



Central Florida Regional Planning Council

October 14, 2015

Okeechobee County Courthouse

County Commission Chambers

304 NW 2nd Street

Okeechobee, FL

9:30 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Chairman Buddy Mansfield called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Norman White led the Council in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was called and the following members were present.

CFRPC Chairman Commissioner Buddy Mansfield, DeSoto County
CFRPC Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Edie Yates, City of Lakeland
City Councilman Joe Fink, City of Arcadia
Jackie Tucker, DeSoto County Gubernatorial Appointee
Commissioner Mike Thompson, Hardee County
City Councilwoman Neda Cobb, City of Wauchula
Chet Huddleston, Hardee County Gubernatorial Appointee
Commissioner Don Elwell, Highlands County
Commissioner Bryant Culpepper, Okeechobee County
City Commissioner, Mike O'Connor, City of Okeechobee
Elvie Posey, Okeechobee County Gubernatorial Appointee
Commissioner Melony Bell, Polk County
City Commissioner Pat Huff, City of Bartow and Ridge League of Cities
Hazel Sellers, Polk County Gubernatorial Appointee and School Board
Jeff Kincart, Polk County Gubernatorial Appointee
Earl Hahn, DeSoto County Planning Director, Ex-officio
Elizabeth "Libby" Maxwell, South Florida Water Management District, Ex-officio
Jeff Diemer for Jennifer Stults, Florida Department of Transportation, Ex-officio

Members absent:

City Councilman John Shoop, Sebring Mayor
Donna Howerton, Highlands County Gubernatorial Appointee and School Board
City Commissioner, J.P. Powell, Winter Haven
Todd Miller, Hardee County Planning Director, Ex-officio
Ben Dunn, Highlands County Development Services Director, Ex-officio
Bill Royce, Okeechobee County Planning Director, Ex-officio
Tom Deardorff, Polk County Director of Growth Management, Ex-officio
Jim Golden, Southwest Florida Water Management District, Ex-officio
Mary Yeagan, Department of Environmental Protection. Ex-officio



Announcements

Mike O'Connor introduced Okeechobee City Councilman Dowling Watford. Dowling Watford is a former member of the CFRPC, serving in the 1980s, and currently holds the record as the longest sitting City Councilman for the City of Okeechobee.

Pat Steed thanked Okeechobee County for hosting the CFRPC Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #1 PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Mansfield opened the public comment period. The public comment period closed with no comments.

AGENDA ITEM #2 COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

August 12, 2015, Council Meeting Minutes

Chairman Mansfield asked if there were any corrections to the August 12, 2015 Council Meeting Minutes.

MOTION

There being none, Elvie Posey moved to approve the Council Meeting Minutes as submitted. Chet Huddleston seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #3 OKEECHOBEE COUNTY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Robbie Chartier, Okeechobee County Administrator, reported on current economic development projects in Okeechobee County, including Florida Power & Light (FP&L) clean energy plant proposed to be located in northern Okeechobee County. It is a \$1.2 billion investment by FP&L and will create between 300 and 650 jobs during the two year construction period. The overall economic impact to the community beyond the construction period is expected to be approximately \$500 million. New tax revenues are also expected from this project to the County, school district and the water management district. In addition, FP&L's natural gas pipeline project is proposed to come through Okeechobee County and is expected to have a \$36 million economic impact in the first year. Ms. Chartier reported on the Guy Harvey Outpost proposed for the Okee-Tantie area of Okeechobee. The Guy Harvey Outpost is a \$19 million project that will include 400 campsites, a restaurant, retail shopping, boat storage, a clubhouse, and a lazy river. Ms. Chartier mentioned other retail projects expected to be located in Okeechobee, such as a Zaxbys Restaurant, a bakery and an auto parts store. These businesses will create new jobs in the County. Ms. Chartier reported on the Wooden Jungle Park project, which is a capital project in Okeechobee that has swamp buggies, airboats and mud buggies. Okeechobee County is also working on wetland mitigation issues at their airport and on a sidewalk masterplan project.

AGENDA ITEM #4 FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

A. Final Amended Budget for FY 2014-15.

Pat Steed stated that the Finance Committee met on October 7, 2015, in Sebring. At that meeting the Council's auditor, CliftonLarsonAllen discussed the upcoming annual audit, which is expected to begin in early November. The Finance Committee reviewed the final amended budget for FY 2014-15 and is recommending its approval. Ms. Steed reviewed the Final Amended Budget for FY 2014-15 with the Council.

MOTION

Pat Huff moved to approve the Final Amended Budget for FY 2014-15 as presented and recommended by the Finance Committee. Jackie Tucker seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Recommend FY 2015-16 Pay Adjustment Effective Oct 1, 2015.

Ms. Steed explained that the employee salary adjustment was inadvertently put in the budget to become effective on October 5, 2015. However, the correct effective date was meant to be October 1, 2015. She recommended that be corrected in the budget.

MOTION

Don Elwell moved to accept staff's recommendation to change the employee salary adjustment effective date from October 5, 2015 to October 1, 2015. Chet Huddleston seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #5 CONTRACT FOR TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Pat Steed stated that the Council utilizes an information technology company to provide support to the office computer system and network. She recommended continuing services with Cipher Integration, Inc. for a twelve month contract period of October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016.

MOTION

Mike O'Connor moved to approve the Contract with Cipher Integration, Inc. as presented. Hazel Sellers seconded.

Edie Yates abstained from voting, stating that her son was the owner of Cipher Integration, Inc.

Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM #6 CONTRACT WITH THE STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT

Pat Steed stated that the Council has been awarded a FY 15/16 Community Planning Technical Assistance Grant by the State of Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO). The grant award allows for the development of comprehensive plan amendments required to address the newly formed Heartland Regional Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) for twelve local governments in the HRTPO area. Council staff will draft the policy language for the comprehensive plan amendments and work with the local governments to update their comprehensive plans. Discussion followed.

MOTION

Melony Bell moved to approve the contract with DEO and authorize the Executive Director to execute the grant agreement. Pat Huff seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #7 TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED PROGRAM UPDATE

Marcia Staszko explained that every five years the Transportation Disadvantaged Program is required to conduct a Request for Proposals process to select a Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC). Earlier this year a new CTC was selected by the Council, and their recommendation was forwarded to the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged for the final decision. The current CTC filed a protest to that decision which caused a delay in the schedule for transition to a new CTC. The protest was ultimately withdrawn and the current CTC is working with the incoming CTC for a smooth transition. The new CTC, MV Transportation, will take over on November 1, 2015. Ms. Staszko announced that a Meet-and-Greet event has been scheduled for October 20, 2015 in Highlands County at the CareerSource Heartland at 10:00 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM #8 STATUS REPORT FOR THE HEARTLAND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (HRTPO)

Pat Steed reported on recent activities of the HRTPO. The HRTPO Technical Advisory Committee has conducted two meetings with good participation from local government technical staff, and three HRTPO meetings have been held to date. Staff is handling many activities simultaneously, such as technical modeling, policy writing, public involvement and compliance with grant requirements. Staff has met with representatives from all six HRTPO counties to discuss transportation projects in their municipalities that they have identified as needed in their county. She added that staff has conducted public participation workshops with focus groups of individuals who are not typically involved at the planning level, to obtain their input. Ms. Steed distributed

flyers for the next workshop planned for November 5, 2015 in Sebring and invited members to visit the www.heartlandregionaltpo.org website.

Ms. Steed reported that because of this year's accelerated legislative session, FDOT will be conducting ePublic Hearings online regarding their Tentative Five Year Work Plan. FDOT will not be conducting their public hearing at the December Council Meeting this year.

AGENDA ITEM #9 COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS)

Shannon Brett stated that the CFRPC serves as the Central Florida Economic Development District as designated by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) since the 1970s. Showing a PowerPoint presentation, she reviewed the updated CEDS document, which is required by EDA to be revised every five years, and can be updated annually. This was an annual update. Ms. Brett pointed out that the CEDS document has been reviewed and approved by the CEDS Committee. Ms. Brett reviewed the updated statistical information as well as pointing out the key projects listed in the CEDS document.

MOTION

Chet Huddleston moved to approve the Draft CEDS Document for Public Comment. Edie Yates seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Brett stated that at the August Council Meeting, the Council recommended additional members be added to the CEDS Committee for consideration. She presented the updated list of CEDS Committee Members for Council approval.

MOTION

Mike Thompson moved to approve the updated list of CEDS Committee Members as presented. Edie Yates seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #10 2016 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Pat Steed presented the proposed 2016 Holiday Schedule and stated that the office will be closed on the scheduled dates in recognition of these holidays.

MOTION

Jackie Tucker moved to approve the 2016 Holiday Schedule as presented. Don Elwell seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #11 APPOINT COMMITTEE TO NOMINATE OFFICERS FOR 2016

Chairman Buddy Mansfield appointed Jackie Tucker, Pat Huff, and Don Elwell to serve as the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee will meet on December 9, 2015 at 9:00 a.m., just prior to the Council Meeting, to nominate a member to serve as Chairman of the CFRPC in 2016.

AGENDA ITEM #12 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Pat Steed distributed a two page informational sheet about the Council and its programs and projects, including its mission, funding information and awards and recognitions.

Ms. Steed showed a PowerPoint presentation about the Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA). Last year the legislature reconfigured Florida's RPCs from 11 to ten, with the neighboring RPCs absorbing the counties from the one that was disbanded. Ms. Steed reviewed core activities that all Florida RPCs are responsible for conducting in their region, including economic development, regional planning, community development, transportation planning and emergency preparedness. RPCs have other activities that differ because of location, the needs of its local governments and the needs of its citizens. She reviewed a few of the programs and activities that each RPC conducts for its region.

Melony Bell referred to the Regional Leadership Academy which is being conducted by the Northeast Florida RPC, and asked if the Central Florida RPC could sponsor a program such as this. She felt it would promote regionalism and would share beneficial information between the Counties and Cities in the region.

Ms. Steed thought that was a good recommendation and would put together information and ideas to move it forward.

Ms. Steed recognized Pat Huff for being appointed to the Path Forward Committee, which is a working group of the FRCA Policy Board.

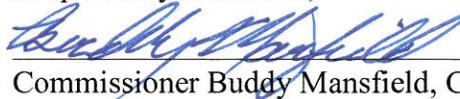
Ms. Steed also recognized Chet Huddleston, Gubernatorial Appointee from Hardee County, for his recent appointment as Hardee County Supervisor of Elections.

AGENDA ITEM #13 OTHER BUSINESS

The next meeting was scheduled for December 9, 2015 in Bartow at the Bartow Public Library at 9:30 a.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Commissioner Buddy Mansfield, Chairman
October 14, 2015 Council Meeting Minutes