



Roundtable of Volusia County Elected Officials Meeting Minutes September 18, 2023

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CALL TO ORDER – 9:00 a.m.

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

Those attending included the following Roundtable members: Nancy Miller, Roundtable Chair and Daytona Beach Shores Mayor; Lois Paritsky, Roundtable Vice Chair and Ponce Inlet Mayor; Karen Chazez, Mayor, DeBary; Chris Cloudman, Mayor, DeLand; Fred Cleveland, Mayor, New Smyrna Beach; Gary Blair, Mayor, Orange City; Diezel DePew, Mayor, Edgewater; William Hall, Mayor, South Daytona; Don Burnette, Mayor, Port Orange; Bill Partington, Mayor, Ormond Beach; Chris Via, Mayor, Holly Hill; Santiago Avila, Mayor, Deltona; Derrick Henry, Mayor, Daytona Beach; Jeffrey Brower, Chair, Volusia County; George Recktenwald, County Manager, Volusia County; Kurt Swartzlander, City Manager, Daytona Beach Shores; Mike Disher, Town Manager, Ponce Inlet; Glenn Irby, City Manager, Edgewater; Joe Forte, City Manager, Holly Hill; Lee Evett, City Administrator, Lake Helen; Dale Arrington, City Manager, Orange City; Claire Whitley, Asst. City Manager, Ormond Beach; Wayne Clark, City Manager, Port Orange; Les Gillis, City Manager, South Daytona; Andrew Holmes, Asst. City Manager and Public Works Director, Daytona Beach; Khalid Resheidat, City Manager, New Smyrna Beach; Vernon Burton, Mayor, Lake Helen; Douglas Gibson, Mayor, Oak Hill.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Roundtable Chair Nancy Miller welcomed those in attendance and, following introductions of the attendees, led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

BEACH RENOURISHMENT UPDATE

Jessica Fentress, Coastal Programs Director, Volusia County, provided an update on the status of the beach recovery efforts following Hurricanes Ian and Nicole in 2022. Ms. Fentress reviewed the list of public accesses that have reopened and provided a status of the ones that have not been reopened at this time. She discussed challenges with making repairs and meeting FEMA guidelines.

Discussion and questions ensued.

2023 HURRICANE SEASON AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Clint Mecham, Emergency Management Division Director, Volusia County, explained the concepts of emergency management. Mr. Mecham provided an update on the Emergency Operations Center and spoke on the importance of communication between the county and municipalities. He reviewed data from the 2022 Hurricane Season and the predictions for this year. Mr. Mecham invited the committee to visit the Emergency Operations Center.

ROUNDTABLE SUBCOMMITTEES/TASK FORCE

Chair Miller asked for an update for the Bridges in Disaster Subcommittee, Nova Canal Subcommittee, and Transportation/Infrastructure Task Force.

Mayor Partington, Chair of the Bridges Task Force, presented a fact sheet to the committee members. He stated there were two key meetings held, one with the City and County Manager and the other with Jim Judge, Emergency Services Director. He provided an overview and discussed items related to the closure of bridges during disasters.

Jim Judge, Emergency Services Department Director, Volusia County, reviewed the information as provided to the subcommittee.

Discussion and questions ensued.

Mayor Burnette, Chair of the Transportation/Infrastructure Subcommittee, stated that the August 28, 2023, meeting was canceled due to Hurricane Idalia. He plans to have another meeting on October 16, 2023.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Will Roberts, Tax Collector, Volusia County, provided an update on the litigation regarding the PACE programs. He stated the five municipalities that have an interlocal agreement with this program are Daytona Beach Shores, New Smyrna Beach, Edgewater, Port Orange, and Orange City.

Jim Cameron, Jim Cameron Consulting Services, asked questions regarding the 2023 Hurricane Season and the data provided.

John Nicholson, Citizen, City of Daytona Beach, spoke on the need for artificial and offshore reefs to help protect the coastline during storms.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Roundtable Chair Miller stated the next meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. November 13, 2023, in the Operations Room at the Volusia County Emergency Operations Center.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Carmen Rosamonda, City Manager, City of DeBary, spoke on the Live Local Act and the meeting with the Volusia Delegation last week.

Karen Chasez, Mayor, City of DeBary, and Jeff Brower, County Council Chair, Volusia County, volunteered to oversee a subcommittee for Roundtable of the Volusia County Elected Officials regarding the Live Local Act.

Chris Via, Mayor, City of Holly Hill, proposed to have the Roundtable meetings quarterly.

Santiago Avila Jr., Mayor, City of Deltona, stated he was in agreement with Mayor Via's suggestion to hold the meetings quarterly.

Don Burnette, Mayor, City of Port Orange, thanked the Tax Collector for bringing the PACE issue forward. He stated the City of Port Orange is going to be reevaluating its participation in this program.

Jeff Brower, County Chair, Volusia County, asked for the cities to help with the fight against the Fuel Farm wanting to come to Ormond Beach.

Nancy Miller, Mayor, City of Daytona Beach Shores, discussed issues with recruitment and retention of law enforcement for Daytona Beach Shores and requested ideas from other cities on what they have found to work for them in these areas.

Lois Paritsky, Mayor, Town of Ponce Inlet, reminded the committee the Volusia League of Cities (VLOC) has an Advocacy Committee, and would be able to assist in the opposition to the Fuel Farm project.

Mayor Burnette explained the VLOC advocacy committee had drafted a resolution for all the cities to adopt regarding the opposition of the Fuel Farm and stated it would be sent out to the cities this week.

Bill Partington, Mayor, City of Ormond Beach, spoke on the issues with the predatory lending. He spoke on home rule and the Fuel Farm issues.

Fred Cleveland, Mayor, New Smyrna Beach, spoke on people experiencing PTSD from being storm survivors from last year.

Chris Cloudman, Mayor, City of DeLand, commented on the City of DeLand's 9/11 celebrations, and was appreciative the Roundtable meeting was rescheduled.

Douglas Gibson, Mayor, Oak Hill, announced partnership with the city, ECHO and St. Johns Water Management on purchasing an area for conservation.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Miller adjourned the meeting at 10:31 a.m.