



**Round Table of Volusia County Elected Officials
MEETING MINUTES
February 12, 2018**

CALL TO ORDER - 12 p.m.

The Dennis McGee Room of Daytona Beach International Airport (DBIA), 700 Catalina Drive, Daytona Beach, Florida.

Those attending included the following Roundtable members: Roundtable Chair and DeLand Mayor Bob Apgar; Daytona Beach Shores Mayor Harry Jennings; DeBary Vice Mayor Lita Handy-Peters; Deltona Mayor John Masiarczyk; Edgewater Mayor Michael Ignasiak; Holly Hill Mayor John Penny; Lake Helen Mayor Daisy Raisler; New Smyrna Beach Mayor James Hathaway; Oak Hill Mayor Douglas Gibson; Orange City Mayor Gary Blair; Ormond Beach Mayor Bill Partington; Pierson Mayor James Sowell; Ponce Inlet Council Member Lois Paritsky; Port Orange Mayor Don Burnette; South Daytona Mayor Bill Hall; Volusia County Council Chair Ed Kelley; and Volusia County School Board Chair Linda Cuthbert.

Others attending included James Chisholm, Daytona Beach Mayor; Ron McLemore, DeBary City Manager; Michael Pleus, DeLand City Manager; Jane Shang, Deltona City Manager; Tracey Barlow, Edgewater City Manager; Joe Forte, Holly Hill City Manager; Jason Yarborough, Lake Helen City Administrator; Pam Brangaccio, New Smyrna Beach City Manager; Kohn Evans, Oak Hill City Administrator; Dale Arrington, City Manager, Orange City; Joyce Shanahan; Ormond Beach City Manager; Jeaneen Witt, Ponce Inlet City Manager; Jake Johansson, Port Orange City Manager; Joe Yarbrough, South Daytona City Manager; James Dinneen, County Manager, Volusia County; George Recktenwald, Deputy County Manager, Volusia County; Dan Eckert, County Attorney, Volusia County; John Booker, Volusia County Government Affairs; Billie Wheeler, Volusia County Council Member, District 2; Lisa Lewis, Volusia County Supervisor of Elections; Tom Russell, Superintendent, Volusia County School Board; Dr. Kent Sharples, CEO Business Alliance; Jim Cameron, Senior Vice President of Government Relations, Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce; Abby Johnson, Intergovernmental Coordinator, St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD); Shelley Szafraniec, Volusia County Community Information; Darla Zakaluzny, County Council / County Manager's Office; and Jeff Crumbley, Volusia County Community Information. Taking minutes was Debbie Kelley with the County Manager's Office

WELCOME

Roundtable Chairman Bob Apgar welcomed those attending. He introduced Billie Wheeler, Volusia County Council District 2 Member; and Lisa Lewis, Volusia County Supervisor of Elections. After standing for the Pledge of Allegiance, all members introduced themselves.

DISCUSSION ON INFRASTRUCTURE SALES TAX

Mayor Apgar thanked the CEO Business Alliance for their work with the proposed infrastructure sales tax.

Joe Yarbrough, South Daytona City Manager, discussed a recent Daytona Beach News-Journal article regarding a resolution that was created for each city to consider for adoption of the proposed gas tax. The proposed resolution was submitted to the County Manager's office on

Monday, February 5, for review. The objective is to incorporate all the concerns the managers have expressed, as well as trying to blend with the County Ordinance. Under the statute there are two options of how a referendum can be put on a ballot. The first option is: the County must put it on the ballot if the cities representing the majority of the people pass a resolution requiring it. The second option, which is the one being considered, is for the cities to petition the County and then the County takes the initiative on its own by ordinance to put it on the ballot.

The biggest hurdle is distribution, and members are trying to overcome that issue first. All the cities need to be represented in the resolution. It was necessary to meet with the County to make sure the ballot language that had been recommended for the city resolutions would be palatable with the County and its Legal Department.

The CEO Business Alliance provided much needed assistance with the survey they had done. The survey showed the public was in agreement and would support the tax. Everyone needs to know the importance of the resolution. Hopefully, all the cities will approve and support it. It needs to be uniform; we don't want to send mixed signals to the County, since it will be burdened with putting it on the ballot.

Harry Jennings, Daytona Beach Shores Mayor, had concerns about the distribution amount, especially in areas involving tourist traffic. The coastal cities have higher volumes of tourists compared to other cities within the county. This, in turn, creates higher infrastructure pressure on them. The County will be getting a 48% distribution and Daytona Beach Shores will only get a ½% distribution of the proposed sales tax.

Mr. Yarbrough discussed the history of the proposed sales tax option. A few years ago the County initiated proposing a gas sales tax for roadways and wanted to find out what the cities wanted to do. There were two problems. The first being, the cities were asked to generate money to retain a consultant and not all cities would commit to appropriating the monies. The second problem was that every city had a legitimate reason for wanting more money. For example, the majority of the revenue within the County is generated in Daytona Beach for sales tax. But the City of Deltona has the majority of the population and lots of roadways. There was more discussion on the formula two years ago compared to now. The sales tax formula is provided by the state. Parochial interests had to be put down. We had to say "A" this is new revenue, revenue we never had before and "B" it is not perfect, it's not going to track where it is generated. Currently, the state provides for a default formula which is based on the population. The distribution formula is not perfect.

Mayor Apgar said it would be remarkable if all sixteen cities would agree on the default formula. When they tried to establish the gas tax formula two years ago, the cities could not come to an agreement. So by default, they stayed with the gas tax distribution formula that is based on 1990 figures.

Douglas Gibson, Oak Hill Mayor, said all cities have the same problems. He does not have a problem with the larger cities receiving the majority. Smaller cities cannot do much with \$100,000. He asks that there be consideration for each city to get no less than 1%. That is not much money for anybody. He is not against the proposal, he is against the distribution. As it is now, it does not do anything for the smaller cities because residents of smaller cities have to go to the larger cities to purchase items.

Dr. Kent Sharples, CEO Business Alliance, said the sole mission of the Alliance is the economic health and growth of Volusia County, which is currently experiencing phenomenal growth. Supporting that with infrastructure is of high-level interest to the Alliance as a public policy

issue. The Alliance is still interested in continuing to support the effort assuming there is consensus for the sales tax.

Mayor Apgar said the resolution will set out talking points for elected officials and will lay out the case for them. Part of the responsibility of the Round Table members is to educate their city commissions on how this point was reached, along with educating the public. The upcoming March dinner of the League of Cities board meeting may have some discussion about the proposed gas tax to help with the education process. The CEO Business Alliance is looking for help with advocating for the infrastructure sales tax. Each city will be asked to identify a key leader from the business community who can be part of the advocacy team the CEO Business Alliance will be putting together. Each city commission may need members to attend Rotary Club meetings to answer questions about the proposed sales tax.

Everyone's focus for the sales tax seems to be on roads, but it is much more. It involves many different infrastructures, such as flooding, sidewalks and water quality. It is important the public understands it is not all about roads. The state formula provides a little more money for counties, due to county roads. Many of the major thoroughfares within the cities are county roads. One of the issues that came up at the managers meeting created a change to the resolution regarding the use of Interlocal agreements. The cities need to decide on the process that will be used on the project lists. The city managers need to hear about areas of concern.

John Masiarczyk, Deltona Mayor, said he is in favor of moving the issue forward to the Deltona City Commission and supporting it. He was concerned about the fact the oversight committee was going to review funded projects on an annual basis. Normally, the City of Deltona would set a budget year; this would be an amount of money that would come in and budgeted for projects that fit within these categories. The oversight committee's responsibilities are still not clear.

Mayor Apgar said the oversight committee's responsibility would be to review projects to make sure they qualify under the ballot language.

Mr. Yarbrough said the oversight committee would be similar to the one the Volusia County School Board created. The purpose of it is that you don't want to be a city that gets called out. Under the county ordinance they report to the County Council. This is going to be a county sales tax, sponsored by the County, unless they change their minds. There will be a member from each city appointed to the committee. The review committee can't challenge the legality of a project, only the County Council can.

Ed Kelley, Volusia County Council Chair, said the purpose of the oversight committee is to provide transparency. The committee is not going to deny a city the use of its funds. A city does not want to be called out if it is misappropriating funds the public voted on that weren't included in the resolution. It is incumbent on us to make sure that what we are trying to fund are true needs within the community that meet the criteria. The oversight committee is going to be made up of citizens.

A lengthy discussion continued among Mr. Kelley, Mayor Masiarczyk, and Mr. Yarbrough regarding the oversight committee.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

HOMELESSNESS: Michael Pleus, DeLand City Manager, provided an update on the West Volusia Neighborhood Center homeless shelter. There will be a meeting on Tuesday, February 13, at 6:00 p.m. at the DeLand Goodwill Store on North Woodland Boulevard, DeLand. The

DeLand City Commission recently approved the architect shortlist, and they are in the process of negotiating a contract with the top-ranked firm.

John Penny, Holly Hill Mayor, provided an update on Hope Place. It should be ready to start receiving families in about 45 days.

TRANSPORTATION: Nothing to report.

WATER: Nothing to report.

BEACH DRIVING: No report until further notice.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Abby Johnson, Intergovernmental Coordinator, St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), announced that April is Water Conservation Month and this marks the 20th year observing it. The deadline for submitting applications for cost-share funding is February 15, 2018.

Jeff Broward, DeLeon Springs, wanted more information about the oversight committee and the educational process. Mr. Yarbrough and Jason Yarborough, Lake Helen City Administrator, responded providing information.

Big John, Holly Hill, discussed the oversight committee, project lists, impact fees, and the benefits for big developers. Mr. Yarbrough, Mayor Apgar, Mr. Pleus and Mr. Kelley responded providing information.

Jim Cameron, Senior Vice President of Government Relations, Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce, provided legislative updates. He briefly discussed House Bills 631 and 773, along with Senate Bills 804 and 1400.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Mayor Apgar said there would not be a meeting in March, which would allow everyone time to adopt the resolution, along with getting their project lists together. The Roundtable would then meet in April to discuss where each of the municipalities are in regards to their own municipal efforts.

Harry Jennings, Daytona Beach Shores Mayor, had concerns about the oversight committee. In particular, a situation pertaining to a small city that has a large project it cannot fund with income from the tax revenue for possibly several years. He wanted to know if the money would be put into an account with interest paid on the amount, and whether or not the interest would be distributed at the time the project comes to fruition or bid. This scenario could also pertain to a joint venture with the County and a city that does not have enough money for the first or second year, which would require the money to be saved for three to four years. Mr. Pleus responded saying the municipality would take the money and keep it.

Bill Partington, Ormond Beach Mayor, said the city was going to discuss and pass the resolution at its February 20 commission meeting. The City of Ormond Beach is still working on identifying projects. The needs and improvements that residents are asking for are immense, whether it is transportation, water or other infrastructure.

Mayor Masiarczyk still had concerns about the oversight committee and recommended the Roundtable members be the committee members.

Michael Ignasiak, Edgewater Mayor, felt Mayor Masiarczyk's recommendation about Roundtable members being on the oversight committee was a great idea.

Pierson Mayor James Sowell was not in favor of the gas tax at the present time. He would like Mr. Yarbrough to attend a Pierson town council meeting to discuss the proposed gas tax. The traffic flow on Highway 17 between DeLeon Springs and Barberville is very congested and the highway needs to be four-laned.

Gary Blair, Orange City Mayor, is very supportive of the resolution and would prefer a one-cent sales tax.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.