

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF
THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

MARCH 20, 2020

Present: Commissioner Steven L. Barry, Chairman, District 5
Commissioner Robert D. Bender, Vice Chairman, District 4
Commissioner Jeffrey W. Bergosh, District 1
Commissioner Lumon J. May, District 3
Commissioner Douglas B. Underhill, District 2
Honorable Pam Childers, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller
Janice Gilley, County Administrator
Sharon Harrell, Finance Director, Clerk and Comptroller's Office
Alison Rogers, County Attorney
DeLana Allen-Busbee, Administrative Specialist, Clerk and Comptroller's Office
Elizabeth Kissel, Program Coordinator, County Administrator's Office

Location: Ernie Lee Magaha Government Building, Board Chambers, First Floor
221 Palafox Place, Pensacola, Florida

Minutes prepared by: DeLana Allen-Busbee

AGENDA NUMBER

1. Call to Order

Chairman Barry called the Special Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners to order at 11:01 a.m.

2. Advertisement of the Meeting

The Board was advised by County Attorney Rogers that the meeting was advertised via a media blast and it was otherwise legally noticed.

MINUTES – MARCH 20, 2020

AGENDA NUMBER - Continued

3. Adoption of the Agenda

Recommendation: That the Board adopt the agenda as prepared (or duly amended).

Motion: So moved
Made by: Commissioner May
Seconded by: Commissioner Underhill
Disposition: Carried unanimously

FOR INFORMATION: The Board held a public forum, discussed the status of supplies, resources, and conditions in Escambia County and at area hospitals, and heard updates from community partners, the director of the Florida Department of Health in Escambia County, as well as representatives from local hospitals and healthcare facilities. County Attorney Rogers also briefed the Board on the Governor’s executive order, which was released during the meeting.

Speakers:

- Mayor Grover Robinson
- Julie Blaney
- Michael Minton
- Dr. Edward Scott Morrison
- Gay Nord, CEO, West Florida Hospital
- Dr. John Lanza, Director, Florida Department of Health
- Dawn Rudolph, President, Ascension Sacred Heart
- Mark Faulkner, President/CEO, Baptist Health Care
- Dan Brown, Superintendent, Gulf Islands National Seashore
- Sheriff David Morgan
- Chandra Smiley, Executive Director, Community Health Northwest Florida
- Lawrence Salaz

4. State of Local Emergency

Recommendation: That the Board discuss and determine whether to extend the State of Local Emergency.

Motion: So moved, the action as stated in the backup
For Information: This action adopted Resolution [R2020-25] declaring and extending the State of Local Emergency to March 30, 2020.
Made by: Commissioner Underhill
Seconded by: Commissioner May
Disposition: Carried unanimously

MINUTES – MARCH 20, 2020

AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

5. 2020 BCC Meeting Schedule

Recommendation: That the Board discuss and take action regarding any changes to the 2020 BCC Meeting Schedule.

Disposition: No action taken

For Information: The Board discussed the meeting on April 2, 2020, and agreed to keep it on the books for now with only necessary items on the agenda. County Attorney Rogers also updated the Board on the Governor's order which loosens some restrictions on the Sunshine laws the Board normally functions under. This could allow some Board members to appear telephonically and allows some freedom as to where the meeting is held. County Attorney Rogers and County Administrator Gilley will discuss the issues regarding the next Board meeting and ensure public notice is put out about where and when the Board meeting will be. County Attorney Rogers also advised that during a state of emergency, great discretion is given to deny public forum on general topics.

6. Other Boards and Committees

Recommendation: That the Board discuss and provide direction regarding scheduled meetings for other boards and committees.

Disposition: No action taken

For Information: The Board agreed to suspend non-critical functions of boards and committees, allowing some discretion to be given to County Administrator Gilley to monitor the situation and make decisions regarding the Development Review Committee.

AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

7. County Employees

Recommendation: That the Board discuss issues related to county employees.

For Information: County Administrator Gilley advised that a list of frequently asked questions was sent out to employees and as access to facilities is limited, remote work options and alternative work options will be made available. The Board heard an update from the Honorable Scott Lunsford regarding Tax Collector operations and facilities. Honorable David Stafford provided an update on the operations of the Supervisor of Elections office and the suspension of in-person services, but advised that some appointments are available. Commissioner Bender advised that the Property Appraiser announced the suspension of in-person services beginning Monday, March 23rd. Cassie Boatwright, Facilities Director, advised that there has been a steep decline in the number of workers on the jail construction site and there will be delays on the project. Chief Rich Powell, Corrections Director, gave an update on the work release program and the management of the inmate population. Tonya Ellis, Mass Transit Director, advised that there are some route modifications at ECAT and buses will be limited to 10 passengers. Buses and facilities are also being sanitized and deep cleaned.

Speaker(s): Honorable Scott Lunsford and Honorable David Stafford

Motion: Move that we authorize both those items [cancel the April tax deed sale and allow a grace period for code enforcement lien payments]

For Information: County Attorney Rogers advised that the Clerk of Courts is suspending the issuance of passports, limiting some public access to offices, and would like to cancel the April tax deed sale and provide a grace period on code enforcement liens.

Made by: Commissioner Underhill

Seconded by: Commissioner May

Disposition: Carried unanimously

AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

8. County Beaches and Recreational Areas

Recommendation: That the Board discuss and provide direction regarding county beaches and recreational areas.

Motion: Move to go to all electronic tolling on the Bob Sikes bridge
Made by: Commissioner Bender
Seconded by: Commissioner Bergosh
Disposition: Carried unanimously
Speaker(s): Grant Bridges

<p>Motion: Move to have the Chairman or the Administrator sign an Emergency Order [Escambia County Emergency Order EO 20-1] declaring all public beaches (sandy public areas and restroom facilities) in Escambia County closed for the next 13 days until our next meeting [April 2nd] and:</p> <p>(1) Request the Gulf Islands National Seashore to close access, to include vacating the camping areas;</p> <p>(2) Request that the State close their access on Perdido Key; and</p> <p>(3) Declare that all vehicles parked in the right-of-way and vacant lots for the purpose of accessing the beach be considered a danger under Ordinance 94-51, Section A-1 during the emergency order</p> <p>For Information: Commissioner Bender clarified that this Order would take effect at midnight on March 20th.</p> <p>Made by: Commissioner Bender</p> <p>Seconded by: Commissioner Underhill</p> <p>Disposition: Carried unanimously</p>
--

9. Public Gatherings and Businesses Open to the Public

Recommendation: That the Board discuss and provide direction regarding public gatherings and businesses open to the public.

Disposition: No action taken
For Information: The Board agreed that the Governor's Executive Order sufficiently addressed this topic.

MINUTES – MARCH 20, 2020

AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

10. Daily Operations, Including Procurements

Recommendation: That the Board discuss and provide direction regarding daily operations, including procurements.

Motion: Move that we toll all existing development orders and permits for the duration of this emergency [Escambia County Emergency Order EO 20-2]

For Information: County Attorney Rogers requested that the Board delegate that either the Chairman or the County Administrator could sign the Order.

Made by: Commissioner Underhill

Seconded by: Commissioner Bergosh

Disposition: Carried unanimously

For Information: The Board heard an update on libraries and community centers from Todd Humble, Library Director, and Clara Long, Neighborhood and Human Services Interim Director, regarding their roles in assisting with food and internet access for area youth. Eric Gilmore, Emergency Manager, provided an update on the area's response to COVID-19 and information concerning the County's 2020 Pandemic Plan.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Barry declared the Special Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners adjourned at 3:21 p.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____
Steven Barry, Chairman

ATTEST:

Pam Childers
Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller

Deputy Clerk

Approved: April 2, 2020