply but then solving the problem.
So thank you all very much. You deserve all of the accolades and the applause that you've received this morning. So be proud of yourselves, thank you.
A group photo of the.
>>SPEAKER: In the center right here, underneath council. Yeah, right about there. Scoot in a little bit more. Shorter in the front row, taller in the back row. Get in there, too. A couple more in the front row here. Big smile.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Right into item 3, the Votran short-term recommendations, Donna butler.
Melvin Miller.
>>SPEAKER: While they're getting set up, I would say that we had asked our new company to take a look at things as they came in and make some recommendations on some efficiencies is, we're actually doing a larger study and a deeper study as we speak, these were items that they're able to take a look at right away and make recommendations to save us some money. This does take an increasingly larger portion of our general fund. Right now, we're actually getting some federal aid due to the cares now hopefully the -- the CARES Act, it lasted a couple of years in transit, and then maybe more coming in this new American recovery act or program. So but we need to be ready for when those programs go away, to be in the most competitive situation that we can be. Because this is a very vital service and needs to be run as efficiently as possible. With that, go ahead.
>>SPEAKER: Good morning, Kelvin Miller, general manager for Votran, what we have today is a presentation for some short-term efficiency recommendations for improvement of the service. I'd like to first of all, thank the Votran staff for putting together these recommendations for the council.
On the first slide, you will see that we came up with three recommendations to do some efficiency standards and that is basically a saves of about $224,000. To the general fund.
I wanted to say that you see there's only three recommendations up there, we did look at other routes, other times of days, and other services, that we provided to see if we could save in those areas. These were the three that we came up with to make the most sense for right now.
As the county manager said, we do have a TDP going on and they may come up with other recommendations for services.
So these services as I said, save us about $224,000 just to the general fund. Some of these other funds will also help us in the grant funds. Any of the changes that we do take into account will take us about 90 days to implement. This next slide, you'll see that some of our higher performing routes on the east side and the west side, the east side, our highest route is the route 4, which travels down the South ridgewood and on the west side, it will be the route 20, that basically connects Deland to Deltona. I hope I said Deland right. But and then, the SunRail route is probably the second one on the west side. In our west Volusia route, you'll see that how they are performing, these are passengers per hour. And the two of the recommendations that we have of the route 24 SEville and the route 24 Holland, some of the lower-performing routes on the west side. Our first recommendation is to the route 25. How land avenue, that actually, we suspended that route when COVID started. We haven't run it when it was running, it only took about one passenger per hour, so it was not very effective. Our recommendation is to permanently eliminate that route and then, look at all other alternative methods to serve that area, one can be van pools, the other could be potential transportation disadvantaged trips.
We have reached out to SPER prize to talk about --
enterprise to talk about van pools, that's something that we will look into. The route 25 is basically to the general fund savings about $100,000, which is the -- of all of the recommendations, saved us the most amount of money. The next route is the route 24 SEville, our recommendation there is to change that service from fixed route service to a transit development TD, what we call TD trip service. We are not going to eliminate service there all together. We will -- the people who ride the service there will have some service, they'll have to use the transportation development, it's a little bit different than the fixed route service, in that on the fixed route, you actually have to walk out to a bus stop to catch the bus, so depending on where you live; it may be a quarter of a mile or three-quarters of a mile for you to walk to get to a bus stop. With the transit development, they actually come, it's more curb to curb, door to door, type of service, so the bus will actually come to where they live, catch the bus, and then they can go wherever they want to go.
One of the advantages to going from a fixed route to a TD trip, right now, the fixed route, there are only three trips a day that the bus makes out to the Pierson and SEville area. If we change it to a transit development, they'll have service all day long, it's basically an on-call service, call up, make their scheduled trips, a lot of folks say I want to call every day to make a trip, if you have a trip that you do every day, you can do what we call a subscription service. And the that means that they can set it up ahead of time and you don't have to keep calling every day to schedule your trips.
This basically -- what we're going to do with that is take the grant funds, move it from 5307, which is the small urban funds, to a TD trip. Funding there. Actually, with the TD, we do not utilize all of our TD trips, so we'll have to -- we'll be able to utilize some of the 5307 for other services and also getting the best use for our TD trips. If we are -- if we do make the changes out in SEville, we will go out market the area, market the service to make sure that no one is disenfranchised from the change.
We actually did go out, we did on board surveys on the bus. We actually went out and we did two public hearings out in that area to talk about service. And so we made sure that we got the word out to the folks about the potential change in this survey.
From the surveys, about 71% of the folks would use the TD trip.
About 29% said that they would be disenfranchised from that service, some of those folks who were disenfranchised have other means of transportation.
As you can see, route 24 would actually save about $110,000 --
well, it costs about $110,000 to run the fixed route. And this is from the grant funds. And about $137,000 from the TD. So we would be able to use more of the TD funds than we use for fixed route service, general fund savings is 91,000. The next one is route 44. It's basically a fixed route. Our recommendation is to change that to a flex service. Basically, a flex service is a mixture of fix route and like light TD or para transit trip, folks can call up, make a scheduled trip, go to the door and pick them up, the bus will make some scheduled stops on the route. A fixed route, walk out to the bus stop and catch a bus, out on a certain amount of time. On the flex service, you have more flexibility in how you schedule your trips. Currently, in the new Smyrna, two flex services that are running now in that area. The savings basically is coming from on the route fixed route service, we actually are using a large bus, with the flex service, we use a smaller bus, which will save us on the fuel.
And that's where the savings basically comes from.
It's more convenient for the riders, it's cheaper than para transit, and it's a lower operating cost.
And the annual savings to the general fund is about $33,000.
Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Stand by, I believe we have some questions, Dr. Lowry.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I'm ready to make a motion to accept the changes today.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Second.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Motion made by Lowry, seconded by which one of you want to claim it?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER:
( Inaudible ).
>>CHAIR BROWER: Seconded by Girtman. And discussion?
Barbara Girtman?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Thank you. I certainly can appreciate especially in the rural area, the Pierson SEville, I really think that this is a better way of meeting the community where their needs are. Versus trying to do a fixed route and have them try to fix that square peg into the round hole.
My question is, will Deland springs be able to participate in that it basically said Pearson SEville, so I would think that Deland springs would be part of that opportunity.
>>SPEAKER: With the TD service.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Correct.
>>SPEAKER: It's basically, they would have to meet the criteria in order to provide for that service.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Okay.
>>SPEAKER: I can't say right now that they would or wouldn't, we'd have to look at that area to see if there's a qualification for that.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Can we look at that?
>>SPEAKER: Yes, ma'am.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: As well.
>>SPEAKER: Yes.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Rural as pearsen and SEville as far as access. So I thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: I see no other questions. So we'll call for the vote, all in favor of accepting all of the recommendations for savings as have been described, say aye.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Aye.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed?
And the motion passes 7-0. PFWe'll move to item 4. Beach special event application, shark bite media public messaging.
Joseph Poso?
>>SPEAKER: Good morning, this item is seeking approval to allow a floating digital billboard, in the ocean, off of Volusia County beaches. Item further seeks to allow approval of the floating digital billboard to come within 750 feet of the shoreline and certain high density areas as displayed in the map attached in the special event permit, in your package, pages 04-10 and 04-11. The current beach code only allows vessels to come within 1500 feet of the shoreline and that includes boats, skis, or any motorized vessel.
Council approval for this item would be through a beach special event permit, that will expire on December 1st, 2021. The vessel itself will be Moored in ponds until the and begin its route as it comes out of the inlet, proceed north to or Monday beach and head south to New Smyrna Beach. And it's at sea love marine on front street in Ponce. There's three conditions to the permit proposed by staff. If council approves this special event application. Staff does recommend approval subject to the staff proposed changes. And these are, one, approval of the special event pursuant to section 20-145 of the code of ordinance, county of Volusia effective until December 1st, 2021. The waiver granted by the special event is limited to section 20-121K1 of the code and subject to the proposed plans submitted by the petitioner.
This approval is intenned as a pilot program and shall have no bearing on future requests. It may be renewed or renewed with revised conditions or not renewed by county council.
Seconds the additional insurance requirements for Volusia liability attached to the permit N the package, shall be made as a condition of the approval of the special event permit, this has been met. Three, no obscene or pornographic displays can be had. Attorney -- is here to answer any technical questions about the code, and any beach safety questions. And the owner, his representative, are also here to answer any questions you may have.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Dr. Lowry.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Yeah, I was wondering from the staff, what, you know, by having this moving out there, and within the zone, where we're keeping people out, I can see jet skier wanting to follow other boats coming in thinking that they can come in, I mean, do you anticipate this this is going to open Pandora's box to other craft coming within that 1500 foot limit?
>>SPEAKER: Good morning, interpret rim -- -- interim director. The designated jet ski areas, where the jet skiers know, every month they know where to go, they have to option already. 750 feet is a pretty good distance. Still, we have an ordinance in place that keeps bathers within 300 feet, we have a 450 foot buffer to prevent any accidents or any impacts with swimmers or boaters, if there's any conditions where surfers will be in the water, those won't be conducive to his operation, so I think that we'll be pretty good with that. And I don't believe this will open up any additional requests.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Heather Post?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: So Mr. --
director Etheridge. You said that you don't expect this to open up any future requests but the question was, for the jet skiers, you know, anyone like in realtime, seeing and it just moving in. But do you expect that this would open up that now, you know, that other boats would ask to do the same thing?
>>SPEAKER: Well that, is a potential, we can handle like that we do at any given point, we have boats and jet skiers up and down the coast and sometimes they will come in too close and we will address that as we need to. We launched jet skis to intersect them or we will make public address announcements telling them to move further away.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Okay. So I'm -- I definitely want to make some comments on this. I've been mulling over this -- this item, and I know it appears very cut and dry. But Megan, if you could post those pictures? So in looking at the site and researching and trying to figure out more about the company and what they would be doing, here, I there's two pictures, that I saw on the FaceBook page. And so this is -- this would be the view from the beach. That we have up on the screen. And is it on the screen? And the next picture -- this is someone sitting on the beach looking out at a collision, an auto collision ad. In the ocean.
And I have to tell you, you know, Volusia County prides itself on the world's most famous beach, and so much of our discussions are on the beach and the quality of life here. And as much as I tremendously, tremendously sympathize with Mr. Guerro with his entrepreneurial spirit, this could make quite a bit of money, I'm not sure that this is really the look that I want to be seeing when I look out on the ocean. And I can tell you that probably if we were to poll visitors, I'm not sure that this is the look that they would want to be seeing, either. And certainly, if we do allow one, where is the justification for us not allowing others? And then, so, then it's not just one going up and down our entire coastline daily, it's allowing for more. But even just the one, you know, this is -- this is not the background that --
again, no offense to the business owner, but this is not the background that people that come here from all over the world, to get married on the beach, to have picture on the beach, to vacation on the beach, this is not the background I think that they are looking for.
And so, I would move to deny it at this point.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Billie Wheeler.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Okay.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: That's a motion, Mr. Chair, that's a motion.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay. Heather Post has made a motion to deny, at this point, is there a second?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Second.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Seconded by Ben Johnson. And we continue discussion. Did you still want to speak?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Okay. So here we go. This is something that's been -- very patient and he's been working for over a year, well over a year to try to get a business. We're all about small businesses but yes, the beach is our main resource for tourism. But I think that the pictures that were presented really presents a different image, because it's not a stationary item that's going to be stuck out there and you're going to be looking at that for four hours at the beach, this is a moving barge. And how fast is the barge move? -- does the barge move? So I mean, yeah.
>>SPEAKER: 6-7 knots.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: So how many times is it going to go up and down the entire beach that you're going to see that? As you see the planes going over advertising and we do have those also in our view. As well as, you know, I see this also, as an opportunity that we can get some of our county messages out, watch for the stingrays, watch for undercurrents. Again, I think that it's -- we're at a different time now, just like we promoted the -- or we encouraged the -- or approved the e-bikes last week. We are seeing more businesses with different ideas.
Presenting out there. And the other thing that I did want to mention was, you know, yes, the swimming is 300 feet, this is asking for a potential times to be 750 feet. But yet, sailboats are at 600 feet. Correct?
Yeah. So I just think that as a moving barge, it's not one that's sitting there. That you're going to be looking at all single day, it will go by leisurely and then it will turn around at the other end and come back. So I am in support of this. I'm in support of new businesses, I think that to give it a try for a year. You know, if we can do this through December. And let's see if this -- if this works, if it doesn't, can we tweak it? And I think that there's been a lot of investment that he has made in bringing a business to the area but I think we could also utilize it for county messages, also. That's my comments for right now.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Ben Johnson.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I have to agree with Ms. Post on this, does it represent the image for Daytona Beach, this is one boat, how, once you open that Pandora's box do you stop the rest of them? And the next thing you know, looks like I-4 and down with big signs. I just don't -- I just can't convince myself that this is going to be something that makes our beach more attractive and we're always looking at how coDO we make a beach our beach sides more attractive. And just not sure that this is the way to do it.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Danny Robins?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I, too, like these new creative ideas, and supporting local businesses.
Keeping an open mind, is this where we want to go? It's definitely something to look at.
But something that we also need to consider is we also have airplanes going up and down the beach all day. Carry banners, and all sorts of other advertisements. You know, if we cut ourselves short here, what else are we doing? Are we deferring any other local new businesses or businesses coming in town with these new creative ideas? You know, if we don't look at it a little bit closer, what damage and what message are we going to be sending to future entrepreneurs coming to Volusia County? Thanks.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Heather Post?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I just wanted to close by saying, by stressing, of course, that I in no way negate or don't feel for entrepreneurs, I'm an entrepreneur myself, and new business and I absolutely feel for anyone that has invested their moneys and certainly, that appears to be the case here.
But, you know, there's been a lot of discussion from -- I definitely know from my constituents and all over the county, about development and all of these different thins and really the beach is our last, you know -- what's the word I'm looking for? Our last -- it's our last spot of clean --
Crystal clean area where you're not looking at, you know, ads and billboards and development and all of that kind of stuff.
You know? You turn around and you look back at condos and all of these other things. But that's the one area that you can go and you can face that way.
And you can actually enjoy that.
And it's -- it's a way of life.
It's a tremendous part of the quality of life in Volusia County citizens and, you know, I really worry about us trading the prospect of making money off of -- I'm just not willing to trade that for making money at this point. I think that this is -- this is very, very, very important, and like I said, I've thought deeply about this. But it really just comes down to --
to me, no amount of money is worth ruining that for Volusia County citizens. And our visitors.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Barbara Girtman?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Thank you, Chair. I guess one of my questions is, special event permitting and this as a pilot.
What -- what does that mean? As far as limitations? Right? So if it's approve, and it's determined that, you know, it's not something that is meeting the expectations of the council, next time it's up, we just say, you know, sorry, you know? It's not meeting the expectations and, you know, you have to come up with another plan? I see both sides of it. I support what councilwoman Wheeler is saying. Because I'm really big on county messaging. Right?
I'm big on having a public opportunity to get -- to ensure that there's a consistent message that our beach goers are seeing. And especially when it comes to safety. I know over the last two summers, probably the previous summer, I've found that there were a lot of challenges and I felt like that information wasn't connecting as well as they could. I could see that being a good resource to get a county message out, but and messaging for beach businesses. Right? A1 collision, probably not, but we can't -- more than likely tell you what you can advertise.
Right? So I'm kind of on the fence with it. But I'm going to support councilwoman Wheeler's perspective that I'm really -- I really see a positive use in county messaging being able to use it for that purpose.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Billie Wheeler?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Yes.
Everyone has spoken, I want to just add, again, to that, the emphasis of, you know, our small businesses have all hurt, you know, this is a great advertising source for the restaurants over there. They can use it. People who are on the beach, you know, they don't know what's off the beach, so I think that the advertising and the opportunity that it can present and like I said, you know, during those days that we have the bad surf and the undertow, and it would be great to have a signage going up and down to remind all of the people of the consequences. So I am in total support of this.
>>CHAIR BROWER: And Danny Robins?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Something to look at instead of just completely closing the doors on this idea, can we accommodate --
not just this business, but other businesses like this, can we accommodate them a little bit and give them a shot? Is there another way? Can we look at maybe limiting this or a trial run for this maybe just on the weekends and maybe not take such a big of awe bite and kind of see where this goes? It's definitely something that I think we can and should consider before just completely throwing it out. So but, you know, weeks, special events, holidays, anything to give this -- to give this a shot. Appreciate it.
Thanks.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Interesting debate. And I -- I have to agree with Heather Post and Ben Johnson that it's -- we really need to consider it carefully and it sounds like everyone has, I have. But I have a little different perspective and one goes to the point that you just made, Danny, and that barb Girtman made, this is presented as a pilot. First, we have to deal with the motion at hand.
Which is to deny it. If that fails, I would really like to consider as a pilot, can it be terminated at some point? And here's my -- here's my thinking.
If this was a static object that you're right, none of us would be for it because it would -- it would ruin that section of the beach. I've spent a lot of time on the beach. I watched the airplanes fly by with the banners. And I can tell you, people -- tourists, locals, they enjoy it, it's new, it's different, it's novel. And it's other -- and it's informational.
It's just kind of fun. We need to add fun to the beach. And the airplanes do that. Now, the airplanes have air traffic control. So we don't have too many of them all at one time.
So they don't run into one another.
And a pilot program, we could also have boat traffic control, I think, and I'm going to -- I'm going to call both of you up in a minute, because I'm not sure which one of you can answer this question. But we -- if we start this, and we have one boat, and then, next week, there's another barge that wants to be in or next meeting, we could restrict that to one an hour or one every six HORs or whatever, because it's a long path, there are things that we can do to tweak it. The fact that it's -- that it's not static, that it's moving, makes it -- makes it appealing to me, it adds interest to our beach, and it's different. But I do have a question if director Etheridge would come up and maybe Rob Merrill as well, I'm not sure --
if both of you would come up.
My first question is about safety, I'm assuming that the owner has already dealt with the fact that sometimes on our ocean, the -- even at 750 feet, it can get really rough. And I don't want to see a barge pushed in closer to the shore, so how have you dealt with that? Rob Merrill.
>>SPEAKER: Thank you, for the record, and Rob,- is here, he wants to walk up, too, maybe he can be here. Rob is a licensed can'ten and has been for a long time, he has a charter business and done a lot of thing, actually, including running your RC track out at the -- on Strickland range road, he's the Jack of all trades but he's primarily a boat captain that knows boat safety and he has another gentleman who's a captain who will be working with him in conjunction with Rob to run the boat. So from a safety standpoint, this guy is an expert. The regulatory aspect, the pilot program can be limited, such that it's spaced, a time, you know, con STRANLT, etcetera. The crucial thing here, you raised the point that I was going to say, if I had one thing to say, it would be you and I and I think others have spent our life on this beach, a banner plane ever bath bothered anybody? Sometimes I see something, yeah, that helped me.
And, you know, this is advertising. For sure. But the idea that he's going to have public aspects to it. It's huge. You know, I have done a lot of L.E.D. programs and signage for different projects around the counties, and quickly, that's requested. Can you add something that's an amber alert? You know, some sort of a public message? To me, that's a huge benefit that you guys will get. Heather, I love the picture, it looked big and it looked like I see why Ben responded the way he did, but I think that that thing was probably 150 feet off the beach?
So bad FaceBook Post.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I'm not sure, but that's your advertisement, get people to as advertise with you.
>>SPEAKER: 750 feet is a long way, so nobody surfs 750 feet out, I've never been halfway that far out. So, you know, as a somewhat of a beach expert, I look at the banner planes and say come on, it's interesting.
For citizens, and I've talked to people from all over the world, I spent a lot of time there, never heard one person say, God, those planes are obnoxious. As close as you were showing, Heather, hey, I'm with Ben. It was too much. And it was intended maybe to make a point, I don't know. But if you showed us two scaled drawing of this, and a video, I don't think any of us would blink an eye, we'd have an interest. What I would say is the punch line here is we're doing it for one summer and you guys get to look at it again. And this guy, I don't know the whole history a year or more is not just getting to this agenda item, this guy has been through this building, in and out a couple of dozen people, environmental, beach folks, you know, the people who want to make sure he's got $2 million worth of insurance, etcetera, etcetera. And so, he's been through the ringer already, that's why he built the boat.
And he spent a lot of money to build it. So one of the answers I would give you to how many many more people are going to do it not many, because the signs are really expensive and building a custom boat like he did is really expensive, he's put it on the line here. Not knowing about the 1500 feet, now his bad not knowing it, when he started operating, his folks said, hey, wait a minute, you're too close. And he said, what do you mean? And then, we saw the code. He saw the code. I knew about it because I wrote part of the code for the jet ski zone.
So at the same time, I think that some happy medium, where we should be looking, 1500 feet or the 150 feet that he showed, once you get -- more than twice the distance from any swimmers or surfers, I don't see the harm in it as someone who spends time on the beach. He already spent the money, started the operation, and after talking to everybody in this building, I'm not pointing fingers at anybody, and Billie, thank you for promoting it and helping us, I think he deserves a choice, even if it's just a few months, what we're getting down to here.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Captain, would you please address the issue of safety that I brought up in and the rare occasions on Daytona Beach where we have 6-8 foot waves and Rob Merrill is out there trying to hone his surfing skills, are you going to be on the water there? Or how are you going to handle that?
>>SPEAKER: No, sir, safety is our biggest concern. For us, and everybody else involved.
The boat does not do well in big seas, and we don't tend to have it out in anything bigger than 3 feet. So.
>>SPEAKER: It's a diesel barge, it's not entenned to be --
>>SPEAKER: It's slow, we're up high and we have incredible visibility. And Heather, to address your concern with the pictures, those were done on a computer program to --
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Again, I'm --
I just took those off of your FaceBook, I went through to see your FaceBook page to see what we're looking at.
>>SPEAKER: Those are not on the Volusia County beach, just to showcase the project.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: You have to be close enough to read the ad, right? And the ad has to be big enough to be able to read, so.
I mean, and -- and you're saying now that it's a -- it's a barge, and it's slow, and so that sort of goes against it's going to zip through can you won't notice it in any of the pictures.
>>SPEAKER: Of course you'll notice it, that's the idea, it's advertising.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: That's my point.
>>SPEAKER: It's not going to be parked in front of you all day CH we have plans from the start, with the community, and I mean, we want to make it a community thing. We knew that there would be some contention with people, so we want to make it fun and we want to do -- give back, we want to do things for the turtle people, for the beach. Clean up the beaches, social distancing.
And anything that needs to get out to the community. We're doing it.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Again, no --
no reflection on your -- I do feel that you're a wonderful businessman and certainly a good businessman, and there's no doubt about your support of the community. Certainly. And I have looked into that as well.
So no doubt about that. But I'm still standing with my stance, only because it is a visual impact of the last area of the county that is not, you know, affected in that way, and I really don't think that the -- I feel that a banner plane is very, very different than looking out on to the, you know, to the ocean view and seeing advertisements in the water for A1 collision or any of that. To me, it's very, very different.
I don't consider that even remotely the same.
>>CHAIR BROWER: You were at the north turn parade? Was that your barge? How far were you offshore?
>>SPEAKER: 1500 feet.
>>CHAIR BROWER: It was difficult to read. At 1500 feet. But I was there with my family and noticed that everybody -- there was a really good crowd on the beach. It got a lot of attention. As it came down. And all of it, that I saw, was positive. Because it was new, it was different, it was interesting. We have -- we have two more council people that want to speak. And we have a number of people here in the audience that want to speak as well. Ben Johnson?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Let's let the people in the audience speak and I'll come back, I'm on the borderline of withdrawing my second due to the fact that I've heard compelling arguments here.
And especially for a pilot program. I'd like to do it as a pilot program. Where if we did it, to look at it through the fall to see, does it need tweaking or done away with? But there's been some very compelling arguments up here on this dais, along with Mr. Merrill's, and the committee -- what they have had to say, so. I'm going to withdraw my second.
>>CHAIR BROWER: You're going to withdraw your second? Okay.
Then that motion would die from a lack of second. So Danny Robins?
>>SPEAKER: Mr. Merrill, can you tell everybody, please, how quickly you guys can get an emergency message out? From --
>>SPEAKER: It's instantaneous, you can talk about the way it relates but I think like on your phone, you can send something immediately, it will be on the screen.
>>SPEAKER: Yeah, we have it set up so that at any time, we can send a message to the boats.
>>CHAIR BROWER: And something to think about, guys, is the potential that that has, I mean, that's a -- that's a tremendous tool. And when you start -- can you put a price on someone's life, God forbid, talk too the family if we didn't have the billboard there, we couldn't get the message out. Those who are on the fence may look at this a little bit differently. Thank you for answering that question.
Thanks.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Before I call on you, Billie, I want to say --
I'm anticipating what you're going to say. If to all of my council members here, if somebody is going to make a motion to approve this, please consider in that motion that this is a -- a one-year pilot.
Is that what you're asking for?
It's not eternity, it's a pilot.
It's a trial. And then we can regulate it and treat it if we --
>>SPEAKER: Could we hear from the public.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Yes.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I agree with that until December, as the agenda item says.
>>CHAIR BROWER: And Billie?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Yeah, I would like to make the motion, we can listen to the public, before we actually take the vote, but I would like to make a motion to approve this as a pilot program and I this I that it was on here, until December or something like that. So I would like to make the motion to approve it as a pilot program.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I'll second that.
>>CHAIR BROWER: The second was by who? By Danny. Danny Robins, motion by Wheeler, And deputy -- we have got two attorneys that want to speak.
>>SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair, just to clarify, Ms.
Wheeler, that is approving the three conditions as proposed by staff, condition number one.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Yes, sir, I'm sorry, I didn't -- yes.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Let's hear from the public before we call for a vote. Krista Goodrich?
>>SPEAKER: I just wanted to offer support I hear your KESH concerns, I don't know -- the garbage on the beach and in your face, I'm a small business owner in Daytona, and I think that our county is a county that doesn't welcome small business, and we need to change that, as innovation and trying things.
As a pilot program. I would like to know what is in the Daytona and or Ormond or wherever. Nothing against that business, but it's very expensive for a business like mine to do the plane thing. I'm hopeful that this would be a business that we could utilize to let the world know what we have to offer as well.
>>CHAIR BROWER: John Nicholson.
>>SPEAKER: Thank you, I'm John Nicholson. I walk the beach, probably five times a day, during the summer months. And I see the banner, so we already have advertising on our beach.
Now, I want to thank you because before you were born, there was a lady bird Johnson who had an issue with the advertisement along I-95 and the other interstates. And it was a big thing. Back then. And it did look ugly. Wherever you went, constantly all of this garbage.
And it took away from the beauty of the thing. So that is a valid issue. However, my mother used to love going on cruises.
And no matter what island you went to, they had a banana boat.
They were all kinds of things that were off the coast, that when you landed on a an island, you did, this, this, this or that, all right. We don't have that. We use Dodd have para sailing. Which everybody would sit there and watch. It was one of the things to do. This I see is the same thing. It will go down. And we can regulate it, which I ask you to do. If you could put out an RFP, if this, when it ends, instead of having 2000 to 5,000, like the bumper cars all the way down, we end up with one an hour, one half hour, or whatever it is. So that you're not constantly looking at advertisementsment which is what I think you're referring to.
All right.
So when you look at this, I know the man put in a lot of money, however, do not think of that. I this I that is the wrong way to look at anything.
If you put in your money and you do did wrong thing, tough. He put in a lot of money and a lot of thought into it and what he has gone through at every point, saying yes, yes, yes, so he kept continuing. So if you're going to hit him for that, look at what your process is, so no one else goes through it. But I think that this is a good idea.
We have forests, right, we've got a huge amount of land in the middle of the county, if we never did anything in any of them, it would be a waste, it would. We have trails, all kinds of things. Our beach approach, our visual, when we're on the beach, is an empty space.
And I can't see not using that space. It's valuable and we have to use it as best as possible. And I would like to see the ability to have a banana boat, para sailing, anything else that somebody else creates, that is something to do and something to see. It's a value to us and I don't see it as trash. Unless we allow it to be trash. Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
Rob, I had one for you. You want to recap before we call for the vote?
>>SPEAKER: Really not a lot more from my end, Mr. Chair, but thank you for the opportunity.
The idea that a significant investment has already been made. And I think that we have -- we're taking a short look at this. It's very straightforward. Take a short look, if you don't like it, you get to choose, it's that simple.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
With that, we'll close the public hearing. And would you please restate your motion?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Absolutely.
Yes, so my motion would be to --
woops, I'm on the wrong agenda thing here.
To approve the beach special event application for shark bite media, along with the three recommendations by staff. As a pilot program until the end of December, the end of the year.
Do I have everything covered?
>>SPEAKER: It ends December 1st, 2021.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Okay.
December 21st? Is that what you said.
>>SPEAKER: December 1st.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: December 1 S of this year, that is my motion.
.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Call the roll, please.
( Roll call ) .
>>SPEAKER: Motion passes.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Motion carries 6-1, thank you.
>>SPEAKER: Thank you very much.
Appreciate your time.
>>CHAIR BROWER: With that, we'll move to item 5.
Resolution proposed variation of a portion of the plat of vacation of a portion of the plat of Daytona sunshine estates. You're off.
>>SPEAKER: Good morning. Tad Kasbeer county engineer.
Mr. Wilson and Ms. Rose, owners of lot 4 of the Daytona sunshine estates plat. Located in the area on the South side of state road 44, west of state road 415.
And when the plat created the lot, it also created a perimeter easement for drainage and utility purposes. The property owners have constructed a shed in that section. And they need to get a vacation for that easement to allow for that shed to potentially stay there and also depends on the other actions per the code as well.
The petitioner is requesting a 35-foot gap on the western lot line in the drainage and utility easementment. The staff has no objections. The property owners adjacent had no objections and the utilities have no objections. We recommend approval -- as well as the approval of an after the fact permit.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Dr. Lowry?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I move approval for item 5 -- Daytona sunshine estates, map book 38 page 99 of the new Smyrna area.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Seconded by Robins. Any discussion? All in favor? Say aye? Aye. Any opposed? Motion carries 7-0.
Thank you, Tadd. You're staying here.
>>SPEAKER: Yes, I am, a couple of these.
>>CHAIR BROWER: ( Laughter ) all right, item number 6.
Another resolution, proposed vacation of a portion of the drainage easement of the corrected plat of river park mobile home colony. Take it away.
>>SPEAKER: Correct. The petitioner is requesting the vacation of a 5 feet north 5 feet of a drainage easement along her south property line.
There's an existing stormwater pipe that sends water from the east side of her lot to the west side of her lot can we've looked at it and reviewed it with the road and bridge repair, responsible for maintenance of said pipe, with the remaining 5 feet that they can continue to maintain the pipe or replace it as necessary without that extra 5 feet, she's got section of the mobile home as well as carpet, which are encroached into that 5 foot easement. That said, county staff has no objections and the utility owners did not have any objections. And nobody from the adjacent properties objected as well. So we're recommending approval.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Danny Robins.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: A motion to approve item 6, proposed vacation of a portion of the plat drainage easement.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Motion to approve by Robins, seconded by Wheeler. And we have six people on the dais at this point. All go ahead and call for the vote now, all in favor? Say aye?
Any opposed. So it's 6-0.
Motion passes. Thank you.
Don't go away. Item 7.
Proposed vacation of a portion of the plat of Naranja park.
>>SPEAKER: Yes, sir, created a section of road called coursen street on the South side of the petitioner's property. The road -- it is abandoned will be returned back to those property owners as it was created by that plat on the north side. There's no reason for the county to hold on to that right-of-way, Courson street does not exist east or west of this particular section, unopened and we have no plans to use it in the future. Utility companies did not on and the neither did the property owners adjacent.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Ben Johnson?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I'll make a motion to approve the vacation of a portion of the MRA T of Naranja park.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Second.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Motion by Johnson, seconded by Lowry. All in favor? Say aye? Any opposed? Motion carries 7-0.
Thank you, Tadd. Okay. Item 8. Special exception for a communication tower exceeding 70 feet in height and a waiver to section 72-293. Clay?
>>SPEAKER: Good morning, director of growth and resource management. Today before you have have an application for a exception -- for Volusia County's communication towers.
And as you're aware, we have maintained an 800 megahertz emergency management system where it's utilized by our public protection folks to ensure that we can respond to calls. And we have a currently a gap down in the southern portion of our county.
Approximately 2 years ago we began the search for a spot that would meet the requirements for this tower. If anyone has dealt with siting in cell towers, you realize you're at the mercy of your radio frequency engineers to dictate where it can and cannot go.
In order for us to maintain the coverage, we had a very tight area, specifically, down around the may town road area. When we looked through the variety of different sites that were available, and we looked at county-own property, private-owned property, we came up with multiple sites and trying to work through this. We found one where the property owners who owns the 15 aches south of May town road is willing to lease us a 10,000 square feet area, roughly 100 by 100N. That area, we plan to install 320 foot tall lattice communication tower. We will also have the availability of four additional antenna sites so that that way we cannot only have our communication issues taken care of and also can also provide the that's to cell providers and also providing for a potential income source to the county. We take this through our staff review. We have to make sure that we're in compliance with the special exception criteria. There's a question as to why we have such extensive criteria for communication towers. And many years ago, there was fear by local governments to we were going to be MRE everyoned out of any kind of egg -- regulation, so there was A big hurry to get rules in place. We worked on it similarly. And what you saw was that we put set backs and buffers to reduce visual appearances on resident areas.
What we have now is a series of separation requirements. One of the ones that we have if place is 1,000 foot separation from the base of the tower to the nearest residential structure.
And in this particular situation, we have one that is located about 657 feet south of our tower. If you go to page 8-23 of your agenda packet, there's a aerial that depicts where the tower is propose to be. We contacted that property owner, and let them know that we were planning to try and get a special exception approve for this tower and that we would be requesting a waiver of that thousand foot requirement from the county council. That specifically allowed by your code. The thing is, is it cannot go under 500 feet. So we exceed the 500 feet that you can lower it down to, the lowest, but we don't meet the thousand feet separation. We have not received any kind of objections or concerns from that property owner or anyone else notified about this. As you can see, on the screen, we have a variety of different maps in your agenda packet. And the first one gives you a general idea of where the prop is located, the second gives you an idea of what is out there. As you can see it is primarily open area. To the north and to the northeast, is the Farmington local plan area, this is an area that's been designated for conservation purposes and part of their set aside for the black bear habitat corridor. So we are not expecting any kind of impacts to the property or to north or to the east. Again, we sent out notices to the adjacent property openers and not received any other concerns.
The zoning classification is forest resource, that requires a minimum 20 acre parcel. It ma by a legal nonconforming lot.
The great thing about this site it's adjacent to a paved road with lake Carney, easy access and provide for such that we can gain access if we needed during an emergency.
We've taken it through the planning and land development regulation commission, and there was a presentation to them.
PLDRC was asked in a series of questions, a unanimous recommendation for approval for this special exception. Joining me today is our staff, we do have Susan Jackson from our planning development services, Brian whiting overseeing the installation, we also have David Cooke, from dew berry and associates, the engineers and planners who took us through the development of this site plans and the concept plans that had to be presented in front of the planning and LAN development and also included in your packet.
If there's any questions for us, we'll be glad to answer them.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Before I do that, I want to remind all of the council member partly sunny -- members, this is a quasi, does anybody have any ex-parte.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: A minor question. What is the lease amount?
>>SPEAKER: There's an initial signing of 25,000, I think it's a $1,000 a month.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Okay.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Danny Robins.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Do you know how much those other -- trying to think of the right word for it, but the other portions of that tower that we can generate revenue with -- do you know how much those would generate?
>>SPEAKER: I don't know off the top of my head. Brian will probably be able to answer that.
>>SPEAKER: Only approximately, because every deal is unique, but when you sign with the tower's carrier, we anticipate we could put up to 3 major carriers on it, besides the county equipment. And the closeest one we have like that that we pay on is about 50K a year.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Dr. Lowry?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I move approval for item 8, special exception for the communication tower.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Motion to approve by Lowry, seconded by Wheeler. Any if you recollecter discussion? All in favor say aye? Any opposed? Motion passes, 7-0. PFOkay. Moving right along to item 9. Ordinance 2021-2 transmittal hearing for amendment to chapter 2-transportation element and maps of the Volusia County comprehensive plan case CPA-20-003. Clay?
>>SPEAKER: Thank you, director of growth and resource management, joining me also is John Cheney our director of transportation, and Susan Jackson. We have all been working on this as well as Trish Smith in the planning and development services department.
This has been ongoing, as you're aware, your staff is working to try and update the comprehensive plan. By state law, we are required to have a ten-year planning horizon for our comprehensive plan. Our current planning HOR rise season 2025, so obviously we need to update that, very quickly, to make sure that we are still in compliance with the state law.
What we were looking to try to do here is update the various maps that are included in the element. Statutes through the community planning act, chapter 163, identifies what are mandatory elements of a local Government's comprehensive plan.
Because we have an airport and we're considered basically a Metropolitan area, we have a transportation element, which incorporates not only roadways, but sidewalks, transit, and a variety of other methods of transportation. When we went through this process, we saw that we had to update many of our goals, objectives and policies, as well as the maps.
We have initiated and completed a majority of the changes to the goals, objectives and policies, which are the written guidelines that we all follow in developing our capital improvement programs but also our land development regulations, and how we establish our capital funding.
When it came time to update the maps, we went through that process. It had been a while since we looked at those and started realizing that for the 2035 horizon, we needed to really drill down on the majority of these maps. We have some that tie to what's the future level of service, future number of lanes, scenic highways, relatively straightforward. We were able to go through forward with those and send those out to our colleagues at the city, and at the TPO, and the variety of other sources. And for their review and comment.
And for the most part, we were able to get through those corrections and those changes to the maps of which the main is that we did have a new historic -- excuse me, scenic corridor to the five that we already had.
The one map that did cause the largest amount of discussion pertain to map 2-1, which is the thoroughfare roads network. The thoroughfare road network is the basis for the county's regional service. And nerd in other words, these are the roads that provide intracounty transportation, the one that we use for moving people and freight as quickly as possible.
These are the roads that are supposed to be four laned, divides, high traffic speeds, limited number of access points, the whole point that they help feed in these local roads, and local collectors, so that that way we have a hierarchy of roads, that provides for a more efficient system.
When we started looking at what what was available, we looked at three main criteria, is the road really just in one jurisdiction?
In other words, does not provide any extra jurisdictional access to the other parts of the county? What's the overall length of the segment? Is it going to be just restricted to about a three-mile area and is that really going to be able to serve what we need as far as a thoroughfare road? And so, we kept on going through that and then bealso looked at can it handle or can it accommodate what we expect from a thoroughfare road? Our minimum design standards for these types of road is a four-lane divided roadway, with limited access.
Some of these local roads, just cannot be expanded to that and it would be more disRUPive to those areas if we did try to make them meet that thoroughfare road. We proposed removal of approximately 28-29 roads, and sent them all out, did hear some comments from the cities. We heard from New Smyrna Beach, Port Orange, Daytona Beach, Ormond beach, Deland, and we heard other -- and Ponce inlet as well, we met with them individually and as a group. So that that way we could come up with a resolution we felt would be accommodating to them, such that they could see that we had their interest at heart, but also, that we were coming forward with something that was practical. Because remember, these are the roads that we're looking to try and get accomplished by 2035.
So there has to be a cost feasibility analysis, are these going to be the roads that we can afford to build by 20 35 after going through and identifying what their concerns were, we could steal something from the local transportation organization, those familiar with the operation, they have the cost feasibility plan and the needs plan, which is those roads that they know are needed, not necessarily today but out in the future, and they want to make sure that they still have that importance but realize that they just aren't going to be able to be afforded to be completed within the planning horizon. So we put together a needs list. Which identified those thoroughfare roads that we were taking off, that we felt still needed to be identified such that if our partners at the cities wanted to join with us and able to secure grants or other forms of funding to expedite the construction of those roads, we could sit there and, you know, walk up and pass the red phase test, yes, these are in our comprehensive plan.
We were able to go through that process and now, what you see in front of you is the outcome of all of these different negotiations and discussions with our local Governments. We also had discussions with the Volusia County association of responsibility development.
They identified a concern specifically with the thoroughfare roadmap. They felt that when you modified the total lane miles, that are shown on that map, that's one of the factors that impacts or impact fee. So therefore, if you change that, there has to be a corresponding change in the impact fee. So we looked at what could or couldn't be done there and we realized that we wanted to make sure that we have the policy in place so that that way when we go to analyze the impact fee, we have the policy in place and we can be very specific to our consultant. We were able to do so and so what we have is that the -- this new map will not be affected until we actually complete an impact fee update.
Timing is also important because we have to have that impact fee updated by 2022.
Because believe it or not, we just updated our impact fee in 2018. And per the ordinance, for the county thoroughfare road impact fee, you have to update it every four years.
So at the timing worked out, in this particular situation, we're not going to necessarily have a map out there that's not going to be effective for a long period of time, we're working right now to get the scope to make sure that the vetted through the public process.
That in essence is the changes that we have proposed. We have a very good and thorough presentation if you would like us to go through it, it's about 20 minutes. If that's something that y'all would like? We also are available for any questions.
If you have any.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Council, what's your feeling? Do you need the presentation?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I'd like to hear as much as possible.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I'm good.
>>CHAIR BROWER: We have goods and some I'd like to hear its, so.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I think there's -- ( Inaudible ) Mr. Chair there's been a lot of questions about some of the things that Clay brought up, if you have more from the public, so if you have continued discussion, a little more, I think that the public would be happy to area about it.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay, this is the transmittal hearing, so it will be going to the Volusia growth management commission and the Florida Department of Economic opportunity for public comment. We have not received anything from the cities at this point. We did receive prior to the PLDRC a citizen who objected to the hand avenue road being maintained on the map. Because she felt it would be detrimental to the character of Ormond beach. We have kept it on there at the request of the city. So it is still on the map itself.
So candidly, those are all of public comments we've had at this point. So but if y'all want to hear, Melissa has this down pat.
>>CHAIR BROWER: This is also a public hearing, and so far, there's not been any request to speak. And there still is not now. Heather, you still have the floor. Fred had something he wanted to say.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: No, is this a transmittal hearing, do we need to make a motion to accept this?
Okay. Then I so move.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay. Motion by Lowry to accept the transmittal and seconded by Wheeler. Is it you? Okay.
Heather I think that we're --
since it's a transmittal hearing, it's coming back, are you good, are you comfortable with hearing more then.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Absolutely.
I'm comfortable with hearing what I heard, but I was just --
I want these meetings are for the public and even though we're having future meetings, public is not going to go through all of this and the public will not understand a lot F OIT. As much as we can -- verbally, is good, but I'm in agreement with continuing to the next meeting, that's fine.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay, I think we're good, then, all in favor say aye?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Aye.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed?
Motion passes.
We've got a time issue. It's -- I'm hearing the people beside me starting to squirm. We could -- ( laughter ) growling. We could -- we could do number 10, right quick, the 53rd sex tension of the state and local emergency, I don't think we should do 12, the coronavirus update, because that's too important, too much information, and it will take a long time.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I'll move approval of the 53rd extension of the state of local emergency.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Motion by Lowry to approve and second was by Post. All in favor say aye?
Any opposed? Motion passes 7-0.
John Nicholson, you wanted to speak on what we just did? Come on up. I'm sorry. I -- I was handed it as we were voting.
>>SPEAKER: I do apologize.
John Nicholson, beach side, basically, I don't want to have this go by rubber stamp. I'm looking for a goal, like When will this ever end? We didn't anticipate it going a year.
Everything has consequences.
You saw that with the graduation. So if we could discuss this at some point?
When will this end? Because it affects for me, our restaurants, our businesses, our tourism, and it's all other kinds of ramifications, so if the public could just find out we will lift this in due time. But when is the due time? Is it going to be in a month, a year, two years?
It will be when we reach this goal? Do you understand what I'm talking about? At some point we have to look forward to a time when this will end, if you could do that, it would be helpful. Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Point well-taken, thank you. Why don't we adjourn for lunch?
12:07. We may be back by 1:07.
And if not, we will -- we'll inform the chamber. So with that, we'll adjourn for lunch at 12:07 to be back at 1:10.
( Break ) Please stand by.
this is a test
Test

...

.....

please stand by.

ease stand by.

stand by

> COUNCIL MEMBER: Russ, did you do something with George? We apologize for the delay. Which may continue for another minute. But not long. COUNCIL MEMBER: Thank you for your patience. We're going to move on to item 11, which is the coronavirus update. I'm looking forward to the day when you walk up to that microphone declare coronavirus over.
>>SPEAKER: We're all for sure. We have some good trends here going on now. We have some declining cases continued declining cases. Last week we saw little bit uptick. That might be fluctuations. We came under 100 new cases a day. I will count it as less than a hundred. We also continued to see a decline in the percent share of 65 and older. We're hopeful that the vaccines that have been provided and we'll go over here in a second. Really making an impact with the 65 and older group. As a quick update for state cases, there's 1,979,634 cases in the state of Florida. That's as of yesterday's update. I think with that, as Ms. Girtman continue to obedient point out, it is not over. Masking the appropriate responsible actions to minimize the spread. Are still important even as we roll out the vaccines, more and more groups are becoming eligible. We have 65 hospitalized as of this morning. Hospital bed and ICU bed capacity continues to be just fine. If we move on to the next slide. We have done really it's over 120,000 tests at the new Smyrna beach gym site. With vaccines as of yesterday's update, we had 106,696 residents who have been vaccinated. That's over 81,000 residents over age 65. That represents about 61% of the 65 and older population which is spectacular. As of today or as of the update from yesterday, 45,000 vaccines have been administered by the Department of Health. We continue to be doing the homebound mission. We've done 70 homebound mission. They're working on the second doses of those. The 20 scheduled a week, we're moving to a Johnson & Johnson strategy with that. We don't have to go back to those hard to reach population. Same thing with the minority mission, we done over a thousand vaccinations. Those will transition over to Johnson & Johnson as well. That hard to reach population doesn't have to come back for a second dose. I wanted to go over real quickly, the eligibility. Eligibility expanded as of yesterday to those 60 years of age and older to those who are deemed extremely vulnerable by a physician.
I wanted to clarify. There's a form that's required. You can find that form at FloridahealthCOVID-19.gov. Physicians should have them in their offices. Please don't just show up to the site and say I have as asthma. We can't make that determination. That's a physicians determination. You should have that form that's required. The update to the executive order, however, allowed anybody who is licensed to provide vaccines to provide vaccines to those who are extremely vulnerable. It's not just pharmacies or physicians offices or hospitals anymore, it's anybody who is licensed to provide a vaccine. Which means we can do that at the site at the Department of Health site. Additionally, we have healthcare workers with direct patient contact. Those have been eligible for a while. It's still K-12 school staff, 50 years of age and older and then law enforcement and firefighters 50 years of age and older. That is what the executive order states as of went into effect on the 15th. There are other sites maybe federal site who have expanded that. Department of Health follows the executive order. That's kind of where we are with that. In addition to the site that we are working with the Department of Health on at Volusia County fairgrounds. I can't put a map up, because the exact locations around listed anywhere for CVS. We have the cities are CVS locations have been expanded to Daytona Beach. The important thing is to know that this list and the locations and the cities where these other sites are available has expanded even from two weeks ago when I came and updated you last time. We continue to see publics offering, COVID vaccines. Winn-Dixie is offering those vaccines. Wal-Mart added three more sites. As we move forward, we are glad to see that vaccines are getting out there in other places in the community as well. We continue to operate the site there at the fairgrounds. I think Mr. Pozzo has couple of updates for you. Unless you have questions.
>>SPEAKER: You said it was transitioning to J&J, we have vaccine event tomorrow. Will that be the Johnson & Johnson tomorrow?
>>SPEAKER: I believe it will. We have 300 a week scheduled. The Johnson & Johnson, unless that's a second dose event.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: It's one second and one first at new Smyrna beach is that Johnson & Johnson?
>>SPEAKER: Let me verify that. The Department of Health has set aside Johnson & Johnson.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: You were giving me an update that I was trying to get some in my midtown area. Is that going to happen and will that be the Johnson & Johnson?
>>SPEAKER: I will ask Mr. Pozzo to clarify because I don't know which vaccine it will be. We are working on bringing another closed pod to the midtown area. Joe?
>>SPEAKER: We have several things going on. Joe Pozzo public protection. To answer your question, Ms. Wheeler, I worked with the lady who works with all those missions. She'll be contacting you to discuss when we'll be back at midtown. She's going to work that in the schedule. We got new Smyrna Beach and then we'll transition back to Midtown.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Will that be Johnson & Johnson?
>>SPEAKER: I don't know at this point. We have Moderna that we routinely get. We have some Johnson & Johnson. That depends on between now and when we get to that point what the state shipped us what we'll use. For those sites, single doses certainly more efficient because we can keep moving and move to do them. I think there's more to come on that. We got 4000 doses this week. But it's 4000 Moderna. We will continue to pull the 300 a week that we're allotted for all of those missions. We met last week as a team and we were looking at doing some other types of missions as well, more centralized housing where we can get to more people at once as opposed to having them come to us. We're exploring that because we have some vaccine on hand. Yesterday on the state call, because most of the state now, even in the 60-year-old and up, we're at about 50%. We were told yesterday that lowering the age is imminent. Could be this week or certainly by next week, they will lower the age once again. I think how that's going to work going forward is as the governor as we get into the -- 18 to 64. We'll say 18 to 60 age group probably will be done in blocks. So we can still get -- as it drops by age, perhaps by five years, you still have a vulnerable population. But not as vulnerable perhaps the 65 and older was. We're headed in that direction. Some other things are happening with vaccines. The state is doing more and more missions at either the request of certain focus areas or certain members of the legislature. There are some missions that are going to happen, one occurred last week in Port Orange. We got another occurring on the 20th at central Baptist church in Daytona Beach. Which is good. We're trying to push vaccine out but please keep in mind, we don't know about those all the time. We may get messaged on those late or just before it happens. We will keep you up to date as much as we can. We're working on your missions, for sure. Because that's still remains a vulnerable population. We're all into that. That will continue and the state K-12 staff at Deltona High they were doing K-12 employees and 50 and older. That was successful. There are lot of vaccines going out but a lot of special missions. State also is coming in Volusia to do homebound. We're doing second doses this week and the state is coming in to do first dose. We have actually transition some names to the state because they're coming in with an incident management team to do that. Lot of vaccines are going out. We're making improvements and we'll continue to do that. We'll continue to flush all those 4000 out that we can every week. However, we are noticing people are double booking. They will book at the fairgrounds and then maybe get into a Publix or CVS or some other venue, even hospitals are getting first dose again. There is excess vaccine so to speak. Able to get out to more places, which is good. One fix site certainly isn't going to do the job in a large county as we have. More of these pods that can open up, the better off we are.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Do you mind if I add one thing. This is with regard to the questions about is it Moderna or Johnson & Johnson. I will remind maybe what Patricia Boswell mentioned at the last meeting. The best vaccine is the one that you have access to. We want to make sure to get across that if you can get in and get a vaccine, it doesn't matter if it's the Johnson & Johnson or the Moderna. The best one for you is going to be the one that you have access to. If situation presents itself where you have a ability to make an appointment and get a vaccine, do it.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Do you know is the contact information available yet for the state-run homebound program?
>>SPEAKER: Here's what I would do. Use the number that we provided for the Volusia County health department and either we will do the homebound or we will transfer that name to the state for them to do the homebound.
>> CHAIR BROWER: My vaccine isn't going to match up to that?
>>SPEAKER: I don't think so. That's all for the pods.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Don't go away. You got a bunch of questions. Just to make it perfectly clear, 4000 vaccines a week to we're adding venues every week? Those are divided --
>>SPEAKER: Those 4000 are for the state supported site at the fairground.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Everything else comes with its own vaccine. When you say excess vaccines, the phones will start ringing.
>>SPEAKER: We have vaccine in this county that's coming from two points. One is federal pharmacy program, which is the Winn-Dixie, CVS, Wal-Mart and Sumter Publix. Then Publix still receive some from the state. We get our allocation as well to the state supported site at the fairgrounds. We have opened up multiple venues in our county.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Good news.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Regarding the type of vaccine. I asked the question because you suggested it will transition from one to the Johnson & Johnson. I think like you said, the best vaccine is the one that you have access to and the fact whichever one is available is only because you put it out there, will it be Johnson & Johnson. There is a question in the community about it. My typical response to that is just what I said. Please get it. Get it as soon as you can and encourage someone else to get it as well.
>>SPEAKER: We'll continue to use the Moderna at the state supported site and then any missions that we pull from that, we use the Moderna until we get, if they transition us to Johnson & Johnson. We're only the Moderna run. They gave us 3600. The state provided 3600 vaccines two weeks ago and it was specific for the K-12 allocation, however, they changed their model sort of mid-week and then they allowed us to keep some Johnson & Johnson. What we will do with that Johnson & Johnson is more efficient to utilize that on these micromissions that we do and any Johnson & Johnson that we will get, we will transition the micromissions to that. Save the more Moderna for the first and second dose.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I had people ask me, is this one and done vaccine, or is this something you got to get a booster every year?
>>SPEAKER: I'm not a technical expert in it. I will tell you how they refer to it now. First dose Moderna or Pfizer is your first dose. The second dose is considered the booster dose. In the Johnson & Johnson is a single dose. We have not been told that you have to to to go year-to-to year to get a booster.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Did you have anything to add? That's it? Thank you very much. Keep the reports getting better. Kevin Captain, community events.
>>SPEAKER: Good afternoon. Kevin Captain with community information. Isn't it great to talk about events. Hopefully we'll have more and more events to talk about as the summer progresses. The first one is start out is another free microchipping event and animal services. It's this Sunday March 21st. It's a drive-thru event. Participants can bring their pets, go through the line, the animal services staff takes the pet, brings them in, gives them a chip. It's the pets way to home if they are lost. This is the fourth event that Adam Leath and his team have put together. So far they've done 900 animals. Pretty fancy. If your pet needs a chip on its shoulder, Sunday the 21st. [Laughter]
We needed that after lunch. Water conservation month is April. April also is the peak of dry weather. It's a great time to conserve water to talk about conserving water. We remind residents of the ordinance that we have with restricting for watering our lawns. If you have to use that second day, you can. We prefer you to stick it to one day. We had Tom Kerry that spoke nicely about some of the ways that we can conserve water. In addition, the community survey for the spring hill strive to thrive continues it's going to April 15 President we 15 -- April 15th. We have a social media specialist is drilling down to the geography of ads for next door, instagram, Facebook and twitter. We can really help to get that message out and in addition we are going to be doing some beacon ads to go with councilmember Girtman's article she put out in the beacon for that. We're trying to get the world out for the spring hill community survey. The fund drive continues. It goes through this Friday. Our goal is to meet $7500 through the fund drive. We're over half way there. For the feed the need public employees drive, we're on the right track. We also have government finance professionals week. Which is March 15-19th this week. It's an opportunity for us to recognize government finance professionals and acknowledge them for their hard work. Where is Jonathan Edwards and Ryan. Give them a shot out. We have some ads on social and things like that too. As we continue, we want to continue to push the positive message about vaccination. Over 100,000. We're at 18% or 19% of our population for Volusia that's been vaccinated. Great news. As of yesterday, let me quick point out, that the Ocean Center was able to secure the college basketball invitational, which is customarily played on home court. They're coming to the Ocean Center. We're calling it Mark March madness.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Is it Stetson?
>>SPEAKER: Yes, thank you councilwoman Wheeler. It's local. Just to remind everybody on the public meetings you can go online to look at those and just to highlight couple of them. Development review committee is March 17th, growth income commission is March 24th. Going back to the Ocean Center, they have a big home show this weekend, which is sponsored by the news journal it's March 19th to the 21st. Before I go, I want to bring your attention to something about the community information production studio in the historic courthouse. Many of you, not only seen the studio but you had the opportunity to make a mark and be a part of made in production efforts. Something worthy about the studio is that it was the vision of former production coordinator Jeff Crumley who is now retired. He came in last week to troubleshoot with Darrell. We sort of kidnapped him to the studio and unveiled something. It was quite heart felt. Darrell, would you mind rolling?
>> I wanted to show you. [Laughter] [Applause]
>> I was wondering what was going on. [Laughter]
>> Honoring 31 years of dedicated service. Thank you for all that you done for us. [music].
>>SPEAKER: We're looking and happy to use that studio for many years to come. Any questions?
>> CHAIR BROWER: I don't see any. Well done. All right. Moving right along. Item 13, appointments to the west Volusia tourism advertising authority.
>> I'm ready.
>> CHAIR BROWER: You want to be nominated?
>>SPEAKER: I usually go last. I go first. I want to renominate Pete Arnie.
>> CHAIR BROWER: I got second.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I'm going to nominate Susan Elliott.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I[indiscernib le]
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: District two. I nominating Patel.
>>SPEAKER: Ms. Wheeler she's in the process of good standing and become background checks. She will not be --
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I would like to wait. She's done a good job.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Did you skip me?
>> CHAIR BROWER: Yes, you did. You didn't speak up.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I will nominate Douglas Little. We haven't received anything.
>>SPEAKER: What's your question?
>> CHAIR BROWER: I heard. I have to hold. Who said that?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I did. I thought it said we haven't seen anything.
>> CHAIR BROWER: He's good, Karissa. Next.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I nominate Pete Arnie.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: It's already been done.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Susan Elliott. She was already done too. I can sell you another one.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Cynthia Sullivan.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Before they proceed, I have a question. The rotation order is set by the ordinance. Would Ms. Wheeler need to pick someone or can she skip hers? I'm not certain that the rotation order allow her to appoint Ms. Sarah --
>> She can ask to continue her appointment and bring that back at a future meeting.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: That was my request.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Okay. District 4?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Did we get David Wilson? Okay. I appoint David Wilson.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Ben is not on here? You were so quiet. So unlike you. Are you good. You got everybody?
>>SPEAKER: We need a motion to appoint. It's up to you how to do it. If you want to make a motion there to have it adopted or you can do at the end.
>> CHAIR BROWER: I want to make sure Karissa got everybody. We can do them as a slate. Unless anybody is oppose to that. Somebody would make that motion.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: That motion we approve the slate?
>> CHAIR BROWER: Motioned by Lowry and seconded by Wheeler. All in favor say aye. Any opposed? We move to appointment to the Halifax area advertising authority. District 5 member goes first.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I'll renominate Jim Berkeley.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Chair nominates Jim Jarwarski, did he pass the background check? Next will be at-large.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: [indiscernib le] Berry.
>> CHAIR BROWER: District 1. District 2? District 3?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Samir.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: John Phillips.
>> CHAIR BROWER: District 5?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Josh Harnes.
>> CHAIR BROWER: I'm going to ask to continue until the next meeting as well for my second appointment. That would bring us to Ben at-large.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Robert.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Barb, district 1?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I will continue.
>> CHAIR BROWER: For the three of us that are continuing, are we asking for more applications to come in? Do you want that announcement made? You're just waiting for yours to be finalized?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I have one more.
>> CHAIR BROWER: On your previous appointment. You're waiting if her background check? Barb? Do you need more applications to come in? Would you like to look at more applications?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I guess I would like -- just to get maybe another from west side or get some feedback.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. Karissa, you're good?
>>SPEAKER: You can motion and vote please.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Yes. Can I get a motion to accept the slate? Motioned by Johnson, seconded by Lowry, all in favor say aye. Any opposed? That takes us to appointments for the southeast Volusia advertising authority.
>>SPEAKER: Mr. Chair? This is Heather. I was just looking you were asking about additional applications coming in. I didn't see -- I just realized, I have an application sitting on the desk here for Paul Zimmerman for the Halifax area advertising authority. He wasn't on the sheet.
>> CHAIR BROWER: I had him as well.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I want to know that. I didn't see that until just now.
>>SPEAKER: We don't know what category he's under?
>> CHAIR BROWER: Unfortunately he didn't qualify. That board, we have to follow the state --
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: So this is no good? Got it.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Chair, can we go back to identify who's left for the board?
>> CHAIR BROWER: Can you read them back to us.
>>SPEAKER: If you like to know who has not been appointed. Second one is Stephen Farley, he was previously appointed by district 2, he's in district 3 and in part of the lodging industry. You want me to repeat everyone's appointments. Layne lans berry. Linda Bowers, Jim Berkeley, Dr. Lowry appointed, Samir, Mr. Robins appointed, Joshua Harris, Dr. Lowry appointed, Robert Burnetti Mr. Johnson appointed.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I'm seeing Sean Fisher on here as well on the second page. He wasn't noted.
>>SPEAKER: Jim Jarwarski is what I have as Mr. Brower.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: You didn't mention Sean Fisher.
>>SPEAKER: You're correct. Sean Fisher is district 4 and he's in the tourism industry.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Barb, are you good?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Yes.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Okay. We're going to move on to 15. Which is southeast Volusia Advertising Authority chair's first rotation on this. I would nominate Rebecca Simmons.
>>SPEAKER: Rebecca Simmons would need to be postponed. She's still in the process of background check and clean hands check.
>> CHAIR BROWER: That's why she's in red?
>>SPEAKER: She was a late edition. Yes.
>> CHAIR BROWER: I'm going to wait then. At-large -- district 1?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Donna Ruby.
>> CHAIR BROWER: District 2?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Chad.
>> CHAIR BROWER: District 3? Say that name again? [indiscernible]
Elizabeth Baker. District 4?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I will postpone it this time.
>> CHAIR BROWER: District 5?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Lillian Sheller Haltri.
>>SPEAKER: Same thing W Ms. Lillian, she would need to be postponed because of background check.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I will continue this as well.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Is it possible Mr. Dyer for the two that have not through background check yet to nominate them. Do we have to come back to it next meeting?
>>SPEAKER: In the past, we have brought them back because we didn't have an appointment that has to be rescinded. That's what I would recommend. What we can do is make sure that we're preserving your rotational appointment in the order it was presented.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Didn't sound like we had a conflict anyway.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Move that we accept the slate and the continuance.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Seconded by Post. Lowry made the motion. All in favor say aye. Any opposed? I wish everything was this easy. 16 will not be that easy because we have some business to take care of and we've had people waiting here all day. I want -- this is the appointments for the ad hoc short-term rental advisory committee. We've never done this before. We're going to lay out what that committee looks like. We're going to lay out the parameters, who can serve on it. I want everybody that's been waiting for this to know that you have an opportunity to have your voice be heard in that process. It's my goal, I guarantee it's everybody's goal up here, we want this to be absolutely fair to be perceived as fair but to in fact, be fair. We're going to have a bit of a presentation with some options for appointing the committee. None of which I'm absolutely comfortable with and probably everybody up here up -- we're going to end up with your help blending them and coming up with a fair make-up. My preference is to have equal numbers of people but there are seven of us. There's way to do that. I'm going to let everybody discuss their idea. Suzanne, you're going to do it?
>>SPEAKER: Mr. Brown will give a quick overview.
>>SPEAKER: I'm Russ Brown. You have four potential options that we laid out. There's others that the councilmembers, if you so choose, to make it up some other way. In the four primary goals -- options we laid out in the agenda were the first two are modeled after your I -- I I echo and forever committee. The difference between one and two, is the council will appoint a professional to facilitate the meeting. Option three is modeled after your planning and land development regulation commission. Where you have seven voting members. Each of the councilmembers would get one person to appoint. You would have five of the seven members will be in incorporated. There's some other questions there. Not really a member of another municipal or county office holder. The fourth option would be nonvoting facilitator to facilitate the meeting. The further questions that each board for the council to decide is laid out there in the agenda draft. As mentioned, you can structure the committee any way you want pretty much. Those are just options and ideas laid out before the council.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Mr. Chair, the echo model and your planning commission model, are different in size. Your echo, you have different types of boards. Echo is really administering a County wide program. It didn't distinguish where residency was. Because it is making recommendations and taking actions on your land use regulations, it requires a minimum of five in your current ordinance those members live in unincorporated area. Ewhen E-- when you go through the resolutions, it's common to require the member to be registered voter of Volusia County. It's not legally required. An alternative might be they own property here. That's entirely up to you. The issue of odd and even numbered committee, that's a little bit kind of unusual issue. This one is a unique situation where it's coming ad hoc or task force to make some recommendations to council for you. I know there's some discussion in the last meeting about trying to have evenly divided committee, folks that have different points of view on it. You can have an even number committee. Say if it was six or eight. Utilize perhaps a facilitator as Russ mentioned. Which really not at mediator to help facilitate a discussion and help arrive at some recommendations for you. That's not required as well. I will be happy to answer any questions that you have.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Okay. It looks like we probably should break this down to several different questions to let the board agree on and maybe -- I just copied things down as you were talking, we also -- I'm going to ask the counsel this. We only have two people that want to talk to this. They are both, I believe they come from this from different points of view. Would you like to hear from them first? I would, before we decide all these things. The two people are Riley Allen and Richard Feller. You're both in here? Riley, you want to go first? I don't care. You guys decide. Flip a coin.
>>SPEAKER: I want to make a quick comment. This isn't really an open public forum time. We're graciously letting all speak.
>> CHAIR BROWER: You're our employers, you can speak.
>>SPEAKER: I'm rail Lee -- Riley Allen. I offered March 2nd, I offered my background if I can be of assistance as lawyer. These are legal issues that I understand. I have spoken to folks on the other side. The most important part, you need to have a measured, very respectful professional meeting and conversation. Whether that requires a facilitator, I think that depends on the make-up of the committee. I think you can do it without facilitators if you have reasonable people involved. I'm not opposed to having a facilitator. I personally believe you should be a registered voter. I show on there as a non-elector. I thought that was disqualifying for me if I was not a registered voter. As of yesterday, we became full-time residents. I went to register to vote but the wait was two hours. They gave me an appointment for Wednesday at 3:15. Karissa has been kind enough to help me to get registered and change our home which is in the works and should be accomplished. We changed our driver's licenses. I've been coming to that same exact spot for 50 years. I'm very vested in that area. I know that area very well. I think just for purposes of the committee, whomever it is you select, I realize it's a task that those people be vested wherever they come from. That's all I would ask. In talking with Mr. Feller today, we get along very well. We communicate. I'm confident that I can communicate reasonably and professionally with anyone. I'm willing to serve. I understand there are many very qualified individuals. I looked at the list of people, I got ton meet them. Whomever you select, I know you will pick people that are very qualified. Thank you very much.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: What was his name?
>> CHAIR BROWER: Riley Allen. Obviously, I'm hoping you end up on the committee. I know you appeared here several times. I think you've been reasonable. I think the committee would benefit having you there. Okay, Richard Feller?
>>SPEAKER: Thank you very much, council. Everything that Riley said, I agree with 100%. I did want to point out two things. I think property ownership is a big part of this as well. Just having it be electors, I think maybe something that should be considered. Since this is a topic that affect property owners and electors. Just something to consider. Unincorporated versus corporated parts or cities, there's a lot that can be learned from people who walked down this road before. Since this is kind of a learning committee and something we want to try to gauge from and since it's a Volusia County issue, not just district 3 or not just district 4. It's a whole county issue, I think there are ways we should be looking at this outside and there are some great areas that have really done great things on that. To not listen to parts from or not take any input outside the unincorporated area might be short sighted. As the decision goes, I understand how it is. Those will be the two points I will make. We spoken quite a bit. The list of people is very well-versed. There's a lot of good discussion that can happen. It will be successful. If we have that type of communication on this group. Thank you very much if you just take into consideration those two points.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I think they should be registered voters of Volusia County. I think we should have a majority in the unincorporated. They are the ones that are affected in this. I definitely think they should be Volusia County. I do have to tell you Mr. Chair, we have a lot of applications here. I don't know if any of them are out of the county or out of the state and yes, they are. Just late last night, I was working up until 9:30. I finally was able to sit down and look at my e-mails. At 7:00, I received nine more. I didn't have a chance to go through those. I really think we need to sort these out if we decide this is the way we're going. People from out of state shouldn't be making the laws for people in here. I feel really strongly about that. The residents that are in these areas, should not have that -- somebody even though they own the property, they're in Orlando and it's not in their backyard. It's a different story. I'm very passionate about that. I do think seven members and a moderator and that's where I'm going right now. That's my comments. I really think we need to sort through this list.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Before I recognize you Mr. Lowry, are you going to make a motion? I would like to break it down a little bit more and let's deal with one question right now. Do we want electors or property owners. Electors would get rid of anybody out of the state that's not voting here. Or they can be a property owner and live -- somebody make a motion.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I make the motion that we only have electors.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Second by Ben Johnson. All in favor of that part of it, say aye. Any opposed? We've got electors. Now you're heading more towards -- that's fine. You're heading towards a motion. Seven with a moderator or a facilitator. I really like the idea of a facilitator. We've seen great passion in this group. There's nothing wrong with that. I think having a facilitator, they might not have to go past the first meeting or second meeting. You can elect your own chair.
>>SPEAKER: Do you need a motion?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I would recommend, I'm going make the motion for seven members of this committee as well as a facilitator.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Second.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Seconded by Lowry. They have been --
>>SPEAKER: There's a motion and second. You will need to vote on that item.
>> CHAIR BROWER: I thought we just did. We didn't? Go ahead and vote. All in favor say aye. All opposed. Facilitator. Do you want to tell us what learned about facilitators? Do you have some to recommend?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: We have made some inquiries about facilitators in the area that I did not reach out. I like to think I'll be able to do that and come back with recommendations for you.
>> CHAIR BROWER: I will add one to your investigation. He tells me that he's neutral. I know the man well. I believe him. He's a real estate -- he's in real estate. His name is Arthur Cowitz. He's 72-year-old, he's a strong man that can facilitate this group. I would submit his name to you.
>>SPEAKER: He's very reasonable.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Karissa I believe has background information. He's also been appointed. Just add him to your list for facilitator. We're going to do this in kind of inwielding way. It's not really a public comment time. I'm going to make it that. As we talk, if you want to give Karissa a slip, if you like to give feedback on the things that we're deciding, I want it to be that open. I really want this to be your committee. Not mine. I want results at the end. I want people, my whole goal was for people to sit down across from each other, look each other in the eye, like you and the other attorney did last time. Recognize each other as fellow worthwhile human beings and come to some decisions. I just offer that again. Now the question becomes -- you have one more question.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I would like to make a motion that at least no less than five being in the unincorporated area. Again, the reason why I say that, it's really easy for someone to make a decision but it's not in their backyard. If the unincorporated people making the vote, they're going to be in the backyard.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Why would we want any from the unincorporated area.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I'm okay to make that motion they should reside in the unincorporated area.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Makes the motion that electors only from unincorporated area. Ben Johnson seconded. We have some discussion and they all just disappeared. Barb Girtman?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: You're saying that's their private personal residence? They're voting addresses?
>> CHAIR BROWER: The primary residence will be unincorporated Volusia.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: If they live in the city, the city of DeLand but they own property unincorporated in short-term rental community, they're not eligible?
>>SPEAKER: Again, it wouldn't be in their backyard. If they're living in the city, they're not making a vote on what they're going to have next door to them.
>> CHAIR BROWER: If their property there, it is their backyard.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: You can be a city resident right next to an unincorporated lot.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: That's my concern. I don't think the lines are define that well. I think you could have city right next to the county in the same, actually in DeLand, you can one house one way and the next the other because somebody annexed themselves in. I don't know if that's a fair representation. Especially for my district.
>> CHAIR BROWER: I agree. I think you're right. We have to decide. Unincorporated as primary resident or living in the city and owning property in the unincorporated area. You didn't make a motion what, would you like to separate those two and we'll see where it ends up. Ben, you seconded it. All in favor of that say aye. Any opposed? Karissa, please call the roll. I don't want to be accused of hearing it wrong. [roll call vote]

four against.
>> CHAIR BROWER: They have to be an elector. They have live in unincorporated area or own property in the unincorporated area.
>>SPEAKER: That will be decision by the counsel. You will decide the residency issue. It's seven members required by code five reside in the unincorporated area. That's one example. You have any number of things you can do. Have them own property in the unincorporated area, they can reside in the unincorporated area.
>> CHAIR BROWER: I was asking a question. We're going to need a motion to determine that. What councilwoman Girtman wanting. Make a motion.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I was going to go ahead with the format and recommend five of the seven be from the unincorporated area.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Only other option left it will be anyone in Volusia County correct? Only other option is they are from Volusia County.
>>SPEAKER: They live in unincorporated or they own property in the unincorporated.
>> CHAIR BROWER: We said no.
>> CHAIR BROWER: We said no everyone living in the unincorporated. I'm going to try to make the motion that they all have to reside or own a property in the unincorporated, correct?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I support what councilmember Lowry do. That five do and two could not. Two can be from the city. [indiscernible]
>>SPEAKER: First motion failed saying that all seven had to reside in the unincorporated. It's still open. However the board determines. They want to follow. What I'm hearing now is PLDRC model. Ms. Girtman and Mr. Lowry, five unincorporated and two reside outside the unincorporated. You can talk about the issue as well. If you want that to be a requirement that they live in the city. That's not the PLDRC model.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: That is the motion I would make that we would follow that model.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Five unincorporated, two can be from the city.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Minimum of five.
>> CHAIR BROWER: We haven't determined the total number of people on the committee?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Seven. We are voting on that.
>> CHAIR BROWER: My concern -- I'm fine with that. My concern remains the appearance of fairness and actual fairness with seven people. Do we need any more discussion on how -- are we going to nominate -- what if we get seven people that are all for it or seven people against it? We can look at the materials that they sent in. We have a list of people that are for a few, a few that are neutral. Some that are against. Do you care if it's all for or all against? Does it need to be a mix. Should it be an equal mix?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I think we should just be -- [indiscernible]
>> CHAIR BROWER: I'm just asking so everybody can hear what's happening. We have two more that want to talk right now. John Nicholson? I'm sorry sorry. You're good so far? Ricky, are you good so far or you want to speak? Less than three minutes if you can.
>>SPEAKER: Was the motion by Dr. Lowry for the five out of seven to be unincorporated Volusia and the second was Ms. Wheeler or Ms. Girtman? I need clarification on who made and seconded the motion?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I think it was Fred Lowry who made the motion and I seconded.
>>SPEAKER: I have a request. I like to volunteer to serve on the short-term rental advisory committee. First let me say that you probably know that this is an issue that is close to my heart. I can become quite passionate about it. I will work hard. In the spirit of cooperation. I believe I will be a good person for you to select. I'm very familiar with the issues and have a great deal of knowledge to bring to the table. I spoken to many people about this and have learned their concerns and pass those sentiments to the committee. I'm a long-term resident of Bethune Beach. I have been dealing with this issue in Bethune Beach for 28 years. I can correct, rectify any information that might be presented to the committee. If you select me, I will listen to the thoughts and opinions of others and try to assist at arriving at consensus and recommendation that best serve the citizens of Bethune Beach. My request is this, -- you do not enforce zoning code. It causes a problem in Bethune. I can show you pictures, people fighting and arguing. I think you need to get rid of the Miranda and we need to keep the law the way it is until a decision is made. To come in and take away our zoning code or our ordinance dealing with short-term rentals, I think that's wrong. I think making that decision is wrong. It should stay the way it was unless it changes. That's the purpose of this committee. And all of us get together and doing this. Chair Brower, you want to be fair. Be fair that all sides are heard. I'm talking about the stay. Maybe I'm confused here. Moratorium, sorry about that. Moratorium should be stopped and everything should go back to the way it was. That's you changing the zoning code. Let the committee and everybody get together and change the code. It's causing a lot of tension. I'm telling you, there's been threats. I can tell you things I won't tell you. I know their families. I mean physical violence. I would like to see the Miranda stop until a decision is made by all parties.
>> CHAIR BROWER: That will be probably the last issue that we take up today, at the end of this item number. We at a point where everybody is ready to make a nomination?
>>SPEAKER: We need to vote.
>> CHAIR BROWER: We didn't vote on that either? You make a motion. Can you restate it quickly?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Five of the seven on the committee, will follow the PLDRC format. Five of the seven will reside in the unincorporated area.
>> CHAIR BROWER: It was seconded. Please call the roll on these votes.
[roll call vote]
Michael Dyer, are you voting against it?
>>SPEAKER: I made sure Russ didn't have his speaker button on as well. You have two issues, if you want to give us direction or not on it, do you want to set a deadline or suggest time frame to bring the recommendation back to you. Do you want to give them any specific charge or mission. You're looking for the committee to present ideas and possible amendments to the code. I have heard some discussions about best practices that may not be in the code. Something that property owners can do. One consideration is would you like to give feedback before legislative session or realize whatever comes out of session, can impact what that committee is doing and you want to give some time beyond that?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: My suggestion, I still think that we need to wait until after we can all this. To add the fact again, that nine applications that I haven't had a chance to read through. They may be the best in the whole pick. I haven't had a chance to go through them because I got them late last night. I'm going ask staff on Friday evening, once we get our final, it will be nice to get anything on Monday evening late that's going to be added to the agenda especially a volume like this. It is really difficult for us to catch up on things like this. Especially if you don't look at your e-mail all day long. I don't want to make any nominations for the committee because I haven't read them all. I do think we should wait until after the legislative session. Staff can go on and look at facilitator and come up with the plan and once they filter through all -- staff filters through these and tells us who are in the unincorporated areas and who's not someone that lives out of state. I think they need to filter through them now that we've made these guidelines. It's really important that they filter through them and give us the final list for us to work off of. I have no idea whether these people live or if they are just property owners. That's my suggestion.
>> CHAIR BROWER: I think I got them last Wednesday.
>>SPEAKER: Karissa put out what she got last night and what she got yesterday. Direction is -- she was doing the best she could do get this them to you. If there's a cutoff, we'll look to that cut off. We do not have one for this. She did the best she could to get them to you last night because they came in yesterday.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I had people asking over the weekend. I was telling them they had until midnight or until before the meeting started to get these applications in. If they were in district 4, I would look at them.
>> CHAIR BROWER: I'm good with it. I'm not trying to rush it. Karissa has worked really hard to get us stuff.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Karissa are there ones on here that live out of state, out of the county?
>>SPEAKER: The one in parenthesis have their districts unincorporated elector. Those are the ones I received the information from the elections on where they live. There is three on your paper so far that are non-electors of the county. From Wendy down to Margaret, those I have not received any of the clean hands check back yet. All of that has not been filtered. I have not also received information from the elections department on what district elector unincorporated or incorporated west side or east side.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: That's really important to of it that information. We're going through all of this effort. It will be nice to have that information. We've made the guidelines who we want on the board. Some of these do not comply with those new guidelines.
>> CHAIR BROWER: I don't have a problem with that. We just shortened the list with the guidelines that we made of their qualifications. We can probably do this now. Sounds like we're heading to a continuation to actually make nominations at the next meeting. Before I say this, Dr. Lowry and Heather Post.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I like to make a motion to put March 30th cut off date to receive applications. That will be my motion.
>> CHAIR BROWER: That was the deadline to receive applications. Do you want -- which will probably take it separately. Is there a second? Seconded by Post. All in favor say aye. Any opposed? Ben, I took that vote without calling on you.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I thought we ought to back that up about a week. You're putting lot of stuff on staff right now. March 31st, we already had couple of weeks. It still gives them plenty of time. We got to give staff enough time. We asked where do they live. That's a lot of work.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: As well as ending legislative session.
>>SPEAKER: The agenda will be first districted on the 29th. They would have until Wednesday to apply. That would give me two days to get that information depending on those departments and how many applications actually come through that may not be enough time to have them properly given to you by the time the update goes out on Friday.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: How do I get out of this and get it to the second meeting.
>> The council has to make a motion. It will be presented at the the second meeting in April.
>> CHAIR BROWER: How long does she have to receive applications?
>> The Kathy date will -- the cutoff date will be the same.
>> CHAIR BROWER: We can probably do this next meeting talking about win we -- when we want them to bring recommendations. Combine that with nominations and give them their charge at that meeting. If everybody wants to be prepared for those debates, what kind of charge do we give them, when do we want recommendations back and should it be ongoing. Especially if short-term rentals were in place, should this committee be in place to handle complaints, issues. We'll do that next time. We have Mr. Lowry's motion on the floor changing the date. Did you get Heather Post second? The motion was again, the date is now --
>> Instead of first meeting in April. We give staff more time going to the second meeting in April. That gives Mrs. Wheeler, in line with the state.
>> CHAIR BROWER: All in favor say aye. Any opposed?
>> We need to address the code enforcement.
>> CHAIR BROWER: That's the last thing in this section. We have to do that. The last time was code enforcement for another two weeks or was the vote that it goes until the resolution of this issue? That's what I thought.
>> My understanding what council did at the meeting, the suspension of processing code enforcement complaints regarding vacation rentals, short-term rentals will continue until we report it back to you at the conclusion of the legislative session on possible changes to the code. You were talking about no earlier than end of April.
>> CHAIR BROWER: We're looking as option to amend?
>> Council can change that decision. Could change that date shorten it, lengthen or repeal it. The suspension that is.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Looks like we've got Dr. Lowry, go ahead.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Last time, because of the way the state law grandfathering process is structured that we're skating be on thin ice. We can get ourselves in trouble. I like to make a motion that we reinstate the operation of original ordinance and suspend the moratorium.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Second Wheeler.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Motion made by Lowry to reinstate the ordinance, 30 days rental, seconded by Wheeler. Dr. Lowry, you're done right?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I'm done.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Discussion? Michael Dyer is not done.
>> I will open to public comment if there is any.
>> CHAIR BROWER: John, you're still good?
>> I ask you to go that that particular date. It was the 31st, I would make a decision after the 31st. I would ask you at least go to the 31st so anybody who's already rented, can do it. There may be problems with that. I understand wanting to go to the law. But the 31st is not that far away. It would prevent a lot of problems. Thank you.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Was that the original motion was to go to the 31st?
>> The discussion there wasn't a fixed date. You would revisit it when we return back to you, conclusion of the legislative session on the outcome short-term rentals. Just to be clear what council did do, they suspended the processing of complaints. You didn't change the code. Still remains a violation. If this motion passes, I understand the intent of the motion it to repeal suspension of process and complaints. Those complaints will be processed by staff like any other complaint if it passes.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Last time we actually voted on holding off on code enforcement because we heard from so many in the community and there was such battling going on and people are calling in on other people to report. We voted on that and we said to May 1st. Now we're changing that. I'm not quite sure -- I love to hear any comments as to why we're changing that direction? When we're right in the middle this short-term process?
>> We set a date?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: In my discussion, I said we didn't set an actual date. I believe in my discussion, I would like to have this resolved by the first of May. By the first of May, the legislature should have information from them. If there was any kind of governor discussion, that's usually right there at the beginning.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I'm still -- I'm going back to the point that -- what we had on the record. He suggested that we follow the ordinance that we already made. We went against his -- we gotten lot of information sense then. I'm just asking to go back to what the ordinance is until we can do it the way we supposed to do it officially.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Healther wasn't done if you want to finish.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I want to verify that we in no way changed as just as the attorney stated, we no way changed the ordinance. We did not amend the ordinance. We simply said we're going to hold off on enforcement. I can tell you that in government and especially in police work, by the way, we have three former police officers up on the Dias here. Enforcement is set aside many times on many different issues government for various reasons. That should not be -- I'm not sure exactly where we're going back and changing when we're half way through the very short-term process when we did so much discussion and finally worked out to now change direction, I think is not actually giving the public their due. We set the standard. It's a very short time frame. We need to stick to it.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Fred Lowry and reply.
>> We're taking a chance of losing the grandfathering aspect. Everything can just tumble away and take everything out of their hands. It can be interpret, decision to keep postponing enforcement of this, could pass this in the light of losing the grandfather. That's my concern. That was my concern last time and still my concern.
>> CHAIR BROWER: It didn't change the ordinance. Mike Dyer, will you respond to that so everybody is absolutely clear of having a stay. Does that change the ordinance. Did it not change the ordinance?
>> You suspended processing enforcement. This is an unusual issue. You're dealing with a state law that treated our ordinances grandfather. Change the ordinance that you use that grandfather status. My only comment I made was that if somebody raise that defense a code enforcement case, the effect of your suspension would somehow changing your code that could be something that we would have to deal with in a legal challenge. We would argue against it. There's not a case on point on this. Just such a novel issue. I think all of you have been very careful about articulating what you're doing.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Richard Feller?
>> As we directed to people is, the ends of the legislative session, which is April 30th. Homeowners went out and made rentals. If you rescind that today, we have to go back and tell people who made their vacation rentals that they can't come and cancel those reservations and then for myself, personally, I didn't take a single reservation after April 30th. I only took during this stay. Some people done other things. Now I have to go back and get those few and tell them not to come. We've now gone back again. Mr. Dyer will say, there's many lawsuits pending. If you're going look at this, there's a lawsuit pending about the stay. Let it be heard through the system. The down is handling those lawsuit. I think Mike Dyer will handle those lawsuits as necessary. I don't think it's right to now say two weeks later, we're changing it again. We got a few phone calls. You got lots of phone calls. You gotten phone calls and against. It's a tough subject. Same thing I said for myself and group, we want to know what the answer is. We were expecting we'll have a council that we would sit down and talk about. Now that's two weeks into before were we know who's in the group. I believe that even though it's argued I'm not an elector here, I got any voter I.D. card, the voters want to know what to do. Please tell the voters what to do. That's what we're asking for. You changed it on us a couple of times. We're trying to be law-abiding citizens.
>> I lived there for 20 years. Richard Feller here keeps telling you. We've been trying for six months. He's got two illegal duplexes for six months we've been trying to get code enforcement. He goes around. They're illegal duplexes on R9. He has short-term rentals. For one thing right now, yesterday, there's no licenses on either one of them. You said in your e-mail right here that they should be thrown in jail if they're short-term rentals without licenses. Ask him to produce his license. He doesn't own land. His girlfriend there owns the property he rents. His mother own the other one. There's no licenses that we looked up. You can look it up in 30 seconds. He's renting today two duplexes now. Thank you.
>> CHAIR BROWER: That would have been a question for code enforcement. There's a motion on the floor? Is it possible for to you restate it?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I think my motion was that we make an end to the suspension and resume normal code enforcement activities.
>> Is that repeal suspension processing code enforcement complaints on this issue.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: What he said.
>> CHAIR BROWER: The second was by Wheeler. I'm going to call for a roll call vote. This is one of those decisions where everybody feels like whatever I do, it's wrong. We made a decision two weeks ago, now there's renters in homes. Will they be evicted? What happens to them? I'm afraid it makes to visitors that come here, it makes us look bad to them. What are the rules in Volusia County? Karissa, would you call the roll?
[roll call vote]

the motion passes 4-3.
>> CHAIR BROWER: The stay is said. Stay is lifted. I would like an explanation from legal offering of free legal advice to the people here that have their properties rented. What do they do? Do they go and throw them out?
>> I'm Russ Brown. The process would be that there could be subject to a fine just under the code enforcement process. It's up to each individual property owner to decide how to handle the situation based on the circumstances. The process would be the county's process for the code enforcement is what will be back and forth.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I think it's flip-flopping around. I don't know. Here we are. What a confusing message now that we're sending. This is just my opinion. We go through this process. We vote on it, we get our ducks in the row and wait for the legislative session. Two weeks later, what kind of message are we sending to our visitors and to our property owners, resident and taxpayers. We have got to get it together. Feels like we're having an identity crises here in Volusia County. This isn't an easy subject. What do we do? We're going back on things -- it's been two weeks. [indiscernible]
>> CHAIR BROWER: Sir, that's enough. Would you continue Danny. You're making a very valid point.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I get it. I don't disagree with some of the things on both sides. What are we doing? That's my question. I wish I had an answer.
>> CHAIR BROWER: We're creating whiplash. You're right. It doesn't look good.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Mr. Chair, this is a result of making a hasty decision several weeks ago when it was asked. We immediately made that decision with having it as an agenda item come back and discuss. We made a decision to suspend the violations in a very hasty decision. It's just the reverse. Those folks at that time, were blind sided. I'm just saying, that's one of the reasons why we need not make those hasty decisions without putting it on the agenda and discussing it and researching and having time to think about it. The decision was made before out of a passionate plea from many people. Then we got the other side of the story. Again, I think it's a result of a decision that was made hastily.
>> CHAIR BROWER: We got lot of people that want to talk now. I'm going to reject that. That's how it started. You keep saying that. It's the way that the chair can put something on the agenda directed by our county staff. That's how we do it. It was not a hasty decision. We've been dealing with it for a long time. We voted for it here. If it was too hasty, you could have voted no. We changed. Now we changed it back. Are we going to change it back again? Heather Post?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: That was exactly my point earlier. I agree with you Danny. That was my point earlier. What are we doing? We're flip-flopping. Council needs to -- these are tough decisions that we're making. When we make decisions we need to stand by them and this isn't even a long-term decision. It's until May 1st or April 30th. I don't like the flip-flopping. I think once we make a decision, especially such short-term decision, we need to stick by it and we need to stand firm and not flip-flop. I think this sets a very bad example.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Something I wanted to say, this is not going to stop the short-term rentals. This is not -- this is government's fault. Don't think it is. This is a perfect example of what is wrong with government. Laws do not stop things from happening. Look at our gun laws, look at speeding, look at radar detectors. Look at everything else in our code books P it does not stop. This has been going on for 30 years. It's been all over the place. Here we are, we can't get our -- I want to say a four letter word together. That's our fault. I am sorry to everybody. I'm going to leave it at that.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I voted not to suspend this ordinance. I'm not happy about today's vote because people have made plans. Also, you would think that in the last few weeks, that the people would be on their best behavior. We gotten one e-mail of bad behavior down there disrupting the neighborhood. I had several other e-mails and phone calls. It's kind of product of your own fault getting at your neighbor who are stepping out of line on this thing. I did vote two weeks ago not to suspend it. I'm not happy about today's vote. I felt like I needed to do that.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Any other discussion? I'm not happy about today's vote either. We just handed people a big problem and a legal problem for them once they rented and now they have to go ask them to move. Now we've given them a legal problem. You can expect to hear from that. Danny, did you rescind?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I was talking to myself. I said I better quit.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Four let word was vote right? [Laughter]
>> CHAIR BROWER: Okay. The votes has been made I guess we have to move on. Item 17. I feel like people will walk out of this meeting not knowing what in the world just happened to them. I hope it didn't undo any possibilities of the committee that we just talked about and set up. I don't know how we expect them to talk to each other and come to a resolution when we have a whiplash problem.
>> Item 17 was removed from the agenda. We're on item 18.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Appointments for the planning and land development regulation commission. Do we have -- we don't have an order for this. Everybody gets one appointment. Chair and At-large it must be in unincorporated area. Five of the seven members must live in an unincorporated area. Two appointments may result from district member nominations a person living in municipalities. If you want to use the list to ask for nominations, roll call list. I don't see an order.
>> Ms. Wheeler?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: [indiscernib le]
>> Ms. Girtman? Mr. Johnson?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Ronny Mills.
>> Dr. Lowry?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I need assistance from legal on this. I talked with him and wanted Van Damme who serves on the current PLDRC. They would like to swap. I like to make a motion on the PLDRC, which he wants to serve on. I need to appointment Wanda Van Damme on the Volusia Forever. She like to serve on that. Can I correct that? Do I need to stick with the topic at hand?
>> You need to stick with the topic at hand.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Okay.
>> Ms. Post?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Is that possible. Since he is on the other board already?
>> I think he can serve on two boards.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I'm hoping I can correct it.
>> With PLDRC, you can serve on two boards?
>> It's whether a violation. One is in advisory in nature, PLDRC has the decision to make final. If you on both committees, it wouldn't be a violation. It depends on the board.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Thank you.
>> Arthur Cowitz.
>> Mr. Robins.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Frank Costa.
>> Mr. Brower.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Richard Feller.
>> The rest of council is aware that Mr. Fowler came to me at the beginning of the meeting stating that he wish to change his application to the PLDRC as well as to be included for the short-term rental advisory committee.
>> CHAIR BROWER: That's because I asked him months ago if he would serve on the PLDRC. Was there anybody left?
>> No. Can you read those back for the council?
>> Ms. Wheeler appointed Edith Shelly who is unincorporated City of Daytona Beach. Mr. Johnson appointed Ronny Mills who is unincorporated, Dr. Lowry appointed stony, Ms. Post appointed Arthur cowitz City of Ormond Beach. Mr. Robins appointed Frank Costa who is unincorporated. Mr. Brower appointed Richard Fowler who is unincorporated. That's three individuals who is appointed unincorporated.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Is there a question about one?
>> Give me one moment to check unincorporated versus incorporated to make sure we're meeting the requirements.
>> Dr. Lowry appointed stony and unincorporated City of Daytona.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Councilmember have a preference.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I think Ms. Post had the right solution to revisit the order of appointment. Unfortunately the later you are in that rotation, you might have to change your appointment.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: What I'm going to do then is hold off on the appointment right now.
>> CHAIR BROWER: It's unfortunate, he would have been a really strong member of that board, extremely knowledgeable. The next meeting we can change the rules for the make-up of that committee right? We changed everything else.
>> Can I have a motion and a second for that?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I move we accept the slate with the one continuation.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Motion by Lowry and second by Wheeler that we accept the slate including the one postponement. All in favor say aye. Any opposed? Which bring us to item 19. Volusia economic development workshop which will be downstairs. It's 3:35.
>> Mr. Chair, the plan was to hold it here.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Okay. Before that, do we want to go right into this would you prefer to have comments from the council first? You would prefer that?
>> The public is on the agenda prior to the workshop as well.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Is that the only one for public comment? He's spoken three times today.
>> Don't forget the individuals were not able to speak during the public participation in the morning. You should have had a stack left over from that as well.
>> CHAIR BROWER: When we do the public comments, John Nicholson?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: We can't hear you.
>> CHAIR BROWER: You have the switch there?
>> Hi. While ago I asked that you beef up the properties that you all owned on the beach side to help the City of Daytona Beach. All the bathrooms should have been redone, painted. They look great. Coming down the pike, you will redo the plaza, which is an entrance that is relatively ugly. You can make a nice little park out of it. You're half way done. I think it's great.
I want to thank you and thank Jessica for what she's done. In the paper today was a discussion of the sewage that comes from south Florida. Do we get impacted by that? We're talking about the St. Johns river which goes through that area. If there is a case, we should be on it. I'm asking that we be aware what's going on and actively protect our county. Also, sea rise, the City of Daytona Beach redone their seawall. Some of you remember the hurricane, devastated the street. The logical thing would have been to raise it high enough so the water doesn't do the same damage again. I'm asking what are we as a county doing with regard to this sea rising? Before it hits us, are we looking at it and what are we doing? Lastly, I would ask the highest best use of all of our properties. My push was, there will be money making at each locations to pay for it so that taxpayers don't have to. They did the zip line at the park and the zip line now pays for all the maintenance of the park for the entire year. There's money leftover. With the three recreation centers in midtown what the city done, rather than we pay for the maintenance and for the staffing, the YMCA wanted to staff one. The boys and girls club wanted to staff one. Those moneys, instead of paying for staff, is now saved. Others are doing it for us. I'm asking whatever we as a county own to look at it highest and best use and what we can do to generate funds -- I don't mean destroy them. What can we add to it to generate funds to take care of the properties themselves. Thank you.
>> CHAIR BROWER: John Capitalton. I think lot of these people probably left. Vincent? Christine Peterson? Wendy Rowan? Christa Gregory.? You have any more? We'll move to the council's comments. Do you want to go now? Go ahead, George.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: First off, we've been asked by homebound vaccinations we have a handout here up on the screen. This provides a contact number and a website that people can go to if they need a homebound vaccination. We'll put that out. We'll have that on our website. I wanted that number (866)779-6121. Also available if you have somebody that's home bound that needs a vaccination. Other thing that I have we received today a request from the City of DeLand. They're applying for Florida league of cities, city spirit award for their work with their homeless shelter the bridge. They like council support by drafting letter of support. Staff put something together and council signature. Majority of you want that?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Motion. I make a motion to support DeLand in their effort.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Motioned by Girtman is there a second? By Wheeler. All in favor say aye. Any opposed? 7-0.
>> That's all I have out of my office.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I sent you an update on some bills on county interest. We'll resume doing updates to you working with John Booker some of the issues that are relevant to county government. If you have any questions, reach out to us.
>> CHAIR BROWER: I will follow the same order that's on the roll call. Unless you're not ready yet, Billy. I'll come back to you.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Just three quick items. I did want to say with real regret that you saw this come up. Bethune Cookman President abruptly resigns without informing the board. What an asset he was to Bethune Cookman. That's a sad loss. I don't know what happened there. I regret seeing that. I've hadal couple of request from constituents. One of them was that they would like us to video record Volusia Forever and Echo. For those who can't participate they can go back and watch it. If we can have those recorded -- video.
>> You mean the listening sessions or the actual meeting or both?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Yes. Let's just do the meetings.
>> We will work with the community information to ensure they are available for it. I want to note that our strategy for the listening sessions is also to tape the introduction and Powerpoint. So people who are not able to participate live, during one of the sessions, can still see the presentation and offer comments via e-mail or other methods. All the way around.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: That would be good.
>> We have first meeting of the Forever Committee this Friday to go over the educational information. We have the Powerpoint. I'm not sure we'll be able to video thing. All the meetings will be recorded. After that, we'll have to coordinate with our community information group so that we can provide video.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Thank you. The final thing -- I know everybody else is getting these requests. I'm just going to bring it out there. We're suppose to bring people's request forward. Does anybody want to take up the situation with dogs on the beach? Come back with a discussion on it.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I have received many e-mails on that. I responded with my statement on it. I've also said that our job is to listen to all sides and make these decisions. I'll be more than happy to bring it to discussion. I have been responding with my constituents.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I also have been. I'm like you, I feel like it's our obligation to at least bring it forward for discussion. If that's okay to have staff bring something forward that we can discuss.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Make a motion to put it on the agenda?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Can you get something together?
>> I need four of you to put it on. We need to stick to the decision.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: That is it. Thank you. Councilwoman Girtman?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Thank you, chair. I would be remiss if I do not say what I always say about the precautions, things are not behind us yet. Although we are improving. Please continue to mask up, wash up and back up whenever possible. I can see some light at the end of the tunnel. It concerns me after seeing bike week and anticipating spring break and knowing it's not behind us yet. We care about our community. I want to thank public safety, Joe Pozzo, Yalonda and their team for all the efforts they are doing with the vaccine. They've been doing an awesome job and cooperative. I've been so impressed with the job that they've done. Lastly, I want to ask -- I've been part of a committee through main street DeLand. It's in cooperation with a number of other 501C3 volunteers. It came about through the COVID but through the concerns of the local businesses and wanting to have a resource that they can go to. Other local businesses and create more of a diversity inclusion and welcoming training package. What they want to do is anybody that's not as familiar or wants become more aware of how to make themselves more welcoming and inclusive, inclusive meaning of all ages, race, preferences. Main street DeLand recognizes there may be some needs there. They've been working with Stetson and other local agencies to create a training module. What I said I would come back to council to ask if they would consider working with us to put some dollars towards those trainings. What I'm hoping for is that it can be a model not just for Main Street DeLand and perhaps Volusia County working with the CRAs and tailor it to help uplift local small businesses. I'm asking councilmembers if you would support me in that effort.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Yes, we would.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: You got four?
>> CHAIR BROWER: I think we have six. Others? With you that make seven.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Thank you so much. One thing, I want to thank our production team. We worked on a video this week to talk about the importance of the vaccine. We expect that to be out within the next 7 to 10 days. I think that will be a great opportunity. Thank you.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. Ben Johnson?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Motion put on the agenda for the next meeting about discussion on the Ocean Center, graduation.
>> CHAIR BROWER: I concur with that. Second. Everybody is in but Barb. To discuss it.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Yes, thank you. Absolutely.
>> Can you repeat the second please?
>> CHAIR BROWER: Dr. Lowry?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I want to follow up on my earlier comment, talking with Mr. Sickman and Ms. Van Damme. I need to withdraw my nomination of stony and appointment Van Damme. Can I do that?
>> I think you can do it.
>> CHAIR BROWER: This kind of opens up a bargain? I would be glad to do that especially if Mr. Lowry was willing to change his vote on the PLDRC and have an unincorporated person.
>> Technical way to do it will be a motion for reconsideration. Anyone who made the motion can be on the prevailing side part. Just have a redo. I think you approved it as a slate.
>> CHAIR BROWER: We did.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Do I put that on the agenda for next meeting?
>> I think you can do it in this meeting.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Is everybody comfortable with that.
>> CHAIR BROWER: The switch you're making is Sickma --
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I appointed Sickma on the PLDRC. I will be taking him off the Volusia Forever and putting Wanda Van Damme on that. I make that a motion.
>> Motion for reconsideration making that change. By doing so, second it. I'm not hearing any other councilmembers wanting to change their nominations.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Motioned by Lowry second by anybody? By Wheeler. All in favor say aye. Any opposed?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: That's all I have. Thank you very much.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Heather?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: We've had a lot of discussion before on human trafficking. I've been doing a lot of work on task forces. Many of you know that we bring in the junior league all the time and being a member of the junior league, they've been working on this for years and certainly law enforcement used to work these cases. I'm very interested in discussing a human trafficking ordinance for Volusia County. There are many other counties who proposed it and put it in place. I would like to put that on a future agenda if everybody would like to put that on for discussion.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I second.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Motioned by Post second by Girtman. All in favor say aye. Any opposed?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Very soon up coming meeting.
>> CHAIR BROWER: I assume you meant the next one. Which is going to be a long meeting. Michael Dyer?
>> I did not see anyone to motion it. Motion to reconsideration on that appointment. Was there any public input on that? I don't think there was. I think it's good to ask.
>> CHAIR BROWER: For Mr. Lowry?
>> On that motion that council approved.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Are you sure? Public hearing is closed.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: On human trafficking ordinance, I want to let everybody know as soon as this workshop over, I'm getting in the car to drive to Tallahassee for one full day. I have meetings with the administration and housing, the attorney general. Ashley Moody is speaking. I'm looking forward to chatting with them. I'm looking forward to good meetings there and advocating for Volusia. I had one question also. I'm hoping Mike you can clarify this. We had a union meeting regarding corrections. I'm not discussing anything involved in the meeting. We had a union meeting regarding corrections. The meeting was cut short because we had to get back to council and really no direction was given. I'm wondering how -- I think it's very important that our employees are allowed their due process. How do we go about rescheduling that or making sure that council provides good direction especially on something that's under impasse?
>> We can schedule an additional executive session at any time the council is asking for that.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: Do we need four to make sure we're having a correct meeting.
>> Typically with the executive session, asking for direction on position. If council like to resume discussion, I think --
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: My understanding is that we did have some direction. I need to go back and review and I'll call the executive meeting. In my mind, we were given -- I'll have to go back and make sure. I have to check with the other people that were there.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: I think we need to be clear on that. When we were hurried to come back to this meeting, I specifically asked. He said he had no direction. I think it's very important that we do that.
>> We have no new direction. We had a direction based on what we said. We didn't have any new direction.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: We gave no direction on the options. I'm asking that we give due process if we can do that. It shouldn't take very long, counsel. I'm assuming you don't need a motion for that? Happy St. Patrick's Day everyone.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER: More good news, I was approached by a constituent down there, long time resident who wants to donate possibly keyword, four to five acres of shoreline for Volusia County park or kayak pull up scenic project for us down there in New Smyrna. This will let everybody know and go from there. I appreciate it, thanks.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Several things. One really, George, we don't get to tell you who to hire. I would like to give a recommendation for -- I have no idea if you're talking about with him or not. But the interim director, Andrew Ethridge, with him them several times. I think he's having a Volusia County beach patrol background. He's a professional lifeguard. You can respond. But you don't have to.
>> I think that's something we need to discuss another time and further. Thank you.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Okay. Just to Piggy back on what Ben said, we're going to discuss that the next meeting on Ocean Center. I would like -- recommend that we expand that if we need to. If the Ocean Center is not a possibility, to have the 60% that was asked for by students and parents today that we consider -- the international speedway, where they can each have 100 members of their family come. We would lose income at the Ocean Center but we've robbed these -- we haven't -- these students have been robbed of their senior year which all of us not too old that we can't remember how important senior high school is. All of the special events that happened. Many which they have missed. It's a school board issue. We have input into it. I would like to see us find a resolution for those families because to force them to choose between mom, dad, grandparents, siblings, aunts, Uncles, somebody from a big family, I remember how important that was. Glad to see that on there. Just to put -- I'm going to ask everybody to put something on their schedule. By everybody I mean the public and the council. Is Kevin Captain still here. On Friday Team Volusia annual breakfast meeting at the Deltona center. It will be virtual. I would like to encourage people to sign up. There's a very minimal cost for the public because of the guest speaker,, it fits in our economic development conversation. The guest will be a businessman from Pensacola, Florida. He's the author of 17 to 46 books. He's a brilliant man. He was one of the leaders that helped to transform the City of Pensacola to a dying town to a thriving community. He's got a book called Building a Thriving Community. Get that book. I'm extremely happy that team Volusia has invited him. He won't be here in person. He'll be here virtually. Please join it if you can. It's important for the future of our county. I've had many conversations with his office about doing what they did in Pensacola not just a city base but county base. It's possible. Please listen in to that. Quint, for the Team Volusia meeting, 8:00 a.m. Just go to the team Volusia website or the Volusia County website, you can sign up for the breakfast, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. I don't know if there's any more seats available. But it is a hybrid meeting. It will be on Zoom as well. Quint Studor. Google him and get his books. People in the community will be really encourageed. Since we're adding things to the agenda, I'm going to add one to the agenda for the next meeting. It will be very quick. It will take -- it's a speaker that I would like to come in and ask us for a resolution. They're not going to ask us for money, they're not going to ask us for anything else. It's a company called Occcaculture. There's several water quality issue that we're having. There's a problem in our waterways. Indian river lagoon and the beautiful St. Johns river. We can't ignore it. We can't sit back. There's some biological reasons with the Manatees and there's also some water quality issues. We have to pay attention to water quality, especially as we grow. We have to grow responsibly. Aqua Culture is a company that deals with water quality. I was very impressed. The steward city commission voted unanimously. Here's why I'm asking us. State of Florida has given them $500,000 grant to show what they can do on Lake Okeechobee. St. Johns heads north. Everything gets flushed in lake Okeechobee comes through our system of lakes. They have -- owner of Aqua Culture formally a pig farmer. The farmer has to figure out what to do with it. He has been a farmer from Canada and the Midwest. He's combined an airboat with a combine. Can harvest a aquatic weeds -- I seen aquatic weeds be harvested. He can also suck up all the muck on the bottom of the lake which Lake Okeechobee has tons up. Lake Apopka is mostly filled filled with muck. Lake Apopka is using it. He does it a different way. He sucks it up. He created this machine with a combine with a special hose that he creates a slur. He call it a smoothie. It's deposited on farmland. My question was, how far can you pump it. The owner of the creator of the hose told him, where you pumping it from. Lake Okeechobee. You can take it to California if you wanted to. The distance is not a problem. They can clean the lake, suck up the muck and make the slurry and deposit it on farmland where we can grow hay, corn, or whatever. Those nutrients are harvested. Hay grows very rapidly. I'm not going to give his entire presentation but it's about that quick. The reason that I want us to take it up and talk to the City of lake Helen, they're very open to taking it up, the state of Florida, when they gave him the $500,000 grant to do this on Lake Okeechobee, all of you know how how long Lake Okeechobee is. They're hoping to get enough cities and counties to vote on a resolution that says we think this is a worthwhile experiment. They're not asking us for money. They're not asking us for anything. We could ask them to experiment up here. They just need as many agreeable resolutions as possible so the state of Florida can give them more grant money. It's a home worthwhile project. You'll be encouraged. It's a very timely manner. Aqua Culture. Last thing I want to say about today's meeting. We just had three or four or nine items added to the agenda next time. Which is exactly what I did when I put short-term rental on. I've been accused putting things on in unthoughtful and knee jerk manner. That's how we put things on the agenda so they can go through a process, can be considered. What we did today was wrong. We jerked people around that I don't care what side of the issue we're coming down on, we gave people our word that you can go out and rent your properties. We just turned a huge problem over to them. We can say, they didn't police their rentals enough. We don't know that. I hear everyday accusations of what's being done. I hear accusations this morning about hand signals. I've witnessed physical confrontations there. It's not always what we hear. That's why I wanted to create, we're in the process of creating the citizens group to sit down and talk before somebody gets hurt. We just handed them a situation where somebody can very likely get hurt at this point. I'm going to take responsibility for that today. Not that I asked to have short-term rentals put on the agenda. I'm sorry that I entertained that motion to undo a vote that we already took and should have stood by. I'm going to start exercising my authority as chair. I don't want this to be a council that jerks people around and changes Willie nilly. I apologized to my co-council people here. You probably don't agree what I said. I'm sorry I put us in that position to do that. It was wrong. With that, I'm done with my comments.
>> Motion to adjourn?
>> CHAIR BROWER: Do we need to adjourn before we go to the workshop?
>> You can adjourn the regular business meeting and then open the workshop.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Is there a motion to adjourn? Lowry motioned and you pick either Post or Wheeler second. This meeting is adjourned and let's take a few minutes before we readjourn for the workshop. Anybody else need -- I can use three minutes. It's 4:14, how about 4:20, we'll come back.

CHAIR BROWER: Let's give the two minute warning so everybody can get to their seat. All the public and the staff that's been waiting for this and we'll see if we can -- my goal, it's 4:31, my goal is to get you out of here before spectrum comes on channel 13 at 10:00 p.m. for the news. Why you laughing? [Laughter]
Is Ben coming back? Ben, can we proceed now? The last item of the day is a workshop on economic development and I believe to start off, Rick Carl will present.
>> Good afternoon. I'm director of economic development. You might remember me from my presentation this morning. I want to take a moment to thank you. I know it's been a long day. I appreciate the fact that you put economic development on one of the topics that you're focusing on and making sure that we're going in the right direction. We appreciate the input to make sure that the efforts that we're doing are in line what the council sees what we wanted out. Today's presentation -- we are going to hit the high points because it is late in the day. Overall, we want to talk about the history or what was yesterday, where we are today and the business development strategy for going forward and then end with decision points. You all seen the presentation on the agenda. The decision points will include the structure, Volusia jobs program and any additional concerns or comments that you have. I appreciate it. You probably know that Volusia County has had a number of ways over the years that they've done economic development. You've experimented with public private, you experimented with private, and then just pub. Where we are today is a public private partnership doing economic development. It seems to provide for the best of all worlds. Volusia County has a lot of stakeholders engaged in economic development and passionate about it and it's a huge community. There's no way that any one entity or one person who truly respond to all of the businesses needs. There's over 14,000 businesses within this county. Economic development itself within the county, just the county departments, I've been told this is graphic shows the depth and breadth where economic development is. Every department in the down structure becomes engaged to one degree or another. COVID has shown us that. As a result of that, the county manager has always served, even through all the different forms in which economic development has been done, the county managers serve as your county agent. He negotiated the county agreements and brings them to the board, oversees economic development priorities and directs collaboration. The county manager sits on the team Volusia executive board to provide direction on that front as well. Enough about the history. I will go to where we are today. If I can take a moment and just give quick overview. Our team is a smaller group. You'll notice that two of the photos on here, they are no longer with the department. Unfortunately, as I stated earlier, we lost -- we lost Virgil, sorry, we lost him to COVID complications. We celebrated with Pedro on his retirement a couple of days later. Big difference. Okay, with that, that's your core team economic development really is a much bigger team. Earlier, we had quite a few of our players. We have a few that stayed around from our municipal practitioners to be part of the conversation as well as Team Volusia players. I like to take a moment to look at the picture. Why do we do economic development. We talk about prosperity for the county. We talk about wanting jobs and wanting good jobs and the businesses to succeed and raise the wages and improve the education and there's all these things that we want from economic development. The way we do it is simple. Life is better when the economy is strong. There's a science side because what we can accomplish. That's when you take a business starting out or that's a smaller business, we provide the help that you need. There's recruitment which is equivalent to buying a tree or planting a tree. You have shade immediately from that tree. My term for retention expansion is service after we sell. I truly believe that is what we're here to do. Our department actually does all three of those things. We have different partners that focus on everything and there are times that we take the lead. There's times that we take the supporting role. I will go over the slides. In the creation, I'm going to move quickly through creation. Here's our partners. This is something that I want to talk about under the decision points and under the strategies on things that we can do to expand upon our business creation. We also do the business recruitment in partnership with Team Volusia, all of our municipalities who are amazing team players as well. Again, in recruitment, we play more of a supporting role. We make sure that the environment that the business want to be in is an environment that we have locally. Team Volusia takes the lead for us through a contract with the county as well as through sponsorships. They have over 81 businesses that are also on Team Volusia's board. It provides that connection between public and private sector when it comes to recruiting businesses. Our highest priority is business retention and expansion. You can read a number of different articles, business retention, expansion isn't quite as sexy perhaps as recruitment is. It's the local priority. It's the businesses that are here, the ones that we want to make sure are supported. We've never experience a better need or a better showing of what BREs can do than we did with COVID. This was something that nobody was able to anticipate. What we saw were a number of different entities with a shared vision that typically on a day-to-day basis, operated in silos but instead, we all came together and we worked under one unified front under business retention expansion to help the businesses that were here. Whether it was done through the grant programs or whether it was done trying to make sure that the businesses were able to -- municipalities were able to respond to business needs. That's what business retention expansion is all about. Service after the sell is what I use. It's business concierge services. Business concierge can take care of anything you need. If he can't, he'll find person who can. That's what we do in a nutshell. We do this through communication. Our department actually produces four different publications as well as two websites and a number of social media fronts. We have economic scene live where we top on today's topics as well as posting on Facebook to stay on in front of things. We work to create the environment for businesses who want to come in the area. One of the ways we do it is at the airport. The airport has a business part that needs to be developed. One of the things that we've done over this past year is apply for that grant to assist with the infrastructure of $4 million grant that have $1 million match from economic development. Another thing that we do is listen to the businesses to find out what their need are. Spartan is a perfect example when it comes to the water quality infrastructure grant. Not only did the effort have them expand operations, they relocated their headquarters to Volusia County when they consolidated operations. Another thing that our department does is when it comes to putting together the tools associated with economic development, we want to put support programs in place. We focus on the incentive programs that were put in place under the state's qualified target industry program. That program itself has sun settled -- sunsetted but considered for renewal. It provides tax credit based on job creation with new companies that come into the area. New to Florida, new to our area. Volusia County would contribute 20% whatever the grant amount was. Then the state would do the 80%. Right now, Volusia County has $8.1 million worth of program funds out there. Our contribution is $1.6 million going forward. This will be over the course of a number of years. The last one ends in 2024. From that, you're seeing about $62 million a year in wages as well as 1400 jobs. It's a great program. The money don't get spent unless those jobs have been created. That's the key. It's performance-based and it's supporting the businesses. Little bit later in the presentation that I want to speak about a program that we could consider doing that with not only work for a new businesses coming in but businesses that are here that are looking to expand and provide support for those businesses. The FTZ is another program that our department oversees which is a benefit for businesses looking to import and export. We've been developing partnership to expand. Then the emergency response. This is something where I can't express enough, the number of hours that your practitioners state, city as well as your private sector stakeholders contributed to this and county employees. We all know COVID started four days after I started. It was an interesting transition for me to go from one to the other. It was a great opportunity to really see what this community can do. It validated the need for a very strong BRE. That takes us from this past year to where we can go from here. Based on the successes and the relationships and the things that we've been able to accomplish in the past, we want to build upon that. We want to expand our business retention and expansion program to take us into that next level. Take us to that next tier. With that, I know I'm speaking kind of quickly, if you need me to slow down, let me know. I know it's late in the day. I want to touch on couple of things that are important. There's six basic things that I see, big picture from business retention expansion strategy. Those things are really simple. It's trust, businesses need to trust us. We need to trust our partners. It's the culture of the environment that we're in, the workforce that's here to assist those businesses, innovation and being open to programs and projects, listening to what the needs are and being innovative in our approach. Making sure we have metrics that track what our programs are supposed to do. At the the end of six days, we can look at those metrics and measure where we are. Then assess, modify, repeat. If you don't look at what's going
on, you're not going to be able to fix it. I'm going to briefly touch on a couple of points on each of these. If you have anything to add, I don't want to be one sided or one-way conversation. The trust with businesses in our partners, building trust it really is a process. It doesn't happen overnight. Businesses retention expansion is a labor-intensive program. You're not meeting with a company for one day and just walking away. It's a relationship in that you build overtime. We need to be able to hear what their needs are so we can respond to it. Communication is key. I'll tell you from a quick example, our municipal practitioners during COVID, we have a call every week that we've been talking to, on those call, some of the things that are shared that the municipalities were doing, responded immediately to what their local businesses needed. I'm going to use Chris as an example. I Chris from New Smyrna Beach they had their downtown area was really struggling because things were closing and they couldn't have the number of people they needed on the call, New Smyrna Beach was explaining the things they did. They were responded like this. People don't understand, in order for government to make those kinds of changes, it doesn't -- you don't say I need to change a sign ordinance. There's a process. They move in such a fashion. We're able to share those best practices with the other municipalities. There was so much of that that went back and forth. It created a trust with the business that we were hearing what they were saying. It created a strong relationship between the municipalities. There are a number of things, reaching out to businesses that this program will put in place. I'm not going to go into detail on them now. This is the general direction that we want to go. The second thing being culture. Culture is important if we don't have the right environment for a business to thrive there's no sense the business trying to stay. This is a place you want to be. These people help me. They worked with us. COVID is an example. They were able to get a human being on the phone that told them, if you can't scan it, go to your phone, this is how you mail it to me. It got to that kind of detail. That's important. It's important that we hear that and we hear bigger items. Other ways to do that is through surveys. We have our newsletters. We added a survey to the end of the newsletter now. We can track what are your key concerns. Are you able to find workforce. We can just respond, see where the issues are that are hot for our businesses. I know that I'm trying to stay high level on this. I will tell you a quick story only because it really struck home with me. Couple of years back, I went to a forum that was put on in Volusia County. Even though I wasn't here at the time. Volusia did some messaging things. This particular form was about workforce and creating pipelines and making sure that we can help our businesses tomorrow. One of the speakers on the panel was Carol Craig. I don't know if you know who she is. Carol owns Craig Technologies. They're a little bit south of us. She calls herself an accidental entrepreneur. They had some great ideas. This company she started with one person is now about 400 people. Carol is on -- she's an engineer. No offense, Ted, the joke with engineers, I have a background myself. Everything is bullet pointed. Carol is on the panel and they're going over the pipeline and things we're going to do and training sessions and everything else. Carol stops the conversation and says, this is amazing. This is great that you're looking to take care of my future. I can't find workforce today. She changed the topic immediately. She changed where our focus was. She changed what we were working on. We immediately did realignment and started focusing on internships. Ms. Girtman you know, internships, all those things became the focus point because it was clear hearing from the private sector, this is what my need is. That's what we were responding to. This is another area where we're not necessarily the lead. We play a very strong supporting role in growing the workforce here. We have the contact with businesses. We hear from them what their needs are, where they are falling short, where the gaps are. I'm on the career source board. I know that Flagler County economic development person is. We interact with career source on a regular basis. We can tell them what we're hearing from the businesses as well as what they are hearing. We take that information and it gets put in a machine and out comes a solution or a new program. There's a couple of programs now, I'm not going to go into detail on them. There's a program to assist high school students, trying to find work in the internship programs. There's another program that we're actually partnering with career source, VMA and Daytona State College Fame. It's an internship program that was based on Toyota model where employees or high school students who are going to be graduating, can apply for the program. They go to school couple of days a week. They go to work couple of days a week. They earn a paycheck during that period of time. When they come out, they have two-year program right now, they come out with their certificate of advanced manufacturing technology. Those jobs are making great money. They don't have debt. They don't have the college debt. The company gets to have the employee and the employee gets to learn and grow from within. It's an excellent program. I'm very fortunate that I've been asked to be on that board. It's just such an exciting program. The first or second to do that program in the state of Florida in Volusia County. It's because of VMA and DSC. It's still an ponder important role. Another one of our programs that we want to talk to you about is when it comes to the integration, innovation and entrepreneurship. One stop shop is one of the things we talked about. We put the VBR website together to put all these things in one location to make it easier for businesses who are trying to find their way through the system. Started out primarily as COVID program. Because there was so much misinformation and extra information being put on the web that we wanted to speak to that to make sure our businesses were hitting the right info. It has since evolved. The program was put together and the website was put together in two weeks from the day that we talked about it. To have a program designed, developed and put on the web -- you know, right? It was done in collaboration with Team Volusia, CEO alliance, municipality. It was a herculean task. It was something that was imperative that we move. That's strong business retention expansion program. Another component when it comes to innovation and entrepreneurship, I'm not going to go too long on this, one of the things that we got under decision points is the local incubator. The incubator is a program this council supports and funds. We have a contract with UCF. We want to expand and make the incubator part of something bigger call the an accelerator. It focuses on small businesses, it focuses more on the entrepreneur, the home-base business. Providing services to everybody, the minority-based business. We've put together a task force. We started the task force, it's not in the final shape yet. We've got lot of our municipal practitioners, when this topic came up, we were developing this program, spoke they wanted to be part of that. A number of them have a good amount of experience in doing just that. The things that we talked about including were one making sure that the incubator reaches to the west side. Reaches further south so it's a county wide program with satellite venues. That we have more universities engaged in what we're doing rather than just UCF. Each of our universities speak to a specific type of sector or targeted industry or target person. We want to make sure we touch all of that. We also are going to work with Score and all the others to make sure -- we want to take all of these great resources that are within our county. They are here. We just want to put everybody on the same page and get us working together. The chamber I know started an incubator or small business program as well. The idea will be to engage them in this process. Not take the program over but to partner and to collaborate and to find ways so we can share our resources and build on the program. That takes me to the next steps, which is metrics. I'll tell you one of my first bosses told me. Helga, if you don't track it, it didn't happen. I tend to live that way now with too many things in my life. I have to admit. Metrics are very important. If we don't know what we're doing and how we're doing in advance, we don't know what our end goal is at the end of the day, we don't know how to track where we want to go. We have to be on the same page in order to do that. Metrics are important. More important even in the metrics is to look at those metrics, analyze them, find where your wins and losses losses are. Change them or eliminate them. You need to be honest with yourself and where you're seeing your response and where you are not. I'm going to brag for a moment. This year, when I came on, one of the things that we wanted to do was really make a difference in our communication. At the foundation of business retention, economic development, recruitment of anything, is communication. our department has been doing it for years, I have to admit, when I was working I look forward to the economic scene because it provided information that I did not have the resources to do the research on. And, we looked at the readership that you had in December in 2019.

And we are talking about 2500 steady readers. Our goal was to increase that, we did metrics this year, December 2020, we went from 2500 to 14,000 readers, we are talking about 460+ percent increase in leadership, and that is not even the best part. I'm going to go bigger than that. Of that readership we went for 15% click through rate. Went from 15% to almost 30%, are at 27%, that is an 87% increase in click through. We have more people reading, and we have more people clicking through of the more people reading. I'm going to go even bigger than that. You expect that when COVID first comes out, when we are doing the programs and we are doing the grants, everyone and their mother is going to sign up for those grants, I know I would, right?

But the readership had stayed. It is continued, we haven't seen a drop in click through we haven't seen a drop in openings, Swedes the opportunity to engage and connect with the businesses, develop the relationship to businesses, and now we are maintaining the relationship and that is what it is all about. Sorry, I had to break, I'm sorry, it took me a long time and that but that is okay. That takes us to where we are today and what we want to see happening on business retention, again I didn't go into details as far as how we would make all of those things happen, but there are plans already we want to further develop those with this kind of communication. Today we are asking to put some decision points in front of you and get your feedback.

One of the first things is on the general business retention and expansion program, if you are in agreement with that direction, it will move forward and we have spoken to our municipal partners, they are in favour of moving forward if the Council is in line with that. I'm going to be quiet for a minute, not long, just a minute.

(Laughter) Any thoughts or comments?

>>Tell me how that is can happen? Increased interaction with the business community?

>>Those are the kinds of things that we are going to develop. I will tell you how it it has been happening and how will be expanded. We managed to get connected with a lot of additional businesses. We increased our outreach to those businesses, we created a database that we share with the municipalities, each municipality has access to just there municipalities business. They provide the data we are collaborating with completely new level from where we have ever been before. In the past like I said, we have operated, we had the same vision, we have shared stuff but now we are actually working as a unit. In those businesses will receive ongoing communication from us, phone calls from us, stop eyes, drop byes, general information, webinars, there are so many ways to communicate, the key is that we keep it fresh and we keep it informative so we don't overwhelm and they close the door on us. It is a fine balance between the 2. Does that answer it?

>>Yeah it is interesting, how does a business find you? How do they become a part of your community?

>>We have been doing a reach, like I said, the grant programs, we got a lot of information from that, we are working with our local practitioners who have relationships with our local businesses, they are connecting them to the program as well. We are then helping those businesses do outreach, we also get a list of businesses that are created in BTR's through the state programs. We have a list of businesses that are here, and we just do a reach. So, there is a lot of communication going on, some of the things that we did this past year, for example, I got to go on a couple of radio shows and talk about our program and what we are doing. We count on all of you to be spokespeople and to support what we are doing and let businesses know that we are out here and presentations like this. It's more word of mouth, grassroots do more than what people think it does. And successes beget success.

>>We should talk, I'm going onto radio shows tomorrow, this is one of the topics I wanted to discuss with them. Johnson, yet a question?

>>Yes, I heard about whether the incubator is living up to what it originally was planned for and doing and whether or not what we are putting into it or we need to put that money in somewhere else.

>>There has been controversial conversations regarding using the incubator primarily because a focus is on stage to companies in helping those companies to get to the next tier. As well as they leave space within the incubator. Connie who runs the program also runs a Boot Camp-- but our goal is to take that program and through this task force, develop a much broader program that the incubator can be a component on that will expand throughout the county in touch and more businesses we will be coming back to you to talk about different options, once we have had the task force and had a little bit of a conversation, the bottom line is we need to decide what her end goal is, what we know what we want to have happen with community this task force will be tasked with reverse engineering and how we get there and what the best paths for it are.

There are so many different things, I'm going to jump ahead in my notes I can mention them to you, the one-stop shop, assisting with maybe a shark tank kind of thing putting satellite facilities, focusing with the other universities. There is lots of ideas that are out there that we want to see further developed and that we will come back to this counsel to have a more in-depth conversation, if you feel that is the direction you want to go.

>>Also, one other thing that is, some people feel there are blurred lines of medication, the county is supposed to be the pinnacle going to the state the state bringing inflammation back down taking it up in some blurred lines of communication and not really a written procedure, so much as to how we keep that in order.

>>With respect to economic development? So Volusia County is your primary connection with enterprise Florida. When they have projects or businesses that are looking to come in to our area, we get the notice, we then take the notice and we forward it to team of Volusia. In this way, we are aware of it and we know what the program is, we sent it to team Volusia, they do the Heavy Lifting, actually, they reach out to businesses, they put the proposal together, we make sure we have the vehicles in place to assist them in that process. But we are the primary contact, and actually makes a lot of sense.

>>Any kind of a policy procedure written or is it just supposed to be known?

>>There was an MOU done with the state I believe about a few years ago, that has the county as the primary content. And then it has just been that way so we share that data when team pollution was created I think it became above your standard operating procedure than a formal policy.

>>What I'm getting at is it in writing somewhere? For instance will safe you want to go somewhere else, so the next person coming along could pick it up and say here is how the procedure works.

>>There is no formal procedure from my office to team Volusia, we can do that

>>I think we should have that but now you have people that no sometimes, you have placement that all of us and you have to get back in line and it is better to have the policies and procedures in place so that the people, the next people or even the people here know or somebody starts to drip, you got something to look at.

>>It makes perfect sense and team Volusia is going to be before the board, I believe, in September when their contract is up for renewal that could be something that gets added in the time.

>>Yeah, what you need from us, the direction? I love where you are heading, I love the plan, I think it is absolutely amazing, I think it is where we need to be. I don't know if that is exactly what you are needing to hear,

>>You love what I do.

(Laughs)

>>You have my support on your movement.

>>Thank you.

>>Great. Okay.

>>Can I give you a little feedback?

>>Please, that is what we are here for.

>>Kind of piggybacking on what Ben Johnson asked about the incubator, I her complaints, and I heard a complaint from a young entrepreneur in our area who wanted some help and totally did not qualify for the reasons that you said, he wasn't a tear to company but he will be at some point. He found Maggie, do you know who I am talking about?

>>Yes, Maggie-- from the office. She is amazing.

>>She is amazing and she convinced my friend this young entrepreneur, to reconsider and she worked with him and so the new direction or added direction of also reaching out to young entrepreneurs or even startups, I think we have to do that and I talked with her yesterday and several other people. About, is doctor still here? About an idea that if you don't incorporate it, and you don't have to, in fact, it should probably happen independently, but one of the things that was suggested was starting an entrepreneur community, almost like a small networking group. And the suggestion was, people at his level that have their well known, well accomplished that some of these brand-new and young entrepreneurs and then some a big tear people. And we came up with a list of 6 people to start back committee with, we will talk about that too later. Personally and privately because they don't really need our help because you just turn them loose and they can grow and maybe start other little networking groups, but that personal contract for young entrepreneurs is really. We have to deal with people that are innovative and have these ideas whether they are selling outside of our pool here and bringing more money into the pool, if we just deal with people, if we all sell to each other, or passing the same block around.

>>You are actually making the case for me.

>>I am.

>>Which is wonderful, because we have organizations that are doing that. Tom Daley from SPD C has a CEO to CEO group that actually meets with people who are trying to start up to help them through their process, right? It is some of the local business presidents and owners are a part of that group. Then we got a million cups which is a group that the entrepreneurs get together on a regular basis and they share their own information. We got the Florida entrepreneur Centre that does the same kind of thing virtually. We've got the chambers that provide those businesses and this is my point, Volusia County has the most amazing resources right here, you just don't know it because there isn't something that acts as an umbrella to connect everybody. And to bring people to the right location. That is why an accelerator can do for us. I don't think we need to create the wheel, I think we just need to realign the wheels so they are all going in the same direction. That is part of what I see the BRE doing under creation.

>>Exactly.

>>Sorry, I get a little excited about the program because it hits home.

>>We need the umbrella we need to let people know they can stand under the umbrella.

>>Thank you chair, and I'm gonna echo what has been said, that has been my experience out there, I remember, I connected with the business incubator early on to Volusia early on, a lot of the local small business and chamber initiatives and it's the connectivity that is missing. And when people look at team Volusia, they look at the incubator, they expect them to be everything to everyone instead of understanding the lane they are in and what they are really expected to produce in their results. Right?

I think there is a misunderstanding so a lot of times while it is a waste of money, well,

>>It is not for the right end user.

>>You are not to understand the full intent of this lane, or when the incubator is really focused on a certain level of entrepreneur. And there really isn't a strong resource for some of the others. I think developing those lanes, but also putting resources there, because everything, with COVID dollars towards small business, at least do some of the investment at this level to help shore up and build up and uplift for small businesses, even if it is not long-term money, if there is enough now, that we can invest in them to help move forward and give a more stable base, based on again, COVID dollars that are coming in, because to me, that is what has been missing. You want everything to be on the volunteer basis. I always say, there is a lot of petty people looking for volunteers to do their work. Right?

And that is never going to work because a lot of the small entities don't have the bandwidth, right? To really go as deep as people and businesses need you to do to help them be successful and move them forward. And I think you pay one way or you pay the other. People aren't employed and can't pay business and to do what they need to do. We have to invest dollars in other ways.that overall don't bring long-term success.

I'm hoping that we can stop nitpicking everything and really put good dollars and good programs and left things work.

>>And you are right, and with the limited resources you have, you don't want those people using those limited resources to do the same thing. You want to make sure you are taking things to the next tier and that you have a path. One of the coolest things I saw from Daytona State College is when they created this catalogue that took a student from the day that they came in and entry program and show them how this program could get them to this program, which after they graduate they can do this program and they can become this person at the end of the day working through those certificates for those programs. Entrepreneur small businesses, they need the same thing, we just need the path to help them get to the different stages. And the support that they need behind that.

Creating a new environment for the is what's important, the same environment doesn't just work for sustained businesses, it works for recruitment businesses as well. It helps to bring new businesses in and show them we are there for them. The repetition carries. As well as some of our programs they can carry. Aside from the incubator program, task force that we want to put together, the other thing that I want to speak with you about today is the grow Volusia jobs program.

>>I actually had a question. I was going to ask you a question about the task force, since you are moving on from the task force. You are saying it has already been formed, can you tell me who or what it is made up of?

>>Yes, it hasn't been fully formed up, has been started, what happened is the PRE program we put together, I chatted with the municipalities about this with our weekly calls, and some of them were the ones that really brought home the fact that one-sided needed to have something to work as well, the other cities that are over there, they can tell me what they need. A number of the practitioners has said they wanted to be a part of the task force and then we will reach out to other key players to bring them into that task force, we haven't set it up yet, we are looking to speak with this board first, get your Brian and make sure we are going in the right direction. I didn't want to get ahead of the Council.

>>It sounded like okay, perfect, thank you.

>>Good? Okay. The other program that I did want to speak with you about is the growth of Volusia jobs program. Many of you were engaged with the qualified targeted industry program from the state as I mentioned earlier, that is a program where businesses that were recruited to the county would get tax credits based on the number of jobs created the wages of those jobs and so forth and so on. But it did not provide any kind of incentive program for existing business. That program is being reevaluated and you may see it come back, and it is going to be for recruitment purposes. Again, it is not gonna work for existing businesses and there is a gap there. We want to create a level playing field for our existing businesses to grow as well. That is our bread and butter, and we should never really forget that.

This program, it doesn't provide the same level of dollars as the state program did, but it provides the same level of investment for the county so the program itself is based on that 20% that the County would have contributed to acute TI program, and rather than it being a tax credit, it is actually cash that goes directly to the business after they have shown they have done what they said they were going to do. If you look at the chart in front of you, it would require the businesses that were growing would make a minimum of 10 jobs that would be required to pay at least 100% of the county wage and an oak UTA starts at 150% but if we are working with businesses that are here and that are already functioning, they are using the County wages and that is how they are operating. We want to stay in line with that.

It is one of the changes that we have made. Then, from the $600 per job for the base, if the company's salaries are above the certain percentage, there are bonus dollars they get added to the $600 a job. It is if it is a target industry there is also a bonus level that gets added to those jobs. Again, it is the same cost of the county that the QT O would have been approved in the path in our department overseas. It provides for a level playing field for the businesses and it fills that gap. It is a confusing program to try and stand here and explain it to you. So, what we have done, I keep hitting the reverse, it has to do with being left-handed. What we have done is we put together a spreadsheet that shows it. Here is an example, case studies always were, we have a company that is local that is a manufacturing company. They have 150 jobs, they are thinking about expanding, they can either expand locally or they can expand somewhere else or they can move everything somewhere else, it does not really matter but they are looking about expanding.

Let's say they are going to expand 100 jobs over the next 4 years, average hundred 20 jobs per year. If it is a manufacturer and they are doing more than 10 jobs total, and they are paying the average wage or more, they are qualified for the $600 base and then the $400 bonus since it is a manufacture and that is what the targeted industry is, that would give him $1000 per job. Again, 100% performance-based the thousand dollars per job gets paid out over a period of 4 years. What that does is it ensures the business maintains that position and that employee for a period of 4 years. Rather than just the one year for the one year higher. The position provides for longevity for the employment.

Let's say the first year the average wage is $40,000 and they bring in 25 employees the first year. The cost to the county at the end of that year, at the end of the company showing that they have had 25 jobs and 40,000 per year and proven that, they met the criteria, they have to do that by sending us certified from their account that that is the case and what the average wage was. They would get $6250 from the county, we would issue a check and have it sent to them. In return, you got $1 million of direct wages. For that year. Think about that. $6000 and you got $1 million of direct wage, that is direct, that doesn't include the indirect and the jobs that are created because the jobs are here and the money they spent go to the restaurant, none of that, we don't want to go through any kind of confusing tabulations here, just the direct wages. Also doesn't include benefits. 2nd year they hire the 2nd 25 that is the 2nd year of the first 25 and it starts the first year with the 2nd 25. At the end of the year, after they have shown they have those jobs and they maintain them, $12,000. 12,500 from the county, now you got $2 million in wages. They you have incurred, doesn't include increases or salary raises for those first businesses, but, again, keeping the numbers simple, we continue that on, when you get here before you reach your highest point you got hundred employees, you got the last year of the first 25 in the first year of the last 25. They year you are paying $25,000 and you are seeing $4 million in wages locally.

But it gets better, because the 5th year, the first 25 jobs, you no longer are paying the incentive for that, but they are still required to have them. At the end of the 5th year, you are paying $18,000, $18,750 but you are seeing $4 million in wages because of the first 25 jobs that are still there. They have to show that consistency. And it continues to change from there. At the end of the day, the company gets $100,000, 100% performance-based, depending on the length of speed in which they hire and proving they brought those things in.

We show we are connected to the business and it matters to us, we want to provide some of engagement to help them in the long level the playing field for our existing businesses, when it comes to the funds they are getting from the state under a different incentive program. And everybody wins. The county over the course of the 7 years received $22 million worth of local wages, again, not counting secondary jobs and not counting raises or benefits. And I've spent $100,000, it is an investment that is worth doing, in my opinion, for your community, but that is something that this board needs to consider and evaluate if it is something they want to go forward with. That is my last ask. Other than that, we are open to any comments you have or anything you want to ask us about or programs you think we should be doing.
I know I said a lot

>>first question for you.

>>Do we know approximate how many of those employees are over?

>>I can't give you the exact number. My gut is to tell you 10%, but again,
I would rather look it up and confirm.

>>My question would then be we definitely need to be working on the manufacturer side and working on these businesses as well, but you are looking at companies that are 150, now 250 people and when the majority of our businesses, we are talking about retention and growth for small businesses and Volusia County, that is only 10% and I understand.

>>It's not limited to companies having 100 employees or more, it is simply the constraint that I would put on it is that the company would have to hire 10 employees or more. And that is something that the companies that we have, the 25 to 50 employee companies, we have a lot of those, and 10 employees is something that is a low number for them and make sure we are not doing a single job thing because the administrative side is trying to deal with the wages would be nightmarish.

>>-- A return investment in building numbers, getting more employees but what about all of those businesses Volusia County that are in their building that have 30 employees that really are not expecting and aren't looking to expand, I would venture to guess, just thinking common sense that that is probably most of our small businesses that are not looking to get out of that blueprint and they are just looking to be successful, right?

What are we doing on that end towards economic develop and for those businesses that aren't looking to become a giant warehouse.

>>They are happy where they are.

>>Or they need help, and we need to-- is there a goal in a game plan for them?

>>The game plan right now is to hear from those communities, those businesses and learn where their gaps are and find ways to fill them. One of the programs like I said we were working on is workforce related because from those businesses, what we have been hearing is the difficulty in retaining employees and finding employees their skilled in a more specific set of criteria. That is where the workforce development programs come in. And the fame program the proms we are working with our partners on. But the goal overall over the course of the next few years is to really learn from our businesses what their needs are, those needs are going to change, today they could be workforce, tomorrow they could be something completely different. We have businesses that call and say code enforcement is give me too much grief on this issue and I don't understand why until we sit down and have a conversation with them, we can find out they simply miscommunicated the code for us and what it is they are doing and there is no issue. We've had that happen, then there have been times where there is stuff they have to understand needs to be done from their own health and safety perspectives. There is lots of different programs and need to be dealt with on a one on one kind of customized basis. Again, that goes to the business concierge mindset. Did I answer what you are looking for?

>>I'm still somewhat looking for I guess a blueprint, game plan, what is our point? What is our endgame and there? You mentioned many, many times we need to laid out I would like to know what direction we are going and so, I love the idea of the business concierge and certainly during the business grant you certainly showed you are good at that. But, to me that doesn't really lay out the game plan and tell us where we are headed.

>>Like I said, the things that we know our issues today are things like workforce. Expanding, being able to get the pieces they need. But, through the programs we are doing, where we are communicating and trying to get response, if you look at the economic scene that went on today, the question is what are your businesses primary concerns? And we are looking to get a response so we can understand where those gaps are. And respond to those gaps. If we just start putting programs in place without having the research, it doesn't make sense. We don't want to do that. We are doing the research and really changing the business, when they tell us what they need, we will work with them to try and find ways to fill the gaps.

>>You have that in today's economic email.

>>Yes, it is an email.

>>You are respecting those responses, is there any way we can ensure we get an update from you that we can know as a council what we are looking at?

>>We can absolutely sent to the Council members individually but the Council seen itself, everybody can see what we got as a whole, because we think it is important entire community understands where we are because we don't know where the next great ideas gonna come from it may spark an entrepreneur to say, hey, somebody needs workforce let me see if I can put this training program online and to become a millionaire, who knows.

(Laughs)

>>Thank you, Chairman, I just wanted to add on on that towards Mrs. Poe's question, if you go back a couple of slides, Helga to slide 35 with a picture of Mr. jobs. Steve Jobs. I think one through 4 in that listing there in particular really the points directly towards the question you asked was our initial game plan on how we interact with those existing businesses and provide a one-stop shot, have conversations, and the one program I have heard from a number of small businesses that they said could really help is that business assistance and financing programs help, that is on there as well. I knew we were going to the slides quickly, I wanted to go back and just not lose those important points.

>>Those it just seemed sort of vague to me. So I'm really looking for,-- if we had the standard written or if we had the game plan written then everybody knows where we are headed.

>>So, one of the complaints I've heard the last 4 years or you've heard it too. It is our outreach to businesses have been that we tax first-tier and second-tier businesses and all the residential property owners, and give millions of dollars to build infrastructure and tax abatements to very large businesses. Now, I'm back in your slide with this program. The jobs program. It almost seems like we are replacing that to appease those businesses and I'm just can offer this, not as criticism, but as something to think about, because what I hear when I talk to businesses and everybody here might hear other things. It's, reduce the taxes she don't have to take money and give it to another business, get out of my business, government institutes small, if we would do the things that you had on the slide that we just left, the incubator, there are so many things that they create economic development for business, including having a sidewalk that people can walk down that they don't trip over, streets that customers can Ashley drive to, bicycle lanes, because young people want to live in vibrant downtown's where they can ride to thereby, take their car out on the weekend, and with pedestrian lanes, safety, and there is only a limited amount of dollars to pay for all of that. It seems like to me, and I'm willing to talk and listen, but it seems like we are creating another high income program that is kind of complicated when business really does not want complicated. In fact, they don't want us, they want us to get away from them. Help them when in the ways that you have said previously with the incubator, with the accelerator program, those things are tremendous. I just want to be real careful we don't create another business where we will never be able to reduce taxes on homeowners and businesses because we are redistributing their income to somebody else. You can always make an argument that it is a good thing. Let's focus on my priority, my preference would be let's focus on the one-stop shop that we talked about, we talked about it a lot, but you've got to be hearing every day for businesses that I've come here and asked for help, and I ran out of money, and they ran at the time because it takes 2 years to go through your process. The business conch year, someone to hold their hand, and they are not stupid people.

>>No, it is a matter of finding your way through the path, it's like being in a treed area without any clear path for you to know where to go, there's all these different things you just need to find them. I agree with you that the business concierge service providing the assistance, they get the wrong person there to get the wrong information and that is what you want to avoid, or they are not to get the assistance they are looking for. And to make sure they find the right resource and that it is the right fit. Not to argue the point with respect to the incentives or the infrastructure in the dollars, but, every situation is unique. There are certain businesses, in my experience those people who are saying we don't need infrastructure incentive programs out there are the ones that don't have the need for infrastructure in front of their facilities, they have a sidewalk already. We need to put sidewalks and in areas to ensure pedestrian safety, to get the area so that it is an area people want to go to, and investing in our community with respect to infrastructure, to me, is not incentive program for business, it is an incentive program for community. And for community's growth. It is debatable how you look at it but that has always been my idea. This program, and again, now looking to get into a debate.

>>I agree with you. I will just interject real quick before you go on is that I agree 100%, we should be investing in infrastructure for the community. But we are investing in a business. Often.

>>Well, in this particular case this is an investment that would go to the business if the business does what has committed it is going to do. The thought on it is really a matter of providing for a level playing field because there are so many businesses out there that are being recruited that are willing to be receiving incentives, it is a way for us to help our local businesses. And it's a way for us to have held businesses like LLC that are smaller businesses that would not benefit for something like a QT I program. Because it is taxed based so they don't pay the same corporate tax.

>>If you have a final point, if we have a one-stop shop, and we can include the municipalities to work with us so they are not going to Mayor and the city Council here and then they got it, deal with George and the county, or Heather or me, and we had the accelerator and we would not have to recruit, we could start picking and choosing because nobody does that. Nobody is that easy to work with, let's be that county, let's be the one that really is the one stop welcoming committee that rules out the red carpet instead of erecting roadblocks. Girtman?

>>Thank you, I think once we are that, we don't need this tool in our toolbox. Until we are that, we need tools, we need to give and others, we need to give them the tools in the toolbox to do the work. And that is what this program can be. It doesn't have to be you know, again, for the next 10 years, if we get to where we need to be, in 5, then we can reevaluate it. But I think, what we are missing now is yeah, let's get there, we are not there, so let's invest in these types of resources to give the opportunity to get where you are saying and that is to be recognized as a county that we are here to do business with. That is certainly not the message now. So, I think it is important, again, that we give the resource will be can and when we can and I'm hoping again those corporate dollars set us up right now to be able to invest more without expecting any higher output from our community regarding taxes.

>>Heather?

>>I will just say I really want to reiterate, I really want us to focus on the 90%.

>>I agree. I agree.

>>I am really hoping to see some very good programs with the 90% because those are the boots on the ground people consistently call me, this group consistently calls the Lucia and various other entities, but the ones I specifically call me as a representative and are struggling or need stuff, that's 90% of those 14,000 businesses.

>>As our representative with those businesses, if you would provide them our contact information so they reach out to us, we can put them in our database. We can include them in the information is provided and we can seek to find out where the issues are so that that can be incorporated into the metrics of where the gaps are, we can figure out how to resolve those issues. We are not to have a magic wand it takes time.

>>Just seeing the resolution of some issues and game plan on that.

>>To that end, what is your next step?

>>Hoping that I'm willing to leave here today with a go forward and make a difference on the programs that are in front of you in the way we want to approach, at which point, I will be sitting with the municipal practitioners and our stakeholders and further developing the programs that we can put in place and we will be reporting back as often as you guys would like us to report back. And I will have a conversation with you tomorrow before you have your radio show, hopefully.

>>It is 6:30 AM.

>>I will have a copy when I tune into your radio show.

>>That one is only 3 minutes.-- I'm going to tell them this anyway. You are coming, you're gonna work on all of these things, then you said we can hear from you as often as we need to, and you are going to come back soon.

>>We will be back with respect to the incubator because the contract is up in June, we need to get something back to you prior to then leased to provide for some general direction of where we want to go, that is can it be our first step and our highest priority. Right off the bat. And then after that, we will continue with the other programs.

>> George?

>>I was just to say the first thing up his incubator contract, and the idea of the conversion towards the business accelerator. If, and all we can do today is seek direction, and the workshop beside or have you vote on anything like that. If the Council is okay, I'd like to continue with what she was talking about in terms of exploring the options with the incubator. And changing the focus as described, and work on that and bring that back as far as the grow Volusia jobs program, again, that is meant to be more of a tool in a toolbox, we would have to flush that out a little more and bring it back but also at the same time, we can watch and see what is going on in the legislature. And see what happens with the state program in the state program has a different focus as that is definitely met there is a tool for bringing businesses here from somewhere else, I think really what we were trying to really accomplish was focus on helping the business is already here in Volusia County, small businesses and as a percentage expansion for 20 person business to go to 30, is a more powerful expansion. And, I kinda sense more of a lukewarm response to that one, but we can still at least get more information and decide as we see what happens with the state if that tool is needed.

>>Heather?

>>Bringing up the COVID dollars and so, consistently looking to try and move us forward. And so, the incubator is up in June, the contract to discuss we will definitely see you back then, and definitely see everybody back in September for the contract for team Volusia, but we are looking at the prospect of COVID dollars now and so, if you are getting this information through the email and everything on some of the feedback, I'm wondering if we can have you come back in a month or so, we have some possibilities of some options for the 90% is, how does the rest of the Council feel about that?

>>A month might be a little tight, only because I don't know COVID money wise, in that period of time. But certainly as soon as we do--

>>At that meeting where we talk about the incubator contract, perhaps, how about that?

>>Or sooner, we just need to see the COVID stuff is still a little hot on the press.

>>I know this is been a very long day for you guys and I really appreciate it.

>>When you talk about the incubator, it's really incubator accelerator now.

>>What we currently have is an incubator and the desire is to convert it into something where the incubator is a complete of an accelerator that really reaches beyond those borders.

>>I want to make sure when you and George are talking about that, that is what we are going to get back is the hyper- and you know what? We have to get started right now because we are all not always can have covert dollars, we use them wisely what we have them but we need to get to a point where we don't need COVID dollars to exist and this is the way to get there is to help our businesses grow and attract new ways we don't have to pay to come here. And anybody else?

>>Thank you so much, again, I really appreciate it, looking forward to it.

>>So, I think that concludes today's festivities. We have gone through all of the public, we put some of them to sleep, can I have a motion to adjourn the workshop? I have multiple-- Fred Lowry made the motion, Billy May, 2, all in favour say aye? Any oppose, keep your mouth shut.

(Laughter)

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