



City of North Port

4970 City Hall Blvd
North Port, FL 34286

Meeting Minutes - Draft City Commission Joint Meeting

CITY COMMISSIONERS

Jill Luke, Mayor

Pete Emrich, Vice Mayor

Barbara Langdon, Commissioner

Debbie McDowell, Commissioner

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Jason Yarborough, Interim City Manager

Amber L. Slayton, City Attorney

Heather Taylor, City Clerk

Friday, January 15, 2021

9:00 AM

Suncoast Technical College Conf. Center
& via Zoom
4748 Beneva Road, Sarasota, FL

Convocation of Governments Interlocal Agreement for Public Schools Facility Planning

Elected Officials and Others Present

The following officials were present: City of North Port Mayor Jill Luke, Vice Mayor Pete Emrich and Interim City Manager Jason Yarborough (in person), Commissioners Debbie McDowell and Barbara Langdon, City Clerk Heather Taylor and City Attorney Amber Slayton (virtually); City of Venice Council Member Nick Pachota and City Manager Ed Lavallee, (in person) Vice Mayor Rich Cautero and Council Member Mitzie Fiedler, City Attorney Kelly Fernandez, and City Clerk Lori Stelzer (virtually); Sarasota Board of County Commissioners Chair Al Maio, County Administrator Jonathan Lewis and Deputy Clerk Charlie Maloney (in person), Commissioners Michael Moran, Ron Custinger and Christian Ziegler, (virtually); City of Sarasota Mayor Hagen Brody and Interim City Manager Marlon Brown (in person), and Commissioners Jen Ahern-Koch, Liz Alpert, and Kyle Battie, Assistant City Manager John Lege, City Auditor and Clerk Shayla Griggs and Commission Reporter James Johnson (virtually); Town of Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier and Town Manager Tom Harmer, Deputy Town Clerk Savannah Cobb and Town Attorney Maggie Mooney (virtually); School Board of Sarasota County Chair Shirley Brown, Vice Chair Jane Goodwin, and Superintendent Brennan Asplen, Chief Operating Officer Jody Dumas, and Administrative Assistant Kathy Tomkins (in person), and Board Members Bridget Ziegler, Karen Rose and Tom Edwards (virtually).

I. Welcome/Pledge/Introductions - Shirley Brown, Chair, School Board of Sarasota County

Ms. Brown called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions were made.

II. Convocation Goals and Agenda - Shirley Brown, Chair, School Board of Sarasota County

Ms. Brown reviewed the agenda and goals.

III. Open to the Public - Citizen Comment

Public Comment:

Michael McLaughlin; Public transportation and connectivity.

Mr. Lewis noted that the Legacy Trail project assuring connectivity is ahead of schedule.

IV. Update on SCSB Enrollment and Planning for the Future - Micki Ryan & Diane Cominotti, SCSB Planning Department

Micki Ryan, Senior Planner and Diane Cominotti, Planner/GIS Analyst, provided an update regarding the Sarasota County School Board enrollment and planning for the future.

Discussion ensued regarding Venice High School expansion process and State enrollment capacity regulations, and timeline for school construction.

V. COVID 19 Update - Sarasota County Health Department

Chuck Henry, Administrator Florida Department of Health Sarasota County Director Health and Human Services, provided a COVID-19 update from the Sarasota County Health Department including daily average positive cases, rapid testing sites, and vaccine distribution protocols.

Discussion ensued regarding considering teachers and administrators as front line workers for the vaccine protocol, vaccine availability for veterans, protocol for those receiving the vaccine based on the Governor's Executive Order, and weekly updates with municipal administrators.

VI. Your Mental Health - Dr. Laura Kingsley, SCSB, Chief Academic Officer

Deborah Jackorone, Director of Student Services, provided an overview of the mental health service availability and mental health issues within the public schools.

Discussion ensued regarding providing mental health assistance for students and family members.

VII. Surtax Update - Steve Botelho, Sarasota County Government

Mr. Lewis provided a surtax update.

Discussion ensued regarding municipalities website for surtax information.

VIII. Town of Longboat Key - Tom Harmer, Town Manager

Mr. Harmer provided an update on the Town support for School Board initiatives, infrastructure growth, student enrollment, decrease in tax base, redevelopment and beach refurbishment projects and Town Center outdoor venue update.

IX. City of North Port - Jason Yarborough, Interim City Manager

Mr. Yarborough provided an update on North Port population growth, increase in permitting activity, COVID-19 challenges, need for infrastructure for student remote learning, and alternate graduation plan.

X. City of Sarasota - Tom Barwin, City Manager

Mr. Dumas provided an update on the project agreement with Sarasota County School Board and City of Sarasota.

Mr. Barwin provided the City of Sarasota updates including infrastructure update, WiFi communication updates, Legacy Trail extension, school path updates, public school security, and affordable housing contributions for education providers.

XI. Sarasota County Government - Jonathan Lewis, Administrator

Mr. Lewis provided updates on completed school projects, future funded school projects, addressing school crossing safety issues, resource for fire safety training and future training site, law enforcement training and affordable housing.

Discussion ensued regarding expansion of hurricane shelters, and partnership with the County and Emergency Operation Team.

XII. City of Venice - Ed Lavallee, City Manager

Mr. Lavallee provided the update on the City of Venice including open education institutes maintaining acceptable education levels and addressing concerns with the COVID-19 issues, holding virtual meetings, levels of security and increasing performance levels for staff, vaccine protocol concerns, and participation in student government day and internship opportunities.

XIII. Other Business - Shirley Brown, Chair, School Board of Sarasota County

Ms. Brown spoke to locations of previous meetings and agreed to provide updates in person if requested.

Mayor Luke noted that the North Port High School Assistant Principle provided a school update at a North Port Commission meeting.

XIV. Adjournment - Shirley Brown, Chair, School Board of Sarasota County

Ms. Brown adjourned the meeting at 10:48 a.m.

City of North Port, Florida

By: _____
Gisele "Jill" E. Luke, Mayor

Attest: _____
Heather Taylor, City Clerk

Minutes approved at the Commission Regular Meeting this ____ day of _____, 2021.