



Roundtable of Volusia County Elected Officials Meeting Minutes July 12, 2021

CALL TO ORDER - Noon

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, Mayor/Roundtable Vice Chair, Mayor, Daytona Beach Shores; Phyllis Buletin, Vice Mayor, DeBary; Bob Apgar, Mayor, DeLand; Stacy Cantu, Commissioner, Zone 4, Daytona Beach; Christine Power, Council Member, Edgewater; 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; Bill Partington, Mayor, Ormond Beach; Samuel Bennett, Mayor, Pierson; Lois Paritsky, Vice-May/Council Member, Ponce Inlet; Don Burnette, Mayor, Port Orange; and Jeff Brower, County Council Chair, Volusia County; George Recktenwald, County Manager, Volusia County.

Others attending included: Kurt Swartzlander, Asst. City Manager, Daytona Beach Shores; John A. Peters, Acting City Manager, Deltona; 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; George Recktenwald, County Manager, Volusia County; Jamie Haynes, Vice Chair, Volusia County School Board; District 1; Danny Robins, Volusia County Council, District 3; Billie Wheeler, Volusia County Council, District 2; Suzanne Konchan, Deputy County Manager, Volusia County; Kevin Captain, Community Information Director, Volusia County; Thomas Self, Senator Rubio Office; Lisa Lewis, Supervisor of Elections, Volusia County; Will Roberts, Tax Collector, Volusia County; Phyllis Butlien, Vice Mayor/Council Member, City of DeBary; Chase Tramont, Council Member, District 2, Port Orange; Georgia McKeown, Consultant, Tallahassee/Local Government; Cheryl Coxwell, Senior Director, NASCAR; Jim Cameron, Consultant, Jim Cameron Consulting; Ashlyn Russell, Community Information, Volusia County; Coordinator, Volusia County; Patrick Kelman, Production Specialist (Drone360); Darrell Hill, Production Coordinator, Volusia County; Ryan Ossowski, Chief Financial Officer, Volusia County; Carmen Hall, Community Assistance Director, Volusia County; Clay Ervin, Growth Resource Management Director, Volusia County; Ethan Johnson, Communications and Performance Management Director, 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; Heather Shubirg, Executive Vice President, TEAM Volusia; Big John, WELE; Freddie Wilson, FAITH; Pierre Louis, Midtown Redevelopment, Daytona Beach; Kerry Martin, Prologic ITS; Ken Strickland, Resident, Volusia County; Sandy Murphy, Citizens 4 Responsible Development; Benjamin Collins, FAITH. 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.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Ethan Johnson, Director, Communications & Performance, 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. He stated 95% of these cases are of unvaccinated individuals and 5% are breakthrough cases meaning the individual has received all doses and the two week period has past. He stated 47% of Volusia County population are vaccinated. He reviewed other statistics related to COVID-19 for the State of Florida. Mr. Johnson stated the most hesitant age demographic to receive the vaccine is 18-49 years of age. 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. 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. Communities in need of outreach may contact the Florida Health Department in Volusia County for evaluation and scheduling.

The question was asked if the increase is that among younger people or across all ages. Mr. Johnson stated hospitalizations are mostly older individuals. 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.

Mayor Miller asked if it was required to be vaccinated to board cruise ships docked in Florida ports. Mr. Johnson stated passengers boarding cruise ships are not required to show be vaccinated at this time.

Volusia County Council Chair Brower asked has the Florida Health Department had any communications with the Federal Government in regards about their program going door to door to speak to residents about their vaccination status. Mr. Johnson was not aware of such communication at this time.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING/LINKAGE FEES

Clay Ervin, Director, Volusia County Growth Resource Management, gave an overview of Linkage Fees and how they benefit Affordable Housing. Linkage Fees are actually Impact Fees that are a one-time fee assessed at the time of development or building permit. This fee is typically charged to non-residential developments, but may be applied to high-priced residential dwelling units. There needs to be a 5 year, 10-year plan, and a 15-year plan to show how these linkage fees will be utilized in maintaining the Affordable Housing Program. Florida Statutes address Counties and Cities are authorized use inclusionary housing regulations or linkage fees to increase the supply of affordable housing. Linkage Fees are not intended to fund Affordable Housing needs. Linkage fees are there to help close some of the gaps for costs for Affordable Housing. Local governments must provide incentives to fully offset all costs to the developer of its affordable housing contribution or linkage fees.

Carmen Hall, Director, Volusia County Community Assistance, presented on the need for Affordable Housing in the County of Volusia. Linkage fees is one option to a very complex issue. There are a lot of different tools to use to help increase our stock in housing. Ms. Hall stated the County of Volusia has taken the lead in developing an Affordable Housing initiative. Ms. Hall reviewed the three parts to the county's Affordable Housing Initiative. Part One is a Webinar Series Community Assistance is hosting

webinars every Friday through the month of July Part Two is a Housing Summit. For Part Three, Volusia County Community Assistance is hosting the Housing Summit August 27, 2021 at the Ocean Center 9:00am-4:00pm. Ms. Hall stated advanced registration is required for this event. Part Three is the Action Plan. This will be workgroups and developing and implementing an action plan to be practiced countywide.

Mayor Owens asked to we know how many units for Affordable Housing are needed for the region, or is there something that has it broken down by each city in with in Volusia County. Mr. Ervin referred to the Shimberg Institute. He stated they are working on better strategies to get more accurate numbers.

Mayor Apgar asked are there any restrictions on the type of Affordable Housing. He used as an example if a development has a 100 units and 50 are Affordable Housing and the other 50 are market rate units would a property as such be eligible for linkage fees. Mr. Ervin stated this would qualify for linkage fees as Affordable Housing. Mr. Apgar also asked about local government contribution to the linkage fee are there any timing requirements. Mr. Ervin stated this was implemented July 1, 2021 and this is unknown at this time.

Mr. Ervin stated they are looking to get a countywide strategy to be available for the local governments to take action on by the end of the year.

Ms. Hall stated the Summitt will have a keynote speaker and breakout groups to have discussion and then comeback together to discuss what came about in those sessions.

ARPA FUNDS

Ryan Ossowski, Chief Financial Officer, Volusia County, presented information on the recent legislative session. Mr. Ossowski reviewed the different categories on what and how the ARPA funds could be utilized for. Volusia County has been approved for \$107 million in ARPA funds. Of that amount 50% has been received to date. We will receive the other 50% a year from now. This is how it was set up by Congress. Five municipalities will receive their funds like the county as direct deposit from the federal government, and the other eleven municipalities will receive their funds through the state government. The local Coronavirus American Rescue Act is only a piece of the ARPA Funds. Mr. Ossowski reviewed ways to utilize the Revenue loss funds in a more flexible manner to benefit the citizens.

Mayor Apgar stated it seems like the further we get from the COVID Crisis period we get further away from being able to provide the proof that a loss was COVID related. Mayor Apgar stated it seemed this would motivate those who have received these funds to spend the monies as soon as possible. There may be a need from years to come related to COVID that these funds may be needed for to provide relief. Mr. Ossowski stated the Treasury did take these things into account, and have addressed this in the guidelines they provided by the Federal Government.

Mayor Via asked if the funds not used automatically go back to the federal government. Mr. Ossowski stated this would be the case.

Mayor Owens discussed staffing challenges for smaller government agencies to be able to review the Federal guidelines related to these funds. He asked was there a central process all the municipalities can use. Mr. Ossowski stated there is an agency available to use for this. Mayor Owens stated it seems like it would be very cumbersome in maintaining compliance.

Mayor Apgar inquired about borrowing funds related to infrastructure. The government is trying to discourage funds going to a private entity.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Big John made comment on the ARPA Funds. He commented on County's lack of a bus plan and bus stop benches, and discussed actions taken by Daytona Beach that did not cost citizens tax dollars. He discussed how advertising on bus stops were used to help fund bus stop benches. He also discussed Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) and List of Priority Projects (LOPP). He emphasized the need for roads. He also mentioned needing to not allow events that are fueled by social media such as the Truck Event and Invade Daytona. Big John stated these events jeopardized public safety.

There were no further public comments.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Roundtable Chair Herzberg stated the next meeting is scheduled for September 13, 2021, for the same location and a notification would be sent out to all members.

CLOSING COMMENTS/ ADJOURN

Mayor Owens stated the topic of roads needs to be rekindled after the current budget plan is completed so it is clear on what is not being funded. He would like to collectively as a group speak with the Halifax Advertising Authority regarding the event that cause the negative impact on local municipalities. Commissioner Cantu stated there is a taskforce being developed and will notify the other municipalities.

Mayor Miller stated Daytona Beach Shores was hit hard by the Truck Event in June. She thanked the surrounding municipalities for their support. It was very difficult for residents to get around. She also announced their Police Chief was elected president of the Florida Association of Police Chiefs.

County Chair Brower commented he could speak with Mr. Recktenwald to work out some sort of a fee in order for the county to work with municipalites on sharing the knowledge of the ARPA funds. He also stated that he has concerns about an October Truck Fest. There is advertising on social media for a Trucktober Fest. County Chair Brower commented on the Sunrise tradgedy and the need for discussion on inspections for high-rise building. This is something he plans to work on with the League of Cities. This is a national issue right now, and people are taking this into account as they make their decisions on where to visit or live. Chair Brower wishes the Florida Building Commision would be the ones to create laws related to this issue, however, he believes the County and local municipalites will need to take a lead on this subject. He stated he has spoken with the Hotel/Motel Industry.

Mayor Miller announced Daytona Beach Shores paid off 100% of the city's General Fund debt.

Mayor Herzberg stated in the past this group had subcommittees. She stated between now and the next meeting they would be discussing is if or what sub-committees should be formed. She asked if anyone has any suggestions to contact herself, Mayor Mllier as the Vice Chair, or Kevin Captain, Community Information Director, Volusia County. She stated possibly at the next meeting they would re-establish sub committees.

Roundtable Chair Herzberg, having received no further comments or questions, thanked those in attendance for coming. The meeting was adjourned at 1:16 pm.