>>CHAIR BROWER: If everyone wants to find a seat we will get started in just a few seconds. Okay, we will call the February 17 2026 Volusia County Council meeting to order at 4:01. We are glad you are here. In just a minute I'm going to ask you to stand for an invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. You can stand if you care to, it's not required, I hope you will and if you are part of a faith group who would like to participate in the invocation, please just send an email to K Green, the letter k, kgreen@volusia.org and she will get you set up, all faith groups are invited and welcomed. Today we will have, you don't have to come up yet but the Reverend Alex Williams with the DeLand Church of the Nazarene in Deland for an invocation. Alex, are you here? I can't see him in the front row. You are the one I accused of being a troublemaker. We will have the invocation, please stand with me.

>> Thank you, it's an honor to be here. God, you are full of all authority, all wisdom and all power is yours. We are asking tonight you would impart some of your wisdom on us as we make decisions for our county Lord, you care about these people, these are your people, you care about these proceedings tonight and we ask for unity among this meeting tonight Lord, we pray for peace to come in, the peace of Christ to calm all fears, all confusion. We pray this meeting would most importantly be about the common good of all citizens in this county Lord Jesus. You are supreme, you are on the throne and we give you the glory and all the honor

and all the praise is due your name. Once again Jesus put your peace in this place tonight. Bring your presence so we can make the best decisions for your people, in the name of Jesus we pray amen.

>> I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay and we always start our meetings after the invocation and pledge with public participation so when I call your name.

>>CLERK: Mr. chair I need to do the roll call.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay, Clarissa would you like to call the roll please?

>>COUNCIL MEMBER DEMPSEY:

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: Here.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER KENT: Here.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER REINHART: Here.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINS: Here.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER SANTIAGO: Here.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Here. And everyone is here. Okay, when I call your name please come up to the podium. There is a button on the side of the podium that will make it go up and down. We need the microphone near your mouth so everyone can hear me and it will be broadcast to millions. You have three minutes to speak on anything that pertains to the county, something we might be able to act on in the future. So you are welcome to do that and I would ask you choose to be respectful in your language to the public and to those listening. You can say anything you want to us, we ran for this. We can take it but please be respectful for the people that are listening online when you choose your language. First up I know but nobody wants to be first and also when you come up tell us where you're from. You don't have to give your whole address for reasons of safety but let us know what part of the county you are from so your representative knows. First we have Mary Dickinson.

>>PUBLIC SPEAKER: My name is Mary Dickinson and I live on Marsh Road and I have two things to say and I'm going to say it now. Under state law the weight limit on our substandard road is 10,500 pounds which equals 5.25 tons. Put our weight limit signs backup. You all took them down for your convenience. Repair our

roads. And the highlands you have caused damage to. Move all utilities to your 5 foot easement. You have caused a lot of ground movement and detriment in our homes. The next is the seven cents a gallon gas tax is an illegal tax. As of 2005. Rescind the tax now. You have used taxpayer funds to do beach restoration that were allocated to pave every dirt road in Volusia County by 2005. You have kept renewing this tax and now you've just renewed it again and the dirt roads are still dirt. Thank you.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you for your comments. Justin Sandusky.

>>PUBLIC SPEAKER: Good afternoon counsel, my name is Justin Sandusky off Marsh Road and I'm here today because our residential neighborhood is being used as an unintended industrial bypass corridor, specifically along Marsh Road and old Daytona, these roads were never designated to handle the commercial traffic we are experiencing. Marsh Road is approximately 20 foot wide with 10 foot lanes, old Daytona even narrower at 18 foot wide with 9 foot lanes and when large dump trucks travel these roads they are forced to ride the centerline to remain on pavement this creates a daily safety hazard or blind headquarters especially near the golf facility on Marsh Road. Passenger vehicles are forced to come to a stop or pull off the road entirely to allow these trucks to pass. This is not a congestion problem, it is a roadway geometry problem that makes

safety wave travel difficult when trucks are present. The level of traffic it was not how marsh Road was operated, when I moved it was a troubled one, the escalation is a recent development that's occurred over the last 3 to 4 years and I have direct visibility into this activity through camera coverage along Marsh Road and old Daytona been able to observe cut through traffic patterns that these trucks are not making local deliveries, they are using our neighborhood to bypass traffic control while traveling between your coroners and functionally our roads are treated like an extension of an industrial route without the infrastructure to support that use. This occurs at all hours including 234 and 5:00 a.m., type vibration is strong enough to rattle homes, not just a nuisance they are causing physical impacts. Many neighborhoods sit close to the roadway because it's a residential development not engineered for truck traffic, residents are observing cracks with truck volume, we have cyclists children and experienced drivers in the neighborhood, some residents are hesitant to back into their own driveways because of speeding traffic on their residential road. Looking ahead we are concerned about the future diversion with the signal plans for the 92 intersection there is a strong likelihood more commercial vehicles will bypass the lien since there are multiple entries through the land highlands and we are asking the Council for targeted relief first implement weight restrictions to prohibit through truck traffic on Marsh Road and old Daytona rig Road and second install traffic calming measures such as multi

way stop control and third post no through truck signage and industrial traffic should be redirected to appropriate corridors such as Edison Drive. Residents have raised concerns without resolution and we are asking for intervention now before serious accident or further property damage occurs on our residential corridors, thank you for your time and consideration.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, John Nicholson.

>>PUBLIC SPEAKER: John Nicholson, Daytona Beach Beachside, actually I remember voting for that but I don't recall it being for dirt roads only so if you would mind looking at that, if what she says is true we have to deal with it so if you could ask and find out. Secondly, there was an article in today's paper about Seminole creating 720, yeah, 1702 feet^2 indoor facility for tourism. I know we are talking about doing something like that in Daytona Beach. We've paid a consultant to look into it. You're also looking at giving money to orange city to help out Stanford so Sanford tourism industry could flourish. I don't think it's our purview to help Sanford at the cost of our own city so I wish you would look at that. Third, it's on I think your consent agenda wants to donate a Vietnam wall to city Island. I wish you would pass that, I think it's a great idea that she came to the city of Daytona Beach two weeks ago, I wish you would pass that like seven up. The Ocean Center hired a consultant for what Troy Kent is hoping to have to entertainment

at the Ocean Center, could we expand that to help all our cities? If there's something that could go in the Athens theater if something pops up in his bailiwick that could help the Athens why not help the Athens? If we could look at the idea of helping the county per se rather than just the Ocean Center because apparently this gentleman has far reaching ability to contact all kinds of people and all kinds of venues so if he could help all our venues it would be helpful. Lastly I don't know if you've been down A1A in Daytona Beach and if you think Armand had a hard time you should look at our area. All the trees are down and now we have 200 signs instead of trees. They just redid the section of the peninsula by the Coptic church. They put a cement barrier in the middle-of-the-road so you climb down Seabreeze and all of a sudden 3 feet out from the side you have a 12 foot lane and 4 feet of it has a barrier right there so you have to curve to your left and back to your right because there's a curve in the road and those people are going to come around and all of a sudden they will have traffic in their lane and they have to curve to the right so this idea of curbing back and forth please look into DOT.

>>CHAIR BROWER: And Marie will occur. Can somebody help her drop that? No, she doesn't need any help. Good deal.

>>PUBLIC SPEAKER: Good evening, Anne-Marie will occur, I live in Deland and I am a regular user of the trail between Gemini

Springs and Osteen. So imagine my surprise when 4 miles into a 12 mile run Saturday I encountered eight new illegally installed billiards in Deltona. Not only are these the most dangerous style of bollards for cyclists they are not in compliance with the Americans with disability act, a federal law that's existed for 36 years can be found with a basic Google search. These openings fall 5 to 7 inches short of the ADA minimum clearance and 17 to 19 inches short of the FDOT design standard minimums. Photos on the copy of the Justice Department ADA complaint filed against Volusia County is with Clarissa and while I was relieved to hear this mourning the issue may be addressed soon this should have never happened in the first place. This is 2026 and we should not still be discovering accessibility barriers after the concrete drives. This does not just affect people who look like me. In the 20 minutes I spent documenting the site for cyclists had to dismount because their handlebars would not fit. Two recumbent writers had to lift their bikes over the barriers and a mother with a jogging stroller turned around and went home because she could not safely carry her children stroller over the barriers on the side of a busy road and in Volusia County 12% of residents have a mobility related disability, 25.7 are over the age of 65 and 22.7% of households have children. These barriers deny access to people not just disabilities but families with strollers and anyone using adaptive equipment. These barriers block all of them while also creating a safety hazard while forcing cyclists to thread a needle made of concrete. These are

your constituents and right now they're being told the trail is no longer for them. These barriers block emergency response, the spacing is too narrow for rescue bikes and equipment that is routinely used on trails when you install obstacles that first responders cannot pass through you are not improving safety my questions are simple. How did it a noncompliant design get installed on a regional trail? Why are we fixing things that should have been compliant before they were installed? What is the timeline for full correction will end what safeguards will be put in place so we don't have to file a new complaint every time concrete is poured? Equal access is not a special request, it is the law. I look forward to your answer and to you returning this public trail to public access.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you for your comments. Rosemarie Latham.

>>PUBLIC SPEAKER: Good afternoon chair Brower and councilmembers, Rosemarie Latham, I live in the land with the ZIP Code 32720. I'm a member of the Board of Directors and cochair of the legislative committee of the Northwest Volusia Democratic club. All politics is local. The goal of our legislative committee is to attend meetings of the County Counsel, the school board, city commission, the various town councils in order to learn firsthand what is happening in our community. We report back to our membership to keep them aware of the decisions made

by those entities. And how these decisions directly affect each individual. This is one way to assist our membership in decision-making when it comes time to vote for the membership of these entities. This year being an election year, one of our focuses will be ensuring free and fair elections and the safety of all citizens participating in their right to vote. Susan B Anthony said the right to vote is the right upon which all our rights depend. The right to vote must never depend on convenience, politics or circumstance. It must be guaranteed, protected and honored. Each of you since in your seat because people were able to exercise their right to vote. What is the motivation behind placing barriers against any individual's right to vote? Is there concern about the results if all qualified citizens were to exercise this right? Thank you very much.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you for your comments. Zoltan Caracus? You can correct me when you get up here.

>>PUBLIC SPEAKER: Good afternoon everyone. My name is Zoltan Caracus and with my wife we own Daytona short shop on Speedway Boulevard beach approach for the past 35 years. I respect and appreciate the purpose of the $20 beach parking fee for non-County residents. However I regularly observe vehicles approach their intent to park and after seeing the fee they immediately turn around and leave. Many of these visitors are not planning to stay all day. They simply want to see the ocean

briefly, take a photo or visit the nearby businesses. When they turn away the county receives no revenue. Local businesses receive no customers and visitors leave without experiencing our beautiful beach. I respectfully suggest exploring a short term parking option in addition to the current $20 daily parking fee. Perhaps a 30 minute option at the rate of our counsel decision. Maybe three dollars, five dollars. Offering both short-term and full-term options could increase participation and create additional revenue for the county. These are also times when conditions for sunbathing are not ideal such as early morning hours from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. or after 5:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m.. During this time short-term parking would be especially valuable. Since payment is already handled digitally by cell phone implementation may require only minor software programming adjustments and updated signage to include the 30 minutes option. This could be a practical, low cost enhancement. This can be a win-win situation for the county, tourists and businesses along the beach approach. Additionally I have have observed some beach tenants parked on the approach instead of using the reserve beach parking on the beach. Prioritization of this space could also generate additional revenue for the county. I offer these comments in the spirit of collaboration and balance, seeking solutions that benefits the county, local businesses and our visitors. Thank you for your time and consideration.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you for your comments. Jeff Hearn.

>>PUBLIC SPEAKER: Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. I don't see my representative, I live in Edgewater but am originally from Palm Beach. I was looking for somebody much younger. I am a business owner in Volusia County and I have several clients, HOA board members, condo associations. Property management companies and have a hard time hiring people because it's such a hard business to get into and the only people that get into the business generally have drug and alcohol issues. Being from Palm Beach County Judge Mary Lupo which I would encourage everybody to research and look into doctoral program called the Palm Beach County Sheriff's truck fund. I was a participant in that for Turk teen months and it changed my life forever, my 19 and 20 years. I wrote some pamphlets are not going to have time to go through but I encourage you guys to take a look at those that goes into a lot more detailed explanation of what I see as a problem with law enforcement policing drug addiction alcoholism being that they Daytona international Speedway grosses close to $1 billion a year I don't see why that alone couldn't fund something like this, the homeless shelter costs from the jail could be utilized. All these programs. They can both incorporate some of these strategies this program in Palm Beach County used and maybe clean up the streets and get some of the homeless off the streets, get people the help they need and it's important to me because I do all my work by myself. I have no one that wants to work where I can trust. So I'm

hoping that Volusia County combined with Daytona revenue can get together with Judge Mary Lupo somehow and discuss it and maybe start some sort of program particularly at that homeless shelter because that's the perfect building for it to run, thank you for your time.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you Jeff, could you make sure the clerk gets those and she will make sure we each get a copy, thank you very much. Kathy Thompson.

>>PUBLIC SPEAKER: I return yet again with hope and optimism that this time you will honor your stated commitment to the arts and cultural organizations that inspired people like me to move year and remain here so far. That promotes tourism and a quality of life factor for all our residents and offers a return on your investment on at least a two to one basis. I'm going to continue to repeat this, we are not charities until you stop telling us we are somehow charities. None of us have a charitable mission. We are nonprofit businesses. We support the arts through education exhibits, live performances. We have been in the past in a private public partnership with you and we carried the majority of the expense for our facilities in what we do. Good faith, we listened, worked hard with you to revise the criteria and focus of the grants. We spent long hours rewriting them to your stated requirements. You approved by a vote of 6 to 13 year process with a caveat you could alter the criteria for future years so

once again, honor your commitment. Honor your approval from last spring. Honor that vote and approve the funding as recommended. Thank you.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you for your comments, Greg Gimbert.

>>PUBLIC SPEAKER: Greg Gimbert, Daytona Beach, glad to see you all tonight. I want to bring you some reports from the field, the city of Deltona the city of Daytona, significant things happened you might want to bear in mind as you're making decisions tonight starting with Deltona where it's been like hiding AP what they're doing with their aquifer injection plan and a bunch came out last night. If you haven't seen it that's too bad because they pulled the curtain back and we've got river water were going to treat the sewage water we are going to treat the sewage water and will treat what Mr. Johansson educated us before is effluent and to put that in part of the aquifer where it's never going to escape and it's going to be fine and then there's river water they will take and treat that to a drinking water standard and put that into a different part of the aquifer where they get their drinking water from. And it has a heckuva thing, somebody asks one of the important questions, if it's to a drinking water standard why don't we just drink it? Boy did I not see the answer to that comment. It was this real pregnant pause and the utilities director had to say uncomfortably you don't want to drink that. You don't want to drink it. And there

it is. It's sewage is sewage, it's just over the line where it won't kill you, minimum standards and in emergencies if you're desperate so there's big takeaways from that, number one is God bless America it's here, it's been all over the place tooting it in and they can't hide it from Deltona no more. That Commissioner that asked that hard question why don't we just put it in the aquifer in the face that drinking water standard that drinking water does not really drinking water and it's dangerous to put it in the aquifer and I hate to keep going back to Covid but comparing the science like comparing Covid science, I was worried about what it was going to do to the kids drinking this long-term but it took seeing these people in the room behind me to remember what it's going to do to seniors they are more compromised than anyone else so anyway, in Daytona on the other hand who's done everything to pass any restraints to try to satiate certain interests has run off everything but the last of our visitors and one of them got his throat slashed on Daytona Beach boardwalk area, 13-year-old boy during the Daytona 500 week somebody slashed his throat for no good reason at all and that's Daytona Beach on the 500 weekend so we've got to start making new decisions around here, let's talk about that more later tonight, thank you.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Lloyd Bowers.

>>PUBLIC SPEAKER: Good afternoon Chairman Brower, members of the

Council, Lloyd Bowers and I am a beachside resident and councilman Reinhart's district. I stand before you today not just as a supporter of the arts as a citizen concerned with the integrity of our local governments commitments. I'm here to urge you again to reconsider the decision to withhold cultural funding for the year, funding that was already vetted ranked and approved through established cultural Council grant process, a process approved by you February 18, 2025 now ironically one year ago. When the County Counsel established the grant program sets rigorous criteria and asks nonprofits to spend multiple hours applying you created a covenant with the community. By unilaterally withholding these funds for this year after the work had been done and recommendations made you're not just cutting a line, you are eroding public trust. To pull the rug out now tells every volunteer and educator a commitment from this counsel is subject to change without notice. To understand why this is vital consistency especially I want to give you an example of something I helped start 12 years ago, the Peabody Auditorium foundation as one of the programs we did it's the youth plus art equals success which brings every year live professional filled children's theater into our public schools free of charge. As a fundraiser for that we started a Mardi Gras party, I'm a transplanted new Orleanians today is Mardi Gras, happy Mardi Gras but it's taken us 10 years to get that party going to the point where it sufficiently funds separately the Youth Plus Art Equals Euccess program, it finally is at that level but it didn't happen

overnight, it took 10 years. I give you this example because it provides cultural impact is not an instant return, it's a long-term investment. When you approve the grant program you stressed the need of our cultural organizations to become more self reliant and when you interrupted funding of the grant cycle you did not just pause a check you built the momentum of programs in place and in some instances canceled. At the last County Council meeting you heard from the Air Force Museum at the Deland airport, they had to cancel the Tuskegee exhibition as it was funded by the grant they were anticipating receiving which the cultural Council had scored for them. Volusia County schoolchildren lost the opportunity to learn about this important chapter in our history solely because of the grants approved by the cultural Council were not funded. The cultural Council did its job. It review the applications identify the programs that made Volusia County a place where people like me want to live and raise families. I ask you today honor your promise, restore cultural funding for the current year.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you for your comments Lloyd, Susie Peace.

>>PUBLIC SPEAKER: Susie Peace Deland, 32724 here again with a negative. I don't understand why you are not honoring the voters decision which was to fund all the arts and also this is a poster I held at the corner of New York Avenue and Woodland Boulevard in

2020. I happened to find it behind a cabinet in my house. It says vote yes for Volusia forever preserving outdoors and wildlife and to be voted yes and I wanted to ask you how did you vote? How did you vote, did you vote yes for this? Would you raise your hand? Nobody voted yes for this? Now why would you want to cancel it? Anyway I'm just saying voting is all right and it's an honor to vote and it's an honor when your government stands up for what the voters want. So I'm being kind of hard on you today but I have no other choice. Thank you for your well-meaning but not doing what needs to be corrected, thank you.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you for your comments Susie. Gabriel Perez.

>>PUBLIC SPEAKER: My name is Gabriel Perez and I live in Deland Florida, I live on Marsh Road, didn't know that was a topic. I wasn't coming to speak about this. I do have the white lines on the side of my road, I didn't know that was from heavy traffic. So I came to speak about the port Volusia issue that they were speaking of earlier, Zoe corrected this. We have a big problem there where tenants are leaving from the property, we own the property. Nobody can shop at their stores, nobody can afford to pay $20 for parking and $20 for a slice of pizza. He's having a problem with T-shirts and we are having problems with Nathan's hot dogs as well. We have a apartment on top of that property nobody can park at, they can't stay overnight in those spots. I

don't know what can be done as far as the lease problem, I think short-term is a good idea. As far as upstairs maybe we can allow overnight parking for the residents of the apartment. It's directly across the street from the property. Thank you for your time.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you for coming in. Julia Travillo.

>>PUBLIC SPEAKER: Good afternoon gentlemen, Julia Travillo, Daytona Beach. I'm here in my Volusia County cultural alliance hat. So many times during your last meeting I heard members of this board speak and say if it ain't broke, don't fix it. If it ain't broke, don't fix it. I heard it over and over again. Yet this counsel continues to break one of the systems it has that's been functioning for nearly 40 years. We've told you time and again what it is the county receives from the arts community quality-of-life improvements, tourism, additional educational opportunities and of course tax revenue. But let me remind you what you are breaking when you hold this year's all arts and cultural funding hostage. Last meeting you heard from the Deland Naval Air Station who had to cancel the visit of a historic Tuskegee airplane that would have provided free educational experiences for 5000 schoolchildren. The Harlan's Canal in new Smyrna Beach has had to cut it's all on the grow program that serves seniors, children, veterans by 30%. If you examine each of the 32 programs that are being funded through the cultural

grant you will find every one of them as had to pull back programs they have scheduled but cannot accomplish without your partnership. We continue to lose events, scholarships, outreach programs each day that passes. The fiscal year is almost halfway over and you still have not released the money. Please deliver these funds as you have promised. The people of this county want and need these programs. Thank you.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you for your comments, Pat Miles.

>>PUBLIC SPEAKER: Good evening Chairman Brower and esteemed councilmen, I am Trish Miles, I live in Port Orange Florida. I am here course for the continued funding for the arts but I want to give you a brief history. In 1999 Florida artist Christopher Still was commissioned by the House Speaker Thrasher to paint a series of 10 murals on the renovation of the house of representatives chapter in Tallahassee. These murals are huge and encircled the entire camera area. He is a Florida native, his father taught history at a local high school and his grandfather and great-grandfather were all farmers. He's a very accomplished artist, you won scholarships to prestigious art schools and fellowships including studying at the Vatican where he was trained in Renaissance art. If you go to Tallahassee to the house chambers you can see those murals when they are not in session, they are a sight to behold. Because this man has researched and done these beautiful compositions that depict the

different eras of our Florida history. Upon completion of the murals a group of us were pulled together by Doctor June Hinckley, Mary Palmer and Susan Rostov, these are all arts people in Tallahassee to produce a magnificent book and a DVD that provided a complete multidisciplined curriculum or the entire mural project. The project was called Our Florida Legacy and it was a marvelous compilation of work. We were given the opportunity to share these DVDs and books with the entire state of Florida and public education and I was honored to write the visual arts part of that curriculum. So that meant my kids at Deland high school at the time were the ones that got the benefit the most from that opportunity. They had promised they would pay for these 10 murals. He took it upon himself to complete the 10 murals, they are magnificent. I wonder how things are going now up there but each mural showed the promise of each generation to learn from the past and accomplish in the present what might best serve future generations, to seek balance where growth diversity and opportunity can best benefit all the state and its people.
So these students now are here in Deland. I see them often.
They asked me about the funding promised here and I tell them that they need to come and you guys to let you know of course there raising their families right now. Please gentlemen, please approve the funding for the arts, thank you.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you for your comments and last speaker for the first public comment is Gary Singleton.

>>PUBLIC SPEAKER: My name is Gary Singleton, a Volusia County resident. My opening comment tonight would be on the use of the shiny object. A common practice in political theater. Hold a shiny object of fear, diverged our attention away from vital issues over there. To pass a feel-good ordinance or charter amendment in no way addresses the real issue at hand. No curriculum required, no hard questions, no unpopular answers, no actual work. Just type it up, vote it in and spend your time congratulating yourselves on a job well done all while secretly being satisfied the most urgent issues facing Volusia County citizens made in the dark, unexamined and unaddressed.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you for your comments and counsel on your behalf I'm going to make a comment before we go on. Just as part of our rules we don't respond to people when they talk for time efficiency, however because of constituent proficiency and the fact that we all represent you, what some of you didn't see but nobody watching us can see is a lot of the people that speak here are held before they leave the standard by the staff member who interacts with whatever their issue is. The rest will hear from many of us. Several of us or some of us so it's sometimes uncomfortable to listen look like you're just ignoring what is said, we don't ignore it so counsel, thank you for letting me say that. Okay, we will move to item 1, approval of the agenda, can I get a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER REINHART: Motion to approve.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: Second, Johansson.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Made by Reinhart and second by Councilman Johansson, any questions, all in favor say aye. Any opposed. The agenda is approved 7 to 0 which moves us to the second item on the agenda which is the consent agenda, does any Council member have an item they would like to pull for a vote, Councilman Dempsey.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER DEMPSEY: Queue Québec for discussion.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINS: Motion to approve consent agenda.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER REINHART: Second.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Motion to approve the agenda by Councilman Robins and second was by Matt Reinhart. All in favor of the items on the agenda please say aye. Any opposed. The agenda is approved 7 to 0. We will discuss item Q. and item Q is son trail agreement with FDOT. Did you need Brad? Brad can you come down. Not that he doesn't want to hear from you.

>> He uses too many big words, I don't know.

>> This is in your department. I don't know if you want to make a presentation first.

>> Go to the question.

>> This is the grant agreement.

>> I'm sorry, I thought he was going to ask the question, Don had a question.

>> I thought it was discussion.

>> You can hear the quick presentation and I will ask Doctor Burbaugh.

>> Lots of times will able to qualify the trail system for construction, get funds from the DoD through their son trail grant and as a part of that we get a grant awarded that's usually for multiple phases, design, right-of-way or construction. Each time we go through a different phase we have to update the grant based on the amounts that's what this is, this is the section from 44 up to the north. Cuts five at 711 through the, what will be potentially that Woodruff development and to the west of the dump and tie in ultimately to grand Avenue.

>> Could I ask Doctor Burbaugh a quick question? This is for productivity to the rest of the rail systems. Actually trail system, I'm used to rails for trails but how much do we have in paved trails in Volusia County right now?

>> Paved trails, sorry, I'm trying to find the email I apologize. So right now we have close to 200 miles of paved trails.

>> Asphalt?

>> Yes, sir. Sections of concrete.

>> How many males of this 200 mile trail goes through the wildlife corridor and wetlands.

>> 31 miles, goes to the wildlife corridor.

>> Have we received any complaints from the public about us extending more asphalt roads? Through our wildlife.

>> Not since I've been in the seat.

>> And how much have we spent in total?

>> The set-aside total.

>> We are working on that. Parks and Recreation culture director. We are working on that yesterday. Let me get you the exact number because we are still working through the total, the question was how much have we collected in son trail and how much have we expended in trail development. To get my hands on it later in the evening, I will get back to you.

>> Appreciate the effort guys, that's all.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Good job.

>> Just for discussion, for the record I am not opposed to this, I think it's great, it's wonderful we are providing outdoor recreational activities for the public and for their benefit. I think it's great we've offered 200 miles to the public. I just want to highlight the fact of the 200 miles of asphalt paved road, that's going through the wildlife, 30 miles of which goes through wetlands and wildlife corridor and I've heard no opposition to this and I would like to make note of that and I appreciate your time everybody, thank you.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.

>> Tim Bailey again. We collected $22,510,339 in echo. We expended 18,000,714 522. That's for echo set-aside. 18 714522.

That spend is only our portion though.

>> You'd like to get to the bottom.

>> Son trail money, all that, we use that as leverage to build trails.

>> I don't want to put words in your mouth.

>> To refresh my memory from previous meetings these trails involve putting a potentially 30 foot wide path through the wildlife corridor and a 12 foot wide paved asphalt road.

>> Let me elaborate on that question. So the east west or east central trail which is from Green Springs East to Brevard County line and North to cow Creek was on a railroad corridor, put it right on a railroad corridor, no clearing of trees. So then other sections of trails are in the road right-of-way. And then the spring trail which goes from DeLeon Springs State Park down through the very and east to the green Springs Park. A large portion if that is on the right-of-way.

>> You've received no public outrage about any of this, are you receiving any outreach about the motocross part?

>> Only from what I see in the media.

>> And we are not talking about putting any paved asphalt roads anywhere in the motorcade.

>> No.

>> Thank you for your time, that's all guys, thank you.

>>CHAIR BROWER: We will move on to item 3 which is a proclamation that will be presented inside chambers which is unusual but it's an important one, it's the encephalitis awareness day and I'm going to hand it over to Vice chair Matt Reinhart.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER REINHART: Thank you chair, last year we started this process and this results from a former Commissioner in the city of Port Orange cat Atwood. A cat I've known since seventh grade, very active in the community. She unfortunately after being sworn in probably less than a year had to leave office because of this terrible disease. We miss her doing that type of work but she tries to stay as active as possible, she was to be here tonight but encephalitis if you're not aware is the disease that keeps on giving she's battling her own battles right now so thoughts and prayers are with her and her family but I did want to take the opportunity appreciate the fact we are able to do this because we do only present proclamations in chambers for

certain situations, special occasions whatnot and this is one that needs to be recognized so thank you for your latitude so I'll read it quick, whereas every minute worldwide three people are diagnosed, sorry, nearly 3 people diagnosed with encephalitis for 1.4 million cases annually making this devastating brain inflammation a critical global health concern and whereas encephalitis strikes with the infectious agents autoimmune disorders mosquito and tick bites or other factors triggering serious inflammation of the brain and whereas symptoms range from fever headache and light sensitivity to more serious manifestations including stiff neck, mental confusion and seizures and whereas some forms of autoimmunity encephalitis can have mortality rates ranging 40% in severe cases with survivors frequently facing brain injuries and long-term neurological complications that transform lives and whereas nearly every poor early recognition and swift treatment are paramount to saving lives and improving patient outcomes and whereas world encephalitis date launched in 2014 and observed annually February 22 unites communities worldwide raising awareness saving lives and building better futures and now therefore we the County Counsel of Volusia County proclaim February 22 2026 as world encephalitis day in Volusia County joining and commemorating and commending Port Orange resident cat Atwood for championing encephalitis awareness with dedication and courage so thank you chair for that. I will say normally most of the cities I think every city has done a proclamation in they are chambers for this

event as well and many are lighting their buildings in the red. I was curious if like we did last year with the pond out front if we could do the same Saturday for encephalitis day and that's all.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Can I get a motion to approve. Motion to approve by Vice chair Reinhart and the second came from councilmember Robins.

>> We are just approving the proclamation.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Any discussion, all in favor say aye. Any opposed. Proclamation is approved 70. Item 4, retirement of fire Lieutenant Jeremiah Greathouse.

>> I'm your director here to introduce item number four which is retirement of fire rescue Lieutenant Jeremiah Greathouse and with that I will hand it over to County manager Recktenwald.

>>COUNTY MANAGER: Thank you chair and honorable counsel, these are always bittersweet and we say goodbye to a valuable member of our team. But today we are recognizing fire Lieutenant Jeremiah Greathouse who retired the end of last month after 25 years in Volusia County fire rescue experience, Lieutenant Greathouse began his career in October 2000 committing himself to the safety and well-being of our residents and visitors. Throughout his

career he served as a member of the fire Walker team which I just want to expound on that that people don't know what that is but that's an elite group of firemen that have the ability to walk a fire right through a neighborhood without burning the house down and it's something that of course in our county can be very valuable and he demonstrated exceptional skill teamwork and dedication under demanding conditions. In September 2013 he was promoted to Lieutenant where he continued to lead with professionalism and integrity both operationally and within the organization and also served as union president for many years during his career where he was a strong advocate for his fellow firemen and I'd like to thank him and wish him the best in his well-earned retirement. [APPLAUSE]

>> I can't get away without saying something about this guy because we've known each other a long time. It back in 2000 if we had the opportunity to ask Jeremiah about retirement he would say that's too far away and today he would laugh and think this flew by. His wife would probably disagree but we are here today to recognize him on his 25 years of service retiring as a Lieutenant but I want to thank him as chief of the department and appear I appreciate your commitment to the fire service, Volusia County and leadership you give in this department. [APPLAUSE]

>>CHAIR BROWER: Mr. Attorney Greathouse, I think Matt might have a question.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER REINHART: Not so much a question as I was a former neighbor and lived right down the street and to see these young men growing up, I saw them when they were just born so to see what a beautiful family you have and one thing being in fire services what a commitment to your life that you have to give for the protection of others in Volusia County. We deeply appreciate that to know that and see that and see firsthand what type of family man you are, I commend you sir. Great job so well done.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Take a minute.

>> I won't take much time but partly when I've in the past it's been something contentious, there's some holdout thing and we are here in our yellow shirts practicing for events or something. But they were always fair and always professional and always honorable the way everything ended. Today is a different feeling. The room feels a lot smaller, it feels closer and walking around as a firefighter with people who serve you here thank you for your service, everywhere at Publix or Walmart, thank you for your service and it's appreciated but the way we feel it's thank you for allowing it. We are able to raise our families. Retire with some dignity and it was a real pleasure serving the citizens and working with people like chief Keene, working with the finest County manager I've ever been allowed to work with, a guy who came up through the ranks, a road and bridge

guy and every time we had this adjustment board they were voting our way he resolved the matter afterwards and on a fair and honorable way and I always appreciated George for that so thank you for allowing me and thank you for allowing me to serve you guys. [APPLAUSE]

>> County Counsel take a step back that way. One more. Thanks.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Before you leave you might want to hear the vote, can I get a motion to approve the retirement? Motion to approve my vice chair Reinhart and the second game by his wife and who else? Jake Johansson. All in favor of the retirement please say aye. Everyone opposed. Only the chief end County manager. Congratulations. The vote is unanimous 7 to 0 and that takes us to item 5, proposed draft ordinance and proposed amendment to Volusia County charter regarding Blackwater and thank you, we will split this up into 2 votes, one for the charter amendment, the other for the ordinance and contrary to the speaker who is a friend of mine who said this was a shiny object, I think it's not. I think it's incredibly important that we discussed this with our constituents so I'm glad to have the opportunity to do that today.

>> Question four procedure, why are we taking it up as to items when it is on the agenda, couldn't we have the discussion and

make a discussion based on that?

>>CHAIR BROWER: We could, Mr. County attorney we discussed doing it as 2 votes. Are you comfortable with taking it all as one?

>>COUNTY ATTORNEY: Ultimately it would be counsel's decision on what you would pursue on this item so I think that's fine.

>> Thank you Mr. chair.

>>COUNTY ATTORNEY: The agenda item based on the discussion includes two items, proposed charter amendment and ordinance which they both have the same effect. On the ground. The charter amendment that's attached is in a format that any proposed charter amendment whether it comes from the CRC or something you propose, what it looks like and includes a ballot title, a summary of the ballot measure and the text of the charter amendment and there's caps on the amount of awards you can use and the title of the summary. I'm joined this evening by Doctor Erin Reed from public works who helped put this together. And navigate the state terminology. Water is a heavily preempted subject so our focus on charter amendment or an ordinance is to not create a conflict with state law because that could be a basis to invalidate that language so what's attached to the agenda item as well our definitions from the Florida administrative code which is the rules adopted by state agencies

to implement statute and some terms are defined by state law that we are navigating. In essence, I won't repeat all the language in their but the effect of the language would be too prohibit the County from approving the use by its water utility because that is what we have authority over, our water utility, not the city water utilities, cities would have control over their own. Reclaim to Blackwater, source water for either an underground injection well into the aquifer or its potable public water system. I know been and Doctor Reed and Apollo here are happy to answer any questions you may have on these proposals. If you did decide to proceed with the ordinance by state law we do have to advertise it for a certain period of time so we would return that back to you for consideration of adoption.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, before we begin with comments or a motion does any Council member have a question for staff? Councilman Dempsey.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER DEMPSEY: Apollo in our briefing this week I asked about whether we have the ability to let unincorporated area property owners opt out of mandatory tapping in of the municipal water supplies. For instance in Delhi on Springs that's all unincorporated but the city of Deland has a main that goes through 17 of through the Guinness and if an adjoining property owner wanted to tap in or change uses, do they have to tap in to the lands water supply or could they opt out and stick

with a well?

>> That depends on the size of their proposed development and how close the water level is so essentially it's altered by the utilities. And that statutory definition and if you have the single-family house availability is defined as a line has to be completely adjacent to the property and the utility can force that connection but if it's further away from adjacent that the more the larger the proposed development is the availability starts to factor in so if you have a large development of 100 single-family houses that availability reaches out to something like half a mile or even more and in which case the utility department can force that connection.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER DEMPSEY: And we have no way of giving them the option to opt out of the city water supply.

>> No because it's development driven and based on the type of utilities that are mandated.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER DEMPSEY: What about the change of use, if somebody has a structure and they want to change the use, do they have to tap into the city's water supply at that point.

>> Depends what you're changing the used to. If you're changing it such that there is no change in the water demand, and if

you're changing it to something that requires increased demand such as fire sprinklers you need an accredited water source, provide an accredited water source or have to tap into the proposed utility.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER DEMPSEY: Do we as the Council have the ability to change that or is that state code, so there's nothing we can do to change that.

>> Not that I'm aware of. That's building code and fire code driven so that's your safety codes at that point, those are not land development codes you have control over, that's a state code.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER DEMPSEY: Appreciate you looking.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Councilman Robins.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINS: I want to clean up and clarify a couple of things and I didn't get a chance to speak last meeting so I want to clear up messaging I saw cut out in the public on social media. It was said at some point Deltona was looking to inject sewage into the aquifer, is that accurate or current with the permits they had? I guess cold?

>> Deltona has been ordered to permits and they received funding

based on our information for one of those permits, the most recent permit they obtained is for what we call a non-ASR but what the state calls a non-ASR injection and that's a permit that would allow them to test the feasibility of constructing a well whether they pull surface water from the St. Johns River and treat it to a primary drinking water standard and inject it into the aquifer, that is one permit they've received and that is the grant funding they have received. During the testing phase they can only inject potable water which is drinking water treated to not just the primary drinking water standards but secondary standard what goes out into a distribution system so there's a process that's a testing phase and if everything checks out the well meets the parameters it would be able to place that well into operation which would buy their permit allows surface water from the lake to be injected in there. They've also received a second permit which is an older permit that to our knowledge they've not funded for construction and that is for an ASR well which is an aquifer supply and recovery will end in a sense that's where you can take various types of water including surface water treated to drinking water standard, potable water and treated reclaimed water. You could potentially inject that into the aquifer specifically to lower Floridian aquifer and it can remain there and they can extract it out and use it to supplement and irrigation reclaimed system. Before they would be allowed to put any treated reclaimed water into the ground they would again have to go through the testing phase where that well

would have to meet all the requirements. They couldn't during the testing phase inject treated wastewater but if it were to be moved towards an operational phase, then potentially they could based on the permit treat or inject reclaimed water into that well. To our knowledge they have not, they've received a permit to do the testing phase, they have not funded it and there only moving forward as far as we know with the non-ASR injection well.

>> Are there any other wells like this through the County.

>> When this came up we did research we've seen wells that have been permitted for ASR and for other baked locations which include Daytona Beach, Ormond Beach, utilities commission of new Smyrna Beach and Deland. To our knowledge the only well tested was the one in Deland and that one did not meet parameters and was not placed into operation.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINS: Why hasn't the county put in for this? Is there a reason we don't need it or where not exploring it or are there other options?

>> These types of wells are a type of what the state would call an alternative water supply. So the St. Johns water management District is charged with managing our water resources including the underground aquifer from which we get our drinking water. Every utility asked to get what we call a consumptive use permit

which allows so much water to be withdrawn on a daily basis and in order to protect that resource and minimize the amount of water getting withdrawn from the ground the state through the water management district through the use permits as encouraged utilities to pursue alternative water supplies. In ASR wells and injection wells for aquifer recharge. One of the methods I have deemed reasonable to use to achieve that goal. Specifically for our county we have chosen to go with other types of alternative supply. We've pursued heavily reclaimed water systems where the treated wastewater we receive at our wastewater plants get sent back out for irrigation purposes. We also have rapid infiltration basins which are essentially large percolation ponds. Because we have land available to utilize that. We also store reclaimed water above ground in aboveground storage tanks all in an effort to provide an alternative water source that reduces the annals of water we withdraw from the aquifer. We what you see when utilities pursue ASR wells is for whatever reason they don't have land available to do some of the things that require large amounts of land, for instance Port Orange restores their water in large line ponds out near to Tomoka Farms Road so if you don't have a lot of land available to do something a rapid infiltration basins ASR is considered a large alternative for recharging aquifer. We have not pursued it.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINS: Has it ever been on the radar as something we encounter, what would lead us to ever go this route

thinking of the X factor as many other people would, what would lead us to this point, are we there, are we close, is this a 100 year sound aboard our Springs still pouring enough water out of the ground in our utility.

>> What I would say to that is I can't predict the future but in terms of specifically recharge through wells there's multiple alternatives versus reclaimed water. Right now our reclaimed water is in high demand. When it's dry we typically run it and we can supplement it, we have agreements with other municipalities to supplement that. We are constructing more storage so we can get that water out to the folks that the demand we have. If there was ever a situation where the demand for the reclaimed water was less then the amount we produced we would have to find somewhere to put it and we have the rapid infiltration base to do it for that so for the future for Volusia County utilities this is not something we would see. I think the only way we would pursue any kind of injection well would be for our consumptive use permit the state came in and said you have to look hard at alternative water that got stripped with the consumptive use permit but I think we would probably propose more of a surface water injection where you pull surface water from the St. Johns River, some other source and inject it into the ground because our reclaimed water is in such high demand for irrigation, we make money off if it, we get revenue and frankly we'd like to generate more demand.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINS: Thank you Ben and with this in any way elicit some alternative water supplies and I read social media and the emails, is this in any way by possibly adopting an ordinance or charter amendment will this stop growth or stop development with all these other reclaimed, you know, projects that are out there were methods out there.

>> With respect to development development is dependent on the ability to provide utilities in some sense so you're always limited by the resources you have. If for whatever reason the state came out and said nobody gets more water, theoretically you could run into a situation where you can provide that, I don't foresee that occurring. You know, in this specific instance I don't, you know, absent some sort of massive 20 year drought or something like that I don't foresee a situation where the state comes in with that part of restrictions. One of the main concerns in Volusia County specifically West Volusia when it comes to aquifer, what your pulling up is the maximum flow requirements for the Springs those are some things we monitor at the county pretty regularly. There is a minimum flow they set that the state has set to make sure there's plenty of water coming out to support the wildlife and everything in the Springs. So they actually raised it within the last couple of years the minimum flow. And that's mostly dependent on the amount of rain we get, this is why the state doesn't want us to pump stormwater

to the river, they want it to stay in places like that.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINS: The way I understand it is as long as we're still getting rain Florida is still being Florida and the sun is still rising there would be no reason we never have to go this direction the way I understand it. You don't have to answer that but it's more of a statement but thank you Ben. Paula, a couple follow-up questions on the legal side, I want to clarify its projected last few months in the community across a lot of platforms that the county has rule over the cities utilities and we can mandate that. I know the answer to that, can you brief us real quick.

>> That is not correct, the county has regulations over its own utility service area so your charter and your home rule authority is valid to the extent it is consistent with state law so there are provisions, for example you cannot, potable reuse cannot be excluded from the water supply, that is one of the new state provisions regarding potable water so when you prohibit it for charter amendment through the charter of Volusia County through the entire region you start conflicting with that express prohibition saying potable use cannot be excluded from the regional water supply. Additionally utilities operate under Chapter 180 of Florida statutes which provide municipalities with their own utility system have the supervision and authority to operate their utilities so that's an entirely separate process.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINS: They said it's imminent we do this or the state will preempt us. Is that a valid statement or I mean, the way I understand it is we can put all these regulations in and as soon as the session the state can say no, they are gone. Is it imminent, does that make sense to you?

>> The state has previously retroactively and they've done it before with SB 180, they can retroactively affect whatever laws or charter provisions any local government can put into place unless they carve out a grandfather provision in the actual regulation itself. They can completely preempt something that has been in existence for years.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINS: So if we hypothetically adopt something today or in the next few weeks the state can some come back and say you guys, no more. Okay, is there a bill, last question, is there a bill currently that could preempt us for water quality and quantity?

>> That would be 718, that's the one this County Counsel has previously sent a letter expressing its concerns and opposing it. That would basically preempt to the state all regulations on water quality, water quantity and pollution control, stormwater, all kinds of things.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINS: So we can ban this today and in 60 days it can be wiped off.

>> It depends on the wording of the bill, that bill specifically has exclusion for the local governments own water system, local governments own wastewater system, local governments own stormwater system, you could still regulate those perfectly fine, you just can't regulate anything else so that adds to don't touch other utility provisions.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINS: Thank you Paul and last one is for the County manager. Can you talk a little bit about current F DEP projects and our relationship with that state agency and what we are up against.

>> We currently have two major projects that are in construction right now. One being the DeBary sewage treatment plant and the other being the beacon line sewage treatment plant, they are upgraded to advanced water treatment standards and there's some expansion of their capacity as well. The one in DeBary is a $67 million project, 42 million is from DEP. St. John's water management District and the remaining is from utility and ARPA funds and the one near Oak Hill is a $34 million project, 18 million from the FDEP, the remainder is from our utility and ARPA.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINS: In my district I don't know about Mr. Santiago's and DeBary, does that take affluent and pretty much keep it from going in.

>> Our utility, now we are a newer utility so we were formed a lot later than the cities but none of our utilities have ever done water discharge. They always have discharged to either the ponds or land like in the case of in your area down there in Oak Hill it was discharged into a grove for a long period of time until I think the orange greening at our Grove but we still use that land to this day for land applying the treated water.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINS: George real quick to wrap this up we depend on DEP and our relationship we've built over a number of years, probably decades. For local support when it comes to these projects, how would possibly going down this road kind of shape fat, how would it affect us or is there a possibility funding lies, is that something that could even be answered because that's one of the concerns.

>> It's hard to answer, I would say remain respectful and constant communication with the department. I think that any attempt for us to regulate something that's not in our purview to regulate would probably cause some issues with the department. But as far as us self regulating ourselves I don't think there's any issue with that but I do think again, I'm very proud of the

relationship we have built with our state agencies and our staff and in this case Michael Ulrich and his team. They've worked very well with DEP and I'm sure they will be income indication with whatever else we are doing but we never want to jeopardize that relationship because they are a major funder of our projects.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINS: Thank you, nothing further.

>>CHAIR BROWER: For all of you young people in the blue shirts that are here today to listen and learn how we function, what happens here is staff will tell us about the item and then we have an opportunity to ask staff questions and we hear from the public and then we debate it so that's what you're witnessing, Councilman Santiago.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER SANTIAGO: Rossi us senior chairman. It's not the proper way to speak in Spanish, thank you. I have one question for Ben. Then, as it pertains to the entire water providers in Volusia County, the utilities and all entities, how much water do we provide for the entire County as a percentage?

>> As a percentage of Volusia County utilities provides in terms of total customers 7% of the entire County.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER SANTIAGO: 7% of the entire County, thank you

chairman.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Councilman Dempsey.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER DEMPSEY: I appreciate it. Just to make sure I heard you right what Danny was asking you, it's my understanding there is no intention in the county to do any type of deep well injections.

>> Correct, that's not in our plan to do any injection, well injection for recharge.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER DEMPSEY: It happened if it happens in our generation, maybe not our generation but a future generation is that something they have to require County approval or something your department could start doing without any fanfare?

>> That would be a major capital project undertaking. Any design and construction would contract with the consultant or contractor assuming the managers signing levels are what they are now versus sometime in the future. Those would have to come before Council for approval, if we were to pursue that type of method for alternative water source.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER DEMPSEY: Okay, it's hard to predict how this would play out but there would not be too public readings of your

intent to begin deep well injections or anything like that.

>> There's multiple, I believe before permits are issued by DEP they have to do a public notice so that's one way. We would have to obtain a permit from DEP so that's one way the public could be informed of any activity like that. But you know, any major construction or capital project, you've seen how we planned those kind of things out. You see a five year capital plan, those things would show up in that type of situation and obviously before a contract is issued those things have to go before Council.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER DEMPSEY: If we were to pass an ordinance tonight with no deep well injections.

>> Utilizing reclaimed Blackwater.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER DEMPSEY: I want to be clear. If there was an ordinance tonight past that in order for you to do it it would require more public notice and more public debate before it could happen is that fair to say?

>> I would defer to legal but my experience if there was an ordinance prohibiting us from doing either of those two things we would not even pursue it to the point where if there became a need and I'm not saying there ever will be but if there became a

need to do it for whatever reason because of that ordinance we would have to come back to counsel and ask them to change the ordinance and I would defer to Paolo, he seems to be nodding. I'm not a lawyer, I don't play one on T.V. but I will give it my best shot.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER DEMPSEY: Let's fast-forward 100 years from now and we do need to begin this process. If it was an ordinance now there would have to be another public meeting debate and that counsel at that time would decide whether or not it should be done by vote of the Council 100 years from now.

>> That is correct, yes, assuming the state hasn't preempted us you still have authority over our own utilities and a future counsel would have to amend that ordinance first and to provide direction to staff or the utility department to explore this and assuming the rules are still in place you still have to go through the state permitting process.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER DEMPSEY: And if the future leaders and scientists approve the safety of this more than what's proposed today they could do it at that time. If they decide to do so. Okay. Thanks guys, thank you.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Councilman Johansson.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: First question for I guess Paolo. Mr. Santiago asked you a question that makes me curious. Why if an amendment, a charter amendment would take the entire County would vote for that, correct, everybody. Everybody. From every city, everybody in the county yet it only applies to the people in unincorporated.

>> Yes.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: So everybody would be voting.

>> It would control the counties utility service area.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: Which is a majority of unincorporated and some portions of some cities.

>> I'm not that well versed on utility service area but yes.

>> We would probably have more customers in the cities of DeBary and Deltona.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: But none on the east side or some on the east side. I guess I'm over the bend. I want to put this in simple terms but I'm not sure I'm doing it right. So from old days I consider it as theirs Blackwater which is where it comes out of the toilet and enters our water treatment plants. And

then what comes out of their is treated, I call it effluent but it's reclaimed water, we send that wherever we send it. Then we have water that you can make to a minimum drinking standard and then you have the water you make that we drink. Is that basically the strata, the 4 different kinds?

>> Correct, Blackwater is all wastewater, treated effluent can be treated, reclaimed standards because it goes out to the public, there's different levels of treated effluent where if you put it out in a public place which is what we do with reclaimed water versus effluent to you using a pump.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: So the treated water you put in a pump, is it not as treated as the stuff we put on our grass?

>> In our case the treated effluent we put in our pots is the same, it's also reclaimed water standards, you can have some wastewater plants that don't utilize their effluent for reclaimed water, they don't have to kick it up to that higher standard. It goes into a pond or something for percolation and it's not required to be as treated to its highest standard. Then your second part of that which you were talking about drinking water. There's two standards is what we call primary drinking water standards and secondary. When you hear about a specifically to injection into the aquifer, what they're talking about is primary drinking water standard which is a drinking water standard where

your basically removing the kind of stuff like the microbes and the bacteria that will harm you in terms of if you were to consume it. Secondary drinking water standards which is what goes out in our potable water systems so potable to secondary, secondary is more what we could call aesthetic so color, odor, organics, things that might not hurt you but might not make the water pleasant to drink so sulfur, things like that. When they talk about treating to drinking water standards for ASR and injection well they're talking about those primary standards which is eight kinds of things, the bugs and bacteria and things like that.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: What would your water treatment plant say the water we pull out of the aquifer to drink and to what level is that in that strata?

>> You'd be surprised but you can have different types of water coming out depending on your well but what I would argue is most of the water we pull out of the upper Floridian aquifer requires some level of treatment, you still have to do disinfection to get it to primary drinking water standard. You might have contaminants you have to remove whether they be housing gases, things like that, you might have to remove stuff like color and odor to get those secondary requirements so it can depend but you're going to have to do something to treat the water you pull out of the aquifer.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: I'll save that one for follow-up. Right now, I think it's the federal government and the state, both of them have guidelines on what is considered drinkable water, correct?

>> The federal government sets the standards and the state enforces those standards.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: Got it. Okay. And you said we send water, reclaimed water up to percolate.

>> Correct.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: So that water isn't treated to the primary drinking standard yet?

>> No sir, it's treated to the same reclaimed standard, the same water used for irrigation on somebody's lawn but when it's raining a lot nobody is watering their lawn so that's why we have the rapid infiltration.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: And we send it out there as reclaimed treated effluent. And it filters its way to the aquifer.

>> Correct, much like a septic tank in a drainage field. Any wastewater goes through any wastewater plant if it's not being discharged to surface water at some point works its way through the ground.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: Do we consider septic tank that drains, do we consider that treated by the time it starts percolating?

>> It's considered treated to a certain extent, probably the lowest level of treatment that is acceptable in today's world of utilities.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: I'm going to ask another question based on Mr. Dempsey's line of questioning. That string of events that would get us there, that obviously he wants to make sure we have plenty of precautions, how far out does our CIP go?

>> Our consumptive use permit?

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: Our capital improvement.

>> Five years.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: Soap five years in advance if old

Ben Bartlett gets you an idea we will know five years in advance and be able to start the shutdown process or take it off. And that's just the start. You have a lot of others, okay. That's going to be it, that's all I have, thank you very much Ben, that's all I have for Paolo as well.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Who do you have down there on the front row? I don't know if either one of you know we did a real border report every month and I don't recall the last time we saw one of the tested wells, blue Springs. I think it was blue Springs is consistently falling below the minimum standard the state has set for us, even during the rainy period. It was coming up but it's still below those standards, do you remember that?

>> I get the same report you got which shows a series of monitoring wells they record the groundwater level. I recall considering the amount of rain we've gotten the past few years that it's been above the minimum flow requirement but we can double check that. I check it every month, there might have been one or two months where it dipped below but for most of those months the amount of water on the surface since hurricanes Ian and Milton has been tremendous obviously so that water takes time to percolate through and it seems to be having an effect on the flows.

>> Check it because I remember being surprised because of the

amount of rain we had that it was still related to self. That's all the questions we have so we will hear from the public and then the Council will discuss this issue. The first person is John Nicholson and everyone as I: You come to the front, you have up to three minutes to talk about item 5 only.

>>PUBLIC SPEAKER: John Hickson Daytona Beach Beachside, to me this is coming down to the ick factor – first encounter the ick factors 70 years ago when we were playing in what was a cattle field back then blocked from the house and like most kids, most guys you walk behind a tree if you have to go to it the bathroom and take a leak and my sisters would go ick, that's terrible, that water is going into the aquifer and I look and said there's 2000 cattle here, where do you think they're going to the bathroom, where do you think their urine is going, right in the aquifer. A couple blocks away is stale, they had one thousand head of horses, where do you think their urine is going to all the animals taking a leak, all the humans at the time especially historically when they went to the bathroom go into the aquifer and I just was surprised tonight to hear that nice aquifer that we always thought was drinkable water is not drinkable water. They have to treat it. So at what point are we really talking about the ick factor? All of what we drink is not drinkable. It all has to be treated one way or another. So she's not here tonight but I wish she were, there is a woman who comes in and she has a problem with Covid. She just walked in the door.

She's part of something that really had me think and I'm asking you to think about. I've heard about plastics, plastics are so small, there in our water and we can't get enough and now they're in our bodies and they don't know what's going to happen with this plastic building up in our body like Mercury when I was a kid, we don't know what's going to happen in the body with the least fish we are eating so now she has a disease and they tested the disease by looking at the water treatment plants and through the water treatment plants they could tell how much of Covid was in the County. So if that disease is tested and they cannot take it out of the water and they cannot take plastic out of the water and they cannot take medicines out of the water, this part of the tap had me worried. I don't think we are even anywhere near it. I don't think we are really talking about it. What we are talking about if anything is the Atlantic Ocean which has plenty of water. Expensive as it is. We have a huge river. Not too far from our border. The St. John's which has a huge amount of water. That's expensive to do but more expensive than groundwater. If all goes down to expenses. And we have to go very very far in the future to go to toilet to tap so technically I'm not worried about it. If you want to pass an ordinance I'm fine with it. It's not going to matter one way or the other, thank you.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Melissa Thorne. She had to leave? Amy Muniz.

>>PUBLIC SPEAKER: Amy Munoz, DeLeon Spring and in the mid-1980s one of the largest underground fuel plumes in Florida was discovered in the downtown area of DeLeon Springs and 18 to the water for almost everyone in the downtown area. The commercial properties and landowners. When I heard about it in 2006 when I came to the area I got together with other people and we pressed FDP to clean it up and they spent five years, did a four-phase cleanup and trucked out over 63,000 tons of gas laden soil and took it to Kasumi. That's why we work so hard Mr. Dempsey to get waterway services to the downtown corridor. It gave safe drinking to our elementary school that was important with everybody else but all the rest of us are on the wells and septic systems, Mr. Brower and I have wells all the residences. And the older locations have wells and septic systems to close to each other so many of those people on smaller lots with older wells and septic systems are drinking what you're calling Blackwater unless they treat their water but for all of us no matter where you are if you have a well there's no guarantee the water you have is safe and clean that's the reason all of us need to look to treat our water no matter what whether your municipal or just on a well really it's important to check your water, important to have a cleaning system on your water but when you're talking about potable reuse water you're talking about one utility service provider named Volusia County utilities and it only covers 7% of the population of Volusia County. You don't have jurisdiction over anybody else. If you were to ask your great

phenomenal utilities director Mike Ulrich if he has it in his 10 year plan to use potable reuse water he would tell you know. So this is something not even being used anywhere in Volusia County the one area you do have jurisdiction over Volusia County utilities which serves 7% of the ocean does not have it in their five year or 10 year plan review. I feel that the charter amendment for something not happening and not being used is very much begin to what Mr. Johansson said needing a charter amendment for autonomous hovercraft because someday that technology might happen and we might need to put something in the charter right now to make that stop. That's about the same, thank you.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Wendy Anderson.

>>PUBLIC SPEAKER: Good evening, my name is Doctor Wendy Anderson and I live in District 1, it's been an interesting conversation so far and we're just getting started. It seems widely known that I have no fear of drinking highly treated water from any source. I would be perfectly fine with drinking water that has gone through and ion exchange micro comfort over reverse osmosis which could take out in fact even Covid particles, FAS, micro plastics, all these things we fear I am deeply putting any kind of untreated water into the aquifer, I don't think that but in fact we already do. It several times tonight we talked about rapid infiltration basins, the rapid part of that infiltration basin means that water is slipping through rapidly. It may or

may not be cleaned in the process last fall you all, every last one of you approved $15 million in transform 386 funds to do two mils of pipe from Mill Lake in Orange city to a hole in the ground right next door blue Springs State Park. Stormwater, possibly reclaimed water not treated you a drinkable level 1000 feet of first magnitude spring and you do that, you funded it and thought it was a good idea. Why? Because your staff told you it was safe yet Mr. Bartlett, Mr. Ulrich, Doctor Mead, they said it was safe. You have great experts here and I encourage you if you need to know more and understand more spend more time with them, bring more expert in, don't take my word for it, you often don't but do not make a decision based on emotional fraud in the bunch of height and make good decisions for the short-term and long-term for this county. We do not need an ordinance, we do not need a charter amendment and we're not going to get to this point anywhere in the near future so I would put an end to it right now.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Lynn Peterson. Is Lynn not here? Mike Pontiatowski.

>>PUBLIC SPEAKER: Mr. chair members of the Council thanks for having me, Volusia County with your help will take a giant first step preserving our freshwater supply for the future by preventing injection addition or mixing of processed Blackwater with freshwater. If allow this will be a drastic attempt to

structure freshwater supply which would continue a vicious destructive cycle of drink flush clean, clear filled build, more drink, more flush, I guess you get the picture. As well as these folks behind me. But this is one arrow in the quiver we can use to protect our water supply. Critical conservation efforts to reduce use countywide, removal of the current harmful forever chemicals that exist in every drop of water from every bead benefit ground in Volusia, that's a today problem to the slowing of unabated growth which compounds these problems with one of its most destructive facets of being the removal of natural soils trees and open spaces which for millions of years acted as natural filters clean rain runoff stormwater so it does not reach our aquifer. It does so in amounts sufficient to quench the thirst of existing populations. We need to reduce stormwater runoff for many existing communities and bodies of water or cisterns that may do the trick making that one or more available as a potable water source delivering a copious amount on a yearly basis that now allow us to freely flood runoff and in some cases destroy our homes businesses and our habitats. But let me not cloud the issue today and I support this charter amendment and ordinance 110% is not of one and done, there are many more heavy lifts so it's time to keep your sleeves rolled up as the hard work of economic survival is dead ahead and one more thing, I believe today's vote and I hope today's vote will be a 70 in favor of you gentlemen supporting this ordinance in this charter amendment let's not make it a one off. When Volusia forever

comes before you and it will come for you but to make a record of 70 in favor of protecting Volusia forever because it's a forever program. 75% of us voted for it as well as most of these folks behind me so remember 70 in favor today, 70 when it comes before you later this year, thank you very much, God bless and keep up the good work.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Ted Rhodes.

>> Thank you for taking my questions, Ted Rhodes currently standing up at a local news outlet so I'm coming here as a resident and also as a journalist. I'm excited to see grassroots campaigns gain support to influence lawmakers to vote real change. But first I have to say I am not at all taking a position on what you have before you today. I'm just here for questions and one thing I'd like to know is there have been a lot of questions from all of you also so Mr. Ben has also said all the water we have, drainage, sewage, irrigation water, it all ends up in the aquifer anyway. So here are my questions, if we have irrigation water and it seeps down into the aquifer, seems to me that water might contain some contaminants. So I don't know how this man today would address them. So I really don't know that we need a blanket ban, almost what I'd rather see is some sort of a statute that would establish a minimum standard of contaminants or purity before any water ends up into our soils. So you know, I haven't really been doing a lot of research. I'm

not an expert on any of this, I only know what I see there's a lot of buzz on the Internet and I'm seeing a lot of that. I'm just a dumb infantry soldier so I need some time special education to understand these complex issues. I guess what I'm saying is I don't know that we are ready yet. All of you made a lot of questions and I don't know that we are ready to make such a blanket ban. Rather than man, how about let's get some specifics, set some standards, take a breath in this isn't a decision we necessarily have to make today. So I'd like to know if we are abandoning what specifically are we banning, are there specific, is there data specifics of what we are banning? Also I haven't heard much on solutions. I'm hearing from with Miss Wendy here about solutions and maybe we need to discuss that equally as much as we do when we talk about bans or setting standards. So if anybody wants to educate me on this, they can reach me on the Internet on roads news, thank you.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Gary Singleton.

>>PUBLIC SPEAKER: Gary Singleton, Volusia County residents. I can think of no brighter shiny object than the banning of someone is treated sewage being piped into our homes. I want to be clear, I do not want toilet to tap, I do not support toilet to tap. I'm going to repeat that, I don't support toilet to tap. I don't want it. What I want for this counsel is to address the reasons why there's a search for alternative sources of potable

water and why you would need to ban an alternative source. What I want for this counsel is for you to address the reason why our source of drinking water, the aquifer may someday be inadequate to supply our needs. To acknowledge the effect of unrestrained and irresponsible development on our most precious resource. To do your sworn duty to serve the citizens of Volusia County. To do your job and manage our best supply of potable water so there is no need for search for alternative sources. Every square foot of wetlands you allowed to be destroyed is a square foot of aquifer recharge area must forever. Every gallon of water you rapidly dumped into our inadequate stormwater system is a gallon of water shuttled into the ocean if it makes it past our living rooms read wetlands and watersheds must be protected and allowed to hold rainfall so it can recharge the aquifer and discharge the remaining runoff slowly so the natural and man-made stormwater system capacities are not exceeded. Eliminating an alternative source that nobody wants is easy. Doing the right things to manage our most precious resource requires courage.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Elana Kraft.

>>PUBLIC SPEAKER: Good evening, my name is Elena Kraft representing protect Volusia and I want to start by saying how encouraged I am to see Volusia County taking a proactive step with this ordinance. Acknowledging an issue early before it becomes inevitable takes courage and leadership and it makes me

proud to live in a county willing to do that. The reality is potable reuse is no longer theoretical red communities around us are moving in this direction Altamonte Springs for example the pure alto program is publicly described as taking wastewater and producing highly purified water as part of a future water supply. And in places like Deltona officials are grappling where to put increasing volumes of wastewater as growth continues. These are no longer hypotheticals, this is what happens when development begins to outpace environmental limits. When we talk to residents about potable reuse the most common first reaction is surprise people ask is that even being considered and that reaction is completely understandable because most people would never imagine something like this could be on the table. Drinking water is something people consider fundamental and non-negotiable so when they learn about it the concern is immediate real and to address comments made tonight Mr. Robbins said as long as Florida continues in Florida we are getting rain, we won't run out of water. That statement is simply false. The issue isn't whether we get rain, the issue is whether the aquifer and supply it at the rate we are pumping it out, in other words pumping water faster than the aquifer recharge is what creates troubles and to address the other issue brought up about treated sewage versus natural percolation injection pumps treated wastewater directly into the wastewater under pressure while percolation allows water to slow naturally filtered down through soil in natural layers before reaching groundwater. The key term

is natural filtration. I'd also like to mention a local environmental scientist compared potable reuse to a root canal, something we may not want but useful to have available. I see it differently. Situations that lead to root canals are often preventable and the same principle applies here read decisions about sustainable growth determine whether communities end up needing toilet to tap so we have to recognize these systems depend on technology monitoring, funding, human operation all working correctly for decades there are so many uncertainties that must be addressed prior to implementation and giving the people the opportunity to vote on this charter amendment will bring about much needed transparency and scrutiny, thank you very much.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Greg Gimbert. He's spoken already.

>>PUBLIC SPEAKER: Greg Gimbert, Daytona Beach Florida. We covered a lot of ground and thanks to Jake Johansson and Danny Robins, on the other hand it's never going to come, why bother and on the other they're going to preempt us so why bother, it's been The Y bother show all day long, if you're looking for excuses not to do it it's infinite, we could have said he heard the same stuff before again and again yet here we are today so is it coming, yes, is it dangerous, yes, even your own utility director said might not hurt you. So we know about preemption, we all just fought two years of flooding, they ignored the

cities, the counties, the counties and the cities when they tried to file suit, they're not going to ignore the citizens and what you guys do tonight is on you but after tonight we aren't going to quit. We've seen year after year, meeting after meeting us lose more of our local control and our local: First we are not going to change our comp plan, then we're only going to change our Coughlin once a year and you got to wait every six months and thanks to Governor Scott no waiting for changes at all and now we change them every month you we have the city commission and you wonder how the aquifer got the way it is and it's from writing all these long-range plans. If not in any plan but you never stop doing a long-range plan yet, never know what we're all talking about in the future let me talk about a more likely future what if we don't do this? Let's be the next community that goes to poopy water and it will go on and on until every redneck between Tallahassee gets a clue and says it's not a city sicker slicker problem there putting it in the aquifer and it will stop but for the people already doing this they are screwed, they're going to end up drinking it because everybody else will make you stop putting it in the aquifer so we haven't done it yet and this is the only way to make sure we never get any plans for it. People are fond about our kids leaving and economic development and all kind of political blah blah so let's say day one we don't do this. You're the next community that goes under. What about year one, there's no longer plans to move years, not for people, not for companies and what about five years out, you

run all the projects out of the pipeline. I work in construction trades, we got five-year plans and we stick to them, as soon as there's sewage water nobody's planning to move there anymore, not moving any companies, nobody's going to leave to follow their job to Watertown, is one way out, all your best and brightest out Daytona State, how are you going to attract people there? You need to let the people vote on this they don't want to hear all the excuses.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Michelle.

>>PUBLIC SPEAKER: How are you doing today. I know you are pleased to see me today. When it comes to the poopy water situation I think it's pretty poopy. We've seen some people that believe in science and they believe in government, I was one that believes in science and the government and from then I'm suffering from multiple autoimmune issues, I'm taking $20,000 worth of medicine stay alive being pushed into cancer. Because I trusted the government I took the Covid vaccine but when I looked during Covid there was surveillance going on when they were testing the wastewater to see if the SARS 2 was going up or down and also omicron so it wasn't hospitals giving you reports, it was also giving the county and city, NIH, the CDC as well as the Department of Health. There was a tractor you contract every two weeks and as of now there still tracking and right now there's four places in Florida, orange County is one that has an increase

of Covid. It's doing that because they're testing the wastewater from what's excreted from us but a lot of people don't realize the people injured like me suffering that you cannot get a test here in the US, I had to get it from Germany and it shows the science tells you you are supposed to be having a spike in your body wanted you days, three months, on 1864 days producing a spike and is pushing me to cancer and there's nothing they can do to me. My blood vessels, my blood cells are bursting and everything else. Are you going to take a piece of paper and make the constituents sign the consent form doing them, you giving immunity. I'm not saying this right but they shouldn't worry about future generations, they shouldn't worry about their health or any immune compromise that will happen because if you make them sign a piece of paper saying that it's their problem if they get sick, that you have a consent to say we're safe if you get sick, it's not my problem, that's not fair to your constituents. I don't care how much you're going to purify this letter as long as they can look at the water still see what's going on. It's going to be a huge problem for future generations. I found out I'm going to be a grandmother I don't want my grandchild drinking this water. And if there's any other information you need ID glad to pull it up. But we have problems with our water before Karen and I care about everyone in here and I don't want anyone of you or any of you having to live through what I had to do some trust the science, trust the government. I wouldn't think so. It's not worth it because I'm dying from it so I thank you.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you for all who came up to speak. I'm going to ask the Council in just a minute to make a motion to approve both the ordinance and the ballot amendment which is why the county attorney and I talked about splitting it up because the ballot amendment requires five votes in the charter, the ordinance requires 4 votes. But can you put that picture up for me? This is from the United States geological survey. Note the difference between the upper Floridian aquifer and lower Floridian aquifer. Note the direction of flow. It leaches up into the upper Floridian aquifer, all lines go up. Look at the confining layer, it's porous, it's shown as a dashed line here. This is the US geological services survey map so when you hear any government saying they're going to take the cleaned up sewage and shoot it into or underneath the Florida aquifer, our drinking aquifer and it will stay there I would recommend you be skeptical it seems to come up with very obvious and inherent risks we had at least according to the US geological survey map. It seems obvious to me we should be putting this stuff in any part of the aquifer. Will the poopy water leach into West solutions officer, will it flow, is that a risk you want to take or will it sit there and leach right up? Can you show us the next picture? This is also one of their maps and I want to read one line from it, the line that's underlined says the lower Floridian aquifer contains rush to brackish water in northeastern Florida while in South Florida is salient and used to dispose of effluent from

wastewater treatment processes. That water will it stay there or will it follow the lines the US geological survey says. Will it go up, next slide please. Here's a slide we keep seeing from time to time about, it goes about recovery wells. Look at the reclaimed water and then the native groundwater on both sides. It doesn't show them mixing, have you ever poured clean water to dirty water conceded not mix especially with arrows that we just saw. All this water moves all the water is has upward pressure on it.

. Just a couple lines from the Floridian aquifer system. It paves as an aquifer over much of the extent. Here's the important line, while in South Florida it is salient and used to ask dispose of effluent from wastewater treatment processes, that's what's already happening. It's not in the future. Does it stay there? The likelihood of it moving is small but in different areas other units of the aquifer system are hydraulically connected to equivalent units composing the upper part of the aquifer and the degree of water change is a matter of debate so our best scientists are telling us it's a matter of debate. We don't know yet. Next slide please. So do you feel like taking the chance of poisoning the entire aquifer, it's already struggling. One line, it tends to have a vertical migration. This is from an independent engineering company. Tends to have a vertical migration component because of the density difference and the greater buoyancy then the target zone. Few wells have been taken out of service because the seals

designed to prevent this migration failed, out of 32 wells seven wells have failed and the non-drinkable water full of bacteria, the bacteria is detected, that's 22% of these wells have failed, are you willing to take that risk. Next slide please. So why does this happen? Why do the wells fail? Usually is because of fracturing rented by drilling through the confining layers of stone of tectonic forces can do it and the forces that cause singles sites where fracturing is well-developed such as the Palm Beach County wastewater has eventually migrated substantial differences in a very short time we had a few hundred meters 2.5 years so maybe we don't have to worry about this you really do you want the children to me the game face that this is never going to happen? It's going to happen. I'll come back to this but extends that is not happening anywhere, it's happening in Altamonte Springs area it's been happening in self will run for a long time, it's happening in Sanford, it's here, David Santiago.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER SANTIAGO: Thank you Mr. Chairman and on the information you posted from the departments, I don't have any dispute. I believe it for what it's worth. Where I am struggling Mr. Chairman is first let me say this to the audience and anybody listening I don't think anybody appeared once water polluted work bad for you. To serve it to you, there's no one up here that wants it, we don't want our kids to do it. There's none of that motivation happening here. But I sit here and I

think I say part of our job is to be problem solvers. It's the role the say. But then I start thinking what's the problem? For Volusia County I want to make sure I'm clear, that's what we govern, that is it. What is the problem for Volusia County, the governance we have? I can't find it. I can't find it because we have no plans to do any of this. I wouldn't support this. You walk up to the average Joe and you say do you want to drink poopy water, they will tell you no, that's a pretty easy statement to say people don't like this, of course, one in 100 will say I don't want to drink that but our job is to do a little bit more deep dive into look into things and find real problems because I say this is a County solution looking for a County problem. Mr. Chairman, we are not doing it. It can only control our own destiny. What a citizen initiative wants to do on their own they can do it, the cities considering doing this, go lobby the legislature because the legislature controls the water, lobbied them and say we don't want this because they can circumvent us anyway if we did something but Volusia has zero plans to do this. Don't be fooled by what you're seeing on social media that that is what we are doing. It is a con game as it pertains to Volusia County. I know the warriors will go crazy, you're going to see it, my name will be in highlights and welcome to all of them but what I'm telling you is the truth, Volusia County has no plans to do this you hundred questions about the process and you know the process, for anything like this to come even on the horizon is going to be years out and guess what, filled the chamber for the

people who say no we don't want that but the people will be interacting with us saying at that point whether we want this or not, that's the process. To create a problem that doesn't exist for Volusia County and I am very concerned that if we ever put this as a referendum people can be deceived to think this would be solving in a County solution. It doesn't. We are only 7% of the water users, that's it. For us to put something like that on the ballot would be doing a disservice from this dais. From this dais it would be a disservice because we would be putting something in there that could happen people think this will affect the entire county when it does not. So I'll wrap up with don't believe social media folks. This is not a county problem and they are going to be out there very vigilant. The ones that talk the most that get the good intentioned but good people that want to know the facts often don't engage, this is my problem with social media, will don't want to engage because they're going to be attacked like I'm going to be attacked tonight and tomorrow for tell you the truth. If it were problem trust me I'd be diving in but I don't want this for my kids and I'm not going to pull the wool over your eyes, the other 93% of the drinkers of our water telling me we're putting a solution forward.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Jake Johansson.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: Thank you sir, I apologize for not paying too much attention last meeting. I thought we all walked

away saying we were going to hear this the first meeting in water so I wind up some professionals with some scientific but they won't be available so I'll go basically on some of the things that we all talked about when we had a quick conference call number one is I think we need to address the fears of our public. And the bottom line, the poopy water think is a key, you're right but bottom line, we end then and everybody on the staff wants to give our public the last cleanest water to drink. And I know every city wants to do the same thing. Every city in the county wants to do what they can under the confines of our current Florida culture to preserve the aquifer. To the best of their ability. We use reclaimed water but we don't stop planting beautiful green grass. We have reclaimed water that can be green so we're good for now, we don't catch rainwater yet. We don't, we're not very careful about how we use water in our house. Until those things happen I don't think there telling everybody I turn my shower off between wash and rinse. So I think we need to address that. Not that we are not but I think that needs to be the conversation. I concur with most people that we do need to protect our aquifer and I think what we need to do is switch the conversation over or at least in tandem have the conversation about getting everybody off these old septic tanks, especially in our very vulnerable areas and get them on the newer septic tanks if we can provide them sewer. The ultimate would be too provide them sewer because then we are catching that water and we can use it for reclaimed when it is running short. What we're trying to

regulate we don't have. If we want to regulate these things that have been brought up, we can do that. And Ben showed us the way five years out the CIP. Then taking that off the list, we're not doing that now. And then throughout the process we can keep on hitting them until they get right and it will start taking his birthday away, I don't care. What's I don't want to do is something we talk about all the time. I also don't want to restrict future councils. I want to give them the ability to go thank God they didn't do that because we are in extremists now and we need to come up with alternative ways to take care of it and no pun intended, but this idea might be a little more palatable in 40 years. I don't know. Last but not least we don't want to ask the legislature to help us with this. Every day we stand up and say home rule, home rule, home rule. I don't want to start asking them to preempt to make it easier for us. So I'm inclined to just because this only affects our service area, I'm inclined to not really want to go anywhere with this right now although some good points were brought up. Bottom line we need good clean drinking water. We need to work every day and if you pay attention to the Fed every day there looking at things other than water that need to be regulated. P FAS was one of the couple million parts per something now it's for. Something we need to get to here in the county so I think we keep on working hard to get the best and cleanest water we can get. Thank you very much chairman.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Councilman Dempsey.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER DEMPSEY: Guys, I'm happy to hear you guys talk about future generations the way we address stuff in 40 years or future generations because I want to address the ordinance first because I'm kind of split on how I think I'm going to vote. I am definitely in favor of an ordinance prohibiting B12 injections and potable reuse and I'll tell you why even though there is no foreseeable future for this county and using this as everybody's testified I do think it's around us and it concerns me the question is on what side do we want to err? If we are someday going to need deep well injections for potable reuse in the county, I think that's something future generations should be able to debate. I want to make sure the public is aware if and when it happens and they're able to debate it and make sure the future counsel is able to debate it, that's why I'm in favor of an ordinance because that will force the county public notice out there to everybody to see because now we're talking about changing an ordinance which requires a lot for dissemination of information to the public and what we are talking about. Then at that .40 years from now Jake then that science may have improved. We may have better science and we may have more of the need and just two, we are not labeling this ordinance no toilet to tap or no deep well injection forever or in perpetuity because I'm not arrogant enough to think I know what's best for future generations in 40 years, I am not a prophet so I can't sit here

and tell you what the future holds for Volusia County but I think if there is a need for deep well injection that needs to be heavily debated, heavily noticed and put before the Council at that time and they can vote and the reason for passing this is because we would air on the side of no, I think we should air on the side of not trusting the science because once we put this into the aquifer, who knows what's going to happen. We trusted science with the Titanic and you know how that turned out. We trusted science with Agent Orange and we know what that did to our veterans, we trusted science with Covid vaccine Reno that did. This has been going on for a while. Bill Gates, I challenge everyone in this room to Google Bill Gates and Jimmy Fallon, poopy water January 2015 on Jimmy Fallon. Bill Gates challenged him to drink two glasses, one poopy water, one bottled water. And he drank it. Mr. Gates was pushing this new invention that his foundation was propping up, the Omni processes. Basically telling us 11 years ago this reclaimed water is somehow safe. That's fine. But I don't want to do it and then figure out later on it turned out to be the next biggest mistake in science. If you ask the parents of mothers who use thalidomide where it was marketed in 1950 as being completely safe to treat pregnant women for morning sickness and as a result of 10,000 children received severe birth defects which included shortened or no limbs at all, I don't want to trust DES. Cause all kinds of birth defects and heightened cancer, cervical cancer. I don't trust the science. And before I think we go

ahead and make our entire County a guinea pig by just putting it in there and let's see what happens, I think we should air on the side of no rent we need to go ahead and put an ordinance in place, not in perpetuity, not forever. But in place so that when and if it becomes necessary to implement this. Then it could be debated hotly based on current science and the current conditions of the county we have none of us I would think there's a saying we know it's going to happen 50 years from now or 100 years from now in our county that's why I think we need to put this in place. Let future generations deal with it because I keep hearing over and over it's not an issue now so why are we dealing with it? Maybe we shouldn't deal with it but we need to put in place a presumption of no until proven otherwise and a future counsel meeting, that's all, thanks guys.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Councilman Joy Kent.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER KENT: I was going to start out by saying I respect what David Santiago had to say but I'm not going to start that way because I actually respect everything that you six gentlemen have to say on all the issues we have even if I disagree where you are. Don, to kind of Endor begin where you were ending, many of you don't know and don't blame me if I don't know this but I spent the better part of 15 years in the city of Ormond Beach fighting to get fluoride out of the water. I mentioned that to you because of what's happened in the past

year. But I was railing against this and trying to teach my fellow commissioners that fluoride, flooring is the promiscuous element and the only element that will leave when it's with for something it likes a little bit more. It has some great bonding abilities. And it might have some medicinal purpose in a topical usage. But to drink this stuff and when I saw the machine turn against me and they marched the health department in and that Doctor from the health department at the time and I said to the good doctor will you sign a piece of paper that says the health department is responsible for all medical issues from childhood infancy to old age. Because they wouldn't ask the question what happens if you drink twice the recommended amount of water every day, if you drink 16 glasses instead of eight, what does it do in your cooking with this stuff, etc. I only mentioned that because it took the good doctor in the state of Florida to come out with a statewide ban against Florida dating water. And I railed on this for 15 years. In the city of Ormond Beach and we are talking about trusting the science and they say trust what we are putting in your water. I am also against fear mongering and people will get upset with me because I will call them a fear mongering. You're not going to like this many of you but there is no water problem where we are. I can meet you at Silver Glen if you want and we can go swimming at Silver Glen tomorrow, it's 72° year-round, their 35 million gallons of water pumping out of that spring had every day. You couldn't swim down there and hold onto the spring had, it will push you out there's so much

pressure. Because there's so much pressure that water has to go somewhere and it's getting pushed out of the aquifer into the St. John's out into Jacksonville and the Atlantic Ocean and it becomes where you can't drink it. There is no water shortage issue. That I'm convinced that all. And if you still don't believe me come to my house Ormond Beach Beachside and my house is on the top of a sand dune. And if you want you and I can take turns with a shovel and we can dig down to about 6 and a half feet and we're going to hit freshwater. We can put it through a filter and I'll drink it with you. No water shortages what I'm saying here but that being said counsel I don't see the problem. With an amendment Don. And putting this out to a vote on the charter. So it might not be happening today, might not be happening tomorrow. I've always, I will never have problems letting the people vote on any issue we had it's obviously talked about in other areas, we've heard about other local counties, we've heard about Dell ~keeps being brought up. So the discussion is there. I just haven't been convinced that what's the harm in not only passing the amendment allowing people to vote on it so I'm ready to make a motion combining them but Don you scared me a little bit because I think you want them separated. I will make a motion right now to approve the proposed amendment only, going to break this up chairman. To approve the proposed amendment, I will make that motion. On the ordinance, sorry. Then after that I'm planning on making a motion to allow this to go for a proposed charter vote.

>> So you said you split them up. The first one was a motion, you said amendment but now you said the ordinance. Okay, so that's the motion is to improve the ordinance. Which takes four votes and you seconded that. In the Don seconds it.

>>CHAIR BROWER: David Santiago. Do you need to speak before David speaks?

>>COUNCIL MEMBER SANTIAGO: I'll be quick and you said it, ordinance goes majority vote, a vote of five.

>>CHAIR BROWER: And then I believe you have a follow-up for this. Councilman Santiago.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER SANTIAGO: Don I had to do a little research because of you. You reference the Titanic and the builders of the time that did not claim explicitly that it was unthinkable. It wasn't designed to hit an iceberg. That being said Troy, I didn't know what you were going until the end. But aren't you concerned that citizens of the 90 3% of the other people that will vote on this are going to think it's going to solve or protect them from whatever this amendment says.

>> Thanks chairman, may I rip we gave ourselves a time limit five minutes and I went on a tangent about fluoride in the water

and use up a lot of my time but David, that's something I wanted to touch on so I appreciate that. I look unfortunately or fortunately I look at our nation's capital as the leader and then I look at our state and then I look at our county and then I look at our cities in that order and I feel like us doing this, we are leading the way for our cities. We are showing them hey,, this is how we feel about this. I started with I wanted to applaud you for your comments and I respect what you say. Even though I might not agree 100% but yes, I'm still okay with it even though 93%, we are dealing with 70% of the water in the county, Ormond Beach, Daytona Beach is the largest one or dealt on a beach with the most people so you've got those three giants with the water, new Smyrna, Port Orange but I look at us as the leaders of our county and I think this cities look to us as that leader like they're taking that step so that's why I'm okay with it.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER SANTIAGO: I wouldn't subscribe to that but an ordinance alone can do that. My biggest concern, I may be okay with the ordinance. It's a statement from us and that's a leadership statement. So my concern is where I'm trying to change your thoughts put us on the board for is the fact that 93% will think it's for them and it's not but if it's about leadership and sending a message to the other 16 cities I'm okay with it and we can do that without a referendum. The citizen initiative can still go on but it's us, when it comes from us it's endorsed by us. And I don't want to deceive the people. If

it passes, it will pass, the way the question is written it will pass and I don't have a problem with that 93% of the people are going to think we did something for them and we didn't and that's all, thank you Mr. chair.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Councilman Johansson.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: Quick question for the chairman, we're voting on the ordinance. So I want to give you my reason I'm going to say no and that answer is I am a less government, less regulation kind of guy. We are not doing anything, we are not going to be doing anything. I don't want to put something on the books for something that's not happening. If that's going to happen I'm going to do an ordinance a week on some other stuff that's not happening, it's just beyond me so thank you.

>>CHAIR BROWER: David, I agree when you said here's the truth, control our own destiny and that's what we're doing here is controlling our own destiny. Jay, you've said numerous times it's not happening, we are worried about nothing and you've heard over and over again it is happening all around us. Prevention only works before it is in your own house. So we are taking preventative action to protect our own citizens from that science, from the reports I just showed said is not settled science. And Wells, the wells don't work all of them. They leak so do we want to take that risk? I'm not willing to take that

risk for our constituents. The state of Florida thinks we're going to have water problems. That's why they have approved this as an alternate approved clean water source. It's being done in Altamonte Springs as a tester, it's being done for real in Brevard County, it's being done for real with horrible results in the South Florida, in Miami and beyond. So we do need to control our destiny. I don't know who will be here after the next election even or after in 10 years or 20 years or 100 years. Will our citizens think we've done something for them? I hope so because we have. We protected them having to drink cleaned up sewage water into our aquifer or direct consumption into their potable water supply. I think you listened to the telephoto meeting last night, their own utility director said it's not really drinking water. When it was asked why can't we just drink this? You can't drink it and then he admitted the injection process was injecting cleaned up sewage water, reclaimed water, black water. It started as black water, it's treated and he said you can treat into drinking water standards and injected. So the veil is off. We know what's going to happen. We can't outlaw Deltona or any other city but I'll tell you what, they are looking for leadership. Daytona Beach is going to vote on this tomorrow, they're looking to us for leadership and Edgewater or Ormond Beach, I don't know which will go first, they are all putting this on the agendas not because they were forced to because they believe the state when they say, when the state says because of the amount of development that's occurring we need to

make sure we have a future water supply and out of all the things we could do this is it, cleaned up sewage water rent there's talk about conservation, I'm all for conservation and we need to deal with that. But there's not going to be anything worth conserving once we put this in hyperspeed and injected sewage water into our aquifer. What are we going to preserve at that point? So I am a yes vote on the ordinance. I want to see the ballot amendment also right now we are only dealing with the ordinance and again I'll just say prevention only works if you start it before the project is in our own house. Does our county manager want to do it, does Michael Ulrich want to inject this into our aquifer, no I don't know how long any of our staff will be here or how long any of us will be here so let's give our own citizens local control and say no. Don Dempsey.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER DEMPSEY: Jake, to counter what you were saying about what's not an issue so we shouldn't create an ordinance, it's not even an issue and I agree, there doesn't appear to be an issue in our lifetime we do an act land-use codes for instance not because there's a fuel farm in Ormond but we do have zoning regulations if somebody wants to put one in you have to have public hearings and as we saw last time it brought up public and the masses so all I'm saying is this is a way of saying you can't do this until we have public hearings on it and Council votes on it. This is a way of setting it up so if they want to do this type of science and technology 100 years from now it will be

publicly noticed, it will be debated, I'm sure the public will turn out for that the way to they turned out for Belvidere. That's why I'm in favor of this as a protection and I always like to air on the side of know until I'm proven beyond a reasonable doubt so to speak that the science is safe. I'm not necessarily convinced now, it's moot now because we are not even putting it in our aquifer yet when that happens I want to make sure the public is adequately noticed and the Council at that time votes on it and I don't know how the vote would go but at least it would be an issue for later generations they can deal with it. We are not making this forever, they're not making this in perpetuity like some things in this county. I leave this available for future generations to vote on.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: Mike I do a quick reply?

>>CHAIR BROWER: You were next.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: Very quickly, I understand your point. I beg to differ, that's all.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Councilman Santiago.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER SANTIAGO: I want to respond to you because you reference ordinances in the comp plan but those are tools we put out for people that want to do things in this community. What

we're talking about, what this body governs this body and its leadership have said we have no plans to do this, we don't intend to I think you did ask some good questions about the process and the timing of this. I don't know how this vote is going to go but I don't want the public to leave with if this vote fails to leave with the pretense this will not be on a public, if it ever comes back again it will not be on a public docket somewhere. We said there's permits in DEP, process there that are public notices, there's funding cycles that are 5 to 10 years out, this will not go under the radar for whoever's governing appear at the time to make a public statement and deal with it. So the bogeyman is not there. Thank you, you can stay over there.

>>CHAIR BROWER: You're going to have to restrain yourself.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER SANTIAGO: Keep that stuff on Facebook so Don I respect you but we are making the law where it doesn't need. It's not necessary. And again if it were in front of me today to say Volusia County wants to do this I would probably say no. And I think most people will at the time depending what the public sentiment is and what the science is all I'm just looking for a problem that doesn't exist.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Other than Deltona.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER SANTIAGO: I know you represent Deltona and I've

stood quiet for a while there because there was a lot of misstatements may and you kept talking about drinking water, you neglect to mention the two parts of drinkable water that then been clearly stated in the surface water pulled from the river was at stage one which they don't make it as a drinking water rent that's what they were going to use, I'm not offending them but I've stood quiet but not read your social media posts and I'm sorry to the public and have to read all these misstatements out there even from our chair, I was quiet but I've had enough of you falsely accusing Deltona.

>>CHAIR BROWER: I'll repeat what Deltona's city their utility manager said that they will clean up that river water to drinking water standards but when commission members said why don't we drink it his answer was is not drinkable.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER SANTIAGO: See the full truth. We just learned. Just be intellectually honest.

>>CHAIR BROWER: I'm being totally honest.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER SANTIAGO: I was being home and you took me out of my shell. Let's keep it there.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Councilman Robbins wants to speak, go ahead.

>> Weibel spoke to him three times except for myself. Let's, yeah. You are good Troy, it's a long one. You're sitting. Call for the vote.

>>CHAIR BROWER: I don't see any details on the board, I want the public that two ladies in the blue shirts that are here trying to learn how we operate so what we are voting on is just the motion on the floor is just for an ordinance that could be changed by a future counsel pretty easily. The ordinance says that we cannot add any kind of treated sewage into our potable water supply or inject it into the aquifer, that's what we are voting on red Clarissa would you call the roll for the ordinance please.

>>.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: No.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER KENT: Yes.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER REINHART: No.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINS: No.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER SANTIAGO: No.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER DEMPSEY: Yes.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Yes and the ordinance fails 3 to 4. Okay, Mr. Kent now we have the question of the ballot amendment.

>> Filed a motion to approve the proposed balance amendment regarding Blackwater.

>>CHAIR BROWER: A motion to approve the proposed balance amendment that would prohibit treated Blackwater into the drinking water or the aquifer and I would say that this is the infinity of local control because it would not be any of us preventing this, it's not us saying you can't do this. It's allowing the people that are most affected, but people that drink the water in unincorporated Volusia is utility areas. They get to vote on do they want this in their water system anytime in the future, can it ever be changed Don, it is harder, it is harder, to stay way up on the top shelf. Counsel can't change it, it would have to be voted on by the people I really like that idea and I think it's appropriate for us to make it difficult to inject this if in 20 or 30 years we have science that says it's absolutely harmless to drink cleaned up sewage water we can use reverse osmosis for every gallon of clean water, there's five, six, 7 gallons of toxic waste we have to deal with and where you're going to put that, do we inject that into the aquifer, there's no easy answers. Let's give the residents the benefit of the doubt and not force them to have this come up. The state

approved it because of the amount of development that goes on. And it was a dangerous compromise. I believe with others opens community to allow them to continue to build just one more house past our clean water supply. Every land has a carrying capacity of what life is considered to sustain and if we are going to allow treated sewage water into the aquifer and pollute the whole system your well, my well, I want to give the residence the opportunity to vote on. Don Dempsey.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER DEMPSEY: I was curious in light of the fact there's a lot of municipalities voting on this issue in the near future and I-4 one and a, I don't like preemption on any level I don't like the state trying to preempt us and I don't believe I could in good conscience try to preempt cities from doing what they want to do so that's the reason I want to split the vote. Because I'm just not comfortable with us going to the cities what the state is attempting to do to us and tell us what to do with our own water through 718 so I don't know if it's possible to table this issue to a later date so we can see how these cities are handling this issue. There commission votes and then I don't know, when the latest we can address this at a future date. That's my question.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Jake Johansson.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: Is this for the amendment? The

charter amendment? I need help. The charter amendment, I'm just asking, Don is asking for a continuance because he doesn't want to preempt the cities. But this amendment doesn't apply to the cities. The charter amendment does not apply at all to anything other than our service area. We are leading the entire County to vote on what would affect our service areas, is that correct? We are not doing anything to the cities other than allowing them to vote for water that isn't part of their service area. And that's what David had mentioned earlier. And I haven't gotten a lot of emails saying I want to influence what the unincorporated service area or the Volusia County service area is trying to do or not trying to do because we're not trying to do it, thank you.

>> I wanted to ask Paul on this in no way is attempting to affect the city's ability to control its own water.

>> We wrote it so it only affects the Volusia County utilities.

>> This in no way.

>> It applies to your service area. So as we stated before your service area includes some municipalities and vice versa, some municipal service areas include the unincorporated areas so we are talking about service area.

>> Point of order chair, we're having a discussion being timed

and we haven't even gotten a second. There is a motion made by Mr. Kent, no second as of yet.

>> I will withdraw my question then.

>> Is there a second? On Mr. Kent's motion.

>> I'll second it so we can have a discussion. Paula, so I'm sure there's no chance of us by doing this it will preempt the cities in any way?

>> We are not preempting their utilities because you're only affecting our utilities, to the extent a city is in the Volusia County utility service area, then I don't know it's not really preemptions, it's our utilities but we are affecting municipal residents because they are in the Volusia County service area and under Volusia County utilities. I just want to give an accurate answer.

>> I'm ready to go.

>>CHAIR BROWER: I would add to your concern Don not only are we not preempting the city, all we're doing is letting the residence vote on whether or not that it's the ultimate in the government in a Republic where the people get to make a decision. And the cities will do it if they want to but they are looking to us for

leadership. There watching us. Daytona goes tomorrow and then at least two other cities. I think we need to show them the leadership that let their own residence vote on whether or not they want to add treated sewage water to their drinking water or aquifer, councilmember Santiago.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER SANTIAGO: We've belabored this point a bit and I call the question.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Clarissa would you call the vote, this vote is for a charter amendment, this counsel has the authority to put the amendment directly on the ballot for the citizens to vote, not us to vote on the final outcome but the citizens.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: No.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER KENT: Yes.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER REINHART: No.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINS: No.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER SANTIAGO: No.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER DEMPSEY: Yes.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Yes, and that required five votes and we only got three so the motion is not passed for the charter. And that concludes item 5. Item 6. Appeal by Clayton Benny oh of the planning and land development regulations approval.

>> Carol McFarland planning and development services director, this is an appeal of a land development regulation commission decision for a variance at 5076 Central Avenue in DeLeon Springs which is the box in yellow on your screen. There were two variances that were applied for and were approved by the PLD RC, variance one was for a dog shelter. The setback there is supposed to be 5 feet, the dog shelter was built at 1.8 feet from the side yard which is what you see in the black circle on the plan. It's 383 feet^2 structure so it does not need a building permit, however they still have to meet zoning setbacks though this is an after-the-fact situation. Variance 2 is for a barn approved and that is not part of the appeal so we are not discussing variance 2, only variance 1. This is a picture of the subject dog shelter, started as code enforcement complaint that included structures that didn't meet setbacks as well as a hobby breeder operating on site without a license and without a special exception approval. Since code enforcement has been working with the property owner on this they have ceased the hobby breeder operations and reduce the number of dogs on the property so it's five and under so that they are meeting the maximum number of dogs allowed in the unincorporated area so there is no longer an

issue with the number of pets or use of the animals. The variances require to meet three of the variance criteria, I'm not going to read these but these are the five criteria required if we need to refer to them, staff found they did not meet criteria one, two, three and four and the regulation commission voted to approve the variance for the dog kennel to three. For public input there were two letters of opposition that were submitted prior to the meeting, two people who spoke in opposition, one is the appellate Mr. Clayton Bennio and the other is his attorney who is also present. There were four letters of support that accompanied the variance application and also a form listing the neighbors who stated they were okay with the dogs and I would say a lot of the statements we got from both support and opposition focused in on the dogs and whether they approved of the dogs. We need to be clear this is a variance to the zoning setbacks structures for an accessory structure. This is the property in question in yellow, kind of in the center. The property in red on the left-hand side of the map is the appellant's property. Not really great on the screens there but some of that light yellow is green meaning we received letters of support from those properties. The appellant's statement discusses a lot about the business of hobby breeder being on the property and keeping the kennel could allow for that to be used as a business. He also talked about following staff recommendation of denial and discussed dogs getting out and biting people, the applicant did say in the meeting there were times the dogs escaped and chased

people on bikes. That's why she wanted the kennel was to keep the dogs secure on the property. So the Council in front of you is to reverse, affirm or continue the case for the appeal. We do have an appellate here but do not have the property owner, they were properly noticed but we've been unable to get hold of them by phone. So we do have the appellate year and if you have any questions I'm here.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Questions for staff, Councilman Dempsey.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER DEMPSEY: I have to excuse myself from this report for process issues.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Councilman Robins.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINS: Carol.

>> Are attorneys have to announce it is quasijudicial so you need to disclose any communications.

>>CHAIR BROWER: You didn't let me get to that. Before Danny asked those questions does any councilmember have any ex parte they need to declare? Okay. Councilman Robins.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINS: Carol, real quick the setback you said is 5 feet, it needs to be 5 feet and that's 1.8 so we are dealing

with 3.2 feet.

>> That is correct.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINS: Why are we here? I'm not being a wise guy.

>> The variance was approved by the PLDR as RDC so we are here in the appeal.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINS: I've got plenty of comments.

>> Made the motion.

>>CHAIR BROWER: We need to hear from the applicant and the applicant is not here. We have to members of the appellate and the attorney for the appellant who would like to speak, there are no more questions. Okay. Martin Padilla. I'm sorry. I see that cross on the L now making it a team.

>> My name has been butchered a lot worse than that. I'm located at 120 E. Rich Avenue in Deland and I represent Mr. Bennio. I heard her say there was conversations about them reaching some type of situation where they are not selling the dogs or breeding the dogs anymore but we provided evidence at the hearing that was not in fact true because there were

advertisements we put in there showing they advertised for breeding and they don't have a breeders license. But here's a legal argument I wanted to make because in the letter that was presented, it says the board based the decision on the following findings and the second finding is the special conditions and circumstances do not result from the actions of the applicant. That is completely not supported by the evidence put in their. The applicant testified they built the structure and they built it without a permit. That's not in dispute. As a matter of fact we attached exhibits that showed on the variance that she admitted on page two of the first exhibit where she made an application that the structure was being built. That they built it. So I don't know how the board ever made a conclusion that there was no evidence saying that the applicant had no impact. The applicant built something without a permit and without getting a variance and not following through and that I think by itself should have some merit here. That this should be reversed. Because they are the ones that caused the problem by not following the process like everybody else needs to do. That's why I think the board made an error of fact in their position by granting the variance.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, where is Carissa? Okay. If you would just note you have some time reserved if you'd like to come back after the discussion because as the attorney you get 20 minutes you've used 17. Or you've taken 17 minutes. Clayton,

did you want to speak now? Excuse me, one second, Councilman Robbins. Did you have a question? Jake Johansson did you have a question for the attorney? Clayton.

>> I'd like to say as far as for the breeding and selling of the dogs as were stated they said they're not doing it, they are. There are still on Facebook, she's still breathing, she's still selling, the dogs bark all hours of the day and night and secondly it poses a problem with the property owners of which we sent all the information out to. Some of the people we actually looked into to see who signed those different statements saying they were okay with it, they are not even property owners around the entire area so they were set up, it was something that was rigged on it. We looked into it, they don't even exist. Secondly I had a private investigator go there and actually go onto the property where she attempted to sell 2 puppies to him, said there were more on the ground and there they are right now. Another issue that raises, once this has gone through is it to stop her from doing what she does? Her mother said it was for making her money on the property. This passes, it goes to another person, that's allowed. The entire integrity of the area goes downhill from there because who wants to live in an area where you hear dogs barking all hours of the day and night? Another issue is the noise ordinance, there's a noise ordinance set in fact by County Counsel and it should be something to look into even further when you call the Sheriff's Department

Sheriff's Department says that's not our issue, that's animal control, animal control knows about the dog bites but no one followed up to take the dogs from the woman that was court ordered to spay neuter all those dogs and to this day she still breathing every one of them. I rest.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Councilman Robins.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINS: Thank you chair. Are we in the comment section?

>>CHAIR BROWER: Let's make sure nobody has a question first and Jake Johansson for questions.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: Carol, can you go back to the map? I saw it as I was coming out of the restroom the yellow, the 5067 Central is where the dogs are. And 5075 is the person complaining?

>> One of the statements of opposition is 5075 which is just north of Mr. Bennio's property, 5040 commerce Avenue if that's correct.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: Over there. What's the distance Carol?

>> 300 feet approximately.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: And the variance that the PLDRDC gave was after the fact number one, about 3 feet, 3.2.

>> The variance between what's allowed and what they had and it's also on the east property line.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: Writes, got it, thanks.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Do we have anybody here from animal control?

>> No we do not.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay, if there's no more questions Councilman Robins for a comment.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINS: Just to understand this, was it the PLDRC upheld the variance in this agenda item is to I guess reverse that?

>> The PLDRC approved the variance so the appeal is to reverse it which would result in a denial of the variance.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINS: So if we want to keep it the same as approved what do you need from us?

>> You would want to deny the appeal.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINS: Motion to deny the appeal.

>>CHAIR BROWER: You just made that motion.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: Second.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Councilman Robins makes a motion to deny the appeal and the second was by Jake Johansson. Any other comments? Then I'm going to call the attorney if he wants to say anything. I think you've still got three minutes and reserve. And I'd ask you while you please tell us how does, how is this affecting Mr. Bennio?

>> I think if you have a kennel with the noise that affects them and also it brings down the property damage, the property values. Who wants to live around dogs that are barking through the night and nobody does anything about it and there are also circumstances where the dog bit somebody. So they are breeding without a breeders license and that's illegal. So essentially she's violating the law and didn't jump through the legal hoops to build what she wanted to do and the county is now going to say it's okay, you can break the law? Some of this needs to be some kind of common sense too. So you're going to approve somebody

that is in violation and not only that but the staff recommended it shouldn't be, it should be denied. And finally I think when you make findings of fact that are not supported by competent substantial evidence in the record as the reason why you are going to approve the variance, it is a matter of law. In their own writings they relied upon that evidence and that evidence is not in the record. They caused the problem so the whole reason behind them granting the variance is an error. It's a legal error. So that's our position and I'm going to ask that you approve the appeal.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay, County attorney.

>>COUNTY ATTORNEY: So here's what you're revealing and the level of review of a variance. This council changed the review of granting a variance so you do not have to meet all five criteria. You need 3/5 criteria. As long as this council finds in the record there is competent substantial evidence for three of those five prongs, you have the authority to deny the appeal and uphold the PLDRC determination. If you find there is not enough evidence such that they do not meet 3/5 that gives you grounds to approve the appeal and essentially deny the variance.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you for the clarification, Councilman Robins, Councilman Johansson.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: Commissioner, I know the answer but I'm going to ask it anyhow to Carol. Denial of the variance doesn't mean the kennel or whatever it is goes away. That means they have to get within the limits, right? It doesn't make the noise go away either.

>> It does not affect the number of dogs on the property.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: No ways I know to be a code violation and be illegal dog activity if there is any is animal control and the sheriff. So whatever decision we make isn't going to bear any fruit on those two issues. Other than maybe stopping it for a few minutes while they get rid of some of the excess barn if you will. Thank you.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Councilman Troy Kent.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER KENT: Thank you Chairman, I cannot go along with that motion to deny the appeal. I would want to approve the appeal because the attorney and the gentleman he represents are just speaking with too much common sense. Why in the world, why in the world would we applaud bad behavior? Why would we say it's okay to break the rules? Otherwise get rid of the rules, man, okay? We're going to do that get rid of the rules. I hear councilmembers talk about you are freeing up, do whatever you want on your land, it's your land, do whatever you want, it's

well and good until you've got a dog barking in your ear all night long, it doesn't feel good. It's not enjoyable and you can hear what you have to do, move it over 5 feet, although the rules. Or get rid of the rules. But I'm not I get rid of the rules kind of guy. I may follow the rules kind of a guy. So I will emphatically be voting against that motion.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Councilman Matt Reinhart.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER REINHART: Jake had asked the question and I had it written down and he's answered it for me. What we're here for today is the motion about the appeal, the dog activity we cannot decide upon, the noise activity we cannot decide upon so all it is is if they tore down the structure we can move it over and they are right back.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Councilman Danny Robins.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINS: Thank you Chairman and we are here over 3.2 feet and Mr. Kent, I respect and applaud your stance on this but the reason that there's after-the-fact permits and stuff happened, I don't know what happened. I don't need to know but there's always a process to this, that's not a green light to break the rules. None of us I don't think support that. So at the end of the day counsel there's several instances here, I'm not basing my decision on these. But you know, agricultural

setbacks, they can build around the property line and if they want to have a couple hogs they can have hogs right on the property line, we just approved chickens, we just got rid of shed permits. What else? So we're here about 3.2 feet. The rest is code violations. I say call the question.

>> One question for the County attorney or County manager if you know have you received any complaints on the dog biting, on breeding or noise?

>> I have not. I don't know, I could not answer necessarily for animal control. They are not here.

>> Michael.

>> There definitely going to investigate.

>> Paolo, are you aware of any?

>> My understanding is there was a code enforcement process on this property and from my understanding they are in compliance. There are no longer breeding but I don't want to provide that as factual information because I have no firsthand knowledge of that but that's my understanding and throughout the PLD RC hearing process it was reiterated that they were there for the location of the shed. If there are any further complaints about continued

dog breeding or hobby breeding or noise complaints, that should be settled under the code enforcement provisions because the PLDRC does not have jurisdiction under those matters.

>> So we're back to the placement of the shed.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Councilman Reinhart.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER REINHART: With respect to what Paula said if you have no firsthand knowledge it's been investigated from a prior complaint and if there is yet that activity is suggested here another complaint could be filed and investigated by code enforcement and follow process, thank you.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Paolo, was the shed built with a proper permit?

>> This council removed the requirement to construct. At the time they did not pull a proper permit but this removed the requirement to pull permits.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER REINHART: I believe I voted no against that but regardless was the shed built before the Council made that decision?

>> Carol said it was built in 2024. Yes.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER REINHART: The shed was built before and did they pull a permit to build the shed? Not following the rules. Maybe we can send them a cake afterwards after we approve this, send them a cake.

>>CHAIR BROWER: We could have avoided all this if the owners would move the shed, is it a problem the shed can't be moved easily, is it sunk with concrete,

>> It's a concrete slab and in the packet is a picture. There's ways they could move it for sure but not easily.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay, don't see any more questions or discussion. The motion was to comment was that your motion to deny the appeal and uphold the decision of the PLDRC. Carissa would you call the roll.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: Can use skip me and come back later?

>>CHAIR BROWER: Yes is a denial and no is move the shed.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: Please say that again?

>>CHAIR BROWER: Yes vote is a motion to deny the appeal.

>>.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER KENT: No.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER REINHART: No.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINS: Yes.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER SANTIAGO: No.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER DEMPSEY: He recused himself.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Well, this will make it a time. If I say no. And eight hi means the motion is failed because it wasn't voted by a majority. So Paolo, do you need a motion to approve the appeal now or are we done with this issue?

>> You would need a motion to approve the appeal because we need basically an affirmative statement.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER KENT: I make a motion to approve the appeal.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Motion to approve the appeal by Mr. Kent, seconded by David Santiago. Questions, Councilman Robins.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINS: I understand everybody's standpoint but if we package this up we're talking about 3.2 feet. On something that he pulled after-the-fact permits for, he made a mistake, we are all human. He paid double the permit fee fine which is standard. He didn't get off Scott free. And at the end of the day I think he voted for us, we got rid of this ordinance for the future. Ahead of this. As we sit here and look at the totality of this stuff in priorities although some people want to crucify this guy for probably being human but at the end of the day if he were to do it today he wouldn't need anything.

>> You have to meet your setbacks even though a permit is not required so if you were to build it today he wouldn't need a building permit but you would have to meet the 5 foot setback.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINS: There's other measures to cover any violations but as we sit here and dicker over 3.2 feet we are probably wasting thousands of dollars in staff time. Let this person pay double the permit fees and get his hands slapped.

>> That's an after-the-fact variance application fee.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINS: So it's doubled, how many times did he pay that, once, twice.

>> He paid it once and it's after-the-fact so it's doubled.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: $669, That's what it says.

>> Times two.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: 1300.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINS: David do you have any suggestions, what punishment should we give him? I'm trying to land somewhere.

>> I'll tell you because Suzanne said it six think delete and that was this. Even now after some on this council decided to willy-nilly in my opinion get rid of the permits you have to get it would still have to be within the side yard or rear yard setbacks. So basically what I hear you saying is wild West, do what you want, pay the fee. Put it where you want and pay the fine. I'm not okay with that. I don't want to live next to that and follow the rules. That's where I am. This isn't about punishing some money. I regret you used that term. This isn't about punishing people. I'm not a punisher, that's not what I want to do. But this guy wife never seen a day in my life is punished every day and to willy-nilly let the scope I think we are punishing him and I'm not okay with that. I continually put myself in the shoes of the person up here talking to us going hey, this isn't a fun life experience listening to this all day long and we can dicker as we use, it's 3.2 feet. What are we

going to say next, 23.8 feet? 19.4 feet, what is it? Follow the rules, don't pay your way out of it, follow the rules, move it to where it's supposed to be.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Motion on the floor is to approve the appeal, Clarissa would call the roll.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: Yes.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER KENT: Yes.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER REINHART: Yes.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINS: No.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER SANTIAGO: Yes.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Yes.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Appeal is approved. Does the applicant get his money back? I mean the builder?

>> It's an expensive mistake.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Item 7, ordinance 2026 04 update to the five-year schedule of capital improvements.

>> Good evening councilmembers, this is an update to our five-year capital plan, it's pretty much a housecleaning item. You approve your budget every year and state law requires us to add our CIP or capital improvement plan as part of the comprehensive plan. Here for any questions, the plan you all have already approved that.

>> Moved to approve Mr. chair.

>> We have a motion to approve by David Santiago and a second came from vice chair Matt Reinhart.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Questions for staff, I have one question and not sure who's going to take it, Ryan answered it in my email but there is a lien on here of the million dollars and it says on the line for motocross but I believe there's more to it so just for the public consumption I like you to explain what that really is.

>> As I replied after research that million dollars was put in the budget for trail writing that would have been at the same site. With a plan to try to apply for a state grant. That is no longer the plan so the million dollars is not currently slated for anything and if it works it would have to return to counsel and if it is the desire to move that back to reserves and not

explore the jail writing or which we are not really putting out right now anyway. That could be done.

>> So the trail writing is off the table.

>> That grant is not being pursued right now.

>> But the budget is just a budget, it's not executed until there is a purchase that would be brought to counsel.

>> Does anybody know if the decision to move trail writing is a result of the consultant or mass verbal.

>> I may have made a misstatement, what I'm saying is the million dollars is not currently being planned to be applied for a grant. There might be a possibility, I don't know whether or not with the project itself but it was not for the motocross track itself, that's the key thing.

>>CHAIR BROWER: If the million dollars is spent it comes back to counsel.

>>CHAIR BROWER: All right Councilman Kent.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER KENT: Motion to approve.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: Second Johansson.

>> We did two of them so that's how excited we are about it.
Now I'll make comments when you're ready with that.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Motion then the second, all in favor say aye, motion carries 70. Economic development in the public works many budget workshop. Brian, are you starting it?

>> I'm waiting for the slide to click forward, I don't know if it's battery dead. Now it's working. All right, once again Brian sells the chief financial officer and this is the first many budget workshop in a series of five similar presentations like this concluded with a final wrap-up, that wrap-up presentation is critical to what we're looking at here. As we go through these presentations we are definitely looking for feedback from counsel of programs or services you're looking to make changes to, make red options to create because those will be the programs and items we bring back at bay in the conclusion of everything to be looked at for a final rollcall of these things that we come across for this five sessions. Absent direction to include them in May, that implies you are okay with what we have today which is what's being presented to you to continue on being in the recommended budget. So what we're going to be talking about today is economic development and the public works with the exception of a few areas. We will be covering the development

engineering function of public works with the growth and resource management presentation because it is tied to the function and then we have a whole separate presentation at the next council meeting for beach related services so the coastal division will be up here today to talk about the port district in two weeks and will be talking about the core beach management function that coastal works on. With that I will turn it over to Lou Martino economic development division director to go over the economic development piece. I'm sorry, Lou Paris.

>> Good evening. Thank you for having me. Chair and county council members, is this working Brian? Right, I split the presentation in three parts, first I will tell you about the background of economic development then I will tell you a little bit of what we do and you some highlights and wrap it up with much it costs. So that's jumping into the background. You County Council have been supporting local businesses for years and years. And we have had different shapes and forms over the course of decades and the version you see today as it exists today for Volusia County is was implemented in 2001. The context in which we operate is that there are about 20,000 businesses in Volusia County. Out of which almost all so 19,000 approximately out of 20,000 are considered small businesses. These are businesses that have 20 employees or less. Now, what's interesting and good in a way is most of the jobs in our county come from those small businesses. And at the same time what's

scary is those small businesses tend to be the ones more susceptible to changes in the economy and more susceptible to failure so that's why it makes sense for the county to support small businesses to retain a strong economic power and be able to retain or support those jobs in our county. So what do we do? I'm going to highlight for you some key programs we have and I'm not going to cover everything just the key ones starting with what we are probably known for and that is supporting bringing businesses into our community. We do this work through team Volusia and here you can see on the slide in the left-hand side if you will recognize all three but the newest one is insert text, this company once it finishes its planned it will be the largest metal plating company in the United States. Which is kind of a big deal because that's a key service that Aerospace and aviation requires so once we have this company we will be able to attract more businesses in this industrial cluster and we have Boeing which I'm sure you've heard of before, thousands of high-paying jobs that support this economy and Aerospace and aviation happened to be an interesting and excellent industry for us. We are also tasked with administering working with state and federal economic programs on the left-hand side we have to FDC which is the foreign trade zone, this has been a hot topic and in the last quarter we had three or four conversations with manufacturers in Volusia County looking to implement a FTZ in their business, one of them is moving forward and probably the farthest along, that is bio like we used to be radon, phenomenal

company so right now they're being inspected to make sure the facility is compliant with FTC regulations and on the left hand side you have the industrial development Authority, IDA this program has been active for decades and it's been helped thousands of manufacturers expand their operations. It is a cyclical program that when interest rates are low there's less demand for those financed bonds and when interest rates climb of course it becomes a lot more appealing. We also help businesses that are in the county. And businesses that want to launch in the county. You may recognize the Volusia innovation hub and we took on the management of what used to be the incubation program and we wanted to make this program more readily available to the entire business community so not only taxed scalable businesses, we wanted any business that needed help we wanted to support them so we built a program called launch back Volusia a nine week program where businesses are helped anywhere from launching their idea to even small business to advance and help them overcome any challenge they may face in the future, we make them more resilient to make it in the market. Since launching the launch Volusia wherein the second cohort and we've had 41 businesses involved, 21 have graduated, 20 are currently in the program and our goal is to service 80 to 100 businesses a year. We believe the more businesses go through this program the better off we will be as a community because these will be individuals trained now to be able to make their business succeed. On top of this program the launchpad Volusia we have orbit which resembles a lot

what UCF used to have. Orbit is a program we are a little more selective and I'll move to the next slide. We look for businesses scalable and they're going to attract and generate more jobs. In less than a year we have recruited eight businesses to the organ program these eight businesses have generated shy of $2 million in revenue and some of these business owners are pre-revenue so they haven't even started selling so just a handful of businesses are generating that $2 million in the more interesting or just as appealing as revenue as number of jobs, 34 full-time jobs accompanied by a ton of part-time jobs and internships from the higher education institutions. What I call the sprinkles, icing on the cake from an economic development perspective is these businesses are looking for funding and bringing money into the county, these eight little businesses have brought about $3.3 million in investment from outside the county and some of these businesses have government contracts to the tune of a little over $7 million. These are not municipality contracts, not county contracts, these are federal contracts sold 3+7, that's more than $10 million that these small businesses, tidy businesses at the innovation of our bringing into the county. It's money that was not here before. Our goal is to double that number so capacity maybe 15, 16 businesses and we are building that pipeline to get these businesses with us. To the extent they all actually make it to revenue these numbers should be exponentially higher than what I want to highlight is how age businesses have generated that much impact soap huge bang

for the buck if you will. We are also tasked with disseminating sharing economic information and we do a ton of things and I was going to talk about too quickly, one is the economic seed. You received this letter on a weekly basis and we offer business information relevant to them in Volusia County, one example of how this is impactful about a month ago I was talking to a very well-to-do startup in Ormond Beach and she was saying she had seen an award on opportunity through the Chamber of Commerce on the newsletter she applied for it and got it so our businesses are getting recognition and they're able to find those recognitions and get exposure through the newsletter the other one is that you breakfast, the Q breakfast is of course it happens on a quarterly basis. On this event we typically talk about economic indicators for the county. And to begin with then we transition into topics that are of importance to the community the example you have on the screen is one in which we talk about aerospace aviation and how it impacts our community. We also provide support services for sister divisions and departments and one of the things we do is the Volusia County unblock some permit and code enforcement clustered service. Since its inception about 18 months ago we have serviced 550 businesses and residents. Now, when you grow a business it requires a lot of resources, a lot of effort, a lot of knowledge that's why in my line of work we depend heavily on partnerships to me over the years have had strong partnerships with Daytona State College, SPEC and I want to highlight one of the most important ones which

is the Volusia business resources which is a partnership of about 42 entities in the county that some way shape or form assist businesses in our community. And what we do is we look for gaps in support, business support and close those gaps so you have to examples, left-hand side funding revenues under the funding readiness Center was created after Covid and a situation where after all the grants were exhausted and businesses still needed assistance we talked to banks and found out the banks have the money said we want to lend the money, that's how we make money in the first place but they're not ready when they come to us so what they did was create a program that would prepare any person in the county if they go through the program to be funding ready. So that program has been widely successful, a lot of people have gone through it and share their success getting funding after going through it and on the right-hand side we have the Volusia innovation challenge which build be taking place on March 25, you're more than welcome to join. Put aside the fact it's a business pitch competition, this really is an opportunity to get people in our community to share their innovation, share their ideas and get feedback, get support to connect them with the right resources and again, very successful event thus far. To kind of summarize all the services into a story I'll tell you a little bit about limitless. On that photo the tall gentleman very tall gentleman with a time in the middle his name is Alex, Alex is an embryo middle student who one innovation challenge two years ago with a drone idea that had military applications and

one of the things he won was one year membership in the innovation hub. The business when he entered had to endure three changes. Like subsequently we call that pivots. Usually a business cannot survive one pitted less so two or three. And because this company Alex was getting the support from the hog and resources we have and mentoring and coaching we offer there he was able to go through those three major changes in his business and land an idea that now has multimillion dollar contracts year and the reason I tell you the story and I get goosebumps when I told the story is about a month and and a half ago he came to our office and said home for me is Sarasota and I was planning upon graduation to move my operation to Sarasota. But you guys have been so good to me, Volusia County has been so good I want to keep this company here so I want you to find a building 15 to 18,000 feet^2 so I can start production and that will generate 20 jobs so it's a cool story that tells a bit of everything we do in a single showing. And it's the essence of our job in economic development. We do all this as you can see great ideas are operational organizational chart, two positions are grayed out. They exist but we haven't hired anyone because we want to operate and do the best we can with the resources we currently have that brings the question what does this cost. So if one thing you should know is you invest in us through the general fund. General fund and here's a snapshot of our budget. Hopefully you have detected so far in this conversation I've mentioned support and partnerships a lot that is reflected in the

budget as well. There's two items here we support. One being government affairs. The other one team Volusia, these are two things we are proud to participate and support and the only reason I bring it up is because all the internal charges of my division account for a little less than $800,000 a year. Here you have our top expenses. For the division. And here's a snapshot of our revenue. For the year. And to wrap it up I'll give you two quick notes on efficiency and how hard we work to be fiscally responsible, the first one is partnering with a VBR which is a Volusia business resources is a huge deal and let me explain that the two things I just showed you, the business pitch competition and the funding readiness Center will not be possible to

ourselves, it will be too costly, too difficult to pull off. So leaning on partnership has done wonderful things because it has amplified the things we want to accomplish without really increasing costs. Last but not least when we took on the management of the UCF business incubator we did so for many reasons but one was to be able to save money and when we made that transition we saved the county $250,000 a year we with that thank you.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Questions vice chair Matt Reinhart.

>> A couple takeaways I took, that gave me goosebumps to hear about the guy that wanted to stay here, keeping businesses here

and we said it at many events we talk about graduates from Embry Riddle, from many local universities but to have them walk across the stage and say I'm going to stay here in Volusia, well done. Also I said this one we transition from UCF incubator and then keeping it in-house I was not aware of the amount of money until you pointed it out, $250,000 savings and if that isn't operating leading and bringing in revenue at the same time I don't know what is real I will say this, also partnership with team Volusia. Could not be done without them I think personally, I really don't so I thank them for helping us. Many businesses were brought when we saw and I'm not going to try to pronounce. So thank you so much for that. What a great already opening doors, I did visit that facility down in Edgewater. I listened to that gentleman and the excitement from him and what he's going to bring is phenomenal. One quick question and I don't mean to put you on the spot, it's a business you mentioned I'm the very beginning of the presentation and I've always been curious. I see less and less cars in the parking lot but you say they're turning the corners. I know they were at one point manufacturing computers. Or not manufacturing, setting them up I guess if you will. They have veterans working on and that program went away. I know that's government cuts far above us. I know that impacted them in a negative way. What are we doing to help them because that's a huge business. That to that area import orange rib so I'm just.

>> That contract went away for them and since then they found other areas to be competitive. I don't remember the specifics. They did and last time we had a conversation it seems like they were very active and the fact they're looking for a FTZ tells me the volume of product they need to bring in is significant. If I can ally operate on that the FTZ is a tool for cash flow improvement. So in other words when product comes in and it goes into their facility that is part of the FTZ they don't have to pay tariffs as long as the product is there. When the product leaves at that point if it stays in the US they pay tariffs so that helps them with cash flow so the fact they need that tells us the volume of activity they have in that building is either about to increase or is significant.

>> That's awesome, thank you very much.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Councilman Santiago for questions. Let me see who else, Jake Johansson.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: Your offices are at the airport.

>> Correct.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: Is there any other opportunity to save money where we don't have to pay rent? Another place to be? I know it's only 60 7K.

>> Gentleman of the Council Cyrus Callum. We are definitely looking at new locations for the economic development division. Of course as the airport is getting busier with all our passenger traffic where they are currently located right now is an area we are looking at towards expanding the security checkpoint. Just for instance yesterday which probably our busiest time period in my tenure I've had with the Exodus of the Daytona 500, we processed just over 3500 passengers and our security checkpoint can only handle 300 passengers and our so as we get busier going to need that space. We talked about consolidating economic development into the space that is the innovation the home right now. As soon as we get some planning and designs and funding and we have a consultant right now we've tasked with designing and laying out what alternatives are with that security checkpoint we will process with moving economic development into where the innovation hub is, that consolidates costs initially and we will look at other opportunities as well.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: All right. What out of the corner of my eye I see team Volusia guys here ready to answer this question but what percentage of team Volusia 's contributions public and private do we pay?

>> I don't know the percentage off the top.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: If Keith wants to come up, team Volusia.

>> 23%.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: So we are at about 23%. Is there any to decrease that through time? I know when I was on that board we were trying to get public participation about 50%, is that trend continuing or are we stagnating their.

>> In the conversation with Keith where there in the middle of having a study completed with trying to determine increasing private investment. And how they operate. I know that they're going to be on on Council agenda potentially in May they will have a full presentation that kind of describes those details.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: Good, so in May we will get a good idea before budget season, that's important. Not that I am in any position to say anything other than I want to see where we are and where were going. And you answered my question about the innovation, it sounds like you're making amendments there. Marketing and public relations, that's 60 5K out of the general fund, correct? But that is not the overall marketing public relations bill. Per se.

>> The title of that account doesn't do justice to things in it

and the part of it running the quarterly breakfast and other events that we operate and promote.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: Does any of the marketing and PR money come from other revenue sources, is there more going into that or is 60 5K always spent, Ryan is coming up like he knows the answer.

>> I don't have a direct answer to your question but this is just a marketing PR budget.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: I know, I'm not asking about the lodging stuff for that airport. This is it, all right, that's all I have.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Councilman Kent do you have a question.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER KENT: Just a quick one I guess I should say. Thank you for your information Cyrus you might want to come up as well I appreciate the 20,000 number of businesses, 19,000 of which are small business which meet leaves 1000 large businesses and I would be remiss if I didn't mention one of my favorite with Charlie linebacker in Ormond Beach but my question is this, and we never want to turn away businesses coming into our community. But how important is it to keep the businesses that you have here. And what kind of focus are we putting on that priority.

To keep businesses in Volusia County.

>> The County Council made a smart decision years ago when team Volusia when we started contracting team Volusia. Backup. The County development comes in two flavors, one is to recruit the other to help the businesses here and when you help them they shouldn't leave. So the flavor of recruiting is something I commend what you have done which is now outsourcing back to team Volusia who they're doing a phenomenal job, the three examples I showed you are great and that empowers us to focus on the other side of the equation which is to help the businesses here.
There's a spectrum there so we have, we noticed there was a significant gap for the small businesses that were not covered by any other organization efficiently so that's the first thing we plugged ourselves in throughout all this time we continuously have conversations with the big businesses to help them in some way shape or form and as an example byline or germ-free, we meet with companies of that size regularly. I foresee in the future being able to implement more standing programs that assist also bigger businesses but we have to start somewhere that's where the gap was.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER KENT: I learned a long time ago is more impactful to give what you have written you don't want to lose anybody, we want to give them and help them as much as we can.

>> A key part is when they come in for expansions we kick in total team for that as well so is not only keeping them it's keeping them and having them grow here so absolutely agree with what you're saying.

>>CHAIR BROWER: That looks like it's the end of comments, questions from Councilman Santiago.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER SANTIAGO: You're looking for guidance from us, we like what we've seen. Any suggestions, can you give us clarity so we can move along.

>> If you want to know the cost of any subfunction they're doing, of anything, any program you might want to consider making a reduction in that's the type of feedback we need, we need to know if you wanted. Costing estimates or anything, if you're okay with what you saw and you want to continue with those programs and have been in the budget, no feedback, that's what that means.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER KENT: Thank you Ryan and for my part Mr. chair and Council members this is a great team, they will lean and they bring results and it's an investment in our community so I'm happy with what I see as an individual member.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Councilmember Johansson you are done, okay.

There you are. I just want to add to what he just said. For your budget, it's not a huge budget. But you have a tremendous effect on Volusia County not only on giving businesses but helping entrepreneurs create business. And that's invaluable. Small business is the backbone of America not just Volusia County. So I think your budget is a really good investment from this counsel to the future and your partnership with team Volusia for a little bit of money they add a lot to what you do and what happens here in Volusia County. So I'm happy with the budget. So thank you for your presentation. Okay.

>> Honorable gentleman of the Council.

>> You don't spend a lot of money.

>> Then Bartlett public works director. We had a couple presentations here starting with one of the shorter ones which is as you know public works is responsible for maintaining the counties transportation road network, most of that maintenance and construction associated with that is funded through gas tax, the transportation trust however we do receive property tax revenue that goes towards the maintenance of our road networks, specifically we get $5 million from NST for local road maintenance and get the general fund road transfer which has been a recent ad of $5 million so what does that fund, specifically MSC funding, local road maintenance these are your

non-thoroughfare roads, these provide all the kinds of difficult road maintenance we do and also contributes to reef resurfacing of local roads we have roughly 90 miles of dirt roads we maintain then we have our emergency maintenance roads which are roads never really accepted for maintenance by the Council but they exist as public right-of-way and had roads built on them over time. We provide a level of service for those roads to make sure emergency vehicles and traverse them and folks can get out there. The newer funding we've received from this counsel is much appreciated and that goes towards like we talked about before roadway safety projects and it allows us safety projects are funded through one of our main construction funding sources is propped fair share and impact fees which funds are capacity, gas tax mainly goes towards maintenance, we have money for gas tax for these projects. But we don't have much so this funding helps move those projects along and gets them done. We have a lot of roads that were built. We are bringing those up to current safety standards as beneficial for the traveling public. Pedestrian signals and sidewalk projects, these are things counsel spoke greatly about and wanted to do. Bridge repair projects you approved one today, the crutch been for Taylor Road which came up as a result of hurricane and we were able to move quickly forward with that and we have other bridge repair projects on the horizon bridge repair is something that funded so as Ryan alluded to if there's any questions or anything you want to look at in terms of this funding happy to answer them

otherwise we can move on to mosquito control.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Councilmember Robbins.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINS: Thank you chairman, how do we get dirt roads paved.

>> Where we've got to get asphalt and throw it down, Mr. Brecht and Walt did a good job getting roads paved and we provide that program so we should be getting those done soon.

>>CHAIR BROWER: You do some every year.

>> We budget every year with that money we are hoping to accelerate questionnaire using the NST fund, is there anymore we can pull out of their?

>> We've gotten MSC funding for some time that is very helpful for our local. I can tell you during the downturn when budgets were really tight, the resurfacing program focused on the thoroughfares and local roads were deferred and so we focused a lot on resurfacing local roads, it has a major impact if you live in a neighborhood or your house, the road you drive your house on every day. We really focused on some of those roads and getting that resurfacing done so we value the money we get from NST.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Continue.

>> Mosquito control mosquito control is funded through a dedicated millage within the East Volusia mosquito control district that's existed since 1936 I believe. Mainly on the east side of the county and we also perform work for the city on the west side of County and do receive some NST funding to the tune of $300,000 from NST to fund disease response in the west side of the county. So we utilize those to provide limited mosquito control services on the west side outside that steel control district. We do get revenue like I alluded to when the city is on the Westside request service we charge them municipal services agreement, a pay the bill and we also surplus equipment, that's mainly the source of the revenue we have written or chart we have 28 full-time employees, FTEs. And we run a pretty lean ship as well and mosquito control. We are aware of the restraints we have and work hard to make sure we make use of those resources as much as possible so what do we do? I've talked about this before. Two things in Florida or two things that made Florida habitable, air conditioning and mosquito control so what's mosquito control's mission is to provide relief from mosquitoes that carry diseases as well as nuisance mosquitoes and we spend time controlling those mosquitoes through various methods whether it's larva side utilizing organic material to get the mosquitoes before they turn into flyers and also deciding which is where we spray chemicals to either get them while they're flying utilizing

trucks or helicopters. This is a public health service that we provide. We provide defense against mosquitoes that carry tremendous amount of different types of diseases we had I would urge any of you to Google some of the outbreaks happened in other countries recently, Cuba, China and other diseases and we work hard to make sure that doesn't happen here. You get occasional travel related cases where someone comes and contracts a disease because they were traveling and it comes back to Volusia County, the health department notifies is also those and the whole goal is to prevent locally acquired diseases and make sure that doesn't occur. We do all the things we do to make sure that the citizens of Volusia County aren't being exposed to those types of diseases and another part of what mosquito control funds is the hundred 37 miles of canals on the east side of County we spent time talking about and they are pretty famous on Facebook these days in terms of how we make sure everybody knows where going out cleaning but that $800,000 is allocated towards a bridge where we have a large drainage maintenance crews. So operating expenses, chemicals, canal maintenance, aircraft maintenance we have to helicopters. Service charges, insurance you got to have a pretty significant insurance on aircraft and then the remainder of the budget is split amongst other items. So the future challenges, inflation chemical costs, we work hard, the mosquitoes can become resistant to the chemicals we use so we spend a lot of time and I liked called in our science folks on that side of the house spend time studying to make sure we are using the pesticide in a manner

that prevents existence. Growth as more people come in we will have more people exposed to mosquitoes and then like we talked about the mosquito control can outstrip what I will say is a millage rate for mosquito within the mosquito control district is a tax. People will pay the taxes and it's on the property tax bill on the 300,000, on house valued at $300,000 you're looking at about a $40 a year is what that person would pay. So less than four dollars a month for an important service to put that in perspective, happy to answer any questions about anything we do if there's any ideas you may have regarding what we do in terms of mosquito control.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Councilman Johansson.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: You say $800,000 for canal maintenance that's all out of the mosquito budget. Do we put additional money into canal maintenance from the other budgets.

>> We have other ditches and canals through the county funded through other means. If there along side of the road we can use transportation trust gas tax money or for unincorporated we can use stormwater funds but for those hundred 37 miles those canals are dug specifically for mosquito purposes, when they started. They've over time become conveyances for stormwater but their primary purpose is flushing mosquito.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: That's my point, if we're using them for actual waters, couldn't we be using some stormwater funds?

>> Know the reason is the utility which is the other funding source stormwater utility is in the unincorporated area. Most all of these are in cities so therefore that's their only main source. There could be cases and there are a few where there would be in the unincorporated area a ditch but for the most part it's a quandary we get into and we've taken a read canal so these ones that are major, really true drainage canals but they originated as mosquito control canals which were dug to of course control the mosquitoes but also of course drain the swamp so to speak. So things could be developed many years ago.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Then, this may be an unfair question for you, I don't mean it to be but will the legislature decide that we don't have property taxes or just property taxes on homesteaded properties go away, that leaves businesses and renters, how do you plan on paying for this if that happens?

>> That speaks to the larger discussion about poor services and I know Ryan said it many times. You have to choices, you can cut the service level to provide or you can increase the revenue or the millage to account for the lost revenue. I will say in terms of what we do and mosquito control, nobody's above when we look every year at Mr. Rector and Walt charges us every year when we

do our budget to try to make sure we find cost-cutting things we can do. We looked at reducing, we eliminated a division in public works traffic engineering to save cost and we're always looking at those things but it would be difficult, the things we do have direct benefit and direct cost and the services we provide and it would result in the service level reduction. A lot of what we do a lot of our efforts focus on the mosquito Lagoon, they call it that for a reason those salt marsh mosquitoes are vicious and extraordinary. If we didn't treat that in March probably wouldn't be able to go to the beach. So it's a service level that we provide to meet the demands of the citizens that would have to be a discussion we would have to have you all to decide what level of service we are comfortable with versus the associated reduction.

>> We could wait for a minor disease breakout. And I don't mean to be flippant about it but this obviously is an important area and in other areas of the state is often found in a different portion of the government where it's more closely associated with the health department in a lot of ways rip here because of all the big infrastructure put in like the canal system we talked about, it's probably why it landed in public works but again, this will be one that will be very hard and one we will have to think real hard about and be cautious.

>> One thing I will say is a good friend of mine who's worked in

mosquito control a long time and has traveled the world and studied other operations would say the mosquito control operations in Florida are the big leagues for a better analogy the FCC. So what we do down here people come from all over the world to look at what we do. If there's a reason because we have a lot of mosquitoes and a lot of folks around suburban populations that are exposed to these types of diseases we work hard to keep them in check.

>> The only thing I would add is I looked at the chart, the mosquito control fund in the last six years has been able back on half of them. It is a fund where the financial due diligence has been being done all along. So if you were to have a reduction of 40% of your tax base you would have to have either a service level change or you're going to have to adjust the millage rate to not only offset some of the rollbacks you've done in the past but probably pass that if you wanted to keep the current service. This being a self-contained fund you only have those two choices. A property a special assessment which I believe would be something you could do here so you're limited in this area.

>> The key thing overview said it is we might have to raise the millage rate to whoever is left. Which is going to be a much smaller pool of people. We just built, we had to replace a facility, correct?

>> And we did that while going to roll back.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Matt Reinhart.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER REINHART: You pointed on the org chart you said you had 28 employees but I counted 23. Is there others that are not? Forgive me.

>> Is 28 unless there's something wrong with the chart. I counted it up earlier.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER SANTIAGO: That UCF math.

>> I hope you were as good when you counted.

>> You just peg it right there, there's me counting, it's an occupational hazard. I notice also the vacancies, how long have they been open out of curiosity. I'm particularly interested in the vacancies of the what was that, the one that works on the helicopter.

>> We have a, the office specialist is vacant. The have.

>> I thought you were saying the office specialist on the helicopter.

>> The chief mechanic we have a chief mechanic. They have kind of different, the aircraft maintenance supervisor feels, the assistant is not.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER REINHART: Titles are deceiving.

>> Unless there's any other questions I will move on to the port district which is another taxing district. Pretty much the same as the mosquito control district, it resides on the east side of the county and its funded through a millage rate tax on those folks within the district. I will say going back to that $300,000 house example you're looking at about $16 a year that someone with that value of the house would pay. That is the total amount within the district physician, Port fund three which is a supervisor and to district partners that work in parks and split funded positions which because some of our administrative folks provide services to both the coastal side of the house and port side of the house are funded proportionately. What does the Ponce Inlet port district do? We are the sponsor for the Ponce De Leon Inlet the federal sponsor so we coordinate with the Army Corps on dredging activities and support those. We also support waterway within the district so there's many fantastic waterway access projects the port district has helped fund including the boat ramp another boat ramps along the water as well as fishing piers like the one at Wilbur boathouse so we fund through grants program with the cities we fund access to the waterway and

obviously a little parcel but two of the best beach parks I've ever seen our smart dunes and lighthouse Park are funded through the port district. And what are our costs? We do because Park Volusia does operate the booths at the inlet parks we contract with them through the overall contract and we do invasive plant removal and maintain buoys. We also do beach profile monitoring associated with the inlet that tells you where this sand is going from the beach to the inlet in dredging operations and we have indirect costs, seasonal staff and maintenance of our facility grounds. So future challenges is managing the beach going forward, funding of that I'll also throw in we haven't had an increase in fees associated with access to the parks. It's $10 a day and $20 for an annual pass, it's been the same since 2013 that provides a majority of the revenue to offset those costs. That's basically it for the port district. Happy to answer any questions, Ryan has some.

>> Add one more thing, this fund will rollback five out of the last X years.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Councilman Jake Johansson.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: I think he answered one of my questions but I haven't been in a while but in order to go, our parking fees that would apply, we still have to pay.

>> Correct, we've seen quite an uptick in people getting annual passes to the parks because they go on and register with Park Volusia and get their free resident pass and for $20 they can have a year pass into the parks today check that box to pay their $20.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: Got it, I want to make sure and I think I know the answer but I want to make sure we are not getting the whole county access to something that only some of the county pays a tax for.

>> There is no free for anybody.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: Thanks.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Future challenges you say planning in future years, described the beach management plan.

>> I will let Jessica handle that.

>> Good evening gentlemen, Jessica Fentress Coast Director so we have an excellent partnership with Army Corps of Engineers and inland navigation district to ensure and maintain navigation through the intercoastal wall waterway. If the sand and intercoastal waterway is beach compatible because of it most likely came from our beaches then we can put it back on our

beaches. So the partnership in beach management plan if we have, we are researching the ability to permit the removal of some of our shoulder islands immediately in the inlet fro that was not addressed during the Army Corps dredging project, the funding of moving those shoulder islands onto the beach in a recurring nature could be offset by the court district because in theory we are reducing the actual length navigation channel where I can put it in Ormond where it's not the right send material for abortion on our beach management plan we could fund it through the port district.

>> We can't not keep the inlet nothing will.

>> The federal channel is obligation of the Army Corps to maintain. The intercoastal waterway channel is the obligation of the inland navigation district to maintain through the Army Corps ran outside those navigation channels basically the white lines you keep the boats in. They are shoaling outside of that that area is still beach compatible when you are close to the inlet itself that material where the port district can come in and remove it as advanced maintenance but it's beneficial material we can put back on our beaches.

>> So we're okay this year.

>> We are as part of the recovery grant in the process of

permitting on 1,700,000 yd.^{3} in the throat of the inlet right now we can put on our beaches, it's being called the Shoals to Shores project, it's going to be our third project from a recovery grant expected in 2027.

>>CHAIR BROWER: I want to make the point that we're okay this year, next year this whole conversation is going to be, could be a lot different and a lot tougher.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Match, you are done to.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER REINHART: I think that's it.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Okay, thank you all. Don't need any other vote, you just her direction from the Council. Item 9 is a, the appointment to the educational facility authority, the person currently in that position is termed out, he does wish to continue on.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: Moved to nominate Randy.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Motion by Jake Johansson to nominate Randy,

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: Sorry, Randall Howard.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Seconded by Vice chair Reinhart. Any questions

on the applicants, all in favor of Randy Howard say aye. Any opposed rent Randy is reappointed 703 of and that brings us to the final public participation and first up is John Nicholson.

>>PUBLIC SPEAKER: What grade do we get for today John, A, B, C or D.

>> I'd say look at the time, you're doing really well.

>>PUBLIC SPEAKER: John Nicholson, first off I'm convinced David that Daytona Beach is the economic engine of the county. I'm trying to convince the rest of you that we have a reason to ask you to pay attention to beachside Korea I again asked you to go to A1A and check out what FDOT has done to a one day. Because if it screws up our tourist industry it does affect your bottom line. So again I ask you to take a look and make sure it doesn't keep happening because it will go up to Ormond and it will go down to new Smyrna Beach if we don't correct it. Secondly there is a woman that came in earlier from the Democratic Party. She read this little dissertation about fair voting. And she wanted all of you to apparently do something about a fair and honest election. That's what I keep asking, I wish somebody would find me a Republican somewhere because Daytona Beach does not have fair and honest elections. You cannot have half of an entire city in one zone. And have most of your Republicans in that zone. So when you put 25, 27,000 people in one zone most of

which are Republicans it means the other zones are free to elect Democrats. So why are the Republicans not interested in winning seats in Daytona Beach, it makes no sense to me so if any of you know a Republican to contact the Republican Party to take a look at voting in the city of Daytona Beach, you know we are in another lawsuit. ACLU is suing us again because we didn't do it right the second time or the third time or the fourth time. So please pay attention to that. And also I was contacted today friends were talking about New York Post, again as you know our mayor's wife got pulled over and he instead of just supporting his wife attacked our police department so he's not in a very good position at this point and again it gives another blackeye to the city of Daytona Beach. We have a commissioner at every meeting puts the city in a bad light. You cannot have a functioning city if you keep shooting it down. So please pay attention to the city of Daytona Beach, thank you.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Gary Singleton. Michelle other.

>>PUBLIC SPEAKER: I have so many things to say but only three minutes so that kind of stinks. I can't believe I lived in Volusia County all my life, my family, there's eight generations no one got involved to come here and see what's wheeling and dealing it where the money is going and pavement. New Smyrna on 44, that road sorry it just needs work. There's a lot of things that have changed over the years and I wish I would have got more

involved because you know, I think I should have ran for chair because I could have done a good job. I'm going to stay alive long enough to be a thorn in some of your sides because some of you I don't care for some of you I really like but if you want to know which ones I don't if you ask me whether I like you or not I will be glad to tell you because I have no problem with it. Thank you, I finally got the house. So my blessings for Volusia County, it's hard to be mad at Volusia County when I can't get doctors, I have to go overseas, can you give me citizenship somewhere else. It upsets me I wish my family got more involved because of where all the monies going. It's sad because I've seen new Smyrna when I was younger and my parents before that, my parents had the first restaurant in new Smyrna Beach, boats, a ski club. I'm from Calvin Coolidge. I raised three sons in the Navy. There are just a lot of things I wish more housing for people. The income, there's young couples that can't afford their houses, there's so much that needs to be done and when you listen to these guys in suits talking about where money is going, I know I got a smart comment. It's unbelievable where some of these accounts come from and what you make up. It sickens me because I'm going to do more of an effort to be more of a pain in some of your sides than I ever have before. I want people to get more involved. The decision you made tonight kind of blew my mind and I'm not happy about it and I'll put it all over Facebook and all my other social media accounts if that's okay. I'm not here to fuss at you. I'm just upset more people need to get

involved and I want you guys, I don't know, to help the community more in some of the way you act to some of us is not right. I know I'm not making sense, I'm not feeling good tonight, I need to give myself an infusion. Anyway I hope you understand what I'm saying. I'm disappointed in a lot of things happening over the years and I get ignored anyway but I think it's time for me to cause a little action in Volusia County. And make you like me even more.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, congratulations on your house, Lloyd Bowers.

>>PUBLIC SPEAKER: Thank you Chairman. I was not going to speak again but I was inspired by something Councilman Kent said earlier and that was follow the rules. February 18, 2025 I'm sure you're tired of me saying that dates over and over but I've been carrying these nets around the last three months, that's when you set the rules for this year's cultural Council grants. Based on your rulemaking, these organizations all spent the time and effort to put those grants together. Based on your rulemaking the cultural Council met, heard the grant applications and score them for you. All I'm asking now you do is follow the rules in the fund this year. Councilman Dempsey you made on October 7 a motion to fund just the current year and not fund anything else. I think you've made it clear to this arts community where the future of cultural grants from this

organization is coming that is none but for this current year you've severely impacted these organizations in a way they should not have been if you could follow the rules. On October 21 I think Councilman Santiago it was you that made the motion Councilman Reinhart seconded to fund and also bring up in for discussion asked staff prepare a future possible way of funding. That died by a 3 to 4 vote. I'm not asking you to bring up that motion, I'm asking you to reconsider a motion for funding this year as Councilman Dempsey proposed October 2 that it's the right thing to do is what you agreed to do I'm just asking you to follow through and keep your word.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you and that's the end of the second public comment so we will move to closing comments by the County manager.

>>COUNTY MANAGER: Sure Mr. chair. I have one thing. I want to give a shout out this weekend to our emergency management team and our fire team and also the city fire teams that did a lot of diligent work especially Sunday during the race which of course is a spectacular event. The community event, they did a yeoman's job out there as you probably have read. We had several wildfires that shut down the major artery on I-95 during the race they worked hard to get that back open so we could get out hundred 50,000 visitors their home and I just think it's worth noting and related to that I'm going to let you know we are very

close to having a burn ban put on here in Volusia County and it will probably occur with things forecast that we are having today it will probably occur this week probably in a day or two so letting you know that and that's it.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, County attorney.

>>COUNTY ATTORNEY: I have nothing, thank you.

>>CHAIR BROWER: And County Counsel, this week we start with Jake Johansson.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: Thank you sir, a couple items coming up in February unfortunately in conference with our state and county address the East Central Florida regional Planning Council is going to have their diamond awards here at the Brennan Center in Volusia County followed by Jeffersonian roundtable and a resilience Council meeting if you will on Ben Bartlett and I are both involved. I encourage anybody that has time the 25th through the 27th two come on out and see what that's all about. It will be interesting. People from all over Florida will be here to speak. Chairman it's kind of like those MRC meetings we go to in Brevard but it has to do with resilience and flooding and also to other school items. Secondly I have been working with Jessica Fentress and John Booker on Senate Bill 636 dealing with part of our beach and how that's legislated. I have an

opportunity to reach out to some of our federal officials to reiterate how important that feasibility study we are trying to get done by the Army Corps in preparation for having an engineered beach so I want everybody to know I'm kind of working outside the lifelines to see if we can get that project approved. This year federally and everything I say and do in confidence with what we've all done and promoted in the past so I'm not speaking out of turn but I am reaching out via some of my contacts. That's all I have tonight, thank you very much.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Councilman Kent.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER KENT: Thank you chair, a couple brief items, if you could let Mr. Bailey know, Tim Bailey, I feel like he has just been on point with his job. He was wonderful at my district dialogue, we haven't had closing comments in a while so I wanted to make sure I share that but not only that but an issue recently about Highbridge, him and Suzanne has been wonderful as far as sharing information with residents that want to know what's going on. He's knowledgeable and I appreciate that and I also wanted to publicly share this also with Ben Bartlett and his team, he mentioned it briefly but his presence and the presence of what they've been doing on social media has been very impactful. People need to know that the ditches are being cleaned out and it's not a very sexy job but it's great to see the spider in action or front end loader or you know, just the guys and the

girls out there doing the manual labor and showing the results. Those before and after pictures the pictures of them doing the work, I'm a huge fan of that. You know, people comment on it on social media and I think it's important they know what's going on and with that I charge you with there's tons of other things in public works and things County does and I think we have a really good team here that can get the message out but I think if we could enhance that. If we could make sure all of the good work that's being done if we can just get it out so people know the incredible hard work that these individuals do because you mentioned George, you have the Daytona 500 going on, people are going out to dinner, Valentine's Day just happened but you had a dedicated team of professionals putting out wildfires so and no one thinks about the hundred 50,000 visitors that have to get home and you have a problem if you don't open that up and you had an elementary school with the fire 50 feet away from it and it's important work we do. And it's important we share that with the community, have a great evening everybody.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Vice chair Reinhart.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER REINHART: On what Councilman Kent said with respect to Tim Bailey I have to give him kudos for what we see behind the scenes. When the young lady this morning and the wheelchair came up and talked about I say this morning, the Cortland Boulevard trail. I had received an email about that,

send it to Tim, Tim right away was working on it and I noticed after she wheeled late because she made the comment it was going to be she believed to be addressed, it was a contractor issue. Tim went over pulled her outside and explained the situation so that was done without anybody knowing it and I appreciate you mentioning the fact the beginning of the meeting often times we don't recognize not often times we don't recognize when somebody asks us a question to keep things rolling. That being said I'm glad you pointed that out because when the other woman asked about the forever I think everyone of us voted for forever so I'll say that publicly, we all did and I can speak for myself, back in 2002, 2022 I can but we couldn't answer that so thank you for pointing that out because often times they think we are ignoring it. There was another gentleman and I'm hitting on this so these concerns brought up during public comment are addressed publicly. One of the things about the beach access, I'm already talking if Ben Bartlett, he's going to get with the business owners on that A1A access where the pizza shop was where we have the parking that was already done, we will meet with those individuals and see if we can come to a happy medium so if you gentlemen are aware of that so I don't violate any sunshine, we can tell you ahead of time they will address that and thanks been to his team. If we have to bring it back up later we will. John, paying attention to city of Daytona, I am paying attention and I see a lot of street times. I was kind of blown away at that but every sign I looked at I can understand why it's there.

And to keep people safe, I get that but I agree on the other side of that coin as you're driving you see a couple signs that you don't know what to pay attention to first but we are paying attention. There's not a lot we can do other than FDO T, it's not our road. Lastly listening to constituents. And I know it's going to get a little dicey in here probably but I've heard it. I've heard the arts community talk and they've come here time and time again. I'm going to make that motion to approve it for this year and I said it was and I thought it would fail and it may fail but I'm going to make that motion again for just this year. That's all I have.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Matt Reinhart makes a motion to approve arts funding for this year only. The second was by Jake Johansson.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER REINHART: Does it need to go on a future agenda, better for legal, it will go on a future agenda.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Even though we voted for it before. Okay. Jake Johansson makes the second still. This will be the motion to bring it back in a future. Councilman Kent.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER KENT: Can vice chair Reinhart do that since he was on the losing end? Legal?

>>COUNCIL MEMBER REINHART: The motion I made never passed.

>> We actually did have a motion that passed.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER REINHART: Even the motion I made fail for lack of a second.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Mr. Dempsey is the one that made the motion for a year and there was no second.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER REINHART: I think you have a clean slate. That's what I thought when we talked before. I think illegally you could pass a motion this evening, I just know we talked about bringing an agenda item back, it's up to counsel.

>> If we were going to bring it up and it failed I was going to do that because I agree with Jake we could come back on a printed agenda so if it failed I was going to make a motion to take that 600,000 distribute it evenly into the sidewalk fund between district 1234 and five 120,000 each for each of those districts for a core governmental responsibility. So if we're going to do it that way I will make that motion and if it fails but if we put it on the agenda I will wait and see what happens.

>>CHAIR BROWER: You could make that motion and it would go on a future agenda along with this.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER REINHART: I will make that motion it can go on the agenda after that item if it fails, then it doesn't fail it's a moot point but that we would put George $120,000 into district 1, districts 1234 and five. Sidewalk fund, thank you.

>>CHAIR BROWER: The second came from councilmember.

>> You have a Karin's motion on the floor.

>>CHAIR BROWER: We will, trying to catch everything as it comes the first motion by Matt Reinhart is to bring the arts vote back in future agenda. Any questions on that, all in favor say aye. Any opposed.

>> Mr. Johansson.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER REINHART: Can you quickly call the roll on that?

>>COUNCIL MEMBER KENT: No.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER REINHART: Aye.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINS: No.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER SANTIAGO: Aye.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER DEMPSEY: Aye.

>>CHAIR BROWER: No, but the motion is passed so that will come back in the future.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER REINHART: That's all I have.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Second motion is on that agenda, if that motion fails the money be split up among all the districts to the sidewalk fund.

>> Christo would you call the roll on that one.

>> Tell me with a second is.

>> Seconded by Danny Robbins.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: Yes.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER KENT: Yes.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER REINHART: Yes.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINS: Yes.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER SANTIAGO: Yes.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER DEMPSEY: Yes.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Yes.

>>CHAIR BROWER: That motion passes unanimously and Mr. Reinhart says he is done, councilmember Robins.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINS: Thank you Mr. chair, short and sweet. I don't know if anybody was paying attention, let's see if I can pull it back, there was a couple deputies, deputies Austin Graham and Nathan Vargas who rescued a woman in the land from a boarding home this last weekend. I know this counsel has made it a point to support our police and fire or are deputies in fire and first responders, we did it with a few deputies, Royce, James and a handful of folks that deputies and firefighters up there in Lake, Lake dais, the boat was out of control or Lake George, one of the two but I'd like to again put these fine gentlemen in 48 proclamation. And recognize their great service. In saving this gal's life. And getting her rescue breathing and all that stuff. Chair if you want me to put in motion.

>>CHAIR BROWER: If we could agree by unanimous consent.

>> And to the state for this coming year gave Presidents' Day a

recognized Presidents' Day, is that something the council wants to consider. Four days off, I know we just added a few and it may be time to look at everything especially if we are tightening things up and we can readjust in the future if we decide to read it's up to counsel. It was brought to me and I'm passing it forward.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Councilman Kent.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER KENT: This is something around Christmas time that was very quick and we went ahead and did it. I raised a bit of a red flag at the time this is something I feel like if we are going to do, this is something that I think we need to put in collective bargaining in George's court to deal with. I don't like doing this from up here because it costs money and I think it's a bad precedent to set. It feels good but it's too loosey-goosey for me. So I would rather be something that George and his team talk with the unions and the rank-and-file. Give-and-take and make decisions upon instead of up here but that's just me venting.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Councilman Johansson.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER JOHANSSON: If we are going to do this why don't we have George bring back our day off policy in general. All of them we can pick and choose. Because next thing you know another

one is going to come up. So with a recommendation.

>> Probably the easiest would be bring it back as part of the budget discussion. I will make a highlight.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Was that it? Councilman send Iago.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER SANTIAGO: One thing for the lady sitting in the middle and I forgot your name so I apologize. I wanted to acknowledge the murals you mentioned in the statehouse. While I served there eight years and I used to look at these murals all the time when I was in there, I particularly like the one with the conquistador. Walking in there so I wanted to, you brought back memories and I wanted to thank you but those are great funerals and I encourage everyone to see them.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Councilman Dempsey.

>>COUNCIL MEMBER DEMPSEY: Ice already died here and I don't know if you had a chance to watch the general tire 200 on Saturday at the Speedway. But I just wanted to give a shout out to Randy and his son Daniel Daniel was the third qualifier in that race and he almost pulled it off and one so it's kind of like actually really good to see a hometown boy actually almost pull off a win Saturday at the Speedway so that was exciting or myself and my family. His son went to Saint Barnabas, my kids attend Barnabas

so it's really cool so I wanted to give a shout out, maybe see him on the monitor later on but congratulations to the family for a huge success, that's all I have.

>>CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, just a couple of things, quick update on the IR L Council meeting I attend every quarter. There was some good reports on water quality from South Florida up to Ormond Beach read good reports: Seagrass and then some troubling reports that there hoping was a blip. But one of the things the most important things they did is that they I got a unanimous vote from the Council which includes a representative of the EPA, representative of St. John's water management District and representative of the various County councils along the IR L. Two have a letter of support written to the County and it was and delivered by Doctor Wayne to freeze and his staff. Thanking us for the Volusia forever program. It talked about the importance of it. And specifically the importance of keeping it forever so I was glad to receive that letter from the IR L staff. Michelle, you mentioned you received housing and I wanted to direct this to staff as well as you. I fed congratulations, it was not an easy process and I just want to point out that throughout that process Doctor Brad Burbach, Donna Butler, all the staff included in that work really hard. It wasn't easy because there's so many strings attached with state money, federal money. And it took far longer than what I wanted. It took far longer than what this staff wanted to be a part in the whole, thank you for not giving up. A

long time, I'm so glad to hear you've got not just a house but safe housing, not in a dangerous neighborhood. So that's important. Lastly I just want to say something about the vote tonight. On the ordinance and the charter amendment for toilet to tap water. I wasn't going to say anything but I think my colleague David Santiago called me a liar without using the word liar. It said I spoke misinformation out so I will take that up with him and as he requested online as well because I've been very I just want to the public on this, I've been very careful that everything I said I have verification for. And to say it's not here is absolutely false. It is here. In fact the Deltona meeting there was a 30% rate increase on water utility. Passed with only about 10 people from the public there so Michelle is right, we need more people to participate. Partially to pay for their injection system. So it's here, it's going to affect all of us. And to the public the person that's the people that have already texted me that said that counsel lost there protections are hopeless, I want to tell you that you are not defeated. And I will bring this back with the next new counsel in the Council after that. Your protections are not lost because they are voted down. Twice now, previous counsel in this counsel. So don't lose hope. Keep fighting and let's keep our aquifer clean. And with that at 9:01 this meeting is adjourned.