



**Roundtable of Volusia County Elected Officials
Meeting Minutes
November 8, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER - 9:00 a.m.

The Dennis McGee Room if Daytona Beach International Airport, 700 Catalina Daytona Beach, Florida.

Those attending included the following Roundtable members: Heidi Herzberg, Roundtable Chair, Mayor, Deltona; Nancy Miller, Roundtable Vice Chair, Mayor, Daytona Beach Shores; Phyllis Buletin, Vice Mayor, DeBary; Bob Apgar, Mayor, DeLand; Derrick Henry, Mayor, Daytona Beach; Chris Via, Mayor, Holly Hill; Daisy Raisler, Mayor, Lake Helen; Russ Owen, Mayor, New Smyrna Beach; Douglas Gibson, Mayor, Oak Hill; Gary Blair, Mayor, Orange City; Michael Thomas, Mayor, Edgewater; Samuel Bennett, Mayor, Pierson; Lois Paritsky, Mayor-Elect, Ponce Inlet; Cameron Lane, Mayor-Elect, Lake Helen; Bill Hall, Mayor, South Daytona; Don Burnette, Mayor, Port Orange; George Recktenwald, County Manager, Volusia County.

Others attending included: Kurt Swartzlander, Asst. City Manager, Daytona Beach Shores; John A. Peters, Acting City Manager, Deltona; Christine Power, Council Member, Edgewater; Glenn Irby, City Manager, Edgewater; Joe Forte, City Manager, Holly Hill; Lee Evett, City Administrator, Lake Helen; Kohn Evans, City Administrator, Oak Hill; Dale Arrington, City Manager, Orange City; Joyce Shanahan, City Manager, Ormond Beach; Jeaneen Witt, Town Manager, Ponce Inlet; Wayne Clark, City Manager, Port Orange; Les Gillis, City Manager, South Daytona; Jamie Haynes, Vice Chair, Volusia County School Board; District 1; Suzanne Konchan, Deputy County Manager, Volusia County; Kevin Captain, Community Information Director, Volusia County; Will Roberts, Tax Collector, Volusia County; Georgia McKeown, Consultant, Tallahassee/Local Government; Ernie Audino, Office of U.S. Congressman Mike Waltz; Alex Tiamson, Orange City; Jim Cameron, Consultant, Jim Cameron Consulting; Ashlyn Russell, Community Information, Volusia County; Sonja Baker, Administrative Aide, Volusia County; Darrell Hill, Production Coordinator, Volusia County; Heather Post, Council Member, District 4, Volusia County; Ben Johnson, Council Member, At-Large, Volusia County; Ethan Johnson, Assistant Director Community Services, Florida Department of Health in Volusia County; Holly Smith, Tax Collector's Office; Martin Harper, Council Member, District 5, City of Orange City; Kelli Marks, Council Member, District 4, City of Orange City; Brian Rothwell, Deputy Chief Tax Collector, Volusia County; William Bliss, Secretary, Volusia Soil & Water Conservation; Mary Helen Moore, Reporter, Daytona Beach News Journal; Big John, WELE; Daytona Beach; Ann Ruby, Citizens 4 Responsible Development; Sheriff Mike Chitwood, Volusia County Sheriff's Office; Trei Johnson, WNDB; Dr. Kent Sharples, CEO Business Alliance; Amanda Thorpe, Governor Desantis Office; Suzanne Sheiber, DREAM Green Volusia; Kat Atwood, Council Candidate, City of Port Orange; Cameron Lane, Mayor-Elect, Lake Helen; Jessie Thompson, School Board Candidate, District 1; Jarleene Almenas, Oberserver; Mary Ann Connors, LWVVC; Heidi Heller, Citizen; Taking minutes was Dana Rhymes-Jones, Administrative Aide, Volusia County Manager's Office.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Roundtable Chair Heidi Herzberg welcomed those in attendance and following introductions of the attendees, led all in the Pledge of Allegiance. Vice-Chair Nancy Miller asked all veterans in attendance to please stand and thanked them for their service.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Ethan Johnson, Director, Assistant Director Community Health Services, Florida Department of Health in Volusia County, presented vaccination statistics from all sites in Volusia County. He shared the most current numbers for COVID-19 cases in the state and county. Mr. Johnson stated there has been a recent increase in COVID-19 cases. Mr. Johnson stated the Department of Health continues to offer COVID-19 vaccines at all four office locations in Volusia County. He stated PCR testing is available at the Daytona Beach and Orange City locations for symptomatic individuals and those who have been exposed to COVID-19. Mr. Johnson informed everyone the focus of the Department of Health-Volusia's clinical staff had shifted to homebound vaccinations and outreach events. The Florida Health Department continues to reach out to long term care facilities, and other organizations to coordinate vaccination events. Mr. Johnson stated they are encouraging parents to have their children vaccinated that are of the eligible age to receive vaccines. Mr. Johnson announced children the ages of 5-11 years were now eligible to receive the Pfizer dose of the COVID 19 vaccination. To find where the vaccine can be found for the age group of 5-11 years Mr. Johnson advised individuals to visit [vaccine.gov](https://www.vaccine.gov) to find the nearest location. He stated staff has been working with the schools with the age groups of 12-17 years old to receive the vaccine, and will provide the vaccine to the younger group once they receive it. He reviewed the timeline for the Pfizer vaccine which is the one approved for this age group. Mr. Johnson stated there are individuals that The Florida Health Department continues to provide free COVID-19 testing for those who may have been exposed due to close contact. He stated communities in need of outreach may contact the Florida Health Department in Volusia County for evaluation and scheduling.

Discussion and questions ensued between Mr. Johnson and committee members. Following this, Mr. Johnson accepted questions from the audience.

The question was asked if the increase in positivity cases were among younger people or across all ages. Mr. Johnson stated hospitalizations are mostly of older individuals. Mr. Johnson stated there is a hesitancy among younger people to get vaccinated; however, college age/bound young people are getting vaccinated probably due to having an incentive to do so.

Vice Chair Miller, asked if it was still recommended once receiving the monoclonal treatment to wait three months to receive the COVID 19 booster. Mr. Johnson stated this was still the recommendation.

William Bliss, Soil & Water Conservation District, asked if there had been any scientific findings while working through this pandemic on what can be done for future pandemics. Mr. Johnson stated the healthcare field was still trying to navigate their way through the current COVID pandemic.

Mayor Blair, Mayor, Orange City, asked if Volusia County had a higher positivity rate than other counties. Mr. Johnson stated the positivity rate and case rate are used to determine the number of transmissions.

Christine Power, Council Member, District 1, Edgewater, asked what the percentage was for individuals in Volusia county receiving vaccinations, and where the county stood on the number of

residents being vaccinated. Mr. Johnson responded 57% to 58% were vaccinated. Mayor Burnett asked if this was based on the total population or just those individuals eligible to receive the vaccination. Mr. Johnson responded the numbers are based on the number of individuals eligible to receive the vaccine.

Chair Herzberg thanked Mr. Johnson for the update. Mayor Owens congratulated Ms. Patricia Boswell on her retirement from the Florida Health Department.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING INITIATIVE UPDATE

Dona Butler, Department Director, Community Services, Volusia County, provided an update on the Affordable Housing Initiatives for Volusia County. She stated Community Services had hosted five webinars on topics related to Affordable Housing this year. Ms. Butler informed every one of the Affordable Housing Summit scheduled for December 7, 2021, at the Ocean Center, and those interested in attending may register online at volusiacountyaffordablehousingsummit.eventbrite.com. Ms. Butler stated following the summit the initiative would continue beginning in January 2022 with three different committees. Ms. Butler stated the committees would be looking into the needs at the city levels as well as at the county level. She stated staff would be looking forward to more public feedback and city involvement.

UNIVERSAL PET LICENSING

Adam Leath, Division Director, Animal Protective Services, Volusia County, presented information on the universal pet licensing. Mr. Leath explained how there are too many pets entering Volusia County shelters, resulting in lost pets never returning to owners, increase cost to cities and increased pressure on local shelters. He stated the implementation of a countywide license would increase the chance of pets being returned home, never entering a shelter.

Mr. Leath explained a pet license is a tag purchased by a pet owner after receiving a rabies vaccination. He addressed the issue on costs for sheltering the pets at local shelters. He stated there were 223,00 animals in the county with only approximately 2.5% licensed. Mr. Leath stated countywide licensing was first brought before a public hearing in 2005. At that time, 82% of the cities surveyed elected to participate. Unfortunately, there was an established 90% participation rate needed to ensure there was enough revenue generated to allow for overhead. Without the 90% participation rate, County Council would not move forward.

Mr. Leath stated for cities that would like to participate in this program, a letter of intent is being requested by the county from the different jurisdictions. Mr. Leath stated a sample letter of intent was attached for reference. He went on to explain once the approval is granted by County Council, ordinances can be revised to reflect the newly implemented program.

Mr. Leath explained this was a comprehensive universal way to track pets, and to help reunite with owners. A program that can help achieve this and reduce costs. Increasing costs with sheltering animals. See supplemental documents. Mr. Leath stated sterilization of animals helps; however, universal licensing is also needed. He reviewed the costs involved and the animal population numbers in Volusia County. He stated most cities do not have a data base, making it difficult to track a city pet license. Mr. Leath stated 20% of pets picked up by animal control are returned to their owners in Volusia County. This is better than the national average.

Mr. Leath stated Volusia County had the infrastructure for the database that would be needed for this. He stated this would consolidate the pet license. Once there are enough municipalities willing to participate there is proposed ordinance that would go before Council. Mr. Leath stated

the following cities had submitted their letter of intent: Ponce Inlet, Orange City, Edgewater, Holly Hill, and DeLand.

Mayor Blair, Orange City, asked if the ordinance was only for cats, dogs, and ferrets then what about exotic pets. Mr. Leath responded exotic pets were already regulated by the state. Mr. Leath informed everyone of the state this year passed legislation making it illegal to own exotics pets such as iguanas, boa constrictors, pythons, etc.

Chair Herzberg asked if feral cats were included in this program. Mr. Leath responded this is for any pet that is brought into the shelter by animal control services, owners, or general public. He stated all animals are brought into the heat map.

Mayor Hall, South Daytona, where does a citizen go to obtain a universal pet license. Mr. Leath responded there are currently 49 animal veterinary clinics, and the 3 animal shelters, and the tag offices. Mr. Leath stated they are currently working on adding online services.

William Bliss, Soil & Water Conservation District, asked if pet breeders were required to have a special license. Mr. Leath responded not all cities regulate pet breeders, however, the county does have regulations for pet breeders. Mr. Leath stated there has been and continues to be a lot of discussion regarding this.

Mayor Owens, New Smyrna Beach, asked if it was permissible for the license to be for more than one year. Mr. Leath explained that the renewal of the pet license coincides with the pet's rabies vaccine.

Heather Post, Council Member, District 4, Volusia County, asked if microchipping was included with the universal pet licensing. Ms. Post stated it was her desire to see microchipping included with the universal pet licensing when it comes before Council in the future. Mr. Leath stated the focus was on the pets being vaccinated and licensed and pet owners having both of these renewed as required. Mr. Leath stated they were trying to cut down on the confusion by adding microchipping in with the licensing initiative.

Chair Herzberg spoke on the animal shelters being at capacity on a daily basis and rescues reporting receiving an influx of dogs including purebred breeds. She also spoke on how many residents within city limits are surrounded by the county, and cities partnering with the county would be able to help reunite pets more quickly with their owners. Chair Herzberg also commented on by reducing the number of animals that enter the local shelters the costs for municipalities for the handling of animals entering the shelters would be reduced.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mary Ann Connors, League of Women Voters of Volusia County, commented on redistricting and the effects on the growth in Volusia County. She mentioned County Council and School Board met and tried to make one map but were unable to come to a final agreement.

Big John commented the county tried universal rabies that was different than licensing twenty-five years ago. He stated the proposed universal pet licensing presented today may work. Big John requested at the next Round Table meeting there be discussion on road infrastructure in Volusia County.

Heather Post, Council Member, District 4, Volusia County, stated she would be sending a letter to all the cities regarding the holiday parades. She read the letter she will be sending out to the

cities. She discussed the issues of throwing candy and other trash/litter issues caused by parade attendees and participants, and discussed clean-up ideas. Chair Herzberg responded informing everyone the City of Deltona doesn't permit the throwing of candy at parades due to the safety risk it poses. Chair Herzberg also stated this year the City of Deltona was having a drive-thru at city hall for residents to participate in lieu of a parade.

Susan Scheiber, Dream Green Volusia, spoke on a stencil for labeling storm water drains. She showed an example to the audience and commented on the affordability of the stencils, and the cost was approximately \$120.00 for a pack of ten. Ms. Scheiber also spoke on water goats (which is a mechanism used to trap trash and is maintained by volunteers) that were being utilized in some local water ways and the positive effects they were having in trapping trash in the water ways. She stated the water goats were purchased through grant money that was requested to be set aside.

Will Roberts, Tax Collector, Volusia County, informed everyone that the property tax bills have sent out in the mail and stated the checks were to be made out to Will Roberts Tax Collector. He also discussed payment options. Mr. Roberts also informed everyone to contact the tax collector's office if they had not received a tax bill or were in need of payment options.

Chair Herzberg closed the public participation due to there were no further public comments to be made.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Roundtable Chair Herzberg stated the next meeting is scheduled for January, 10, 2022, for the same location and a notification would be sent out to all members.

CLOSING COMMENTS/ADJOURN

Vice Chair Miller stated the early time for the meeting seemed to work well for everyone.

Mayor Henry, Daytona Beach, thanked the Volusia County staff for their work on Affordable Housing. He stated the city of Daytona recently signed with a consultant to complete a study on this subject for Daytona Beach. He believes this will help city leaders in future decisions related to Affordable Housing and how to best address those needs. He also thanked everyone for participating in the Special Events Task Force meetings, and believes by the different communities coming together it has helped deter such events such as the Truck event from returning. He also mentioned the need to review the road infrastructure issue again.

Mayor Blair, Orange City, stated he agreed with Big John and Mayor Henry regarding needing to address the road infrastructure issues again.

Mayor Burnette, Port Orange, stated he appreciated the collaboration and commorardity. He stated he looks forward to working on the things Mayor Henry mentioned in the upcoming year.

George Recktenwald, County Manager, informed everyone the county recently completed quarterly meetings with the public regarding roads. He stated this report would be coming before County Council in the near future. Mr. Recktenwald spoke on impact fees and how things are coming together.

Mayor Raisler, Lake Helen, thanked everyone for their support and wished them well.

Roundtable Chair Herzberg, having received no further comments or questions, thanked those in attendance for coming. The meeting was adjourned at 10:06 a.m.