>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay, we're going to start in three minutes, the three-minute warning.
.
>>CHAIR BROWER: One-minute warning. .
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay, we will start the April 6th, 2021 precouncil meet ing employer responses, the community response. So first, I would like to call Joe Sullivan, T.J.
Rivera, and Yvette romaine?
Roman? If y'all three want to come up. He needs moral support this morning.
>>SPEAKER: They're my directors, they do the real work, we're here to say thank you to the Volusia County council today because of the board, back in -- I've been here 29 years, the county helped fund this one, we started out, and I was one staff, 57 kids and now we have 8 clubs, over 1,000 kids.
And we're open Monday through Friday, 48 weeks out of the year. No one is turn away due to the inability to pay, and, you know, we do this all over the county. Again, we try to do do three things, give our kids, academic support, and we've got to teach them how to behave right, so that's character development, and we also have to make sure that they're eating and staying active in a correct way, so most of the kids we serve are latch key kids, 92% were free or reduced lunch.
About two-thirds are either being raised by their grandparents or a single parent so we're really serving the kids and families that need us most.
And again, I'm very proud of our staff. We opened up in June last year. There's two Americas right now. There's one that can work from home. And there's one that can't. So the kids, the families of the kids we serve, they have to go to work. And we made that possible. So I'm really proud of these guys, that's why I wanted them here.
Yvette was one of my first kids, she started with me at 1994 in Deltona, and T.J. came over here from Puerto Rico, he was working for the boys and girls club, Maria took that club out, I would like to turn it over to them to you about the frontlines.
>> All right, hi, my name is Yvette Roman, I started as a member, and about sixth grade at galaxy middle school, and just continue on, I came on as a --
my mom was a single mom, my parents divorced and we relocated from Altamonte springs to date, the junior staff and worked my way up to unit director and now I'm the unit director of the boys and girls club, I have children of my hone, they are also members and we want to continue that movement. And I just can't tell you how much I love it and we love the support that we have.
And we just want to continue to move through these kids. That's such a big thing for us.
>>SPEAKER: My name is T.J.
Rivera, three years ago, well, my boys and girls club got destroyed by the hurricane Maria and three years, working with the boys and girls club, I started with 30 kids in Deltona in my club, before COVID. I served kids on a daily basis, now, with the hybrid program and all of that, I serve 60 kids, on the daily basis in Deltona, and I just want to say thank you to you guys, and thank you to Joe for bringing me here. And the work is amazing.
>>SPEAKER: You have the annual report, if there's any questions, I'll take them, but again, thanks to the county, and I mean, we wouldn't be here, our clubs wouldn't be here if it wasn't for Volusia County, so, thank you.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay, Martha Sylvester, are you ready? And you also are going to have some moral support.
>>SPEAKER: All right, my moral support is my name, Elizabeth who lives next door, good morning to all of you. I'm a long-time resident of Volusia County, I came to Deland as a Stetson student ( Inaudible ) and stayed and retired from the school system as an administrator. My husband was born here, lived here all of his life. We have a family history of decades of commitment to the community. Volusia County is a great place, as an administrator, I was all over the county and there's such a wide variety of cities and counties, each with their own product and character and personality. And they make a difference for all of us. And I'm concerned can about the impact of growth, as are many of us. -- I have to read my notes.
(Laughing) recently, over the past 18 months, the City of Deland has approved and is -- and there is under construction under construction more than 2,000 homes in a variety of locations.
And in process, this is just the City of Deland, they are moving through more than applications for more than 4,000 additional lots. And this looks to the citizen like unchecked growth.
Next, they're talking about building a develop MENT on Euclid and Boston avenues, and they would like to approve an application for 840-860 multifamily dwellings. And the county is involved because on north of Euclid is county property. And east of hill is county property. And the extension of veers Ford includes the county property. So as many imagine the impact of traffic and additional cars. South hill, on north hill, is the Deland high school. So if you imagine there are 800-plus homes on this 167-acres. And at least two cars per home, conservatively. Add that to the traffic and add that to the students going to the high school. When you look at the applications, it says that the schools would open that 120% capacity. I was in the schools.
I know what that looks like in terms of providing services to students. And you start off at a disadvantage immediately.
It's hard to understand why that's okay. There's an opportunity here for the county and the city to collaborate and come up with a different plan, and you are all provided with an application that we would like to present to you more extensively at the meeting on the 20th. And what it suggests is that we can collaborate and build something that serves the county, serves the city, helps with the development of SunRail traffic that is going to be presented. Now, the designer of this application was David --
( name? ) He is a Stetson graduate, he works here in Deland, rather than me take you -- he sent me a text message, he could not come to this meeting today. Saying that --
>>CHAIR BROWER: Martha.
>>SPEAKER: Yes.
>>CHAIR BROWER: We have a full boat of people that want to talk. I've given you an extra minute, I'm going to contact you to see if we can work it out to get you on the agenda for a full presentation.
>>SPEAKER: All right. I thought I had one minute.
>>CHAIR BROWER: No, it's negative one minute.
>>SPEAKER: Darn.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Time flies when you're having a ball.
>>SPEAKER: The only thing that I would add that David said and I appreciate the additional second, he has real investors that are seriously interested in this collaboration and in this development for both Volusia County and the City of Deland and thank you very much, and that is the fast three minutes.
>>CHAIR BROWER: You did a good job, thank you. Okay. Eric OLic? Followed by Christine Peterson.
Okay. The reason I'm here today is I would like to discuss really quickly earlier in the week, I sent all of you an e-mail regarding my stance on short-term rentals in Volusia County. Like I said, my name is Eric, you look at, I'm a resident of Volusia County, this has been my home since 1975, I'm a Veteran, 20-year Veteran, 100% permanent and totally disabled.
So it's hard for me to hold down a job. Due to post-traumatic stress disorder, amputations, things like that. Rentals are the way that I support my family. How I make additional income. To my retirement. The elderly can also do this. They can rent out a room on Airbnb or VRBO, and if they're on a fixed income, helps them pay for medical expenses. Food. And utilities the. They may only rent a room, but I rent my whole home. Short-term rentals are a -- I had good people in my home, never had a problem or complaints from any neighbors about parties because I don't allow that when I rent. My renter were families with young children and they want a quiet, safe environment for families to come here and vacation. They want to be able to go to a safe place with their young children, be away from the homeless, crime, drugs, and the vacant decay of Daytona Beach. This town is a shell of what it used to be. And that's because business decisions have forced almost every opportunity for people to create viable businesses in this town. They push it out of this county. And there's empty shops all up and down every major street in this town and y'all know that.
In this whole county.
Rentals can bring in huge tax revenues for the county, if you are concerned, penalties for nonpayment of county taxes, we will not steal businesses from hotels. If you get on A1A from U.S. 40, Granada and go north, almost 50 miles to St. Augustine, there's about four or five hotels along A1A, the rest are condos and if you stop me from renting short-term, you have to stop those condos, those are not hotels and motels, so they have to stop, too. And I think that once you -- if you decide in that direction, you're going to have a backlash from the entire community. That can to longer rent their condos.
Okay. It's going to be a huge issue.
When considering short-term rentals in the county, think of everyone, the entire Volusia County. Think of the missed tourism opportunities, the income, there are a handful of people that do not support it.
And there are neo fights to the area -- they have just moved here recently, they don't understand the tax dollars pay for things, you know, pay for things around here. And we're driving tourism dollars out of the county that we're going to give to Flagler. We're going to give to St. Augustine and other towns.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, thank you, Eric.
>>SPEAKER: Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you for your service as well.
>>SPEAKER: Appreciate it.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you for coming in. PFAnd you're Christine?
>>SPEAKER: Yes.
>>CHAIR BROWER: And then Wendy Rowan?
>>SPEAKER: Good morning. My name is Christine Peterson, I'm a full-time resident and single family homeowner in unincorporated Bethune Beach.
Many of us have heard the quote popularized by mark twain and others, there are three KIENSD of lies. Lies, damn lies and statistics. It's a phrase describing the persuasive power of numbers. Particularly, the use of statistics, to bolster weak arguments, over the past few months, many statistics were offered that urged the continuation of illegal short-term rental businesses in Bethune beach. And to change the relevant zoning laws and ordinances to legitimize these activities. The so-called truth of the matter, seems to change depending on which you way you look at it and who you're listening to. Ex parte communications will do that, I guess. I recently read an interview of our esteemed chairman Jeff Brower in the Ormond beach observer, in the first few months of office and I applaud your efforts, sir.
I am not opposed to vacation rentals in Volusia County. I never have been. But I am opposed to illegal short-term rentals in R9 single family residential where I live. No one is pretending there's no short-term rentals occurring in Volusia, many of us have voiced our concerns and will continue to do so. In the interview, 7,352 unique short-term rental properties offered on all of the platforms of Volusia County.
Which include the online corporate giants, Airbnb, and VRBO, 7,352, does not tell us exactly where these vacation properties are located in the county of Volusia. It does not tell us if these properties are being illegally rented, in residential area, that are not zoned for business or commercial use. 7,3752 does not tell us if any of these renters,/hosts are in violation of local law and ordinances. Or if they're properly licensed, insured and inspected. Or if these premises comply with safety and building code, and including uncle Sam's cut, how many of these rental properties are located in residential zoned areas. Areas not zoned for business or commercial use. 7,352 does not tell us how many of these properties are owned by out of state investors, who neither live here nor vote here, and are only concerned about profit and the bottom line.
I can agree, no, we cannot ignore the 7,352 people who are doing this. Especially if they're doing it illegally. And especially if they're doing it illegally in unincorporated Bethune beach and other similarly situated residential zones. No one wants to shut down all 7,000 operators throughout the county if they are legally doing so. Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Wendy. Bill Redmond. Oh, I'm sorry. I did. And then bill, followed by Bill -- we are trying to fit them all in.
>>SPEAKER: Good morning. I want to thank everybody for their time and attention today.
I'm Wendy Rowan, I'm a full time resident in Bethune beach. I feel like we residents have a lot of catchup to play, for months, the short-term advocates have been working to groom council members, having you hear things enough time you start to believe them. And speaking at every county council meeting for months, but making sure to stay off the agenda, so that the opposition wouldn't know what was happening. Only heard one side, and lot of what has been said is less than factual.
Remember, most people are fine with should remembers, --
short-term rentals, they practice -- overwhelmed, upset and needing sympathy, especially if they were female. And you heard how they were going to lose their houses, they probably called them homes. Our side calls them businesses, a home is where you live your day-to-day businesses and a business is something you do to turn a profit. Most of these people live their day-to-day lives away from Volusia County, definitely, they don't have an Airbnb next door, just like many of you have. Our side makes a home in Bethune beach, Ormond by the sea, it is where we vote. We voted for members we expected to represent us. These rental houses are businesses. Plain and simple and small businesses typically take a lot of time and effort. But these work with very little work, flexible hours, and good profits, and yet a beach house is a perk. That's statistically, 20% of small businesses go out of business the first year, 30% the second year, and by five years, 50% of them have gone away. And that's normal.
Usually, businesses go under because owners are inexperienced or underfunded. And this reads like a textbook scenario. Like they didn't know it was illegal and they can't afford to fund it now if they can't do LEZ than 30 day rentals. Real estate is breaking records in Volusia, everywhere in Florida, average time on the market is about two week, there are bidding wars with multiple offers above the asking price and it's being written up in the paper, the newspaper, you see it on TV, it's everywhere. A decent house at a fair price gets snapped up, the construction industry can't keep up with demand, don't let anyone insult your intelligence by telling you they are going to lose their investment property, no bank coming to repossess it, owners may not like it, but this can sell a house if they can't afford to keep it without unlimited rentals.
They made an uninformed business decision without checking the restrictions, if a store opens up without a liquor license, no one tries to do away with liqueur licenses. Keep local control in the power that that includes, keep the zoning as it is. Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Bill?
>>SPEAKER: Good morning, I'm Bill Redmond. New Smyrna Beach, I've been a full time resident of Volusia County, inuncorporated, for the last 24 year, 24/7, 365, I don't rent my house out. I'll be sending you some pictures of overcrowding and parking and absentee owners live, they don't live here, they live outside of this county.
And I personally received some anonymous letter threatening me and my family and our business, this letter was sent in a handwritten envelope, and typed with a typed body, it stated it was from a vacation rental home alliance of Volusia County, no return address, significant, no name. But M. Mr. Richard feller is president, according to the state records and now, that brings into the issue, to me, a criminal element, this I believe Mr. Feller was recently appointed to a PLDRC board and this letter was turned over to the proper authorities, collected in the evidence bag and fingerprinted. Fingerprints identify the individual who sent this letter, and it's been now turned over to the state attorney's office for further investigation. This is not with the majority of the single family homeowners in Bethune beach or elsewhere like the Ormond by the sea want in their neighborhoods. For the most part, full time residents do not give into such tactics as harassing neighbors who are considered elderly, do not appreciate changing their neighbors every three to seven days, and new renters coming in every Saturday at 2:00. Do not know who they are or where they're from. These homes are not ADA compliant. And they're not considered COVID-19 COVID clean when they arrive, when the people arrive, and they're not considered COVID clean when they leave. STRs are business, for profit, from the beginning and operating at strictly residential zoned neighborhoods.
One of the owners down the street from me, Mr. Vegas has been a -- many times, lives in winter garden, Florida has been through the four year code boards numerous occasions and violating the STR ordinance and has eight different LLC's, according to the state records that he runs out of his home and their property management companies.
The single family resident neighborhoods zoned, peaceful enjoyment of our properties and our neighborhoods. Mr. John foster, a year ago, put together a very comprehensive petition, opposing the STRs. And we had over 700 signatures and ironically online 253, a Mr. Richard feller signed the ordinance. His name showed up on the ordinance for it. We thank you for your time and we hope you take everything into consideration and appreciate our properties.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, sir.
Rebecca Chafin?
>>SPEAKER: Hello, I'm Becca with dream green Volusia, we are all aware that there is an unusual mortality event happening right now with our manatee, as more than 500 have died already in 2021. Residents in Volusia and Brevard Counties are demanding solutions to clean up our water ways and stop the starve, one solution is the immediate and permanent stopping of the spray of the GRIE to say it. These herbicides kill native plants and are food sources for wildlife and create algae blooms which smothers sea grass and other sources. The active ingredient of round up has shown up in the plasma of manatees and likely in all of us as well. 2.5 million pounds of nitrogen and FROS fraus make their way into our lagoon and our springs each year, as well, due to extraordinarily little regulation and enforcement. Our water ways are becoming dead zones. Springs are a window into the health of our groundwater, and groundwater is where 90% of our drinking water comes from. Meanwhile, as okay WI -- aquifers are -- Nestle to extract millions of gallons a day for practically free of charge at every Florida's expension. For instance, water lettuce. From impaired water ways, like the St. Johns river, to help stop the starve. This would also save taxpayers money as the state of Florida spends 17 million a year to indiscriminately pray herbicides. Clam and oyster beds can be used to help clean the IRL. Sea grass, manatees main food source can be planted once the river can support sea grass life and growth. Lastly, we need to take the example from orange county residents and protect our local water ways with a rights of nature amendment. Our water ways should have the right to exist and be protected from pollution and residents have a right to clean drinking water. Why do corporations and businesses have more rights than the residents they affect and more rights than nature itself? According to the Florida rights of nature network, the state has issued 23,000 pollution permits by half of our state water ways are declared impaired. OUFR our state and local regulatory systems have failed us. Most of our laws are not for the health and well-being of people but for the wants and desires of corporations and businesses or private land owners. Taxpayers then must pay for mitigation and cleanup afterwards F we need this amendment in Volusia County so that the people have the power to sue a polluter on behalf of nature. Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
Tony Lazanza?
>>SPEAKER: ( Inaudible ).
>>SPEAKER: Us short people, that's an ADA thing. Good morning, everybody, my name is Tony, I'm a registered nurse, and I'm a full-time resident of Volusia County and I have lived here for more than 22 years and I believe I have sent every one of you at least two letters.
(Laughing) so I'm your new pen pal.
I'm here today to talk about some of what I call the hidden costs of short-term rentals and specifically, what civic and law enforcement leaderses across this country are saying about short-term rentals. The most important thing I want you to take away today is that short-term rentals cost all taxpayers money. Legal hotels hire security personnel for a reason. They hire those people for a reason. Okay? Cathedral city, California is a great example. Okay? The vacation rentals are legal there.
They're legal. But in October of 2020, the newspaper, the desert sun, reported that the cathedral city police had to hire four full time short-term rental vacation compliance officers. In addition, they had to hire two administrative staff, just to handle the complaints about bad and illegal behavior going on at the short-term rentals. The peace officers research association of California, abbreviated PORAC, I guess you say that PORAC, wrote a letter of support for a state proposal, for stricter limits on short-term rentals. Along the San Diego coast. PORAC supports the bill because quote, many of these short-term rentals are being used for human trafficking, prostitution, and drug production. And by the way, it's important to note that the PORAC represents 70,000 law enforcement officers and another 920 peace officers. I mean, 920 organizations that represent law enforcement. So this is not a small organization. This is a big professional group. In Los Angeles, short-term rentals are illegal but they still have a big problem. Okay?
And senior capital of the L.A.P.D., a gentleman by the name of Corey ( name? ) Said that probably next to homelessness, short-term rentals were their biggest problem.
Okay?
I want you to understand that taxpayers will bear the cost of increased calls to code enVORSment and the law enforcement relating to vacation rental, owners of short-term rentals are not generally present anywhere near the property. These are big investment companies out of New York, Miami, places like that. Okay? I'm asking you as council members, look at those hidden costs. This is not all about tax revenue. You're going to have to spend some money and we, taxpayers, will bear that burden. Thank you very much.
By the way, I I gave you a hand out, I used to teach at the college, everybody gets a handout, every day. Bye.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
Thank you very much.
Okay. It's 10:00, we're going to take a 60-second break and come back to start the official meeting, we still have another half hour's worth of people who have sign up to speak. You'll have another opportunity at about 3:00. If we move that fast. Or if you want to change your -- what you signed up for for a particular item. Sorry, it's great to have this much public input. 10:00 was supposed to our meeting, so 60 seconds for everybody to get their bearings and we'll press on.

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>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay, we're going to -- if everybody wants to take their seat, we'll start in just a minute. That minute was a four-minute meeting --
minute, so we're going to get ready to start. All right. We will call it 10:05, the April 6th, 2021 Volusia County council meeting to order. And if you would all stand, we'll start with the invocation by Dr. --
pastor Suzanne Orensky from Deltona Christian church and followed by the pledge of allegiance. Thank you, pastor.
>>SPEAKER: Please join me in prayer. Loving and merciful God, in the warmth of your grace, we are assembled this morning to do the work of caring for TINS institutions and -- the institutions and structures of local Government, and in so doing, protect your creation and care for the people you have created from your love and for whom you seek justice, equity and life basic resources and the ability to seek happiness, we ask that you bless these county representatives with wisdom, and a peacefulness of spirit that they may find joy and tranquility as they engage this this cooperative process and they might in selfless care, make choices that are beneficial for all people. We thank you for this day and for the outrageous beauty of creation.
May we reflect your will for light and love to be shared in all corners of the world and extend to all people. In the spirit of peace we pray. Amen.
Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.
>>CHAIR BROWER:

Okay. We'll start with the consent agenda item 1, I'm going to pull letter U, just for discussion, not for a vote, I don't have any indication of anything else being pulled. I do now. Heather Post?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Yes, F, Foxtrot for discussion only, no vote.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I move we accept the agenda.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Second.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: We typically have roll call first.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Oh, that's right. Hey, we're getting it done.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Trying to move right along, would you please call the roll, let's see if we're here. ( Roll call ) .
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay. Did somebody make a motion?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I made a motion to accept the agenda.
>>CHAIR BROWER: And who seconded it?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Me. Post second. Okay.
>>CHAIR BROWER: If there's no other discussion, we'll call for a vote. Everybody in favor of passing the consent agenda, say aye.
>> Aye.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed?
>>CHAIR BROWER: Motion passes 7-0. Heather take it away with F, please.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: So F is the award of the contract with faith group consulting, LLC for the professional, engineering design services for Daytona Beach international airport security system. And I have to tell you, I've -- I was horrified to discover that they have been operating off of windows XP, a system that hasn't been supported by windows since 2014.
And I've had many, many meetings with staff on this matter. And although I have some serious issues with the misinformation or lack of information provided to myself and the council, I'm very, very happy that we are taking the initial steps to upgrade this system.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. And if we look at council members, letter U, we have a member here from the -- to present child abuse prevention month. I'm going to present a proclamation for them, but I wanted to ask them to come up and this is such an important issue in our county, and growing so I just wanted to give you an opportunity to tell us about what is happening.
>>SPEAKER: I'm the community development administrator for the circuit 7. And April is child abuse prevention month, and a time to celebrate the good things our communities do to promote healthy child development, support families, and help prevent child abuse and neglect. While large gatherings SXEFBTs are discouraged during the ongoing pandemic, the iconic blue and silver pin wheel, pin wheels for prevention campaign can play a prominent role, we're asking that organizations light up blue to help raise awareness.
This month, we have Daytona international speedway that is lighting up blue, April 1st through April 7th, and mainland high school, the security first, and Ormond beach is lighting up blue. Our main event this month is going to be on April 23rd, a Jackie Robertson stadium, a food drop and families will be able to get child abuse prevention materials, we have not done this alone, we have done this with Volusia County schools, Daytona -- early learning coalition, Daytona dream center, community partnership for children, and paid center for girls, the department of health and the Department of Children and families, we encourage you to come out and help participate, if you will like to, I'd like to give an opportunity for a couple of my colleagues to introduce themselves.
>>SPEAKER: Hi, my name is TARN Korkus with the Florida Department of Health.
>>SPEAKER: I'm Jaclyn Webber, I'm the program administrator for the Department of Children and families, the west side of Volusia County.
>>SPEAKER: Things that you are able to do to help prevent child abuse, you are able to mentor a parent, adopt a family, volunteer in the community.
Take care of yourself, be a good neighbor, learn the signs of abuse and neglect. If you suspect abuse and neglect, please report to the Department of Children and families, 1-800-96 abuse, if you know somebody that needs help, support and services is, you can also help them by giving them the information to navigate to my Florida families.com. And anyone is able to help a neighbor, colleague and friend seek support services. Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you very much. And we have a beautifully framed proclamation that we would like to present to you and have you come up for a picture with council. I'm just going to read the first line of it, because it's important.
Whereas, Florida's bright future depends on the healthy development of its children.
And whereas, adverse childhood experiences including the abuse and neglect of children can cause severe and costly consequences for children, families, and society as a whole. Actually, I'm going to continue if you don't mind.
Whereas every child has a right to safe, happy, healthy, childhood, where they are educationally and developmentally on track and whereas, research shows that parents and caregivers who have support systems and know how to seek help in times of trouble are more resilient and better able to provide safe environments. And nurturing experiences for their children, and whereas, it is vital that individuals, businesses, schools, and community organizations, make children a top priority and take action to support the physical, social, emotional and educational development and competency of all children and whereas, during April, prevent child abuse Florida in collaboration with the Governor's office of adoption and child protection, the Florida Department of Children and families, and the ounce of prevention fund to Florida implements pin wheels for prevention and whereas, pin wheels for prevention is a state-wide campaign aimed to increase awareness of child abuse prevention, encouraging healthy child development, positive parenting practices and community support. Now, therefore, we, the county council of Volusia County, Florida, do hereby proclaim April 2021 as child abuse prevention month. In Volusia County and urge residents to engage in activities that strengthen families and communities to provide the optimal environment for healthy child development. Dated this first day of April, back dated.
So if you want to come up?
While you're coming up, I'll just also mention that there were other proclamations today, Todd Phillips day, sponsored by Ben Johnson, water conservation month, congenital diaphragmic and NCA and NDA college chair and dance championship day is all important.
>>CHAIR BROWER: We'll move along to item 2. Florida city and county management association and we'll turn it over to Gary or George?
>>SPEAKER: I'll introduce it and bring up -- so item 2, Kevin captain, community information director. Item 2 is being presented by the Florida city and county management association, also known as the FCC MA. The FCC MA is recognizing the county of Volusia for having officially operated a council manager form of Government for the last 50 years. Presenting the recognition today is Deland assistant city manager, Michael -- who also serves as the district 2 member and the FCC MA's professional management matters committee.
>>SPEAKER: Good morning, everybody. As Kevin said, I'm the assistant city manager for the City of Deland. And I serve as the district 2 director for the city and county manager's association, north to Taylor county in the big bend region of the state. On behalf of FCC MA the certificate celebrating the 2021 as your 50th year as a council manager form of Government as recognized by the international city county manager's association. On behalf of the officers, board of directors and membership of FCC MA, we offer the sincere -- of what it means to be a council manager form of Government, the council manager form of Government was created to accept separate administration from direct influence and merit-based practices within local Government. It's modelled after a corporation framework, selecting a council who's like a board of directors, who in turn appoint a manager like a CEO to advise the council and through ordinances and policies. In Florida, nearly 70% of all 411 operate under the county council form of management and of the counties, all but two are managed. A great example of I a council manager form of government where you have a council to establish policies that are in the best interest of your stakeholders. Volusia County Volusia County is fortunate to have an ICMA member leading your city or your county, and county manager George Recktenwald, George is respected by professionals THARND county & state and beyond as an individual who maintains the highest integrity and ETHicethics, and helping the cities and counties who may need assistance. George leads a staff committed to leading the highest quality of life, to Volusia, on behalf of FCC MA we want to congratulate the county of Volusia, a council manager community for over 50 years. So I had the presentation, and thank you.
(Laughing)
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
>>SPEAKER: A picture of you and George like we did before.
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>>SPEAKER: Thank you, sir.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay, we'll MO on to item 3. Federal aviation administration coronavirus response and relief supplemental appropriation. Rick Karl will come up. No, he won't. And Karen will -- Karen feaster will fill us in.
>>SPEAKER: This is to request to apply for and approve the associated budget resolution for the coronavirus response and relief supplemental appropriation act. 6.0081 for operating and 72,994 for concession relief. This is the second stimulus package and we do know that there's a third one coming. For airports specific.
We will return to council on April 20th with the request to accept and that agenda item will have the grant award attached for signature.
>>CHAIR BROWER: You're good?
All right. Can I get a motion to accept?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Motion to approve. The federal aviation administration FAA coronavirus response and relief supplemental appropriation act 2021 application and budget resolution.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Second.
>>CHAIR BROWER: And seconded by Lowry. All in favor say aye.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Aye.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed?
Motion carries. 7-0.
Thank you.
Item 8. Ordinance -- and a whole page? Oh. Would you have -- would you have stayed?
>>SPEAKER: I would have made something up.
>>CHAIR BROWER: (Laughing) item 4. Capital project schedule quarterly update. Tad Kasdbeer.
>>SPEAKER: Volusia county engineer, this quarterly update.
Sense our last update, the county has completed 7 projects.
Of note, we had had two major projects at the airport, the November rehabilitation project, which was -- went into four parts is now complete. It's a $40 million job, that has brought back up to current standards. The airport also completed the terminal renovation, there are some minor punch list items, $14 million renovation that updated the entire airport, if you haven't been out there, it is fantastic.
It looks much better. Compared to what we had three or four years ago. And certainly, brings us into the 20th century.
So also, we completed public works, the northeast services facility, which replaced the Holley hill facility that we had that any time that it sprinkled, we had flooding, this area is a much better location off of Indian lake and allows us to reach a better area in that northeast without having to worry about protecting our own space during flooding events, so. During this last couple of quarters, we also moved into construction on the 11 projects, highlighted by four with the Ocean Center and another four with coastal. We've had --
park, Dahlia, and several others, that have moved on.
Those we expect to move forward at regular pace, did have some issues with the ocean center projects, had to rebid a coup of the lighting projects, that's not unusual when you have something specialized like that, but they're on track, made modifications and they'll be out for bidding in the near future, so. If you have any questions on any particular projects, certainly could go over that, project manager for most of the projects are here. To answer detailed questions you might have.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Council, any questions? Seeing none, E guess you did a good job. Oh, you've got one.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Looking great, man, that's all I have to say.
>>SPEAKER: Thank you, they're on target, so. Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
Okay. Item number 5.
Discussion regarding a draft interlocal planning agreement with Flagler county. Presented by Clay Ervin.
>>SPEAKER: Good morning, Clay Ervin, in September, of last year, the county council directed us to work with our partners in Flagler county to come up with a method to share information about planning projects and be able to utilize our individual staffs to help make sure we have a coordinated effort in managing the growth that occurs within our boundaries. Specifically, there was a project that was proposed in Flagler county that the only way it could get access was through Volusia County, using the Volusia County roads. And we did not have a formal agreement in place to ensure that we were able to review the proposed development and make sure that any kind of impacts were properly mitigated.
So this put us in motion to talk about what are we really trying to accomplish? And as the staff went through and reviewed what was going on, we were able to basically break it down into four basic areas.
Making sure that the staff in both counties are able to review proposed comprehensive plan amendments, making sure that the staffs from both counties could review proposed rezoning, zoning to PUD and looking at subdivision requirements, and lastly, site plan. So we broke those down and identified a specific process, where each of the respective counties would contact their colleague in the other county, a minimum of 7-days prior to any kind of preapplication, that may be tied to any one of those applications. Also, we put in place that there will be an understanding that staff from the other counties will sit as part of the technical review committees so that that way, if there is a project going on, that required the use of county roads or county utilities, our staff would be there at the table going through and reviewing it. And vice versa.
So we went through all of that.
Worked through the legal aspects.
And I am happy to report that we have come up with a draft agreement, which identifies a three-mile area from the respective BOUN RIs, it does not include any of the cities such as Ormond or -- we wanted to take one bite at the apple to make sure we could get it going right. Within the shared boundary with Flagler county, anything that occur within three miles, we will be implementing what I just talked about.
So therefore, if someone own a piece of property that's just over the county line, in Flagler county, and they want to do a project and that project has impacts on Volusia County, Volusia County staff will be part of that review committee.
We will have the rights to go through that. One of the things that is included in the agreement is the establishment of a memorandum of understanding or MOU. The MOU would be based on our process that we have right now, for all of these different applications. The reason why it's a MOU, those do change, and two years ago the state of Florida told us how to do this because they changed the laws and gave us a shot clock in order to review proposed developments. So we wanted to make sure that the memorandum was available to be modified subject to the any kind of local changes or state mandated changes. That will be coming as part of the final agreement. If y'all agree that these are the appropriate terms. The map that is shown there is on page 5-15 of your agenda packet. And that shows you the area that we're talking about. The majority of the area towards the west, in both Flagler and in Volusia Counties, majority of that is agricultural or conservation lands. As you get closer towards the east, that's where you start to see some of the more intensive developments and you actually have some cross-jury jurisdictional, Halifax, plantation oaks, and all of those, are in that area, where you have a mixture of different types of development going on. At higher intensities, more suburban intensities, we will be able to review those in Flagler, they will be able to review those in Volusia County. Depending on what y'all do, today, we will follow through as you recommend.
If you feel that this is a appropriate as drafted and presented, we will bring it forward to you, KOUR counterparts, five members of the Board of County Commissioners for Flagler county reviewed this yesterday in a similar fashion. They recommended to proceed forward as drafted and present it back to us with no major changes.
And in fact, their county administrator, Mr. Cameron, identified this as kind of like a template that he would like to start utilizing with the other local Governments that he has within the Flagler county jurisdiction. That is your report, if there's any questions or concerns, recommendations, I'll be glad to answer them.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Heather Post.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I wanted to break this down further for the public. The issue that was occurring is the county line, Flagler and Volusia, out west on -- off of 40. You have one access road going north and south, right? And at the very tiptop of that access, road, in Flagler county jurisdiction, is a large portion of land that has been bought and a subdivision is being built. Well, the only way too get in and out of that subdivision is to access the road going south so that road, then comes out into Volusia County on to 40, so that then you have I a lot of results from that, traffic impact, you have stuff going on in -- you have more traffic in that neighborhood coming south, you have the fact that it is an agricultural area, and currently, right? There's people that have a lot of lands out there and a lot of animals.
And now, you suddenly have a subdivision basically right back up to it. But it's in another county, so another county has complete jurisdiction and we really have no say-so when it comes to what they approve or what they don't approve. And it really works the other way around as well. So in looking into this, we had many, many public meetings and I know that other council members, I know Jeff, that you went out there as well. To talk to a lot of these homeowners out there, both on the Flagler side and Volusia County side. And really, I mean, what does the county do when someone right on the line decides to build something? And so, there were several suggestions, well, what happens if someone wants to build a six flag, you know, that's not happening, but what happens if someone wants to do that? Right across the line? We have no say-so, right? And if they want to come out and into our area, so the discussion about doing the MOU, doing the memorandum of understanding with Flagler, so that if this happens in the future, which we know that the potential for that is great.
Right? A lot of the population is growing. And a lot of things are being built. For us, to create this, and to have this, and so that both counties fully understand that we're going to work on really work on collaborating, but also, a little bit on holding each other accountable as to hey, you know, let's work together and let's try and make it as nice of an easement as possible. For the homeowners on both sides of the line. So staff did an excellent job of creating the memorandum of understanding, and I know that we had -- I know there was an issue at the South end of the county as well. Your district.
But where we're having the same issue with Seminole county. So this is a very good thing. I can't believe that we haven't done it before, with all of the growth. But oh, my gosh, really good to have at hand and looking forward to us working with Flagler on any future discussions and future developments, certainly, thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Dr. Lowry?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I wanted to ask, do we have agreements with other counties around us?
>>SPEAKER: No, sir, not of this nature. And just to kind of clarify, up until probably ten year ago, all of this type of --
would have been handled through a development regional impact analysis, and the state legislature has eliminateded that program, per se. And so therefore, they kind of said, okay, you're handling it at your comp planning process, we're no longer going to have this state mandated process which requires coordination between counties.
So many of the projects that you see up there, specifically like health explantation, plantation bay, those are all developments of regional impact where both Volusia County and Flagler county worked together in the review of it. Hunters ridge is another project that has both jurisdictions included. And we were able through the DRI process to put in place the type of agreements and everything else that we need for coordinated efforts for improvements to infrastructure.
That unfortunately is gone. And so, we're having to supplemental with these types of agreements.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Okay, are you looking for a motion to continue this procedure?
>>SPEAKER: Yes, what we need is a motion to have staff bring back the final version of this agreement.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I'll make that motion.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I second it.
>>CHAIR BROWER: One more question. Please. I noticed in your presentation, you said if there's -- that the trigger seems to be impact. On Volusia County. How do you define impact? I have been up there and talked to the residents, both of our county, and Flagler, fortunately, they even sent some of the -- one of their own representatives. I've done the same thing in Osteen, and it's becoming all too common where we take this beautiful farm land, and people out there have acreage, they have farms. And businesses. They're going to be affected, not only by the traffic, but by stormwater runoff, by the lack of, you know, every straw that goes in the ground, to pump out when you put a development in there is taking from our fresh water supply. How do you define impact? On our county?
>>SPEAKER: That's a very good question. And that's why we have the different applications.
Starting at the comprehensive plan, within our own comprehensive plan, we have criteria that evaluates whether or not that's compatibility, if it's appropriate, those types of things, so we will be able to go sit at the county -- in Flagler county TRC, technical review committee and sit there and say, here's our criteria, we have a concern because you're making it more intense or it's not compatible or it's not in character with the surrounding areas that are in Volusia County, we have these concerns.
Therefore, we have that, at the very top level. Because as you get further and further in the development process, you have fewer and fewer ways of objecting. And I'll kind of clarify that.
At the comp plan level, you can go in there and talk about those ideas of compatibility and character and those types of things. Then we get into the zoning aspect, the zoning cat GIERs have to be delineated so they're consistent with the future land use. In Volusia County, we have a matrix in our comprehensive plan, the future land use element that lists all of the landed use categories and what zoning categories are deemed appropriate. Flagler county has a similar type of matrix in their future land use element, therefore, we would be able to comment to a certain extent, for example, isle going to use ours -- I'm going to use ours, we have urban low intensity as a category, it allows up to 4 units per acre, but you have a variety of different zoning categories, just because those zoning categories are identified doesn't mean you're entitled to the most intensive. We can't argue that if somebody is coming in and they're trying to maximize the intensity and we don't see it necessarily consistent with what we see out there, we as your staff, can identify that as a concern.
Once you start getting into the subdivision, and site plan, the whole issue just changes. Then it's just basically concurrency, do you have adequate water sewer, road, stormwater, how are you going to do that? Are there impacts on the wetlands, endangers species, if you meet them, it's harder for the local Government to deny itment we're starting at the very beginning of this agreement, it's a very comprehensive approach to make sure that both the counties have the ability to work with each other early on in the process.
And utilize what is in place, to ensure that we're doing the best we can to ensure that future development is compatible and consistent with the surrounding areas.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
Heather?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I also wanted to ensure that we're noting, so, there's discussion about the preapplication meeting, etcetera, but part of that is the notification of one county to another. Early in the process.
>>SPEAKER: Correct.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: And that, I think, is one of the most important parts of this, other than certainly responding to the impact itself, but the actual notification, because in this case, the citizens actually contacted their elected officials on this en, when they found out and the point that they found out was when it actually was on the agenda for the Flagler county commission to -- for first approval, they had to get it approved twice, but it was for first approval and by that point, you know, it's already gone flu -- through their committees and well through the process, and the ball is rolling, the train is moving, and it's fairly gone at that point. So I think it's very, very important that we are having those conversations, very early on in the process, and that we are now making sure to notify each other that these things are happening in the background so that it's not springed on the elected officials or certainly the residents at the last minute.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Are you having similar conversations with municipalities?
>>SPEAKER: Not at this point.
Please remember, this is a policy direction that was followed up by -- based on the county council's direction, if that's something that you want us to follow up on, we will. We have the growth commission, which addresses the interGovernmental coordination of comprehensive plan amendments, and so, from that perspective, we have that covered. Volusia County does not get into the specifics of the rezonings, per se. But we do have one bit of say if a project impacts thoroughfare roads. Or if it ties into our utilities. Otherwise, it would be up for the individual municipalities to make the decision on development and how it's going to -- ( Inaudible ).
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay, thank you, I think we need that kind of cooperation, especially when it comes to water issues. The quantity and the quality.
No other questions?
Would you please restate your motion? Brad?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Basically, to continue pursuing this interlocal agreement, let staff come back to us with a final version. Ms. Post seconded it.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Yes.
>>CHAIR BROWER: All in favor, say aye.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Aye.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed?
Motion passes 7-0. Thank you, Clay. PF Okay. Item 7. Contract task assignment, item 6. Contract with Halifax paving, Inc. For the landfill class 3 stormwater improvements. John?
>> It was an awareness drill.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Can we get you a ruler, so you can -- go down --
(Laughing)
>>SPEAKER: Good morning, Regina Montgomery, solid waste director. Before you today is a contract for stormwater system management improvements around the class 3 disposal cell at the Tomoka farms road landfill. PFThe project will be funded through the solid waste enterprise fund. Just some history in December of 2019, the Florida Department of Environmental protection approved the modified permit.
The modified grading plan provides for a conventional stormwater collection system.
That includes 6300 linear feet of perimeter ditch to be constructed to collect the stormwater rolloff. The project also includes expansion to an existing wet detention stormwater pond for collection and storage. This project will improve the overall stormwater management system. And the new system meets the current requirements of FDEP, and will improve the water quality that is eventually discharged through adjacent wetlands. Operate operationally, the soil excavated, we estimated 90,000 cubic yards from the pond expansion, will be stockpiled and we can use for future daily and interimmediate waste disposal coverage needs. Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Dr. Lowry?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I want to Mac a motion to accept the motion on this Tomoka farms road landfill project.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Second by Ben Johnson. And discussion?
Barbara Girtman?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: It may not have a whole lot to do with this, but what's in the news, I guess, is fresh on the minds with the issue of the waste water. And do we have anything similar? Any concerns? Any potential to --
>>SPEAKER: Again, this is stormwater runoff, and the pond embankment is going to collect and naturally treat the stormwater runoff from the class 3 disposal cell.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Probably more equivalent to what you're looking at would be our other hill, which would be the household waste, that actual hi goes through a treatment system.
And that's something that we added several years ahead of the time where you were require, so that water is treated and then goes in the system, similar after that. With the problem over in Tampa or the manatee area, that's the industrial waste water that has been reservoired and much massive reservoir out there, the problem over there is the embankment, the dike, around it is having structural issues. And they have both the problem, it could send a 15-foot wall of water through a neighborhood and then of course, it's not very nice water. It's being treated. But that's a little bit different issue. But we do treat ours with a treatment plant out there, which is -- this is ahead of a lot of landfills.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I thought from my tour, that's what I recall, but it's great to have that on the record because I think it is fresh on our mind, too, so it's great to let the public know that we are addressing it in a different --
a different way.
>>SPEAKER: Rainy days are never a good day for the landfill.
(Laughing) just gives them a lot more to have to work with, but. They do a great job out there.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: They do, thank you very much. Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: And we have a motion for approval and a second. I'll call for the vote, all in favor say aye?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Aye.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed?
Motion passes unanimously.
Thank you.
And now, we'll go back and do 7. Contract task assignment to kneel-SCHAIFR Inc. For Tomoka farmsfarmsfarms -- quality --
>>SPEAKER: This is for the stormwater improvements in the class 3 LAN fill, engineering project management on site technical assistance for the construction project and they'll also be required to do a certification of completion report to the Department of Environmental protection.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I move approval of item 7. Contract assignmentment.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Second.
>>CHAIR BROWER: The second was by Post. Motion by Lowry. I see no discussion. I'll call for the vote, all in favor say aye. Any opposed? Item 7 unanimously.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay, staying in numerical order, item 8 for ordinance 2021-8, adoption hearing to update the five-year schedule capital improvement/capital -- go ahead, Clay.
>>SPEAKER: Clay Ervin, director of resource -- an ordinance that updates our five-year capital improvement schedule. Part of the requirements of the community planning act is that every year, a local Government shall update to ensure that its five-year schedule are consistent with the capital improvement element, and to make sure that they can do what needs to be done to ensure their concurrenc is updated and working. Saying that we have to get our act together to make sure that we have money to spend for our critical facilities, solid waste, utilities, roads, transit, and stormwater. All of that. We are very lucky here in Volusia County to have very good staff and public works and finance to make sure that all of I have to do and all our staff has to do is go to the third and fourth FLOOSHGS get their capital improvement schedules and put it in front of you and say this is good to go and this is what this is all about. All of the information contain in here is basically what tad gave you a presentation on previously, and it's again, it's a method, so that the state regional planning councils and local Governments are assured that we are following through with the requirements for concurrency. If there's any questions, I'll be glad to answer them.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Go ahead, Billie.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: No, I was going to make a motion to adopt the ordinance. 2021-8 adoption hearing to update the five-year schedule of capital improvements/capital improvements element of the comprehensive plan for concurrency-monitored public facilities physical year 2021 through 24-25, case 0-21-052.
Yeah. Sorry.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Is there a second.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I'll second it, I want to ask if there was anybody from the public to speak since this is a public hearing?
>>CHAIR BROWER: We didn't have any. You'll speak to this one?
Okay. PFJohn Nicholson, isn't that your name?
>>SPEAKER: Uh-huh.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay.
>>SPEAKER: Was this morning.
John Nicholson, beach side, Daytona Beach. I have two things, well, three. One, I am presuming that the LBGA is on here, Heather and I spoke about it three years ago. It usually takes about ten years for these projects. And I also brought up to you the bridge on 92, near I-95, I'm hoping that's on this.
Because at this point, we are developing in the City of Daytona Beach all of our property north of 92. The only place that Daytona Beach has to go is south. And this is the road that is going to be impacted most in the next 5-10 years so I'm asking you to put that on your list if you have not already done so. And secondly, the intersection at Tomoka farms road and 92, backs up humongous line all the way down south, because what happens is, you've got four lanes there.
And you really don't use them.
You have two lanes going east, you have one lane going north.
And west. And so it's really easy, take a paint brush out there and put a line sign going left, and going straight, and you solve the problem, but apparently, FDOT says you can't do it because the road is offer limits by 6 inches or something, ridiculous amount. And every other road in Daytona Beach has offer by 12 inches or more. And 12 feet or more. So if offer off by 12 feet, this 12 inches really matters little. But you all have to push UT because it's not a city road. It's a state road. And but the problem is, that backup is ridiculous and they're starting to build on Tomaka farms road, the Baptist church is blossoming, they had an Easter thing that was packed.
So I'm asking you to look at those two projects. The bridge and the intersection. And of course, LPDA, thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. And if there's no one else from the public that wanted to speak, I'll close the public hearing.
And open it back up to council discussion, Heather Post?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I just wanted to point out that L PGA is actually currently under construction, so if you go out there, it started on the 29th, so just be aware of that that it is under construction and there are many levels of engineering and construction in the process for that entire segment, so okay.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, we have a motion on the table for adoption. All in favor say aye?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Aye.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed?
Motion passes unanimously.
Item 9 is also a public hearing, I don't have anybody wishing to speak yet. But if you did want to speak on this, please give Carissa a form.
This is ordinance 2021-10, transmittal hearing for amendment to chapter 5, housing element of the Volusia County comprehensive plan case CPA 21-005. Mr. Ervin.
>>SPEAKER: Good morning, Clay Ervin. Last year, we were planning on an affordable housing summit that would incorporate all of the cities, all of the not for profits and those engage in the affordable housing and out of that we're going to be some recommendations. Unfortunately, COVID came along, and that made it very difficult to do so. So what you're seeing in front of you today is a relatively stripped down update of our housing element. The reason why we're having to come forward with this is that what we're seeing is that we have to maintain a ten-year planning horizon for our comprehensive plan. And your county staff has been working to get through all 16 represent -- elements of the comprehensive plan from a 2025 planning horizon to a 2035 planning horizon. We are coming forward now with simple and straightforward changes to this element. To identify specifically changes in names, updates to some of the policies, changes in verb text, but also, to acknowledge that we are looking at trying to do density bonuses for affordable housing and expanding the role of the affordable housing advisory committee.
We coordinated greatly with our community services folks, so that that way we were making sure we had accurate data in this, this a matrix that begins on may 935 through 945, and it shows the specific policies, goals, objectives and policies that are in the element, the proposed changes, why we're proposing the change, and what the outcome will be.
Again, there are no significant changes whatsoever in the direction. We are still looking at trying to do a coordinated effort with our partners, both in the public sector and not for profit sector to ensure that we're keeping up with our demand for affordable housing, there's policies that apply to making sure that the housing supply is up to date and is livable.
There's -- this is again, part of our comprehensive plan, where we address whether or not you have adequate housing supplies at this point. And in the future. So what we're asking you today is to please approve this so we can transmit it on to the Florida Department of Opportunity and the commission for their review, once they are completed with that, it will come back and it will be for adoption, we suspect in about 60-90 days. If there's any questions, again, I'll be glad to answer NEM. Them.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Anyone from the public, anyone from the council?
Can I get a motion to approve?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Motion to approve.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Second, Lowry.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Motion to approve by Wheeler, seconded by Lowry. All in favor say aye.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Aye.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed?
Motion carries unanimously.
Okay. Item 10 is also a public hearing and also a quasi judicial hearing. If -- this is a special exception for a garage apartment on a ten-acre forestry resource zoned property.
Located in Deltona. Does any of the council have any ex parte to declare? No. Okay. Clay?
>>SPEAKER: Once again, Clay Ervin, this is a special exception for a garage apartment on this ten-acre tract, the property owners have an operation stables, they have boarding of horses, and they have a variety of structures associated with it, also a single family home, and accessory structures for that.
They are seeking to convert one of their stables into a working garage as well as adding this garage apartment, in order to facility -- facilitate what is going on the property. How the operation is going, it's not legal nonconforming site, the ten-acre tract, itself was created in operational in that way, prior to the county coming up with the forestry resources zoning, and not -- the reason we bring this up is forestry resource as a minimum lot area of 20 acres, and this is only 10 acres.
But because it was basically already in place, it's a legal nonconforming, can continue on doing so, it just has to comply with all of the requirements of the FR zoning. Forestry resource zoning.
Staff reviewed the proposed application to ensure that it was in compliance. It did meet all of that. And we made a recommendation for approval of the special exception to the planning and land development regulation commission.
Associated with it is a variance. Given the dimensions of the existing structure, they were trying to make sure that they could work within that.
And as such, they're looking for a garage apartment that's 864 square feet as opposed to 800 square feet. This is importants because we do have a maximum size of 800 feet -- square feet for these garage plans, the planning commission approved the variance, subject to the special exception being approved. What you see is we've gone through a public hearing, no one who spoke against the project. The property owners have been making a concentrated effort to improve and update the property and utilize it, consistent with the forestry resource zoning. And it's coming to you as a recommendation of approval. If there's any specific questions, I'll be glad to answer them.
>>CHAIR BROWER: ( Inaudible ) yeah, I was going to say, this a kind of exemption that I think we should be passing, it still is in keeping with the neighborhood, with the rural flavor of the community. Still have no public input, so we'll close the public hearing. And we'll entertain a motion from Dr. Lowry.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I'm very familiar with that area, it's like you're driving down house, house, house, house, boom in the country, it's a beautiful area, I'm glad to see that we're helping these people out. I'd like to make a motion on item 10, that we grant the special exception for garage apartment.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Seconded by Johnson. All in favor say aye.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Aye.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed?
Another unanimous vote on item 10. PFAnd that brings us to item 11.
And looking around the room, is there someone here from aqua culture? And I'm going to postpone this, I told them that this will come after lunch it's 11:02, so we'll move on to item 12. And come back to item 11.
Because I want them to be here to comment. Item 12. And you have some papers, I'll ask you to put on in a minute, just to help, this is -- this is a simple request, if you want to put on this first page. To begin, to put in process, a discussion amongst staff and then all of council for proposal for naming rights of our beach approaches. Naming rights are a common feature in the United States now, you see it probably most frequently with stadiums and arenas. It's --
you know, we're always concerned about revenues and this is just another revenue source. So if you think about our beach approaches, and if you think about the east ISB corridor, you go over the bridge, you drive through that area. And then you hit the beach and there's a large sign that says, welcome to the world's most famous beach.
That's what I'm talking about.
Having some kind of a signage like that, that would be advertisement for hopefully local businesses, but it's --
you know, I've list some things here, racing suntan lotion companies, we have those locally, sunglasses, food and entertainment, a lot of different -- a lot of different opportunities.
I'm going to come back to that one, if you would go to the next one. I just wanted to remine you that this is not new to Volusia County, we have actually have had naming rights with the Volusia County school board.
And boy, you've got to have really good eyes. To see that.
But it's just makes a point that this is not a brand new thing, to Volusia County. We've done it with the school board. The next one is just a sample of a high school that is actually doing this, not in Volusia County, but for their own stadium. Their own basketball arena where they have sold naming rights at $200,000 a year, for to help pay for their high school sports programs. So lots of ideas. And then the last item is just a list of beach approaches, so everybody can see what I'm considering here. We have 29 beach approaches. This slide ranks them in order of how many people go through and pay a toll or just roll through with a yearly pass. Starting with the most --
with the busiest, which is international speedway boulevard. Second is Flagler avenue. In New Smyrna Beach and I wanted to just mention that for a second. I had a meeting last week with Russ Owen, the Mayor of Flagler, and his city manager, very productive meeting, I think Russ is just a tremendous local mayor. And they have a special problem in New Smyrna and they get too many cars on the weekends coming from mostly Orlando, west of here, to straight beeline out, 44. And so we are actually discussing ways to try and use this to encourage people to move from New Smyrna Beach down to some of the less busy beaches, in Daytona, even in Port Orange.
So and that's a part of what I'm going to ask you to do is if you go back to the very first page, and then we'll -- and then we'll do this last page for a motion.
The first page just had -- and you probably can't read it anyway, but we collect just from Volusia County residents in daily passes, yearly passes, $948,259. So while this is not part of the proposal, this is --
one of the things that we could do set a goal for a collecting a million dollars a year through an alternative revenue source.
We have 29 beach approaches.
That is $32,698 a year. Per approach. I've showed you a high school that's getting $200,000 for their basketball court. It's not -- it's not unattainable. In fact, it's very doable. So my appeal to you, this is to speak on -- why does that not surprise me? I will open this up for public comment. Let me -- before I do that, John, let me let the council know what I'm actually asking them to do. If you would put that last slide on? I'm asking for a very simple motion.
Just to direct staff, I have talked with staff, and legal about this. But to direct staff, to bring back options for creating a naming rights proposal, and RFPs or whatever the staff determines is the proper way to proceed with seeking bids for our approaches, from local and national businesses.
So just let that mull around for a second. And we'll open it up to the public, John Nicholson, if you wanted to speak?
>>SPEAKER: John Nicholson, beach side, I see these approaches all the time, as you know. Years ago, we closed the approaches nearest to my house, the highest grossing beach approach, because we wanted a mile of beach to develop. The center of the beach side. It didn't work. We closed it. And it killed all of the businesses on Main Street. And we're having a problem with that after 30 years. I understand you getting the need $9 million to take care of the beach. Okay.
There's only two or three approaches that are of value.
There's some tiny approaches that nobody is going to pay a dime for because that's not enough people going through it.
So what businesses do is they want the large ones, and if you do that, you're asking $3 million for the international speedway approach. Or 4 million. How many people are going to pay $4 million? Okay.
The second thing is gaudy. Ms.
Post did not like the idea that the boat going across the ocean.
All right. The advertisement.
To do this, you would have to make a very gaudy approach as you come down international speedway boulevard. We just finish making it nice a couple of years ago, maybe ten year ago, it wasn't to my liking, but it is still better than it was.
Now we're going have to put a big Coca-Cola sign, huge, for them to value it, to their people.
So although I understand the naming rights, I think they tried that on the life guard towers. That the kids sit on.
They wanted to put advertisement on those. I don't know how many years ago we did that. It is a good idea. To put advertisement on a thing you do. On the uniforms, Coca-Cola or Pepsi cola, other tabs on the uniforms so, those kinds of things are valuable. But at the approaches, I'm really concerned with it because I don't think you can generate enough money.
The secondly, user fee. If we use something, we pay for it.
The City of Daytona Beach owns the Peabody auditorium, but I can't imagine having a show though, you go in free because you pay tax. You pay have the municipal stadium, okay, anybody that lives in Daytona Beach, if you want to watch the football game, you get in free. We have golf courses, that's a big issue. Everybody has to pay for golf courses can. So I consider the beach approach, or going to the beach, a user fee. To maintain the beach. So if we are going to look at this, take a little bit more broader approach, rather than jump into it, have a team or whatever, look at the ways to fund the beach, the most logical and the most profitable. It is an asset. When you raise it to $20, I was shocked. I'm like, God, nobody is going to pay that. Guess what. You're making a fortune. And nobody thought you could do that.
So I'm sure there's another way of doing this. That you will indeed work on the beach. Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, John. And this is just one way, and this starts the discussion and it's a funny thing about whether or not the beach approaches would be interesting to advertisers, the funny thing is you don't know until joy you ask, and that's what I'm asking for is that we ask the question, see what it -- and, you know, if we write an ordinance to allow this, DIT UZ no -- it does not have to be gaudy, I don't know if you know the sign over east ISB is gaudy, I think it's very appropriate. And we're in a period, this is why I bring it up now, and why it's so interesting to me, we're starting a process, where we are going to improve really, rebuild our approaches, starting with east ISB. And so, it's an ideal time for -- I would love to see the speedway with come in, but it's an ideal time for someone to come in and be a part of that process of repaving, beautifying the approach. And maybe you think it's gaudy, to have a --
have the speedway or NASCAR logo on the -- in the pavers on the ground. I don't. We're getting ready to find out here. If anyone thinks that's gaudy, and you have generated the discussions, so I'll open it up to the council, Ben Johnson?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Number one, I'm for user fees all the way around. But the first time I have seen this was when I walked in here today, I have not had the opportunity to even have a look at it, it's kind of putting the cart before the horse. You know, we get this and we're already saying, let's vote on trying to put a vote on it, let's start running with it, well, I want to have a chance to look at it. But, you know, in the last few months, we have put a lot on our staff. You know, we've been running hard. And we have taken and really put more than they can really do. You know, we've got amendment ten, the budget issues coming up, that we've never dealt with before, so we're going to have to look at all of that. And we've got SunRail issues coming up. And we've got just getting over the loop issue, I'm not adverse to looking at this. But I want to put it off until the fall until we get through our budget stuff and other things taken care of, and then we can sit down and look at it and the only way that I will support it is if it takes care of our beach moneys that are supplemented in it. You know, we already funded 9 million out of the general fund but another million dollars O of the local beach passes and we have no clue, no clue, how much we get out of local residents for daily passes. But if you go to a blue spring state park, the Deland state park, Canaveral federal sea park, any of those places, you do users fees and it's about the most fair way because most people I talk to, really don't want to put on ad valorem taxes and that's where it's going to end up back to if yes we've don't do this and fined a way to do it right. I'll look at it. But I don't really want to lack it until the fall.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Well, that seems to be a familiar theme that we put things off, and kick it down the road. And what I'm trying to do is give you a chance to look at it. And maybe you're too busy to look at it now, we're all busy, but I'm asking to put it in motion.
I've talked to the staff about it, they're capable of investigating this. And I'm sorry that it didn't come up in your agenda meetings, but that's where Iment a -- am, putting this in progress.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I'd like to take a look at it a week or two before I go there.
Mr. Nicholson said we are making a killing on the beach tolls, if I understand, we are -- do not collect near enough money on the beach tolls, to take care of the things that we have to do at the beach and it has to be supplemented out of the general fund, is that correct?
>>SPEAKER: Yes.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I wanted to clarify that, thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Billie Wheeler?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Thank you, I think this is a wonderful thing for us to look at, absolutely, but I do have to agree, I am --
it's not kicking the can down the road because we have had a lot going on. You've presented a lot of good things that we need to look at. Since the first of the year, and plus, we're heading in to budget, which we have not even had a chance to even think about that.
I would really be interested, and again, not saying this --
reading -- I like the idea that we could possibly look at this.
But there's a lot of things that goes into it. You know, what would this entitle them to for sponsorship? What are we talk about doing? Plaques, talking about like you're saying, putting in the concrete, you know, pavers or whatever?
There's a lot of discussion that I think needs to be done on this.
And I really think that --
we're still in COVID crisis time. Our staff has been triple timing stuff.
And I think that to put another thing on them right now, to research, I would really like to see it after the fall, when the budget has already been discussed. And then we can sit down, calmly, and really look at this. Thoroughly. I would feel much more comfortable, i wouldn't be for asking staff to do another thing right now. As far as that goes.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay. And again, that's exactly what I'm asking for. To put it in process. Right now, we don't have anything to look at. I will work with staff to bring something back that we can look at. It may take until the fall to do that. If we start today.
That's all I'm asking. Is that we put it in the process. So that you do have something to look so we don't become known as the council that kicks the can down the road. Heather Post?
I'm sorry, Barb Girtman, you were first.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Thank you, chair. I also support looking at it. I think that there can be some benefits along the way to having businesses more involved in our beach approach.
And being able to collect additional funds. For me, my concern is attaching that to the fees on the tolls. I mean, I see it as a potential additional revenue generation. I don't want to attach it at this time to anything other than, you know, a beach approach, sponsorship business opportunity. And what that could potentially generate. I'm also in support of if the staff are going to look at it, that there's no pressure on them to bring anything back to us until the fall. Because I do also agree that there's no true urgency to this issue at this time. So if it's on their table, and they have time to work through it, along the way, then I'm in support of that.
>>CHAIR BROWER: That -- I think that's perfect, Barb, and that's really what I'm asking. That we give it to staff, to work -- I didn't ask for a time limit.
And I'm proposing this as a revenue source. Not as a -- as anything else, it's an additional revenue source, which we should always look at. So I'm in agreement there with you.
Heather Post?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: So I'm never for postponing anything for several months. You know, even if we're in the budget cycle, we're always in the budget cycle. We're always -- things are always happening. You know, we have been in COVID for well over a year now. Who knows how long COVID is going to last?
Does that mean that we don't look at county Government issues until that passes?
I think that -- so I'm not really in favor of pushing stuff out, because we are known for kicking the can down the road.
And so I think that it's -- you know, either we're going to discuss it or we're not. And so I would -- I'm absolutely for discussing it. And going over it, why not? Be provided the information. So I would move that we do have staff with whatever help or assistance anyone else has, look at everything and come back to us with some type of proposal. Not really giving a time frame, but just that we do give that direction.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Ben, your name is up, that's from before. But I'm going to appeal to you, Ben, I'm going to ask that you actually make the motion just to put it in processprocess, let's give it to staff.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I did that, just Mr. Chair.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Without a FIEM frame.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I just made the motion.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay, thank you, so that they can bring it back when they have time. I --
I spend a lot of time with them, you probably do, too. I'm here most days, I see how busy they are. I also see how incredibly talented they are at getting things done and getting it back.
Not putting pressure on them. I hear something -- taking it out of process, no I'm putting it in the process, they can take whatever time they need. We have a motion, I'll ask for a second, and in a minute, I'll ask for a second for you, if you would, Ben, just -- put it --
FUT it in motion, so that we can talk about it. You don't know,-- everyone to talk about.
You'll never have the opportunity.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I did not say I did not want to talk about it, I said we need to wait until the fall and do some catchup first and I'm more than happy to talk about. I will take -- if it's -- I'll be glad to make a motion that we bring this back and put it -- start it in motion after October 1st. And then we need to take and sit down something this important and look at it real good. There may be some golden opportunities that we don't know about but I'm not willing to take and dump something else that even though we say there's no pressure, there's pressure. Slow this thing down, go it right, and if this motion fails I'll be happy to make a motion that says we bring this back after October 1st and that doesn't mean walk in staff go get it done today.
>>CHAIR BROWER: That's not what happened, that's not what I just said publicly, I said they can take their time so we can wait until the fall and then take six months to do it. They could --
if we give it to them now, they can work on it as they want to, they can ask me questions, they can ask all of us questions. In the agenda meetings, it puts it in motion, instead of slowing everything down. We need to get some things done. This is a revenue source. And so we have a motion on the table. By Heather Post. To direct staff to bring back options for creating naming rights proposal at their time frame. Do I have a second? And there's no one on this council that will give that a second, so that we can talk about this creating a new revenue source in the future?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Mr. Chair?
>>CHAIR BROWER: Yes.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Again, you know, I don't want you to put words in our mouth, it's not that we don't want to discuss it, I think this needs to be brought up after October 1.
Then we can talk -- start the process then.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Make that a motion.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I would like to make a motion.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I'll second.
>>CHAIR BROWER: We have a motion on the table right now.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: The last one failed. There was no second.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Yeah, I understand that if there's not a second, that it dies. I'm actually hoping for a second that we can just approve something to get it in motion, to talk about it at BHAFR whatever time that staff over there decides to, I don't have to put words in your mouth, everybody is hearing, we don't want to the talk about it right now.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Mr. Chairman we need to move on.
>>CHAIR BROWER: So Heather Post made the motion, there was no second. Nobody is going to make a second. So that motion dies.
Heather Post?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I was just going to clarify the motion to -- that that is literally what the motion was. That everyone is saying they wan to bring it back in October and the motion was to bring it back, no certain time frame, but just to not table it. That's literally what the motion was.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I do have a motion on the floor.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: And I did second it.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay.
Dr. Lowry.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER:
( Inaudible ).
>>CHAIR BROWER: Ben Johnson?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: ( Inaudible ) I think we pretty well have a motion, first and second, to put it off and bring it, you know, readdress this in October. I think that's pretty clear.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay. Billie, would you restate your motion?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Yes, sir.
That we would address this after October 1st, after our budget, have staff look at alternatives for possibly naming rights sponsorship proposals. And maybe give us some indications on what all that would involve, what name rights would involve in. So that we have this up for discussion again after April 1.
To start the process.
>>CHAIR BROWER: After April 1?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I'm sorry, October 1.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: So moved.
>>CHAIR BROWER: I'll accept that, April 1. And who made the second?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Lowry.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Kristen, would you call the roll?
( Roll call ).
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. I still have two names up, they just didn't come off the screen?
Dr. Lowry?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Yeah, ill like to make a comment. Just, you know, in a kind way, I would appreciate it if the chair wouldn't pressure people for a motion or a second, I Don think that is appropriate for a chair to pressure them for a motion, I think that's highly inappropriate. That's all I'm going to say, thank you SCOMBLB okay, well, let the record show that that's not what happened.
I didn't pressure anybody. I asked for a motion, Heather Post made it and I waited for a second, and asked for a second.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: You directly approached Mr. Johnson and asked him to jump in on that. And that's --
>>CHAIR BROWER: I did, I made an appeal to him as a very friendly appeal, that he would --
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: T but when you do that has as a Chair, that's not appropriate and please don't ever do that to me.
>>CHAIR BROWER: We wouldn't want to add any pressure to the council to do anything this month.
So we'll move to item 13.
Which is the 56th extension of the state of local emergency related to coronavirus disease.
COVID-19.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Move approval, Post.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Second.
( Inaudible ).
>>CHAIR BROWER: Motion to approve by Post, second by Lowry, all in favor, say aye.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Aye.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed?
Motion passes unanimously.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Let it be noted that one council member was not presented, Ms. Wheeler.
6-0.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Dually noted.
Item 14. Acceptance of terms and conditions for federal coronavirus local fiscal recovery fund. Ryan, go ahead.
>>SPEAKER: Good morning, still.
Good morning, chair, council members, Ryan, chief financial officer. I'm here today regarding the coronavirus local fiscal recovery fund. Which is to be distinguished from the coronavirus relief fund. The coronavirus relief fund, which is the $96.5 million that the county received directly from the federal Government through the CARES Act, was the enacted about a year ago, a similar named fund, was just passed in the American rescue plan, which is the coronavirus local fiscal recovery fund. Based off of estimates from the senate, Volusia County will be up for $107.3 million. In coronavirus local fiscal recovery funding.
This is provided both to the states and the local Governments including cities. So all of the Volusia County cities will also be eligible for part of this.
Which was scheduled -- included in the agenda item. This is separate from the coronavirus relief fund. And we have not yet received the these funds, the treasury has 60 days to byes percent those funds, may 10th.
50%, 34 days from now, or up to 34 days from now. On May 10th.
And 50% of that is eligible to be received a year later.
Subject to treasury guidance.
Speaking of the treasury guidance, with the coronavirus relief fund, it was very important when the treasury released the guidance on what we could and could not do with those funds, it helped us enact the programs that we enacted the food assistance program, and the small business grant program.
They have not yet issued guidance, we have got indications from treasury that they will take the entire 60 days that they are entitlealed to release that guidance to help us determine what is and is not eligible undered the provisions of the act. It is expected within the next 30 days, that's before I found out that they are planning on taking all 60, so 34 days.
There are numerous questions that are outstanding. Like the covered period for eligible uses. Is it retroactive, for example? How to measure reduction in rev -- revenue, up to the amount of our reduction in revenue. So how is that considered?
Is it considered in the aggregate, on the individual, for example? And what type of long-term investments are allowed? Are you allowed to invest in capital assets, other than the infrastructure that's specifically listed in there?
What other federal compliance requirements are expected?
Generally, when you get federal funding, there's provisions are like the hatch act and the Davis bacon AK and other acts that the federal Government has passed related to their federal funds.
It's not clear whether those would apply, the coronavirus relief fund they were exempted, this l that be case the.
>>> -- lastly, will there be consistency with the coronavirus relief fund, public safety salaries and benefits were reimbursed with that fund, would that be allowed with this one?
That is an important item for us to know.
The Government finance officers association has actually produced some recommended guiding principles related to this fund. First is a reminder that this is temporary. I personally expect although I don't have a Crystal ball or a connection to the president or senators, that this will be the last major bill that is passed on coronavirus relief. So this is a temporary fund. So it's important to not make recurring financial decisions based off of a temporary one-time funding source.
Also, partnering efforts, and knowing what other agencies are doing. Like I mentioned, the cities will be receiving funds the & the state of Florida will be receiving fund related to this.
With any federal funding, it's important to make sure there's no duplication of benefits so if we were to enact a program, we need to know what others are doing before we step out there, so that we don't duplicate benefits. And more importantly, so that we could try to synergize and cooperate with the funding. And the last guiding principle from the GFOA was to take time and careful consideration. As opposed to the coronavirus relief fund, the last bill, we had 8 months from the date we received it to the deadline of those funds. This one we have 3 years and 9 months. So there's a little bit of time to plan and make sure that these funds are used in the best way. For our citizens and residents.
The treasury has not yet released the terms and conditions of this fund but we expect based off of the previous programs that they have implemented that it will be --
they'll expect a signature from the county manager, we always want to bring these things to the county council to approve beforehand. All of those terms are conditions are not approved, I'm asking for council's delegation for George to be able to accept those terms and conditions when they are released, they will not be negotiable with the treasury, it's like we have input with it any way. If we Don DO want to accept those funds from the federal Government, I'm ask for approval for that delegation.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Motion to approve.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Second, Post.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Motion to approve by Girtman, I believe, seconded by Post. There being no discussion, all in favor say aye?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Aye.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed?
Motion passes. 7-0. And item 15. Coronavirus update.
>>SPEAKER: Good afternoon, or good morning. County county, Department of Public protection.
So you'll see with the trend, and that's daily trend for new cases, here, we have leveled off and creeping up a little bit, the case across the country right now, and so as a quick rundown, in Florida, there were -- there have been 2,085,300 case to date, with 33,710 deaths, in Volusia County, there's 39,O 45 cases with 727 deaths. Last week, or the week of March 28th, the positivity rate was 8.86%. Which is lower than the week prior. But certainly, there has been an increase, so I think we're seeing some of the effects of bike week, spring break, you know, all of those things and, you know, potentially some less caution, you know, potentially, with the public. And I think that's been across the board across the country as a health experts report.
So I think with regards to these numbers, and these new numbers and the PO enthe SHL increase here, vaccines we'll talk about the vaccines and the progress we have made with that.
Are getting out there. But not everybody is covered yet. And so we do still have to make sure to Ms. Girtman's point, each time that we have a council meeting, you know, it's important to maintain the masking, the social distancing, and all of that kind of stuff, because we do still see new cases. And deaths from COVID.
So quick rundown, too of the hospitalizations, 80 hospitalizations as of yesterday. Yesterday, when I created this slide, as of this morning, there was 23% bed availability in Volusia County hospitals with 14% availability in the ICU. So we do still keep an eye on this but we are seeing that slight increase right now, with the cases. So we still have to be careful.
Moving on to vaccines. And testing, we do continue to do testing. That is as of yesterday, but the updated number for tests is at least 133,672, so that site at New Smyrna Beach city gym is still functioning. And people can get tested there. Vaccines, I took off the locations where vaccines are available, because they have opened up, right? So we continue to have the fairgrounds, vaccination site, but it's also available now in opening up in CVS and Walgreens -- Walmart, and locations throughout the county.
So that is good news and really great to be able to get that out there.
As of yesterday, 156,490 residents of Volusia County have received a vaccination and over 99,000, almost 100,000, series complete, which is really spectacular.
So that -- of those who have been vaccinated, that equated to 34% of the eligible population.
Speaking of eligible populations, so to jump down on the slide a little bit, anybody 18 years of age and older because that's the Moderna vaccine, for those 16 and older, they are eligible for the Pfizer vaccine. With parental consent.
So that's kind of important.
But as of yesterday, it did open up to everybody 18 years of age and older.
So we don't have to worry about preexisting conditions, all of that kind of stuff now, just all adults. In the state of Florida. So we doin' courage people to get preregistered on that my vaccine.FL.gov, that gets people preregistered and if line to STEJ yule an appointment and the state is using that to kind of determine demand. So please do get on that and register, my vaccine.FL.gov.
And so just a quick run down of where we are with providing vaccines, almost 53,000 vaccines provided at the fairgrounds just really from March 29th to April 2nd, just to give you an idea of how busy they are out there.
And -- total doses. So that's a lot of -- that's a lot of activity out there at the FRAR grounds. In support of not everything is done at the fair grounds, again, you know, please note for everybody listening, you can reach out CVS and do scheduling through CVS and Walmart. In addition to the vaccines at the fairgrounds we've been able to vaccinate 18,239 people in those minority missions that we do on Wednesdays and that is planned for 300 a week to be able to do those. And that's been a mix of Moderna and Johnson & Johnson at those sites. We have 80 people WO are serious complete with the home bound missions, and if you need to sign up for a home bound mission, here's some information that can be shared. So you can send an e-mail to home bound vaccine @ EM.my Florida.com or 1866 # 796121 and that will get you registered or a family member or a loved one registered for a home bound missions and then, we've also been able to or we or the Department of Health has been able to transfer some of the state allocation to other sites to be able to again get SHOZ shots into the arms as possible. Those have gone to medical facilities, or local pharmacies and the like.
So currently, that 181,415 seems really, really high and forever to get everybody through that wait list, that is the one dose preregistrations and so, you know, some of that, people sign up, it's a bad number, something like that, that gets cleaned up a little bit but you can also go to that my vaccine.FL.gov to make sure that it doesn't give you your location on the wait list, but it does confirm for you that you are registered and on that wait list, so again P my vaccine.FL.gov, provides that information. For folks as well.
So if there's no --
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Give that money again for the home bound?
>>SPEAKER: 18667796121.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Thank you.
>>SPEAKER: And people have problems registering online, for the my vaccine.FL.gov, there is a phone number that they can call it's 844--- 866-201-7314.
That's all I've got, unless there's any questions.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Barbara Girtman?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Thank you, chair. Do we have any idea how long it's taking someone who does register on that site?
Call that number to get an appointment.
>>SPEAKER: I don't know that, off the top of my head, I have registered on there several times, just to kind of test it out. And it's two or three weeks but it can be several weeks, it is a wait list and especially now that it's opened up to more and more people, it's really hard to determine especially because we've been kind -- the direction had been to wait until you're EL JINL to be able to register -- eligible to be able to register, it is hard to tell right now, especially since it has just opened up. You know, last week.
But you can register on that website, people are encouraged to register on that website, it is the easiest way, because then you just get a call or a text and you can select what your contact preference is through that website as well.
But even if you plan on kind of continuing to check with CVS or Publix or all of -- I didn't mention Publix, even if you try to get appointments through there, people are encouraged to go ahead and register, through that my vaccine.FL.gov, just again, because that's kind of you being utilized to get an estimate of demand in the area as well. Yeah.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: One more question. Vaccine hesitancy, have we gotten any idea of what we're seeing in the community as far as those willing to and those willing not to, are you like a 50/50?
>>SPEAKER: It's hard to determine because that's a social survey, basically, that does that. There's some really good research that's being done right now, the pew research center has some reports that have been putting out, pretty consistently, since vaccinations started. And they have -- they have picked up on some vaccination hesitancy, based on certain types of demographics, you know, minority populations, tend to be a little bit, although, getting better. With those adult populations. And less hesitant. Some hesitancy, based on other certain, you know, belief systems and things like that, and so, just --
certainly something that needs to be addressed and certainly, you know, people are encouraged to get vaccinated. You know, and to be -- to take advantage, certainly, there's an opportunity to choose which one you want, but as soon as possible, but. Yeah, vaccination hesitancy, I mean, it definitely is out there and I'll leave it as a question to KevinKevin, you know, what kind of messageing is done to counter act that, I'm not familiar with any local social studies that are done with that regards. But nationwide, there's been some picking up on those -- that hesitancy as well. Uh-huh. All right, thank you so much.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Joe, I thought you were going to speak? Okay.
(Laughing) Okay. Let's -- it's 11:46, Kevin, since you're here, item 16. Sponsorship request for our two stories, Inc. Go ahead.
>>SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr.
Chairman chair, Kevin captain with community conversation.
This is a sponsorship request from our two stories, doing business as the backpack buddies, for the west Volusia County schools out festival on June 5th. We have sponsored this in the past, and they're asking for a $1500 sponsorship.
Which will be used for entertainment and activities.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Second, Girtman.
>>CHAIR BROWER: There's a motion to approve by Billie Wheeler, seconded by Girtman, before I ask for the vote, we do have some public inPUTt. Is Kelly Morris here? Marks? Yes, Kelly marks.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Commissioner Kelly marks.
>>SPEAKER: Oh, vice mayor, sorry.
>>SPEAKER: I'm here today as president of our two stories, backpack buddies, and I just wanted to give you anover view of what we do and we've done done in the last year and a half. We have fed over 5,000 people in our first year. With two people running the organization. And it started out with just Volusia and then we have people coming from east Volusia, over for food. Our mission was to start feeding children on the weekends. When they go home from school and they just don't have any food for that weekend, so we started packing up packs, and giving them to the children. At orange city elementary was our first pilot school. Then we went to manatee cove elementary school now, we're in two schools.
And we have a third one approaching us. So we're moving quickly with the pandemic, of course. You know, our goal is to eliminate food insecurity for children and families, so with start out with the kids and the pandemic came and we're feeding the families, right? So on top of that, we've done food drops, once a month. In Volusia County. Mainly west Volusia County. And just to give you some stats, here, my glasses on.
We have done 24 000 pounds of food a month in Volusia County, 160 familyes a month. We do food drops, 20,000 pounds each time in different areas, Ms.
Girtman has been there, so she knows, she's witnessed that. We partner with second harvest food bank. And we also have appointments now, so we took on a new warehouse. We started at a little church. And then we moved on, really quickly. And so, now, we have appointments every 15 minutes, a couple of days a week. With purely volunteers. And the need just keeps growing and growing, so I'm here today just to, you know, say thank you for considering the sponsorship.
And the sponsorship is just to give back to the community, to our kids. That have been stuck in the house for months. Or haven't seen their friend or things like that. So we are going to file follow the CDC guidelines and have them wear their mask outside, but it's really just come in, blow UF off some steam, have some fun, we'll give them some free popcorn, cotton candy, things like that, and have some fun for the day.
And that's what this is, it's really not to make any money, we ask them to bring a canned good as their admission. So thank you very much for your consideration.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you for coming, thank you for what you're doing. Any other discussion? Then I'll call --
am I going to call you? Did you have anything else to add to this?
>>SPEAKER: No, two more sponsorships.
>>CHAIR BROWER: I'll call far a vote to approve the sponsor request. All in favor say aye.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Aye.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed?
Motion carries unanimously.
Kevin captain will bring us item 17, sponsorship requests from futures, Inc.
>>SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr.
Chairman. Item 17 is a sponsorship request for future thes foundation for the Volusia County schools and the 2021 futures Caribbean party. Which will be held on Friday September 17th. They're asking for a $1500 sponsorship that will help benefit the students, teachers and staff, within the Volusia County public school district.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Motion to approve.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Second.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Motion to approve by Wheeler -- who was the second by? By Ben Johns son. No discussion. Everyone in favor say aye.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Aye.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed?
Motion approved. Item 18.
With Kevin captain sponsorship request from the domestic abuse council of Volusia County.
>>SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr.
Chairman, a sponsorship request for the domestic abuse council of Volusia County. Doing business as the beacon center, they are doing a lighting the way party 8:00 to 11:00 and a $1500 sponsorship from the county to help raise awareness of domestic violence. Now, it should be noted, we have support them in the past. For an event.
They apply on September the 14th and the funds were expenned in the start of the fiscal year, October the 2nd. But we are still requesting approval for this sponsorship.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I'll make a motion.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Second.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Motion by Johnson, seconded by Post. Was it? All in favor say aye.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Aye.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed?
That one carries unanimously.
While you're here, let's get one more done. Community events.
>>SPEAKER: Community events, Kevin captain, community information.
So tire amnesty even Ts, two coming up this month, 8:00 to 2:00, at the Osteen road and bridge and the other at the mosquito control headquarters in New Smyrna Beach, only residential tires AK accepted and a max of 20. Not commercial. But there's no cost to drop off the tires. So definitely, want to get rid of those mosquitoes, think about that, we also incidentally MIR Miranda on Volusia today show and at the she talked about those little bugs and educated us all, great to have her on there. We're also started a FaceBook page for mosquito control, and it's going to be very educational. There's a lot that we can learn from those pesky little things, right?
(Laughing) there's a video up there that we created for them and we're going to be asking for people to join and to share that page because it's going to be great educational information.
So state of the county. Final preparations are underway for this year's state of the county.
Which will take place on Tuesday, April 27th at the Ocean Center.
Now, in years past, the doors will open at 11:30 and the event gets unway at noon. But much will be different this year.
Attendance will be reduced from last year's everyone, we're anticipating somewhere between 360 and 400 attendees, as compared to the nearly 600 that we had last year. We have relocated the event from the ball room to the much larger 93,000 square foot exhibit hall to maintain that adequate space for social distancing. And to keep COVID safety guidelines.
Normal COVID times, normal times, besides COVID, the Ocean Center would use a 6 foot round and put ten people at it, we're reducing that down to four people, resolicit sponsors for the -- we solicit sponsors to underwrite the cost, but from years past, we had enough carry over funds to pay for this event, this year, from last year. And so, at Mr. Brower's suggestion, we decided to make this year's event a fundraiser for food needs in the community.
And I'm happy to report that the community response has been overwhelming. We're anticipating to be able to donate an excess of $20,000 to the second harvest food bank.
And because of the overwhelming response, and limited seating capacity, we're going to --
we've already filled up the do fortables, so things are going in the right direction. Later today, a customary news release, opening the seats to community at large, and while we've never had this problem before, again, to maintain social distancing, and to be able to stay under budget, we anticipate the seats to fill up very quickly. And most likely, we'll get to the point where we'll have to turn people away. We hah it to have to do that but this is just one unique or unprecedented year, we're hoping to get by and already start planning for next year's event. So again, Tuesday the 27th of April is the event.
Look for the news release to go out shortly today. And it won't look like this. Like it did last year. It will be in the exhibit hall and we want to thank right away in advance, Tim Myrtle and his team for really helping to make this happen for April 27th. So just moving on to events, just a reminder that April is water conservation month and did you know that April marks the driest month and the month with the most peak demand for water in we're pushing that MES message out to consider conversation for water.
Also, library week is April 4th to the 10th the theme for this year is welcome to your library.
The theme is meant to really extend what's beyond the four walls of the libraries? And actually, today, the American library association recognizes the work of all library employees. And we want to highlight the critical role that they all make. And especially with the pandemic. They have had to reinvent themselves. So thank a librarian today when you seep them. I want to remind everybody that the spring hill strive to drive continues through April 13th and pushing that message with paid social media and the responses are going on up on the surveys so it's working, we're happy about that.
Also, just want to remind everybody that we are continuing to push the message for safety precautions for COVID and Ms.
Girtman had put together some interviews with us, and those are being pushed out on social media to help our vulnerable and minority communities who might have hesitancy about accepting the vaccine, I like what Patricia Boswell said, she said that the best vaccine is the one that's available. So just to remine you on the public meetings, the calendaren line, you can get a glimpse of the public meetings and the echo listening sessions, that are being conducted this month in April. And with that, that's the events, we're starting to see a little bit more of them.
So that's good. And we will be working on the Mayor black coming up that event for maybe late spring, so we'll work with you and Ms. Girtman on that.
Any questions?
>>CHAIR BROWER: Mr. Captain, you have several questions, we'll start with Barbara Girtman?
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I wondered, had we considered outreach or communication to the younger market regarding the vaccine?
The college students? Or --
>>SPEAKER: We can certainly look at that, we'll go back to our team and discuss that cohort in different ways, social media definitely is one of the best ways that we're finding to get that message out. So definitely, we can certainly look at that.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Right, right.
>>SPEAKER: And come up with alternative ideas.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: And let's ask young people what --
(Laughing) not that we don't have reach, but I think when we ask them, what, you know, what is resonating with them, we have a better idea. Thank you.
>>SPEAKER: Absolutely.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Heather Post?
>>SPEAKER: I think, too, Kevin, if we're looking to reach the colleges, they have their own communication system already in place, so to reach all of their students, so DUNL seem like it would be hard to push our message and let them actually do the outreach.
>>SPEAKER: Absolutely. We can do that.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: I have a question about the state of the county. So we are allowing two -- we're inviting two people from each jurisdiction from the municipalities to attend. And so my question is, I know that we're trying to reduce but since the state of the county is to recognize the work that the county does and promote collaboration, I wonder if we can have that discussion at the council, I've got four municipalities within my district and I've had two of them reach out and a number of their council members saying, oh, no, we have to pick two people to show up. And so I'm wondering if we can discuss that? And possibly open up that attendance or those invitations to our municipalities? To their elected officials?
>>SPEAKER: So when we first discussed the planning months back, we originally wanted to limit to two people per city.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Right.
>>SPEAKER: We've now looked at expanding the seats per table and there are now four, so each city or agency can have their own table. So we have doubled that from two to four.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Okay, I wasn't aware of that, I had a discussion about a week ago with a city official. Okay. Great.
>>SPEAKER: This continues to be a dynamic process, I must say, and we've been in con continuous collaboration with the DHAR and the riddle center, what can we do with the tables, the seats and so, who knows, it might change in another couple of weeks, we have it for four at a table and allow those cities a table of their own.
>>COUNCIL MEMBER: Thank you.
>>CHAIR BROWER: Looks like you covered it all. Thank you very much. So with that, it's noon, why don't we break for lunch?
We have a working lunch that council needs to attend. When we come back, at 1:05, we will start with -- I'll bring back item 11 and then we'll proceed from 20 on, so.

( Lunch recess )
. . . . .
>> CHAIR BROWER: We're only 15 minutes late. It's 1:20. If everyone will take their seats, we'll give you a minute, and we'll get started with item 11. t's amazing how quickly everybody can get so quiet. tem 11 is a little bit -- it's a little bit different, because we have somebody that I've invited in to tell us about a project they're working on, and I've proposed a resolution that I will ask the council to approve, and it's one of my favorite kinds of resolutions. It's not asking us for anything, other than a vote that says go do the best job you can and bring us some good results, and we're hopeful that those results are proven out. met -- actually, I read about this company, Aqua Culture, in a farming magazine. Heard about what they're doing. Found out how to reach the owner by phone. Called him, left a message on a Sunday afternoon, and he called me right back, and we talked about his idea and his invention for about two hours, and then I drove three hours down to Stewart, Florida, to hear the city council do exactly what we're doing here and listen to this resolution. he reason I drove all the way down there is because water affects us all. The water in Florida is all of our water, whether it's what we talked about this morning, somebody in Flagler putting in a development, or at Lake Okeechobee. It's ultimately all our water. Everything that comes out of Lake Okeechobee comes right up here through the St. John's River. o, I drove down there, I wanted to hear the resolution, I wanted to hear the explanation, and fortunately, they've got a unanimous vote. Again, they're not asking for anything. What is happening is that they have a way to clean our ponds, lakes, and streams without using chemicals to mechanically remove aquatic weeds, but however you're picturing that in your mind, they're about to blow that for you. Not only that, they can remove the muck that comes from decades of spraying aquatic weeds with poise NOUZ herbicides, they die and fall to the bottom of the lake and build up over time. So when I read that they could do that, that's what prompted the call, that's what prompted the visit. Here's why this is important, and then Nick and Mike, if you would like to work your way to the microphone, I'm going to make you talk for a minute. With reverse osmosis, it creates wastewater in the process, so they also had to vote on a multi-million-dollar deep well injection to take the toxic water that's left over in reverse osmosis and inject it into the deep water aquifer, praying that the deep water aquifer and our drinking water aquifer never co-mingle. I'm really not willing to take that gamble.
So I would prefer to just clean up our water, keep it drinkable, and be good stewards of our environment, so that we on this council are not faced with that kind of a vote.
I'm going to let you, Mike, talk about your process, and then I've asked Karissa to read the resolution when you two are done. But I want them to hear what your process is, what you're doing. I want to allow the public and the council to ask questions. So we're going to put you on the hot seat. But thank you very much for coming.
>> Thank you, Chairman, council, people of Volusia County, my name is Mike Alfenbine. For that explanation, I'll take it a little further.
It's been almost a year now that I got a phone call from Congressman's office just west of here in congressional District 3, Ted Yoho and his staff, and they advised me that they had been working with the University of Florida on a project that was going to address your concerns here in the St. John's River, and I had a good relationship with that office, working on conservation issues. I am -- I am associated with conservation, I am a sportsman, I am a conservationist, I love to hunt and fish, and as such, it's important to me that our environment continues to sustain the species of animals that I like to pursue with my family. And in working with those issues, with the Congressman, they brought this to my attention thinking that there might be ways that I could champion this effort throughout southern Florida and the state.
And so I ended up with Nick having a conversation about his processes and what he can do. And essentially, while this doesn't directly affect your community, the issues that you might hear about in Lake Okeechobee, the discharges of polluted water and blue-green algae blooms and the red tide effects throughout the state have been very concerning to me.
In my lifetime, I might not see this issue fixed, but I'm hopeful that in working with the communities around the state, we can address these issues for my children, for your children, for their children.
And the premise of what was brought to my attention as far as what Knick was working on is that there is an opportunity to reduce the amount of chemical spraying that is being conducted in our state. Nick was working on is that there is an opportunity to reduce the amount of chemical spraying that is being conducted in our state. Not to the point where it will be forever terminated, but to the point where we can reduce it where the adverse effects are limited.
So we have an ability to reduce chemical spraying, remove the nutrients from the lake, in this case, Lake Okeechobee, and apply those nutrients back to the landscape where nature intended before Lake Okeechobee was dammed. The natural process was during the wet season, aquatic vegetation would grow across wherever water was, and Lake Okeechobee obviously covered a large expanse outside of what is now the levy system.
As the wet season turned to the dry season and the water receded, that aquatic vegetation remained on the landscape where it decayed and provided the nutrients to the soil that made our land so valuable to agriculture. And working with Nick and his company, we are able to not only reduce the nutrients in the lake, but limit the frequency and intensity that those nutrients feed harmful algoblooms, which is another benefit to that process.
As you mentioned, this doesn't directly affect Volusia County, but if we're successful in this project, which we expect to be, this technology can be employed here and throughout the state, throughout the nation, essentially, which as you all know is of significant value to our communities, to our people, to our landscape, to our agriculture.
It gives us security as far as food is concerned. The benefits to this project are incredible. So we've taken this project through the ringer. It's been scrutinized by the FWC, the south Florida water Management District, the Department of the Interior, the Florida department of agriculture and consumer services, and the United States army corps of engineers, the department of environmental protection has afforded us a grant in the amount of $500,000, and the army corps of engineers has given us an in-kind contribution of 600,000 DLVR, and with partnership with the FWC, we expect the project to begin yesterday.
As you all know more than I do, there is a lot of bureaucratic red tape when dealing with government agencies, especially when you're dealing with government agencies at the state and federal level at the same time. So we are navigating those hurdles. We are weeks away from starting this project and proving to the people of Florida that there are other ways to manage our waterways and our landscape and our environment.
And before I turn this over to Nick to explain to you all how this process works, I want you to know that Volusia holds a very special place in my heart. As a hunter and a Fisherman, Volusia County, not too far from here in Barberville, is the first time that my son harvested a wild turkey was here in Volusia County. So I am hopeful to improve Volusia County and make it what I know it can be.
So, without further ado, I'll let Nick explain to you what his company can do.
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>> CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Mike. I do believe this directly affect s Volusia County. Everything that comes out of that giant lake comes right up through Demand and all the way up to the ocean in Jacksonville.
>> I would agree with you, but only say that this project is specific to the lake and not specific to your county. But yes, agree. Thank you.
>> Good afternoon, everyone. I thank you for hearing us today. I really appreciate the opportunity to talk about our project. And, again, do you have my presentation by any chance? No? That way I can give you some pictures. I like to show some pictures and a little bit of history there. That way we'll get the whole picture.
Can I sing while I'm waiting? Well I can get started without the presentation. I can give you guys a little bit of a background.
I actually grew up in Ontario, Canada. I wasn't quite born here in the United States, but the first time I came across the border a number of years ago, I realized I was in the wrong country, I needed to become American. Everything is bigger down here.
So, I grew up on a farm in Ontario, Canada, and got to work on the largest farm in Canada, and shortly after the U.S. went to war with Iraq, I moved everything down to the United States and started working on the largest farms here in the Midwest, include ing Cargill, Tyson Foods, Smithfield Foods, now owned by China. We would help them manage their phosphorous. They have an unbelievable amount of material to take care of.
And so we were doing that process for quite a few years. The largest pig farms, largest chicken farms, some of the largest dairy farm s. You can only imagine, those were lakes. And so we were grow ing aquatic weeds since NASA talked about them back in the late '70s.
NASA -- a doctor by the name of Dr. Bill Wolverton, he was doing science experiments on cleaning up sewage water on invasive species, and what he managed to do was -- he turned their sewer water into clean drinking water in one week, and it caught quite a bit of attention. And so while watching and reading about that, I thought, wait a sec, we can probably do that sort of thing in agriculture.
So my goal was to take wastewater, which we did in the Midwest and we had all these test vats set up and we did human waste, we did dairy manure, chicken manure, pig manure, and we got the same results. We were able to clean that water -- it looked like Fiji water. It was that clean. Now, did I drink it? No. I didn't want to quite take that chance. But we took Blackwater and made it clear.
So, came down to Florida, first time in 2011 to learn about how you're handling the invasive species here. And talked to some of the largest harvesters here in the state of Florida. And they said, you are in the wrong line of work, my friend. You need to come to Florida. We have an endless supply of aquatic vegetation down here, you need to get down here and get to work.
And so, okay, there we are. Our mission basically, we're becoming a water shed in agriculture. We want to restore it to its rightful place in the economy. I'm a big picture guy. As a kid, just to give you a little background, Christmastime I'd get oranges, so that was considered a treat way up in Canada. We get sweet corn brought in, and you didn't have sweet corn when there's four feet of snow on the ground.
So when I came down here, I had this expectation to see massive fields of, you know, of oranges and fields of sweet corn and clear MONT, I was going to go up the citrus tower, and it was one of the first places I went to. Clearmont, I was going to go up the citrus tower, and it was one of the first places I went to. But there was no citrus. It was all gone. The sweet fields was all a field of weeds. I'm like, what happened to the corn? Well, the lake's polluted, we had to shut everything down. I'm like, what do you mean you had to shut everything down? So that was just a first introduction. Next slide.
So, we'll go through the agenda pretty quick. We'll go through our road, our solution, how our system works, the product, our valuable final products, and then we can get into some questions. Next slide.
So a little bit of a history that I talked about, working on the largest farms. It's a picture of a US military truck I built and started that -- it was like 20 years ago, I was just a kid. Just gives you a little history. Next slide.
Here we talked a little bit about the history, about NASA. And the one picture there, San Diego County -- the city of San Diego was using water hyacinths. I talked to the superintendent, he said it worked great. It worked wonderful. The only problem was they take the water hyacinths out and they didn't know what to do with them. So they had a football size of it that started to rot and smell, so they shut it down and built a multi-million-dollar sewage treatment facility with taxpayers' dollars because nobody knew what to do.
So what happened next, mechanical harvesting of algae, but more specifically, water hyacinth. It's cumbersome. It's inefficient. No one at the time had a simple solution to handling and disposing of the plant material. Most often, the plant material was left on the side of the bank, resulting in point source pollution so. What we mean by that is when you put these weeds up on the bank, they rot and the nutrients contained in them just runs back down the bank into the water, perpetuating the cycle. Next slide.
So we found this picture online back in 1963 when they started doing broadcasting of chemicals on the water to kill it using mostly airplanes. Back then, it was products like DDT and others. You know, when you know better, you do better, but that's all that was available at the time, but you can see spring, aquatic vegetation goes back quite a ways. Next slide.
So, our solution is to -- it's to complete the circle, right? Harvest the unconsolidated sludge, muck, algae, aquatic weeds, which we call the product with our patented system. Immediately process the product into a liquid form, pump the product to shore via a patented hose, and then apply the harvested liquefied product as a soil amendment for nutrient of the native growing grass, and this grass can eventually be harvested to further remove phosphorous from the area. It's kind of an agricultural approach. We found these plants are just loaded with nutrients, so you put them on, the grass takes up those nutrients, we've tested the grass. It takes up phosphorous, nitrogen, you bail it up, and you haul it off. Real simple. Repurpose those weeds, you know, turn them into something valuable. Next slide.
There's a picture of a standard hey bailer. We use -- it's used all over the world. We wrap them in plastic to hold onto the nutrients and energy. And that way they can be preserved for long periods of time. So you make it into a good, valuable product. Next slide.
This is a standard liquid apply cater that we use in the Midwest for liquid manure. When you harvest aquatic weeds, what we found was they're 95% liquid, only 5% solids. That's the same as your average agricultural liquid manure. And so we can use standard equipment off the shelf to pump and apply this material.
In this picture here, it would be the same thing we do here in the state with aquatic vegetation and muck, and you're applying about 1/8 of an inch of liquid per acre. So it's very small amounts, like a light rainfall on the land. And that's all you require. You put it down -- whatever those plants require to grow, that's what you feed them, then you harvest and you do it again. Next slide.
So here's a picture of a mechanical harvester. Standard machine. And the reason they're cumbersome, again, they travel about 3 miles per hour. You can put five to ten tons of material. And so imagine if you go two miles out into a lake somewhere, you harvest a load, and you travel at 3 miles an hour back to shore, you only get an acre or two done at a time. So it's very, very slow. Next slide.
So, when we were in the meetings quite a few years ago with some of the agencies, they said, well, we have shallow water. How are you going to get into water that's only a few inches deep? This is a big problem. We said, okay, we'll come up with a solution.
So we went to a company in Louisiana that takes turbine engines and puts them on airboats. This one here, we built, and it has 3,000 horsepower. We put 40,000 pounds of weight and took it out in the bayou and we stopped in the middle of the swamp where there was two inches of water, and you're not really supposed to do that with airboats because you can get stuck.
And this was a test. And so we let it sit there and sink in the mud and we turned it on, and it just popped out of there. So this company was employed by the United States army corps of engineers after hurricane Irma pulled boats out of the weeds that were lodged, and very successfully worked very well.
So we get into shallow waters, this is another option. Next slide.
So the processor we use is used in many of vegetable and fruit industries where they're juicing fruits now. So we're going to run the IE KWAUTic vegetation through that, juice it the same way so we can pump it through a hose. aquatic vegetation through that, juice it the same way so we can pump it through a hose. When you get on a lake like Lake Okeechobee, if you're ten miles away from the nearest field, you've got to be able to pump that material along the way.
So we made juice, we pumped it, and we realized that we can pump this as far as we need to. We had an engineer firm out there from the largest pump company in the United States, NFWC, said well, how far can you pump this material realistically? Said, well, you want to go to California? Okay, good. That was another hurdle solved. Next slide.
This year is a standard hose reel. They use both for water, manure. So this was part of the invention. We made this hose where we put a smaller hose inside of a larger hose so it can float. So we hooked that behind the harvester, so when it goes out on a lake, it never has to stop harvesting. You harvest continuously. So every minute, all day long, you're harvesting. You're not traveling back and forth. Not harvesting. So, again, taking an agricultural approach and making it more efficient.
If you think about any of the most successful companies in the world, what did they master? They mastered logistics. Walmart mastered logistics. Amazon, they mastered logistics. So you look at this. How are we going to win this? We've got to master logistics. Next slide.
Soil amendment. So, we've done I don't know how many tests -- I've lost track. It's literally in the hundreds. So, multiple universities. And so when you take these plants and you apply them to land, they have water holding capabilities. They bring with them slow release nutrients, so they release the nitrogen slowly, they release the phosphorous slowly. And really make the soil more productive. We talked to USD Organic and they said, yeah, that's fine, you can use it in organic settings because it's a plant, it's organic.
So a lot of positive attributes with the plants going back to the land. Next slide.
So, the major benefits of our Aguaculture system. It's sustainable, it's viable, it's green. We're repurposing a waste, we're not landfilling it. It's not going up in the bank. We actually want to use it, right? And that's the key. It's a mindset. If you treat something like a waste, you're going to get wasteful results. If you treat something like a commodity, you'll get commodity-like results. So it's just a different type of mindset, right?
Reduce chemical use. You know, we're not going to be able to take a big machine and get around certain boat docks. We're not going to be able to get to every inch of every public receiving body of water. But, where it's open water and you have acres and acres of aquatic vegetation, instead of spraying them, let's put those weeds to work, not only, you know, cleaning up the water, but repurpose them on the land.
Cleaner water. So the by-product of our system is cleaner water, right? We're talking about pollution. The plants are doing their job removing the pollution. And so we're leaving the water cleaner than it was before.
Improve local economy. This one's a really interesting one, because Florida imports more fertilizer than any other state, I believe next to California. Except for phosphorous. So if we can take those nutrients and keep them here, well, then, less dollars are leaving the state, going to other countries and other states to bring in those nutrients. Let's use the nutrients that we have here.
Sequester carbon. Everyone's heard about the Kyoto Accord putting carbon back into the ground. That's what we're doing. These plants absorb massive amounts of carbon dioxide.
Lastly, proven technology. All the pieces of equipment that we're using are already out there being used on a daily basis. We've just brought five pieces together and make them work in one, I guess, call it a clock. Works like a clock. Next slide.
Questions? Any questions? Yes, sir.
>> Have you ever used that blue lake shading, that dye that they use to break up that level, pretty much block the sunlight from plants growing?
>> Lake shading, no, I haven't used that.
>> No? I've used it a couple times and it keeps a lot of those weeds down on the farm. You know, farm ponds. I don't know at a larger level of how that would do. But it's interesting how it works, because if some of these invasive plants can't get that sunlight, they can't grow.
>> Right. Yeah. There's thousands of really good ideas out there. What happens is you get to an economic threshold. And any time you look at a public project, you got to take all parties into account. The fisherman, the leisure boaters, the people that live on the water, the farmers, FWC, the army Corps, water flow. And everyone has to win.
If there's a loser in a public project, they just don't go anywhere. So when you put a product out there, you have to take all those things into consideration, right? So in farm ponds, 100%. On public open receiving waters, it's challenging, some of those projects.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: I don't believe you said this, but what's the cost per acre?
>> Right. That's a really good question. FWC asks us that question on a number of occasions, and I said, well, what are we harvesting? How thick is it? How old is it?
I'll give you an example. Duck weed is a quarter inch to half-inch tall and floats. It's all green, but it's a quarter inch of material. New water hyacinth hyacinths are six to eight inches thick. Then you've got bull hyacinths that are two feet thick. So, it depends on how much mass you have per acre. So, duck weed is really thick. You get into bull hyacinths, it's a different story.
What do you count as cheap? Less than harvesting floating islands. They pay I think up to 120, 180, all the way up to $3,000 an acre to remove material. So they'll take a site, they'll do an evaluation of what's there, and then price it accordingly. So it's a moving target, depending on what you're harvesting, is the answer.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER WHEELER: First of all, I didn't catch your name.
>> So sorry. First name is Nick.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER WHEELER: Nick. Mr. Chair, I just really want to thank you for bringing this, because this is so informative. And with so many of our water issues that we have, number one, have you talked to Indian river Lagoon, Dwayne on this? It would be a great presentation to take to Indian river KA Goon. I was going to ask about the cost per acre. I don't have as many questions.
You're looking at Okeechobee? That's your focus at this point, correct?
>> Well, they've asked us to do a project there, correct. But we're also looking at other lakes as well. We're not going to be just on the one lake.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER WHEELER: Right. So, I love the idea that this would -- that we could use this as an improvement for local economy, and think of it as a commodity.
>> Right.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER WHEELER: I think that's so innovative.
>> Thank you.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER WHEELER: I know this is really hard since this is all new, but if you're looking at Lake Okeechobee... how many machines -- I mean, what are you dealing with now? Do you have one machine that you're working with?
>> Right. We've got a few of them, and it's a collaboration effort. It will be a few companies working together to make it all happen.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER WHEELER: So more contracts, more machines, and whatever.
>> And most of it's all built here in the state of Florida, which we love. We're not going to be importing anything.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER WHEELER: Love that.
>> There is a lot of great people in this state, and they're ready to go. They're smart. We've got manufacturers.
>>
>> COUNCIL MEMBER WHEELER: And this is such a huge issue.
>> It is. Everywhere you go. Right, right. And so we just had to find a way to where everybody wins. If everybody wins, you'll have success. And so, we thought, what about the fishermanmen? We better call them. We called the six top anglers in the state and we said, we want to go harvest weeds what do you guys think about that? They're like, no, don't touch the damn weeds. Get out of here. He even called me a Yankee. He said, get your ass back up north. I said, hold on a sec, they are going to harvest weeds and they're going to spray weeds. If you had a choice, how would you get it done?
And this was great to do, because almost all of them said, make channels. I'm like, what do you mean make channels? Just cut lanes in the weeds and have edges. You know, we fish along edges. That's where you catch the best fish. Okay, I don't get it. Why is that -- because I'm not an avid fisherman. I'm not a pro by any means. He said, bass are lazy. They don't like to swim through them weeds. They like to sit there, wait for the crawfish to stick its head out, and they grab it.
He goes, if you spray, you kill the food. And then all those bass are fasting. They don't eat. And now they only get ten-pound bass, when they were kids, they used to get 13-pound bass every minute in the state of Florida. But once they started spraying, you're lucky to catch a 13-pound bass every day. It's not there.
So he said, make channels. And I said, okay, then the leisure boaters will win. He goes, okay, make wider channels so the leisure boats can get through. Do a checkerboard pattern. We've got the technology. And everybody wins. Okay, there we go. See, another winner.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER WHEELER: Yeah, I can understand where you'd want to get everybody onboard. I had one of my most successful fishing days a few years ago, Lake Okeechobee, in a big bed of weeds. So I'm not going to tell you where it is.
>> Nice! Good job.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Billie. Good questions. I want to go back to hay for a second. You're really recommending one of the ways to harvest the nutrients is to grow it in hay, and then harvest the hay.
We buy hay on our farm, the very best hay that we get is from Michigan or Canada, someplace that has soil. We don't have soil here. But we have climate. We have all the other things that you need for a good product.
So one of the things that we're talking about, I think, if I understand you, is that for local economies, we can be a hay producer here instead of being an importer from the north, we can export it to the north.
Are you finding that happens? Do you expect that will happen?
>> Oh, absolutely. I used to bail 30,000 bail s a year growing up as a kid, so when I got down here, I thought, this might be the hay capital of the world. You can drive from the northern tip of Florida right down to the Keys and you just see pastures and hay fields. So naturally you would assume Florida has the best hay. It's the opposite. Florida imports over 100,000 tons of hey every year. You're like, why?
They don't produce good quality hay here in most cases, for exactly what you're talking about. There's just not the right soil. It's been used up. When you farm it over and over and when you have a sandy soil, you use a lot of those nutrients.
And if you don't put it back, your quality goes down. And then, you know, if you can't produce a good crop, then you put it to pasture. If you can't raise cows, you put in trees. If you can't grow trees, well, you develop it. Or, you know, it just sits there fallow.
And so we started looking at, well, they grow a good -- you can grow good grass here with nutrients. Okay, fine. But the problem is it rains every day. And so when you cut hay, it typically takes two to three days to dry.
Well, if it rains every afternoon, you can't make good hay. I'm like, oh, my gosh, it's that simple. Well, up north, we wrap hay in plastic. You cut it and you wrap it immediately, and you make the highest quality of hay available, because you keep everything in that bale, right?
And so, in 2011 and '12, we were working in the Midwest and there was no hay. They had the biggest drought in the history of the United States, I believe. Well, we were buy ing hay from Florida and shipping it to the Midwest, and it was profitable.
So, like, why can't we do that all the time with a good quality bale? Right now, we bring them in from New Mexico. Colorado, that's where a lot of the hay comes from. So we're going to do that here. It can be done. It's really not that difficult. It's just economics. So if we can get the nutrients out of the lake, put it on the hay fields, we'll make good hay, employ people here, instead of hauling in hay from everywhere else.
>> CHAIR BROWER: We have space here in Volusia County, too, if you need another production facility to make your boats, we can help you find space.
>> All right. Good.
>> CHAIR BROWER: You're in the middle of Lake Okeechobee, which is where this test is going to be. You're, what, 15 miles from shore?
>> Yeah, I think the widest part is 33 miles.
>> How far can you pump this?
>> As far as we need to. Like, in agriculture, we pump five, six, seven miles. It's a regular thing. So when we're looking at Okeechobee, the first closest area was six miles to the nearest hay field. So it's just another day at the office. It's not -- you know, you just add another booster pump. Standard equipment. Nothing special. Off the shelf equipment.
>> CHAIR BROWER: And I know -- last question. This is preparing you for the rest of the week. I know you're going to another municipality in the county. They have a serious problem, and there's big concerns in this community in that the FWC has told them that if you don't spray, then you lose your opportunity to work with us, we're not coming back.
The way I understand what you're doing, you're working with the FWC and they're not an enemy. They're not really interested in seeing the results, correct?
>> Oh, absolutely, the FWC sponsored our grant. They are very aggressively looking for other options to spraying. The general public does not want spraying, right? They understand there is a need at times. But in open waters, they don't want spraying. We've talked to every aspect of the water industry and nobody wants chemicals.
So, you get out there in the field and some people -- some FWC guys, when you know better, you do better. And right now, in some cases, they just know spring, right? And so that's why FWC is like, come on, let's get this out there, let's get it proven, let's get it going. Once we're on the water going here in short order, they will educate all the field guys on what the cape BLTHs are and all of a sudden they'll say, hey, we got another option for you besides spraying on open waters. We can now harvest weeds. That's probably what will happen.
>> CHAIR BROWER: You said that you're leaving edges so the fish can still lay eggs. So are you killing all the bass along the way?
>> No, no, no. That's actually been a question with every agency. They said, what about the fish? Aren't you going to be harvesting fish with this big machine going through? And the answer is no.
There may be the odd one, but we researched this heavily. We're looking at, how do you scare away fish? How do you scare away the food? In the oceans when they're trying to scare away fish, they take two little hammers and they hammer those two hammers underwater and it sends a shock wave, and when you do that, fish just run, or they drop. Fish food drops and the other fish run away.
So we're putting just a little hammer on the side, just to send a little signal, hey, get out of the way, we're coming through. That's the idea.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Billie.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER WHEELER: Mr. Chair, if there are no other questions, I didn't know if anybody else did, I was going to just move this forward for an approval. The resolution supporting this pilot project. I think it's wonderful.
>> Thank you. Thank you very much.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Okay. I'll call for a motion in just a minute. Karissa. She reads better than me. I've asked Karissa to read the resolution, so that -- really, I want the public to hear it. I want them to know what's in store. This isn't going to happen next week. So, thank you.
>> KARISSA GREEN: A resolution of the county council of Volusia County, Florida, supporting innovative pilot projects on Lake Okeechobee to mechanically remove invasive aquatic vegetation to better understand effective meths to reduce nutrient pollution in the future, providing an effective date.
Whereas the health of Lake Okeechobee is connected to the well-being of the state of Florida, its residents, countless species of wildlife and the state economy, and affects the southern portion of the Indian river lagoon, and whereas legacy nutrients, chemical spraying of invasive and excess vegetation and other sources of excess nutrients pollute our waterways and contribute to the proliferation of harmful algae blooms and whereas water bodies throughout the state are experiencing nutrient impairment due to many factors, including traditional chemical treatment of excess vegetation, whereas several of the rivers, lakes, and springs of Volusia County and the north Indian river lagoon are already impaired for nutrients, and whereas segments of the St. John's River, its tributaries, and marshes are experiencing nutrient impairment, which can impact native species such as manatees, fish, and native aquatic plants.
And whereas section 316.20, Florida statutes also known as the Florida aquatic weed control act empowers the Fish & Wildlife conservation commission, FWC, to direct the control, eradication and regulation of noxious weeds to promote, develop, and support research, activities, which are directed towards the most effective and efficient control of aquatic plants, and whereas pilot project proposals exist would provide for mechanical removal of algae and invasive aquatic vegetation from adversely affected water bodies such as Lake Okeechobee while creating a soil amendment beneficial to agriculture.
And whereas the Florida department of environmental protection FDEP and the FWC should support scaleable, versatile, cost effective, alternative solutions, but in addition to water quality and conveyance benefits provide ed economic benefit with potential to be utilized statewide, and whereas AguaCulture as it has advised the FWC and Volusia County that its proposed pilot project will remove unconslated sludge blue-green algae and invasive aquatic vegetation mechanically and create a soil amendment to grow crops, which will then be harvested, permanently removing a minimum of 2,000 pounds of FOS PROUS daily.
And whereas it is the Volusia County council council that the substitution of traditional chemical treatments of invasive aquatic vegetation with the innovative mechanical removal technologies, substantially mitigate further harm to critical water bodies.
Therefore, be it resolved that the county council of Volusia County, Florida, in open meeting, duly assemble ed, this sixth day of April, 2020, as follows. Section 1, the above recitals are true and correct and by this reference are hereby incorporated and made and integral part of this resolution.
Section 2. The Volusia County council hereby approves and adopts this resolution supporting innovative pilot projects, mechanically removing invasive aquatic vegetation from the water sheds in the state of Florida. The town SI council also affirms that, one, critical water bodies in the state of Florida and in Volusia County are worth protecting for the benefit of all stakeholders and nutrient reduction is primary goal is to protect our waterways.
Two, reducing nutrient loading and removing legacy nutrients will help combat the conditions, which proliferate harmful algae bloom. Three, Volusia County further supports continued efforts to develop and encourage new technologies and innovative solutions for controlling accumulated nutrients in critical water bodies.
Four, the County council joins with numerous other counties, cities, and state and federal agencies in their support of AguaCulture's proposed pilot project moving forward.
Section 3, this resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption, done in order in open meeting.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Karissa.
Billie, you making a motion?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER POST: I'll second.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Heather Post seconded. I'll call for the vote. Seeing no other discussion. All in favor, say aye. Anybody opposed? Go clean up Lake Okeechobee.
>> Yes, sir. Thank you very much, everyone.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. Thank you, Mike.
Okay. I think that takes us back to 20. Item 20. SunRail customer Advisory Committee appointment. We have one nominee? We have one applicant. Okay. Billie Wheeler?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER WHEELER: Yeah. So, SunRail -- let's see. I make a motion to nominate to the SunRail Customer Advisory Committee Ms. Elizabeth Liz sturgeon.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER GIRTMAN: Second.
>> CHAIR BROWER: All in favor say aye.
>> Aye.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed? And so it is done.
>> I just want to -- Mr. Johnson and Ms. Post are out of the room.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Still wins 5-0.
Okay. Item 21. Two council member appointments and one citizen appointment to the Value Adjustment Board for the TWNT property tax season. 2021 property tax season.
>> CHAIR BROWER: I'd like to nominate Barbara Girtman and Ben Johnson.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Would somebody second that? Do you want to wait on anybody? Or do you think you got this with five?
>> CHAIR BROWER: And do you still need the citizen one? Was Ross --
>> KARISSA GREEN: I have not received any applications.
If we go ahead and appoint the council members, once I do receive an application, I'll bring the citizen appointment back.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Okay. Barb, you're willing to serve? Ben? And thank you for doing -- it's an important board. So, all in favor, say aye.
>> Aye.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed? This time, it's 7-0, Karissa. Okay, item 22. Appointment to the children and families advisory board for a two-year term commencing April 1st. And it's expiring March 31st, 2023.
So we need nine nominations for two-year terms. Yeah, we'll start with the order they've given me for the day. Which will be -- first will be barb Girtman. Barb Girtman.
>> Go ahead, whatever you were saying. Did we receive an application from Joyce?
>> KARISSA GREEN: No, she did not wish to be reappointed.
>> Okay. Then I will nominate Mary Bruno.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER WHEELER: I'm making clear, this is not nominating in your District, right?
>> KARISSA GREEN: They must reside within your District.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER GIRTMAN: Oh, okay. Thank you. Then I will defer.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Ben Johnson.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON:
[off mic]
>> CHAIR BROWER: Dr. Lowry.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER LOWRY: [Inaudible]

>> CHAIR BROWER: Heather Post.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER POST: Well, I had Carrie down. So if I can defer just until the end, and let me go back over my note s.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Danny Robins.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINS: Charles Puckett.
>> CHAIR BROWER: And Billie?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER WHEELER: Mary Bruno.
>> CHAIR BROWER: And since mine is taken, I'm going to defer as well, and I get two?
>> KARISSA GREEN: Yes. Mr. Johnson, you also get another.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: You ready for my second one?
>> CHAIR BROWER: Yes.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Peter Miner.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Barbara Girtman.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER GIRTMAN: Yes, I'm ready. Georganne Cornicella.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Okay. Heather, you going to make yours today, or next meeting? PFRJTS
>> COUNCIL MEMBER POST: Let me defer that one to the next meeting. Let me talk with both of them again, because I was ready to appoint Carrie, like I said.
>> CHAIR BROWER: I'm going to do the same. That's everybody for today. Barb, did you wish to speak again?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER GIRTMAN: No.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Okay. Didn't want to miss something. So we've got one, two, three, four, five nominations. All in favor -- one, two, three, four, five -- we should have six. I wrote down five.
>> KARISSA GREEN: Go ahead and repeat it. Mr. Johnson, west side, repeated Peter miner. Ms. Wheeler appointed Mary Bruno. Mr. Robins appointed Charles Puckett. Mr. Johnson east side appointed Carrie Baird. And Dr. Lowry appoint ed Blanca Maldonado. Post and Mr. Brower deferred their appointments to the next meeting.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER GIRTMAN: You missed mine.
>> KARISSA GREEN: Georgeanne, Ms. Girtman.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER GIRTMAN: Thank you.
>> CHAIR BROWER: All in favor of those nominations, say aye.
>> Aye.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed? We have six.
>> KARISSA GREEN: Is that in the form of a motion and vote? If so, can you restate who did it?
>> CHAIR BROWER: Well, it's in norm of nominations and vote. Do we need a motion with the nominations?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: I think consistent with last time, you made a motion to approve the slate.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER WHEELER: Motion to approve the slate.
>> CHAIR BROWER: The slate. Second by Ben? Motion by Billie Wheeler. Second by Ben Johnson. Everybody still in favor say aye.
>> Aye.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Nobody opposed? No.
Item 23. District 4 appointment from the unincorporated area to the Planning and Land Development Regulation Commission. PLDRC. Is there a nomination?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER POST: That's me. Jay Young.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Okay. Motion to approve Jay Young.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: I make a motion.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER LOWRY: Second.
>> CHAIR BROWER: All in favor say aye.
>> Aye.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed? Jay Young.
Item 25.
>> 24?
>> CHAIR BROWER: Item 24. I still don't have a ruler. Chair and District 1 appointment to the Halifax Area Advertising Authority.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER GIRTMAN: I'll nominate Jon Jay Betros.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Okay. Then I'm going to wait for that one, too, since I talked with Mr. Betros and was going to nominate him. I think you have a good choice, and we'll keep it for you.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER GIRTMAN: Well, I can nominate Mr. Farley, if you want to --
>> CHAIR BROWER: Farley would be perfect.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER GIRTMAN: Okay, I'll nominate Mr. Farley if you want to nominate Mr. Betros.
>> CHAIR BROWER: And then it's down. Brower nominates Betros. Ms. Girtman nominates Farley. We have a motion to approve?
>> Motion to approve.
>> Second.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Motion by Wheeler, second by Johnson. All in favor say aye.
>> Aye.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed?
Okay. Item 25. Chair, District 4 and District 5 appointment to the Southeast Volusia Advertising Authority board. Karissa, my nomination was approved, background check?
>> KARISSA GREEN: Everyone that's a part of this agenda memo was approved as far as their background check and clean hands check.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Okay. District 5?
>> Nominate Jamie Dudley.
>> CHAIR BROWER: District 4.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER POST: Rebecca Simmons.
>> [Off mic]
>> CHAIR BROWER: Karissa, there's one left.
>> KARISSA GREEN: There's two. Lillian Hautry, who's an incumbent, and Richard England.
>> [Off mic]
>> CHAIR BROWER: Yeah. This is what happens when I don't go first. Everybody takes my nominations. I'm going to wait again, one more time, and talk to the Advertising Authority. I want to make sure -- good people they can work with. So I'm glad Rebecca got nominated.
So, can you read the three -- the two nominees made?
>> KARISSA GREEN: Dr. Lowry appointed Jamie Dudley, and Ms. Post appointed Rebecca Simmons.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Can I have a motion to accept? Motion to accept Wheeler, second by Lowry. All in favor, say aye.
>> Aye.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed?
Item 26, District 2, appointment to the West Volusia Tourism Advertising Authority.
>> Mr. Chair, I nominate Smara Sari Patel.
>> CHAIR BROWER: And is there a motion to accept MariSari Patel? Lowry makes the motion. Second by --
>> COUNCIL MEMBER GIRTMAN: Second.
>> CHAIR BROWER: All in favor say aye.
>> Aye.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed?
Okay. Now we have some citizens who would like to talk. We'll do that and then go to -- oh, we have more. We've got two late ones. I'm going to start with the ones that have been here. Jim deroser. He didn't make it from the morning? John Nicholson. Is this a new one? Okay.
>> John Nicholson, Daytona Beach. A couple of objects. One, there were some comments in the paper the other day about Nestle and the taking of water from our aquifers. I don't know if we have any of them in Volusia County, but I would ask you to at some point forbid the use of our aquifers to make profit for other people.
We need our water, and to give it away at pennies for the millions of gallons is ridiculous. So if we do not have it, I ask you to make sure that we don't have it here.
Secondly, in the future, there's going to be a need for water. Some of you remember the argument from Tallahassee and Georgia with regard to cola and its oysters, and it was ruled against us. Atlantic can take all the water we get out of the river, we get then.
At some point, we might need the St. John's river water, so I would ask you to look into our building something on the river to acquire the water that passes through and next to our county, and then we get our fair share of it, okay?
Third, the budget is coming up. I would ask you to look into the budget. I've said it several times about Daytona Beach and the landscaping of the Volusia County properties in the city. There are now another building that is going up on our beach side. There's seven projects, five hotels are going to be renovated completely. Two new ones going in. So a lot's going to happen north of main street and ocean center is north of main street. I ask you to redo their landscaping, especially the parking lot. I think you have 14 trees that have died in there, and not been replaced, and your parking lot is almost barren. So that and the dolphin park would be a great asset.
And if you have ability, put it into your budget coming up.
Lastly, with regard to -- maybe a year ago, there was an item before you with new Smyrna beach. A gentleman came before you -- you all were going to redo the approach. There's six parking spaces there now. You want to add four parking spaces for like a million dollars. There's a beautiful sand dune that's there. And to me, if there's a possibility of bringing it up when he comes in, he was here this this morning, that you think about that. Because one, sand dunes are a necessity on the beach. I hate to see them vanish. I understood the necessity and I want to thank you very much for redoing the plaza approach. They're in the process of doing it right now. It will be a great asset. There's a lot of condominiums around there. People can use it.
But also, we have to look to our future and for four parking spaces, almost a million dollars, I would ask us to rethink that. Thank you.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, John. Ken Parker. Diane Parker. No Parkers. Phyllis Stofenberg.
>> Good afternoon. My name is Phyllis Stofenberg and I live here in Deland, Florida, and I'm talking to you here today because of the land acquisition over in the property that we currently know as The Loop.
In two weeks, you're going to be vote ing yea or nay for this property purchase. I just wanted to give some information on research that I have done. In 2003, the property was presented to the county board for purchase. The answer to that was no. Currently, that same property has been offered to Orman beach because it's in the city of Orman Beach. The answer to that is no.
Again, there was a letter, I understand, by one of the commissioners in Orman Beach that there was a letter that was sent to them asking for $100,000 as an enticement to the county board to purchase for the remainder in the million dollars.
There again, I understand the answer was no. I also find that the land is not established as on the historical registry. It could be as what's stated at the meeting an echo, eligible for historic placement, but as we know, everywhere in the planet is historical, A, D, B, or C, however you choose to approach it. But there is no registry. It's not on the national registry, it's not on the state registry, and it's not on the local registry.
They could put it there possibly if they go through the proper procedures. The chimney that's there. Don't even know if that is eligible for the registry, simply because the integrity of the chimney has been compromised when Mr. Meechenberg plastered and repaired it. So it's not officially by the guidelines of the registry. I know this because I did rehab the properties that were historical properties up north.
So, it is not -- although it is scenic, it's a very scenic drive, it's a beautiful drive, but please bear in mind that there is 175-foot, what you call a buffer zone, or an easement, that encompasses that beautiful scenic drive. Anything further in than that is more or less invaluable land. It's not marketable. It's not had an appraisal on it.
So what is the value of the land? In real estate, we say whatever the market will bear. There are no comparables on it. It has never been appraise ed. I just think that when the -- for $1 million, that's too much money for that land. And the man north of that is going to donate 20 acres. Mr. Meechenberg should maybe consider doing the same. Thank you.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. Richard Feller.
>> Good afternoon, council. You've all heard me come out and say that everyone has a right to come out and speak, and I'm always happy to hear the other side. But nobody has the right to come out and sling false accusations at people. Mr. Redmond this morning came and brought up my name, my organization. He claimed that the VRHA, myself, are under investigation for a letter that he received. Well, I don't know anything about that. I can tell you unequivocally that I have never done anything illegal. I have never threatened anyone.
So, I've operated with class in the face of living in hell amongst a classless group of people in my neighborhood. They've ruined my quiet enjoyment of life. They harass me and my family daily. It was great to look at Facebook and see all the pictures of you guys with your families this weekend. My family flew into town, too. Left early. Was harassed by code enforcement. Stood outside, somebody screaming at them that they weren't allowed to be there. That was my Easter with my family.
I try and rise above it. I'm getting a little heated now, so I'm sorry. My beautiful Vaughn couldn't come today. She's at home looking at houses. She wants to move to Palm Coast. She wants out of Volusia.
This is not a beach issue, it's a Volusia issue. Why am I here? The VRHA, myself, doing exactly what we've said from the beginning, which is trying to make Volusia better. I represent disdiswho was there this morning, living here since 1975, can't work making money, doing it, trying to do it legally and doing everything he can.
I represent Jessica Levins from your District who is trying to earn a living, trying to live through a post-COVID world, doing everything we can to do right. Danny Robins said, this is not our fault. Okay? We come to you asking you to fix this issue. I understand it's heated both ways.
If you tell me that you're not going to be ready for short-term rentals in Volusia County, that's fine. But I am not going to live the way I have to live in Volusia County being harassed every day, being threatened, being accused of things that I did not do. It's a horrible way to live.
And the only grievance I have, the only way I can fix this is to come in front of you, once every two weeks, and I get three minutes. And sometimes I get here at 8:30 in the morning to be the first on the list and I'm here at 3:00 in the afternoon trying to do. It's very difficult.
You've heard a lot. You've gotten a lot of emails about this. I understand that Florida is moving through, just like we said. They are probably not going to legislate on this. So, April 30th is coming quick. May 4th is going to be a meeting. The public would like answers to this. They have come, shown you, you've talked. There's lots of information at your fingertips.
I came out here to defend my honor and my group's honor today. Thank you very much.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Pete Vega.
Heather, I see your name up here. I'm sorry if I missed you. No, okay.
>> Hi. I'm Pete Vega. I'm here to respond to comments made this morning made by Mr. Bill Redmond who mentioned my name directly. There are two sides to every story. He mentioned a threatening letter. I'd-like to read to you that threatening letter that I sent to Mr. Redmond on March 23rd.
Good afternoon, Mr. Redmond. I'm glad we finally had a chance to briefly meet and hope we can open up lines of communication. I am providing my contact information below as I have committed to you that if there's ever anyone at my property being disrespectful to you or the neighborhood, you can call me directly, and I will take care of it immediately.
But you should also know that your recent actions have hurt a lot of your neighbors who are good people. I'm aware that you and your wife once rented your property as a short-term rental for several years before moving over here permanently. You certainly must understand the benefits of inviting families and visitors to our community.
If you have a neighbor, as you say, that's out of control or not managing their property properly, that needs to be addressed. I will personally stand with you on the issue and would be willing to put forth effort to have the problem corrected.
But please understand that not all families that visit and not all property owners who rent are bad. It's a few and it does need to be addressed.
If you are willing and open to it, I would like to sit down with you over a cup of coffee at a local restaurant and discuss the issues openly. I'm open to listening and determining what we can do together to solve the problem, and maybe we can come up with ways to work together.
As I said to you during our brief meeting, it's always better to have friends than enemies, and I hope that you will be a friend. No response from Mr. Redmond. Except for this morning.
Now, here's what me and my family have endured since that email and your last county council meeting that you flip-flopped.
Mr. Redmond arms himself and walks half a mile, stands in front of my house, and intimidates and harasses. We've had to install cameras at the suggestion of Volusia County deputies. Also, there's a man who you all know, shows up sometimes twice a day at our home, screaming obscenities and taking photos of me and my family while threatening us.
We've called the police, and we've had them take reports. We've also informed code enforcement because he continues to show up and he says he's doing so at the direction of code enforcement and Volusia County. He's also been standing -- seen standing at public access locations and interrogating beach goers to where they're staying and how long they're staying there.
My wife and my children are afraid to stay at our own home because this resident continues to harass and threaten us. These people have come unhinged and are creating more problems than any vacationer could.
Richard feller and myself are now the targets.
So I'd ask each of you to respond, how would you handle it if somebody was showing up at your house and harassing your family? For the past five years, I've followed the rules and complied with every requirement Volusia has commanded. Finally, a council member said last meeting that this is not my fault. It's Volusia County government's fault. It's your fault. And you're right, it continues to escalate and it continues to be a problem.
And we want it fixed.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, and that concludes all of the public input that I have received, so we'll move to county manager.
>> COUNTY MANAGER RECKTENWALD: I actually just have one item, and it's a positive item here that Robert Gilmore, our fleet director informed me this week and received our fleet. The automotive service excellence seal, and that is just one of only 1,500 shops nationwide, both public and private. They give that blue seal and that represents our excellent service, and the fact that 75% of our staff are -- are certified with the many pieces of equipment that they maintain. And they do. Very few shops that would have to maintain everything from a vehicle to an excavator.
And they do all sorts of heavy equipment, and regular fleets. So very proud of them. And that's all I have right now.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Michael Dyer.
>> COUNTY ATTORNEY DYER: Mr. Chair, members of council, in going over the follow-up list from prior council actions at the last council meeting, you directed us to come back with a draft ordinance which would implement a state law involving signage at certain establishments for human trafficking. Our plan was to put that on the next agenda, if that's amenable to council for you to take a look at and give us direction.
Wasn't sure if anyone else was to be invited to that, so I thought I'd mention the date before we moved it forward. Which would be April 20th, meeting.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Council? Is that agreeable to everyone for the next meeting?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER POST: I just wanted to clarify, the direction was to put up signs?
>> COUNTY ATTORNEY DYER: The direction was to prepare an ordinance which the state law that allows counties to adopt an ordinance to enforce the signage requirement for human trafficking.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER POST: Negative. So I proposed that, unless my memory serves incorrectly and we changed it. So, staff did a lot of research on the ordinances around the county, and ordinances around the state. We have the -- we have an example ordinance, and the ordinance was specifically for -- it wasn't to put up signage. The ordinance was to to require -- to require I.D.s for the workers, specifically because we have things popping up on main street and we have lots of different events that come in the area and that seems to be the issue where we have a lot of the human trafficking, and it was to identify employees.
>> COUNTY ATTORNEY DYER: Okay.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER POST: So I'm not sure how that got mixed up.
>> COUNTY ATTORNEY DYER: Well, there wasn't a lot of detail we had in the discussion. We'll make sure that happens and bring it back -- there's another ordinance that counties are adopting where the legislature has allowed counties to adopt an ordinance to enforce --
>> COUNCIL MEMBER POST: Like in the airports, right? But that was actually -- a proposal that I made or a motion that I made. So that was not my motion in any way.
>> COUNTY ATTORNEY DYER: Well, and I take responsibility for it. I don't think there was a lot of detail when we talked about human trafficking. So thank you for the clarification. We'll take a look at it.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER POST: Next meeting, definitely.
>> COUNTY ATTORNEY DYER: I want to be able to bring a draft back to you for you to okay it to go forward.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER POST: And we have that duplicate, we have that example drafting from Palm Beach.
>> COUNTY ATTORNEY DYER: Okay.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER POST: Thank you.
>> COUNTY ATTORNEY DYER: That's it, Mr. Chair. Thank you.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER POST: Thank you. Nothing else from legal?
>> COUNTY ATTORNEY DYER: No, sir.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Okay. We'll go to the council and we'll start with councilwoman Girtman.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER GIRTMAN: Thank you, chair. I don't know why we always start with me, but I'll go first.
So, striving to thrive in spring hill. There's efforts going on for cleanup. Also for redevelopment and regeneration of that area. I would like to ask council if you would support me in amending the zoning ordinance to eliminate the minimum lots, as a requirement for PUD for this area as we try to get it redeveloped.
So the corner of south Adell and Bearsford is where there are a number of businesses there. A business owner was trying to open a restaurant there. The Spring Hill resource center was knocked down and there's an area there that they're going to try to bring like a farmer's market and some other community resources to that area.
Of course, the new Dr. Joyce M. Cusack center is in that area, another little restaurant. So, trying to bring that area up and coming and we need to be able to change some of the Zobristing to make that happen. zoning to make that happen. So I ask you to support the efforts for staff to research it and bring that back to us with the recommendation to change that zoning. Zoning ordinance.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Okay. Town sit woman Girtman is asking for a motion.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER WHEELER: I don't know if it was a motion, but I think she was just asking to have an approval. And I do think when we do this at the end of meetings, we really need to go down each one of us individually, so we kind of do -- yeah, uh-huh, uh-uh. So I think to make it clear for staff and legal, it would be better for us to do it collectively as an entire vote.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER GIRTMAN: Right. So we're asking to direct staff to amend the zoning ordinance to eliminate the minimum lot requirement for the PUD zoning classification for properties in designated redevelopment areas.
So that's what this area would be. It will be one of those hub zone areas, redevelopment areas, and it's also an area that we're focusing on strive to thrive efforts which is just trying to regenerate the area overall, for business, for education, for health, and just overall.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Okay. And so you're asking us to send it to staff to bring it back with those recommendations. I believe we'll need a motion for that. Which should be simple.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER POST: I'll make the motion.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Heather will make the motion. Second by Wheeler. All in favor.
>> Aye.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed? Being none.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER GIRTMAN: Okay. Thank you for that. The other thing I just wanted to make the council aware that on our next meeting, I will not be present. I have a commitment that I could not change, so I am asking the council if we have a workshop coming up, and I was afraid that we might have had our workforce coming up, workshop coming up, so if it's on that date, I understand if it can't be moved, but I would ask if any chance that it can, because it's certainly a concern and an area that I would want to be here to participate.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Yeah. I believe we have the affordable housing on the 20th.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER GIRTMAN: Right.
>> CHAIR BROWER: I would certainly be agreeable to that, because I know that you want to be involved.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER GIRTMAN: I do, and I'd appreciate it if we can do it our first meeting in May and not this upcoming.
>> We can push it to the next meeting.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER GIRTMAN: Thank you. Lastly, I just want to thank on the record, there have been so many volunteers in our community that have helped get people registered for the vaccine, and it's just important that we acknowledge them. I won't acknowledge them by name at this time, but I'll ask council if at some time in this process, we can acknowledge them, because there's some people that have gone out and registered more than 200 people themselves or collectively brought volunteers together.
And I think it's a key effort. It just matters in our community. So I want to make a point of acknowledging them in front of the council at some time.
Also, Yolanda Buckles with Emergency Management has done such an awesome job, under the leadership of Mr. Pozo. And our video staff, in the video that they did, they did such a great job. Got a little nice studio back there. They're doing a really good job with communications, and I want to say thank you to Kevin Captain and Gary Davidson and the team, because they've really done a good job in getting the message out.
Thanks so much.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Ben Johnson. Dr. Lowry?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER LOWRY: One thing. I just want to brag on our staff. This past year, we've celebrated -- it's not celebrating, I guess it's not the right word, but recognizing a year of dealing with something that we had no idea was coming our way, and the staff here has been able to not only do what they normally do, but to do a lot of extra things with finances and all sorts of things coming our way, and I just want to acknowledge the staff. I think they've done a great job this past year. Thank you.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Mrs. Post.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER POST: I have a question about the high Banks Bridge. I mean high bridge.
>> Tad is here.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER POST: We've -- that's been under construction, or, you know, to be fixed for a couple years now, and I keep getting questions about it, and so I'm wondering if we can get an update. And then also, to see if there's anything we can do to expedite. Because it's at the very north end of 20, and a lot of people rely on that for --
>> We've been doing work on that area for quite some time. We had some work that we were doing in the bathrooms. That work was completed. The part that we have left is associated with the peer, the dock tied into the -- and we have been delayed because we put it up for bid. The contractor recommended some changes, and we got into some changes with FEMA on material.
So we went through that process. It took a little bit longer than we thought. My understanding is that's all been rectified and we should be moving forward, but I will double-check on with the project manager. I haven't talked to him. I will find out.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER POST: Do you happen to know what the moving forward means? Where are we at in the process and what are we looking at?
>> Contractor should be mobilized and working on it. I don't remember what the schedule was. I don't think it was that long a schedule. They just have to drive some miles and put the peer in.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER POST: Okay.
>> I will find out.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER POST: I've received so many questions, so if we could look into that and poke a little bit, that would be fantastic.
>> I will get you an answer.
>> Mrs. Post?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER POST: Yes.
>> I have been at high bridge park several times in the last month, and it is well under construction. It appears to be past the 50% mark, maybe well beyond that, just so that you know that project is active. And we'll get you a full update on its expected completion. But I wanted to confirm that.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER POST: I know it's been undergoing. Thank you.
I had a question about public participation. So, I had asked before about putting the public participation in the actual meetings, so that it's documented, because we don't have the -- the public speaks, and we have no record on file of them speaking at all. So I wanted to check about that. But also, I noticed that -- we're starting to have more and more people show up, and so what we're seeing is people -- you know, we had a whole pile of forms of people who could not stay until 3:00 for the afternoon to have their voices heard.
So I'm wondering if we can talk about changing public participation from the half-hour to 9:00 to 10:00. That seems doable since we had our auditor selection committee meeting this morning at 8:30 and we've had several of those. Just wanted to put that up for discussion. I don't know if anybody has any thoughts on it?
>> CHAIR BROWER: I think it's one of the most important things that we do is to hear from the public. I know we hear from them other ways as well. So I would be agreeable to that.
Karissa, we do have a record via these, right? They're permanently kept. Are they available to other council members?
>> KARISSA GREEN: The public partiesation slips are a part of the record and kept with the meeting file. The individuals that speak during public participation are also named in the minutes. And I'm not sure -- I would have to defer to Kevin, but I do also believe that they are also in the closed captioning transcript as well.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER POST: So I was just wondering why it's not part of the meeting. So the morning is not part of the meeting, but the afternoon is part of the meeting. So what's the difference?
>> CHAIR BROWER: What's the difference, legal?
>> COUNTY ATTORNEY DYER: It's not. It's still -- your business part of your meeting doesn't officially start until that 10:00 hour. It's really a distinction without a difference, if you want to call the meeting to order at the beginning of -- right before public input, you could do that.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Nothing legally prevents us. George?
>> COUNTY MANAGER RECKTENWALD: The history, as I recall, they had it within the meeting at the end, and one of the previous county chair s offered to come in early and listen to people who wanted to come in early, because there were some discussion about when people could come, was it better early or late.
So he basically offered, I think it was chairman Bruno offered to come in, and before the meeting and listen to the public, and originally when that occurred, sometimes he was the only one, or maybe one or two council people. And then through the years, everybody really has stepped up and made it, unless a doctor's appointment or something has interfered.
So -- and I do believe that time, the meetings did start earlier as well. I think that was at 8:30 in the morning when he did that. Then the actual meeting started at 9:00. So, again, there's no legal -- it was just something that had kind of evolved from -- I think the idea was to make sure there was a time that the actual business meeting would start because people were coming in for the regular business and it would get us closer to making sure we met our time as close as we could to a time certain item.
So I think that's why they would stop it promptly at the beginning. And if you hadn't got to speak, you would have that second chance later in the day.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER POST: So we've all shown an interest in being here, right? We're all usually here for the public discussion. And people are showing up. So I don't know why we wouldn't have it as part of the meeting if we're -- if we have it as part of the meeting in the afternoon.
So I move that we incorporate that morning one as well to match the afternoon one into -- fold it into our meeting. With the caveat that -- I would just move that. Let's move that.
>> Do we really need a motion on that, or can the chair just begin the meeting at 9:30?
>> CHAIR BROWER: Are you changing the time from 9:30 to 9:00?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER POST: Well, I figured we could do that in a minute. I just wanted to address this one thing, and then talk about the timeframe.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Okay. Can we start meetings at 9:30?
>> COUNTY ATTORNEY DYER: Sure. Just to clarify what we need to do. I think a motion is appropriate. We would advertise it. Because right now, the meeting is advertised to start at 10:00. So if you were to have the meeting start at 9:30, we would proceed to do that.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Okay. Are you making a motion?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER POST: I am.
>> CHAIR BROWER: You did, didn't you? Was there a second?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER GIRTMAN: I'll second.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Barbara Girtman seconds. Dr. Lowry, did you want to speak to this?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER LOWRY: I was just going to make a comment, if I could. I guess I'm the senior member up here on this group. There's been times where nobody would speak. And so to start at 9:00, right now, we have some hot button topics that people are coming and speaking on, and there will be times when there won't be. If we start the meeting at 9:30, which I like that idea, then we could go past 10:00 and incorporate two or three or five more that we left off today, we could go ahead and past 10:00 with that. There's no legal problem with that, is there?
>> COUNCIL MEMBER GIRTMAN: That was the motion, right? 9:30.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Yes. Didn't change the time.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER LOWRY: It was mentioned a minute ago maybe starting at 9:00.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER POST: The motion didn't entail a time. The motion was just to incorporate public discussion into the morning public discussion into our meeting. So whatever time we decide, great.
>> CHAIR BROWER: And if it's part of the meeting, it can go on until 11:00 if Dr. Lowry wants it to.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER LOWRY: Well, the thought is too that if we don't have anybody speaking at 9:30, then we're going to be starting our meeting at 9:30. So that kind of works both ways. The door swings both ways. That's what I want to point out in regard to that.
>> CHAIR BROWER: So the motion on the floor is that the meeting actually starts at 9:30 with the public discussion. And you've got the second. All in favor of that, say aye.
>> Aye.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Any opposed? Okay.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER POST: Okay, thank you. I have... let's see. I hope everyone had a good Easter. I didn't say that at the beginning. I went to check on our affordable housing workshop. So if we do not -- we are definitely having it then -- are we officially switched it then to the first meeting in May?
>> COUNTY MANAGER RECKTENWALD: Yes. We've already got -- I know I've seen preliminary presentations on it. So we're ready to go. We'd have been ready to go on the 20th, but this will accommodate Ms. Girtman.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER POST: Excellent, okay. And then -- let's see.
I have been out several times, and I know that other council members have been out as well, to Shokney drive area in my District. And I went out there after the 2017 hurricanes. Shockney drive, it's a smaller neighborhood in orAmanda, but it's in the county area. Ormand, but it's in the county area. But it's right on the river. It is basically in the river, I would say. Everything is right on the water. The second we get any rain, the water levels come up on that whole road back in there. And they have had flooding issues for -- I think forever. Since they built the homes there.
So we've had a lot of people call. So we're talking and addressing some of that with the citizens. I know that Ben Bartlett has been wonderful. Ben and his team have gone out to that neighborhood and addressed a lot of things and really just tried to explain things.
But the question I had was, there's still permits being issued in there. Someone just recently got a pool permit, and so there's actually some of the septic is leaking in there, and you have the ground water is coming up, the storm drains aren't draining because it's right there at the river, so there's nowhere anywhere for the storm water to go.
But people are getting permits in there to do various things in the ground, which is affecting a lot of that flooding and a lot of the things that are happening.
So who is it that's in charge of the pool permitting in there? Is it Clay?
>> COUNTY MANAGER RECKTENWALD: That would be the building department.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER POST: So, question. Is it -- I mean, it just doesn't make a whole lot of sense to allow permitting for that kind of stuff in an area where it's not conducive, and it's causing flooding elsewhere, and you're directly in the ground water.
>> Good afternoon. Clay Urban, growth and resource management. When a pool contractor comes into that area, we specifically identify what the base flood elevation has to be, because it's been identified. That area has had multiple properties that have been repeat claim through the flood insurance rate process.
We identify what it has to be. We identify to them that there are concerns out there. The simple fact is if a property owner wants to put in a structure and it meets our codes in regards to elevation, building code, zoning requirements, we cannot prevent them from getting that permit. We try and educate folks as best we can.
The fact is that -- I mean, candidly, you living in that area and you seeing your backyard flooding, if you're putting in a pool which is flooding, and we're saying you have to elevate it and raise it up, that's going to be what you have to deal with.
Right now, I'm not aware of any way that we can prohibit it from occurring, if it meets these codes. If there's something that this council wants us to go above and beyond what is currently in the Florida building code, or zoning ordinance, and our floodplain management and stuff, we can look at it in regards to repetitive loss properties, perhaps.
But right now, if you as a property owner hire a licensed general contractor and come in with a set of plans that are signed and sealed by an NERNL that indicate it meets all the requirements, you have to issue the permits.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER POST: So can we have some future discussion on that? Can we talk about that?
>> COUNTY MANAGER RECKTENWALD: We need to probably talk about it and study it a little deeper. I will say we treat things like pools flooding differently than a vehicle. And I do know there's history. That is such a beautiful area. It is a peninsula that juts out in the river, just like you said. I think it may have even been drudged out of the river many, many, many years ago.
What had happened is, through some of the earlier floods of the -- I think in the area around 2000, there were repetitive claims with FEMA, and they actually elected -- you know, you can have your house bought out, or you can have it elevated. And because of the value of being on the water, many of them chose to elevate their home.
So they literally came in and jacked those homes up and filled underneath them. So it's created -- the house is probably okay, but the -- of course, the driveways look like something you would see in North Carolina on a hillside, and the streets really still are at the original elevation. So they do flood. Even on a high tide, if you can look in the storm drains, and see the tide in there.
And of course, so, yes, there's a challenge -- we actually worked with the city of Ormand a few years ago and tried to do a special assessment, and raise the road and raise the -- they also, to your point, they need sewer, because they have the septic system.
So we tried to work on that, and unfortunately, there were several homeowners that I think persuaded against. There were many for it. It was pretty close. That might be something we revisit again to put in the higher utilities, and then maybe raise the road. So it's definitely a challenge. Like we said, they're putting more value out there, but like I say, the homes themselves are fairly high up now.
But you can't get to them. And when you have a big storm with -- especially a nor'easter combined with heavy rains, you know, the water can't go anywhere, which is common along the river over on the east side. So definitely a tricky situation, and, you know, Ben is doing a great job with the folks out there and a lot of history, like I say, going back to when I was a young pup. Now an old dog. It's still there.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER POST: Okay. If we could just have that discussion about the actual permitting part, I don't think there's a whole lot we can do about addressing the flooding out there. But, I mean, I know we're making some -- we're working on some things. But permitting in areas of the county where it's environmentally impactful like that I think would be a good discussion.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Heather, can I interrupt you just one second? I met Ben out there. They know him by name. They brought him coffee. I think they brought him a Cinnabun, but he didn't eat it. He's a frequent guest. He's doing a good job. I'm wondering if there's something -- you know, we're converting septic to sewer all over. If there was ever a place that should not have a septic tank, it's Shockney. No testing required. I stood there and watched raw sewage ooze out of the pipes into people's yard, and you can see it along the street and the gutter.
You know, there's got to be something that we can do along -- I hope we would never approve another septic tank there, but even if they just raised the drain fields in a septic tank, it's better than -- we're putting raw sewage right into the river there.
>> COUNTY MANAGER RECKTENWALD: It's a hot issue and I'm going to look hard at that.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER POST: Thank you. My last thing is there's -- so, another neighborhood. It is the -- I was trying to remember the name of the neighborhood. It's a suggestion division, a brand-new subdivision. There's about 40 homes in there, I believe, thus far.
But there have -- I know I have, staff has, everybody's received lots of email s from this subdivision, from various people within the subdivision complaining about different things.
So, basically, what happened is there is a -- there is a through road off of Clyde Morris that goes back into a large area of property that the county owns and it's like 85 acres of property back in there. So it is basically between Clyde Morris and then the -- call them the alphabet streets to the east.
And that property has been there, and it's been owned by the county for years and years and years. And so we've always had that little through road there. And then someone came in and bought the property, right? So now we're building up all around.
And subdivisions are going in. Well, there is a subdivision now south that actually butts up to that through road, and then they put landscaping on the other side of the through road. So it definitely goes through and borders the backyards of several of those homes, right?
So I have received a number of different complaints from the citizens in there. Trespassers. So, with that through road, there's a large retention pond on that property back in there, and then like I said, on the other side of the retention pond, it comes out into trailers and homes in the avenue side. So, basically, what it ended up being was like a cutthrough. People would come through on their ATVs, people would come through on their cars. So a lot of traffic going back and forth.
They didn't like the traffic, obviously. Understandable. So, got with Ben Bartlett and they took care of that immediately, right? We immediately put a gate there right at Clyde Morris to where no one can come in except county trucks going back and forth. And then also, on the other side, there used to be woods and bushes there on the avenue side to where no one could actually drive through, but several years ago, the city of Ormand actually asked for passage through there to put in a water line, and when they did, they basically opened up the access, right?
So the access was open. Well, our county staff has gone through and they've put up those big concrete barriers. So you can't get through there now. So that's good. So now we have the barriers, we have the gates. Check that off the list.
Then there's been discussion about drug transactions going on, pulling off the side of the road, Clyde Morris. The sheriff's office has taken care of that. The sheriff's office has also done extra patrols through the property to make sure no one is roaming around back in there. The other thing was the actual citizens dumping back in there. A lot of that took care of that. And the last thing is the county actually has a storm water -- I'll call it a transition side in there that was very close to the back of the neighborhood.
And probably most of the public doesn't know this, because I didn't know this. But the storm drains, when they're suctioned out, or the storm drains, when anything goes in the storm drains, it actually goes out into all of those retention ponds you see everywhere. So anything that goes in the storm drains really ends up in your retention pond. So there's all kinds of stuff in your retention ponds, if you didn't know.
But at the northeast section of the county, it's been practiced for years, and it's normal throughout all county operations, to clean out the storm drains with those big suction pump trucks. And when they do that, a lot of times when you can't get to the landfill directly, when there's tons of leaves and all kinds of crap in there, they would deposit it there at the site because it's 85 acres, and then come back later and get it. The citizens in there saw that that was happening and thought that it was a major dumping problem.
So I wanted to explain that it is not a major dumping problem. It has been thoroughly vetted. We had DEP come out. They did an audit, or they checked it out. Did a report on it. It's fine. I've been out there so many times, double checking. It's fine. So what the county actually did is we actually -- to assist the neighbors in there, because there was discussion about, well, the trucks are doing all of this stuff, there's all of this stuff going on. We now moved that transition NAR site further back towards the lake.
So we've done everything we can do to accommodate the neighborhood in there. ary site further back towards the lake.
So we've done everything we can do to accommodate the neighborhood in there. But in the end game, it's a county through road and it's the county property back in there. So all that we're left with now is county trucks going back and forth. They do do mowing back there, all kinds of county stuff back there, and that's really going to continue because it's 85 acres of county property.
So I just wanted to put that on the record, because we keep getting inundated by really the same few people, but just a lot of emails, and a lot of calls, a lot of discussion. And I've sent a letter to everyone in that neighborhood detailing all of that so that everyone is aware in the neighborhood.
But I wanted to just put on the record that myself, county staff, everyone is done, the sheriff's office has done absolutely everything they can for that neighborhood and we are working with them.
So that's all I had.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Danny Robins.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINS: I have nothing.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Billie Wheeler.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER WHEELER: You wanted to wrap up quickly, didn't you? I did get a text from a Daytona commissioner who wanted me to announce that free COVID-19 vaccines Tuesday, April 6th, beginning at 8:30, 310 Gene Street in Daytona Beach. It was formerly the DMV office. And no appointments are needed. So just walk up and get a vaccine.
Again, it's April 6th at 8:30 at 310 Gene Street in Daytona Beach. Oh, so there you go. Did you miss it? It is today. But I think it's probably all day long. I'm just going to say it's all day long. I should not say that. It is today.
So I did want to say on there, I had one of the consent items was the proclamations, and one of them was one of them that I placed on congenital -- hernia, CDH awareness month. As most of you know, I had a grandson born in October with this rare birth defect, and it basically -- their diaphragm has not closed, when they were being formed, and so his intestines and his liver and his kidneys were all up in his upper chest. So he had to have major surgery and was on life support for, you know, a month or so.
And he was over in Orlando because it was so severe. He was scheduled for a home birth. Had he been born at home, he would not have survived within the hour. Half of these children do not survive. There's just so many people that do not know about it. Didn't know anything about it. My son is having a big awareness event. And I did contact our governor and he also -- I just wanted to thank him because he also presented me with a proclamation for April is awareness month for CDH. So this is a big deal for my family.
So, there's just a lot of things that go on with these children after they have had their organs put back in place. A lot of them have lasting effects with their heart and their lungs. My grandson's lungs were not fully formed because his little chest cavity was full of his intestines. So they just have lasting effects and we still don't know what all is down the road. But it's time that we're aware.
So, thank you to the governor. Thank you very much for listening to me. Thank you.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Billie. I watched that -- your son's a good friend of mine. And he's -- they are just an amazing family. And watched -- to watch what they did, how they stood by and -- it was an amazing transformation to watch these pictures change from this tiny little premature baby to this beautiful child now. And I think a lot of that is because of the family. So you should be very proud.
Just a couple things real quick. One is that as I watch the Florida legislature, I'm a little concern ed with local control. In fact, I heard it said last week by leadership that they are seeking to take local control from us and move it to Tallahassee, and the quote was because we make better decisions than y'all do, or the cities do. That concerns me. I believe in local control. I think the first day we started here, I said that government that affects your life the most is the one that you can reach out and touch. It's local government here is where you can really implement change.
And if that's all taken away from us, then we have trouble. So one of the things I did this week, one of the issues that came up was that they went to take away control or greatly reduce our ability to have impact fees or to raise impact fees. And so I got with staff and asked them -- because we have to have something in process now before they take it away as what we needed to do to have an impact fee study.
And I can't tell you how pleased I was with the answer that we've already started. That process is under way. It should happen every four years for road and bridge impact fees. There's lots of other impact fees. But our legal department has already started that process. So that will -- do you have anything to add to that, George? You don't have to. I appreciate your nods.
>> COUNTY MANAGER RECKTENWALD: We're very sensitive to that. The experience of what happens, if you don't keep up with that, then we are on it. So, thank you.
>> CHAIR BROWER: Good, thank you. Last thing, I'll just end with this observation on today's meeting. I think, again, on the first day that we were here, I welcomed criticism from the public to all of us. Y'all have taken some with big shoulders. And I am very pleased at how you treat the public with respect.
I am exceptionally pleased with the FANTH that we don't have a council up here during public input where there's two people. And the two that are there are checking their email or whatever. Every one of you are here, you're attentive, and I believe that's because you really care about the people that you serve. I don't have any doubt about that.
I've also said that I want this council to be one that works well together harmoniously, harmony doesn't mean that we won't have robust debate, and we do, and that's part of it, and I don't mind it. It's absolutely necessary.
I want to point out something, though, just to clear up some things that happened today. I think it's my job when what we just saw in the input from council members, we put several things up for motion and sent it to staff. I think that's my job. When you come to me and you ask me to do that in the meeting with no prior notice of what you want to talk about, it's not on the agenda, I am -- I'm going to go to bat for you and get it -- a motion and a second and get it approved if I can.
I think you deserve that, because you work hard for your constituents, and if you bring something here that's not on the agenda, I think that's one of the ways you get it on there. You set it out just like we just did to come back with more information. It's disappointing to me that when I do the same thing and I ask for something to be on the agenda, I get a motion from Heather Post, I can't get a second, and Mr. Johnson, when I looked at you and said I'm going to appeal to you, it wasn't as Fred said, to put you on the spot or to put pressure on you. I think you're bigger than that. I don't think you're going to wilt under my little pressure.
I did it because I have respect for you, and I was simply making an appeal for a second before I gave up. I'm not one to give up. I'm not going to give up on this.
So, I don't believe that I offended you, and Fred took offense to it, but I'll probably do it again. I like to make appeals to people's conscience and to ask us to work together so that, just as we did for Barb, just as we did for Heather Post, just as we did for Billie, to send something for further information, for the staff to come back with. We all just loaded them up again. And they'll tell me when to quit.
So, that's it. I'm glad this day is over. We had some good things that were accomplished. Thank you very much for your approval for the water project, and I look forward to the next meeting and serving with you. And Ben Johnson, you wanted to come back. Go ahead.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. This wasn't about that, Jeff. I'm stubborn. Sometimes, it works, sometimes it won't about that. That's not what I pushed my button for. What I pushed it about was when you brought up about the home rule. And you're absolutely correct on this home rule.
And as staff can tell you, and we can dig it back up again, it's been about a year ago, about a year ago, one of the state legislators, I approached him somewhere about them stepping on our home rule. And they told me, you can't -- nobody can tell me, I keep hearing about this, y'all are interfering with home rule.
But we're not. Nobody can tell us that we are. And we wrote a letter about what all they had -- some of the home rule incidents that they have stepped on us, and it was just met with total silence, and it continues on.
And I saw that article you saw the other day, and it really kind of infuriated me that they say that -- they didn't point out Volusia County, they pointed out city and county government in general. And they forget this is a big state. What's good for Mariana may not be good for Orlando. And it's up to us -- this is getting out of control about Tallahassee stepping on home rule, telling us how to do it when we're the ones who have to answer to our public and look at them, and it's just like right now, what they have done with the short-term rentals that really they've handcuffed us to where if they weren't handcuffed, we could take different approach upon it on how we could even do it and what we could do, but instead, they have handcuffed us in a situation like that's a prime example, a prime example -- you know, we have some some people say tighten up the rules. We can't. And that's because they've taken away our home rule and it continues to happen.
So, somewhere along the line, they need to start listening and quit infringing on the abilities and our rights as a county and cities to interfere with how we're supposed to handle our communities.
>> CHAIR BROWER: And with that, Heather Post.
>> COUNCIL MEMBER POST: I just wanted to say I fully agree. The decisions made by all elected officials everywhere should be about people not politics, and I think that's a great way to end this.
>> CHAIR BROWER: So with that, I'll entertain a motion to adjourn. Motion by Wheeler. Second by Lowry and everybody else on the board. All in favor say aye.
>> Aye.
>> CHAIR BROWER: And we're adjourned. Thank you. . . . . . . . .

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