



Round Table of Volusia County Elected Officials MEETING MINUTES March 12, 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 Mayor Derrick Henry; 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; 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 Michael Booker, Daytona Beach Shores City Manager; Bob Garcia, DeBary Mayor; Ron McLemore, DeBary City Manager; Jane Shang, Deltona City Manager; Joe Forte, Holly Hill City Manager; Jason Yarborough, Lake Helen City Administrator; Pam Brangaccio, New Smyrna Beach City Manager; Dale Arrington, City Manager, Orange City; Joyce Shanahan; Ormond Beach City Manager; Ponce Inlet Fire Chief Dan Scales; 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; John Booker, Volusia County Government Affairs; Billie Wheeler, Volusia County Council Member, District 2; Larry Bartlett, Volusia County Property Appraiser; Lisa Lewis, Volusia County Supervisor of Elections; Tom Russell, Superintendent, Volusia County School Board; Jim Cameron, Senior Vice President of Government Relations, Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce; Abby Johnson, Intergovernmental Coordinator, St. Johns River Water Management District; Bob Davis, President, Lodging and Hospitality Association of Volusia County; 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; Larry Bartlett, Volusia County Property Appraiser; and Billie Wheeler, Volusia County Council District 2 Member. After standing for the Pledge of Allegiance, all members introduced themselves.

STATUS REPORT ON CITIES' APPROVAL OF HALF-CENT RESOLUTION REFERENDUM

Joe Yarbrough, South Daytona City Manager, was asked to provide an update on the resolutions of endorsement that will be going to the county for the proposed half-cent sales tax. The *City's Status on Half-Cent Sales Tax Resolution* handout was provided to the Roundtable Members and City Managers. There are only two cities that have not adopted the

resolution; they are New Smyrna Beach and Oak Hill. Oak Hill will have a commission meeting tonight, and New Smyrna Beach will have a commission meeting on Tuesday, March 13, 2018.

Mayor Apgar asked if any cities had received concerns and/or questions from their commissions and/or residents about the proposed sales tax.

Michael Ignasiak, Edgewater Mayor, said the Edgewater City Commission felt the formula was imperfect, but it is a perfect plan that will work. They understand the necessity and sharing part of the plan. The commission was not in total agreement, but felt it was a workable plan and approved it.

Bob Garcia, DeBary Mayor, said the DeBary City Commission was in favor of the proposed sales tax and voted unanimously for it. The commission discussed city infrastructure issues and the possibility of obtaining grant funding. The residents are very supportive of the proposed sales tax, but have concerns about traffic congestion.

Douglas Gibson, Oak Hill Mayor, said the Oak Hill City Commission feels the distribution of the funds is an issue of concern. The City Commission wanted a letter sent to the county requesting that the five smallest cities be given a minimum of one percent of the proceeds of the half-cent sales tax. Ed Kelley, Volusia County Council Chair, responded saying it would be difficult to adjust the tax formula at this late date in the game. There are people who support it, and the formula is the one that is currently used for sales tax distribution. It might be possible to change the formula at a later date.

Mayor Gibson responded saying Mr. Yarbrough sent an email dated January 8, 2018, to all the city managers regarding detailed percentages based on the state's distribution formula. At the January 8, 2018, Elected Officials Roundtable meeting Mayor Gibson stated he felt it was unfair to the smaller cities. Comments were made at the meeting implying it would be possible for cities to receive grants with that money. Grants run on cycles, which means grant cycle deadlines are critical. If a grant cycle is missed, it can cause a delay in receiving funds by up to two years. There is a state statute that gives counties the authority to enter into interlocal agreements on funding from what's generated. The counties are charged by statute to distribute the funds. The issue is the funding distribution.

A lengthy discussion continued among several Roundtable members and city managers regarding the default formula, distribution process, distribution percentages, interlocal agreements, and public responses to the proposed sales tax.

Mr. Yarbrough discussed the *Draft Oversight Advisory Committee* handout. He said seventeen people will be appointed to the committee, one from each municipality and the county. People appointed to the Oversight Committee will not be elected officials, board members, government employees or their family members. The appointments will consist of a citizen from each city and from unincorporated Volusia County. At first, it had been discussed that each committee member be appointed to a four-year term. Dan Eckert, Volusia County Attorney, suggested each member be appointed to a two-year term.

Mayor Apgar said the CEO Business Alliance has concerns about the makeup of the Oversight Committee. There are three major points the alliance thought were important. They are: 1) Each city should have a representative on the committee, one person/one vote, with no weighted votes; 2) Elected officials, appointed officials and their family members will not be part of the committee; 3) The cities will, in effect, put up their own nominees.

Mr. Kelley discussed the differences between appointing committee members to two-year or four-year terms. The important part is, the committee will be composed of average citizens, not elected officials.

A lengthy discussion continued among several Roundtable members and city managers regarding the *Oversight Advisory Committee* creation, determination of possible members, appointment of members, term lengths, responsibilities and decision making processes.

Bob Davis, President and CEO of the Lodging and Hospitality Association of Volusia County, discussed the organization's recent board meeting and said the members were in favor of the proposed half-cent sales tax. The organization represents 100 hoteliers with 10,000 rooms throughout Volusia County, along with 150 allied members that include carpet layers, attorneys, chemical technicians and public relations professionals. Together they employ 41,000 people in the hospitality industry.

In the past 15 years, the hospitality industry contributed \$186 million to the Volusia County School Board half-cent sales tax. The development of new hotels and businesses in Volusia County will help generate more money for the proposed half-cent sales tax. The organization supports endorsement of the proposed sales tax.

Mr. Davis discussed problems and issues with vacation rentals. Three years ago there were three vacation rentals in Volusia County; now there are hundreds of them throughout the county. More vacation rentals means less sales and bed taxes the county receives. Vacation rentals are taking over homes in quiet neighborhoods; this can create problems such as loud disturbances and alcohol parties.

John Penny, Holly Hill Mayor, asked Mr. Davis if the support for the proposed sales tax came from the board of directors or from a poll taken among the entire general membership of the organization. Mr. Davis responded saying 150 members were present at the meeting and all of them fully supported the proposed tax. Mr. Penny agreed with Mr. Davis about short-term vacation rentals, but felt the focus needs to be on Tallahassee, because the Legislature is trying to remove the Home Rule concerning such issues.

Harry Jennings, Daytona Beach Shores Mayor, wanted to know what educational program was going to be utilized to inform the citizens to vote for the proposed sales tax. Mr. Yarbrough responded saying the process has been evolving and is being developed now. If the cities come to an agreement and the county places the referendum on the ballot, the CEO Business Alliance will support a countywide campaign for educating the public. Each city will be expected to provide information about the proposed sales tax to their residents. The education process must consist of a countywide campaign that will involve media costs, such as mail-outs and ads posted in newspapers. It is going to be a necessary, expensive process.

Mayor Apgar asked when the resolution will be implemented by the county. Mr. Kelley responded saying it will be brought before the County Council at the first council meeting in April. Mayor Apgar asked that each city be notified before it will be discussed at the April County Council meeting. He also asked that each city be present at the county meeting to show their support of the proposed sales tax.

Mayor Jennings asked if the chambers of commerce were involved in promoting the proposed sales tax. Mr. Yarbrough said they were not, at the present time.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

HOMELESSNESS: Daytona Beach Mayor Derrick Henry provided an update on the First Step Shelter. They are in the process of formerly creating an agreement between the First Step Shelter board and the City of Daytona Beach. The lease agreement will allow the board to operate the facility upon construction completion.

Mayor Apgar provided an update on the West Volusia Homeless Shelter. They have a contract with the architect. Currently, the architect is touring facilities throughout Florida to see what types of design have been used. He is also researching what works and what doesn't with the facility designs. The architect had the first design meeting with the stakeholders last week.

TRANSPORTATION: Discussed earlier.

WATER: Nothing to report.

BEACH DRIVING (No report until further notice)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Jim Cameron, Senior Vice President of Government Relations for the Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce, discussed the legislative session issues pertaining to vacation rental units. The chamber stands with the Hotel Motel Association on the matter. The chamber wants to see a level playing field for hotels and rentals units. If there are going to be competitors, they need to be regulated the same way. Rental units affect the quality of life in neighborhood residential areas also. He said Home Rule is not going away this session; it will be back next session.

Big John, Holly Hill, discussed impact fees, wealthy developers, the CEO Business Alliance and the proposed gas tax. He does not think the proposed gas tax will be passed.

Linda Smiley, Daytona Beach, said the average citizen is tired of frivolous spending and giveaways being done by local government agencies, along with the constant discussions of how to spend money they don't have. Many residents will not be voting to approve the addition of a half-cent sales tax. The lack of trust in government officials is at an all-time low and it will take much work to regain that trust.

NEXT MEETING

There will not be a meeting in April.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Mayor Garcia invited everyone to the March 22 Volusia League of Cities dinner, which will be hosted by the City of DeBary. City officials have started working on their project lists.

Mayor Ignasiak said Bike Florida is coming to Edgewater. This family-oriented group tours Florida promoting bicycle safety. It starts Wednesday, March 14, at the Edgewater YMCA and will be there for one week.

Mayor Apgar said the next Volusia League of Cities dinner would be hosted by the City of DeBary on March 22. He thanked the cities for their cooperation and for continuing to move the resolutions forward to be presented to the County Council.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:53 p.m.

