



Roundtable of Volusia County Elected Officials MEETING MINUTES April 30, 2018

CALL TO ORDER - Noon

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 Commissioner Rob Gilliland; Daytona Beach Shores Vice Mayor Peggy Rice; 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; Port Orange Mayor Don Burnette; South Daytona Mayor Bill Hall; Volusia County Chair Ed Kelley; and Volusia County School Board Chair Linda Cuthbert.

Others attending included James Chisholm, Daytona Beach City Manager; 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; Alan Rosen, Port Orange Assistant City Manager; Joe Yarbrough, South Daytona City Manager; James Dinneen, County Manager, Volusia County; Dan Eckert, County Attorney, Volusia County; George Recktenwald, Deputy County Manager, Volusia County; Donna de Peyster, Deputy County Manager, Volusia County; John Booker, Volusia County Government Affairs; Deb Denys, Volusia County Council Vice Chair; Joyce Cusack, Volusia County Member At-Large; Billie Wheeler, Volusia County Council Member, District 2; Lisa Lewis, Volusia County Supervisor of Elections; Jon Cheney, Volusia County Public Works Department, Traffic Engineer; Tadd Kasbeer, Volusia County Public Works Department, Facilities Construction Director; Tom Russell, Superintendent, Volusia County Schools; Dr. D. Kent Sharples, President, CEO Business Alliance; Keith Norden, President and CEO, Team Volusia; Jim Cameron, Senior Vice President of Government Relations, Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce; Abby Johnson, Intergovernmental Coordinator, St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD); Betty Holness, County Council Liaison; Jeff Crumbley and Gary Daniels, 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 Lisa Lewis, Volusia County Supervisor of Elections; Deb Denys, Volusia County Council Vice Chair; Billie Wheeler, Volusia County Council Member, District 2; and Joyce Cusack, Volusia County Member At-Large. After standing for the Pledge of Allegiance, all members introduced themselves.

Mayor Apgar provided a brief background as to why the special meeting had been called. On Thursday, April 26, there was a conference call regarding increasing concerns that were being expressed regarding the timing of the infrastructure sales tax election. He thanked Joe Yarbrough, City Manager, South Daytona, for his hard work on this matter. Mayor Apgar thanked Hyatt Brown, Glenn Ritchey, and Dr. Kent Sharples for participating in the conference call. As individual CEO Business Alliance members, they each expressed their concerns about the proposed sales tax referendum and reaffirmed that they are still supportive of the proposal. Mr. Dinneen suggested having a special meeting of the Elected Officials Roundtable to discuss the matter. He thanked Mr. Dinneen for suggesting the special meeting and for his participation in the conference call.

Mr. Apgar said he thought this was the first time all sixteen cities uniformly asked the county to do something, and the county had moved forward with the cities' request. The goal of this discussion is to make sure the momentum that has been created will not be lost through what is discussed during the course of this meeting.

UPDATE ON INFRASTRUCTURE FOR HALF CENT SALES TAX

Dr. Kent Sharples, President, CEO Business Alliance, thanked everyone for the opportunity to speak about this important issue. He also thanked Mr. Yarbrough and the County of Volusia on this point of consensus. The CEO Business Alliance is in the business of job creation and working to create higher level paying jobs within Volusia County. The alliance works in conjunction with Team Volusia to create new opportunities for the citizens of Volusia County. Approximately one year ago, he received a phone call from the city managers asking him to attend an Elected Officials Roundtable Meeting regarding infrastructure and infrastructure issues. The alliance was asked to conduct a survey. Steve Vancore with Clearview Research was hired as the consultant. The study results showed that a half-cent sales tax would pass at that time, which was fall 2017. Alliance members are committed to supporting the proposed half-cent sales tax. The state audit was an unexpected surprise that needs to be done before the referendum can be placed on the ballot.

Lisa Lewis, Supervisor of Elections, Volusia County, discussed what could potentially be on the ballot this year, along with the length of the ballot for the upcoming election. She named every item that would be on the ballot thus far, saying it is possible more will be added. The ballots have to be printed in both English and Spanish languages. Currently, it is two full cards, with ballot information printed on both sides. Mrs. Lewis is hoping there will not be a third card.

Mr. Yarbrough said time was running out to put the referendum on the ballot. Team Volusia and the Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce are very supportive of the proposed tax. The issue could be lost due to the lengthy ballot and the fact the half-cent sales tax referendum would be at the bottom of the ballot. The impact fee and additional property tax exemption issues are creating problems. The city managers are comfortable with delaying putting the sales tax referendum on the upcoming ballot due to the length of it. The proposed sales tax ordinance goes before the County Council Tuesday, May 1, to be voted on. He felt this was not the best time to put the sales tax on the ballot. It has been almost two years since the sales tax discussion began, possibly even longer at different levels. The proposed sales tax is desperately needed, but he is concerned that it will be overlooked on the ballot.

Mayor Apgar said he did not realize there would be so many issues on the upcoming ballot. If the vote is going to be in 2019, the cities may have to change their proposed sales tax education process. He asked the Roundtable members if they agreed with the city managers regarding delaying the process. Mayor Apgar felt it should be suggested to the County Council that a later date for the sales tax election would be appropriate. He questioned whether the

County Council should be asked about a target date for an election on the proposed sales tax. If a date were given, it would help the cities know how to plan and move forward. He also wanted to know if the city mayors and city managers needed to attend the County Council meeting on Tuesday and if Mr. Yarbrough and/or a representative of the Elected Officials Roundtable should speak before the County Council.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Ed Kelley, Volusia County Chair, said it is unfortunate everyone is where they are at this last hour or minute, having to address the proposed sales tax issue. In this situation, because of the ballot issues, the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) issue, and misinformation about impact fees, this is a difficult time to have to make a decision due to the lengthy ballot, but a decision needs to be made. Everyone has worked long and hard on this sales tax issue. County residents, taxpayers, and tax paying non-residents are going to be the losers in the matter.

Bill Partington, Mayor, Ormond Beach, agreed the sales tax issue should be postponed. He felt everyone should take their time on the matter. It is a very important issue and it needs to be done right the first time. Ormond Beach has critical infrastructure needs without a defined funding source like many of the other cities. Mayor Partington feels it makes sense to take a step back and wait until spring 2019 to have a special election for the sales tax. He discussed the sales tax issue with Hyatt Brown, and Mr. Brown went into great details about each of the reasons the sales tax election should be postponed. A negative environment is giving the proposed sales tax a bad name. There are three main problems: 1) The bad press issue tying the sales tax initiative together with impact fees; 2) The Constitution Revision Committee (CRC) and other ballot initiatives; and 3) The OPPAGA ruling. We need to take our time and work through it. With such a negative environment developing, the sales tax initiative will not get a fair hearing. It will be better to have a special election for the sales tax after the dust settles from the upcoming election.

James Hathaway, Mayor, New Smyrna Beach, agrees with the managers and Mr. Sharples. His main concern is that it will be difficult to get all sixteen cities to agree on the half-cent sales tax again. He fears the current negativity will influence newly elected officials and it will be difficult to pull sixteen cities together again on a resolution in 2019.

Rob Gilliland, Commissioner, Zone 4, Daytona Beach, said this issue has been decades in the making. He feels a six-month delay would improve the likelihood of success and it is worth pursuing. The proposed sales tax is very important to both the county and the cities. It is very important to provide voter education regarding the sales tax to help get it passed. He feels voter fatigue is going to be a very significant issue this November.

There was a very lengthy discussion among the Roundtable Members and city managers regarding the pros and cons of delaying the proposed sales tax election. After much discussion, there was a consensus among the Roundtable Members and city managers to postpone putting the referendum on the 2018 ballot.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Jim Cameron, Senior Vice President of Government Relations, Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce, felt this had been a very fruitful discussion. The chamber still supports the proposed sales tax and will help in every way possible.

Ray Donadio, Legal Counsel, Port Orange/South Daytona Chamber of Commerce, agreed with Mr. Kelley. He felt the project has been hijacked by naysayers and the press. The county and

cities need to consider their strategy going forward. The message has been lost because of the size of the ballot and the impact fee issue.

Big John, Holly Hill, discussed misinformation, impact fees, and the gas tax. He complimented Dustin Wyatt, journalist, Daytona Beach News-Journal, on his reporting of the proposed gas sales tax and impact fees. Since 1986, the gas tax and the impact fees have been the only sources to support road development in Volusia County.

Billie Wheeler, Volusia County Council Member, District 2, said taxes are never a popular topic but are extremely important. At some point, impact fees need to be discussed, and possibly increased. Impact fee costs filter down to the new homeowners and do not bring in enough revenue to cover the stated needs or all the needs. It is absolutely essential that this sales tax is passed at some point to accomplish the stated needs. It is the county's responsibility to address the impact fees that could jeopardize the success of this issue.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be held on May 14, 2018.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.