



Roundtable of Volusia County Elected Officials Meeting Minutes November 18, 2024

CALL TO ORDER – 9:00 a.m.

The Dennis R. McGee Room, Daytona Beach International Airport, 700 Catalina Drive, Daytona Beach, Florida.

Those attending included the following Roundtable members: Nancy Miller, Roundtable Chair and Daytona Beach Shores Mayor; Lois Paritsky, Roundtable Vice Chair and Ponce Inlet Mayor; Karen Chazez, Mayor, DeBary; Chris Cloudman, Mayor, DeLand; Fred Cleveland, Mayor, New Smyrna Beach; Santiago Avila, Jr., Mayor, Deltona; William Hall, Mayor, South Daytona; Don Burnette, Mayor, Port Orange; Vernon Burton, Mayor, Lake Helen; Stacy Cantu, Commissioner, Daytona Beach; Jeffrey Brower, Chair, Volusia County; Suzanne Konchan, Deputy County Manager, Volusia County; Kurt Swartzlander, City Manager, Daytona Beach Shores; Mike Disher, Town Manager, Ponce Inlet; John Penny, Mayor, Holly Hill; Joe Forte, City Manager, Holly Hill; Dale Arrington, City Manager, Orange City; Les Gillis, City Manager, South Daytona; Kevin Cowper, City Manager, New Smyrna Beach; Andrew Holmes, Deputy City Manager, Daytona Beach; Doc Dougherty, City Manager, Deltona; Jeff Thurman, Interim City Manager, City of Edgewater; Gray Leonhard, Mayor, Pierson; Ricky Taylor, Mayor, Oak Hill; Jim Gleason, Town Administrator, Lake Helen.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Nancy Miller welcomed those in attendance and, following the introductions of the attendees, led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

INTRODUCTIONS OF NEW CITY MANAGERS AND ADMINISTRATORS

Doc Dougherty, City Manager, City of Deltona, provided an overview of his professional and educational experience. Mr. Dougherty spoke of his work as city manager for the City of Deltona.

Kevin Cowper, City Manager, City of New Smyrna Beach, stated he is originally from Alabama and spoke of his professional experience as a city administrator. Mr. Cowper stated he also served as a city manager in Pensacola, Florida. He spoke of his work with the City of New Smyrna Beach.

Jim Gleason, City Administrator, City of Lake Helen, spoke of his professional experience and of the various areas he has worked in. Mr. Gleason spoke of the challenges the recent rain events and Hurricane Milton have brought to the City of Lake Helen.

HURRICANE MILTON RECOVERY UPDATE

Clint Mecham, Emergency Management Director, Volusia County, provided data on Hurricane Milton and its impacts to Volusia County. Mr. Mecham gave an overview of Volusia County Emergency Management and its staff coordination with municipalities and agencies before, during and after the storm. He stated the Citizens Information Center (CIC) answered over 5,000 calls from October 7-18; Volusia County Emergency Medical Services experienced an almost 33% increase in call volume during the storm; and Volusia County Fire Rescue experienced call volume that included 38 Hazmat responses and four structure fires. Mr. Mecham provided an overview of FEMA and other federal and state agencies that provided assistance to citizens in Volusia County as part of the recovery from Hurricane Milton.

Discussion and questions ensued.

Benjamin Bartlett, Public Works Department Director, Volusia County, provided an update on the preparation and recovery efforts by Volusia County Public Works staff as related to Hurricane Milton. Mr. Bartlett provided information on the impacts to transportation assessments due to flooding and cleanup operations related to debris removal. He stated debris removal began October 18 and approximately 200,000 cubic yards have been collected to date. He stated all debris operations must be complete by January 11, 2025, to receive 100% FEMA reimbursement.

Discussion and question ensued.

Michael Ryan, Community Information Director, Volusia County, thanked the municipalities' staff, especially their public information officers, for their collaboration. Mr. Ryan explained the Public Information Network (PIN) group and stated the group will meet in January 2025 to discuss their response to Hurricane Milton and lay the groundwork for the next hurricane season.

Fred Cleveland, Mayor of New Smyrna Beach, gave accolades to Volusia County staff and especially those coordinating services during the storm event.

Discussion and questions ensued.

Dru Driscoll, Fire Chief and Deputy City Manager, City of Daytona Beach, provided an overview of the City of Daytona Beach's preparation and recovery efforts related to Hurricane Milton. Chief Driscoll stated the hurricane shelters on the east side of the county were at capacity. He spoke about the visit by Colonel Bowman with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to view the area and discuss resiliency and recovery projects to help restore the coastline and to help prevent flooding.

Dale Arrington, City Manager, City of Orange City, spoke on the impacts Hurricane Milton had on the Orange City. Ms. Arrington spoke specifically on several areas that experienced major damage, such as U.S. 17-92 between DeBary and Orange City, Veterans Memorial Parkway, Threadgill Place, AdventHealth Hospital, and several other locations, including city facilities. She spoke on the collaboration with staff from Volusia County Public Works and specifically for their assistance and providing pumps for pumping water away from the hospital. She also thanked the City of DeLand for loaning their surplus police cars due to many of theirs being damaged by flood waters.

Cammie Dewey, Strategic Planning Basin Coordinator, St. Johns River Water Management District, provided an overview of the rule changes that were passed by the legislature earlier this year, then signed by the Governor, resulting in an effective date of June 28, 2024. Ms. Dewey stated that implementation of the rule changes would be a multi-year process. She reviewed the minimum water quality treatment standards and methodology for calculating pre- and post-pollutant loadings and BMP removal efficiencies, along with additional rule changes. She also explained where the rule changes could be found on the St. Johns River Water Management District website.

Chair Miller announced Item 5, Kids Tag Art, will be moved to the January 2025 agenda due to time constraints.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Will Roberts, Tax Collector, announced the Volusia County Tax Collector basket brigade and explained how individuals could contribute to the Thanksgiving baskets volunteers and staff were putting together for families in need in the area.

Jake Johansson, Council Member At-Large, Volusia County, recommended the Volusia County Elected Officials Roundtable form a Flooding Subcommittee.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Roundtable Chair Miller reviewed the 2025 meeting schedule and announced the next meeting is January 13, 2025, and the meeting location is the same.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Nancy Miller, Mayor, Daytona Beach Shores, announced this was her last meeting as chair and Mayor Lois Paritsky would assume the role as chair and Mayor Avila as vice chair for 2025. She asked that everyone continue to support small businesses.

Vernon Burton, Mayor, Lake Helen, announced community events being held in Lake Helen for the holiday season.

Karen Chavez, Mayor, DeBary, stated she looked forward to future discussions regarding water storage and other related items.

Gary Blair, Mayor, Orange City, thanked Chair Miller for all her work for the Roundtable. He said his goodbyes and noted that he enjoyed working with everyone. He stated this was his last meeting due to his term ending.

Jeff Brower, County Chair, Volusia County, commented on the letter he sent to the municipalities asking for support on a temporary building moratorium he was proposing to Council.

Don Burnette, Mayor, Port Orange, said this was his last meeting due to his term ending. He said he will still be involved in serving the community, just in a different role. He has been appreciative of the years he has been in public service.

Diezel DePew, Mayor, Edgewater, thanked Mayor Burnette for his service and for mentoring him when he was first elected to office. Mayor DePew announced a town hall meeting at the Edgewater City Hall.

Santiago Avila, Mayor, Deltona, gave his best wishes to the mayors who were leaving due to their terms coming to an end. Mayor Avila stated he looked forward to serving as vice chair for the Roundtable. He also thanked Mayor Miller and Mayor Paritsky for their leadership.

Gray Leonhard, Mayor, Pierson, thanked everyone for being so welcoming and said he looked forward to working with everyone.

William Hall, Mayor, South Daytona, gave accolades to Mayor Burnette and thanked him for their collaboration over the years.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Miller adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.