

**CITY OF BROOKSVILLE
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
(CITY, COUNTY AND SCHOOL BOARD INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AGENCY MEETING)**

**Joseph E. Johnson III, Council Chambers
201 Howell Avenue, Brooksville, FL 34601
9:00 a.m.**

ORDER OF BUSINESS

March 14, 2024

Present: Mayor Blake Bell; Council Member Casey Thieryung; Vice Mayor Christa Tanner; Council Member W. Thomas Bronson

Also City Manager Charlene Kuhn; City Attorney Paul Waters; City Clerk Jennifer Battista;
Attending: Finance Director Autumn Sullivan; Community Development Director David Hainley;
Public Works Director Richard Weeks; HR/Risk Management Director Kyle Martin; Fire
Chief Brad Sufficool; IT Administrator Brenda Nelson

A. CALL TO ORDER

As the City of Brooksville helped to coordinate this year's intergovernmental agency meeting, Mayor Bell facilitated the meeting and called the meeting to order.

B. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The invocation was given by Mayor Bell, which was followed by the Pledge.

C. AUTHORITY AND PURPOSE OF JOINT MEETING [Not specifically discussed]

Along with government staff members attending, the following elected officials were in attendance:

City of Brooksville:

Thomas Bronson
Casey Thieryung
Christa Tanner
Blake Bell, Mayor

Hernando County:

John Allocco
Brain Hawkins
Steve Champion
Jerry Campbell
Beth Narverud, BOCC Chair

Hernando County School Board

Susan Duval

Gus Guadagnino

Mark Johnson

Shannon Rodriguez

Linda Prescott, School Board Chair

Mayor Bell advised that a new D-1 was being added which is a new initiative between the County, School Board, Space Florida and many other partners.

Item G-7, which is the Interlocal Public School Facility Planning and School Concurrency Implementation presentation, will be moved further up in the agenda due to a time conflict of one of the presenters.

D. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. "Hernando Advantage" - A Hernando County Incubation Center Concept (added to agenda)

A presentation was made by Karin Hoffman, Space Florida; Valerie Pianta, HC Economic Development Director; and Sophia Watson, HC School's Director of Adult and Technical Education; along with input from Jeff Rogers, County Administrator; and John Stratton, School Superintendent. The goal is to secure Federal appropriations to fund the construction of an incubation center which will focus on advanced technologies that can be used in space. This will attract established or new businesses who play vital roles at all levels in the space industry, thus offering more jobs and boosting the economy. This will be located at the Dennis Wilfong Center for Success at the Airport Industrial Park. It was discussed that the window for requesting funding appropriations is short. Administrator Rogers advised that he has the authority to apply for grants and Ms. Hoffman added that letters of support are required as part of the application process. Mayor Bell offered that each board can provide a letter of support if that is needed.

2. Interlocal for Mutual Use of the Facilities - City of Brooksville
Attachment submitted by City of Brooksville: Proposed Interlocal
Attachment submitted by BOCC: Red-lined version of proposal Interlocal

County Administrator Rogers introduced the item and explained that it does not include use of recreation spaces and he added that each agency will need to sign it. The desire was expressed by Commissioner Allocco to have an agreement for the combined use of facilities for recreation at some point.

3. School Zones - discussions of crossing guards and speed cameras. Discussion includes summary of history and status of crossing guard agreement and AGO opinion on funding.
Attachments submitted by HC Board of County Commissioners

County Administrator Rogers introduced the item and brought up the possibility of using speed cameras at school zones.

The following was discussed about school zones and safe school initiatives:

- Commissioner Champion voiced opposition to speed cameras and did not think it would be supported by the voters
- Commissioner Hawkins was concerned about the fines process tying up the court system
- BOCC Chair Narverud was concerned that school zone signs are not visible enough
- Sheriff was not necessarily in favor of speed cameras and went over the tools available to the HCSO such as unmanned cars and cones in medians
- Commissioner Campbell advised that cameras are one tool. They may not be popular but safety is paramount.
- Commissioner Champion supported the unmanned patrol cars in the median and also voiced support of flashing school zone signs
- County Attorney Jouben called attention to agenda backup material that includes an AOG which he stated supports the City funding the costs for crossing guards and related costs in a municipality. Mayor Bell stated that it is a budgetary item and a Council decision and he is happy to bring it up at the City Council meeting on Monday [Note: March 18, 2024] and the City Council would give the City Manager direction on it.
- School Board Member Rodriguez brought up, and a lengthy discussion was held, on the worsening conditions to the car stacking problem and school drop off congestion now that there is no funding allowed for buses to pick up within 2 miles of school radius. Superintendent Stratton contributed that it is a State mandate. BOCC Chair Narverud stated that the community needs to be aware and get involved.
Commissioner Allocco suggested that the School Board make that funding request at the annual Legislative Delegation Day
- Mayor Bell, who is the Council Member liaison on the Hernando/Citrus MPO, suggested it be brought up at the next MPO meeting
- Commissioners Champion and Allocco commended the "Find My Bus" app. School Board Chair Prescott commended the school Director of Transportation for facilitating installation of that tool.
- County Administrator Rogers advised that County Engineer, Scott Herring, monitors the school zones as they relate to adhering to Florida Statutes
- City Council Member Tanner supported having the Hernando High school zone on Howell Ave. be one continuous school zone instead of two, which is confusing for traffic
- Commissioner Champion supported better markings on the roads at the school zone locations and he said at times it is not clear where the zone starts and stops. Herring advised that it starts where the flashing sign is.
- Commissioner Allocco wondered if they could explore putting flashing beacons in the medians and he suggested that it could be brought up at an MPO meeting

4. City of Brooksville Development Update
Attachment submitted by City of Brooksville

David Hainley, City Community Development Department Director gave a power point presentation. Commissioner Allocco called attention to what he feels are irregular borders. Mayor Bell advised that his stance is that he does not believe in forced annexation but welcomes voluntary annexations by the residents. Council Member Bronson offered his agreement. Commissioner Champion was glad to see some dilapidated buildings removed and new construction in its place. Hainley discussed that the City does follow the Unsafe

Building [Abatement] regulations. County Administrator questioned the proposed school at Majestic Oaks and Community Development Director Hainley advised that the project is just housing at this point and nothing new has been brought forward on the school concept. Council Member Bronson interjected that the school project is dependent on investors at this point.

School Board Member Johnson expressed the desire that the School Board be informed about developments and Hainley advised that a School staff member attends all Planning and Zoning Commission meetings. County Administrator Rogers offered his view that the school concurrency should be considered at time of zoning and not at time of construction. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the process in which the school determines concurrency and time periods for "holding seats open".

5. Hernando County Development Update

Peter Schwarz, County Development Services Director, went through a power point on the current and projected growth in Hernando County. The following was discussed:

- Commissioner Allocco discussed building permit activity
- Commissioner Hawkins brought up school concurrency as it relates to new development and how important it is for everyone to understand how much the County is growing
- BOCC Chair Narverud voiced concern about the labeling of the active developments and Mr. Schwarz advised they could work on that, concentrating on grouping them from a geographical standpoint.
- County Administrator compared the projected growth submitted last year through 2027 with what it is projected this year to be through 2027
- Commissioner Champion pointed out that this is still a retirement county but with all the subdivisions and multi-family coming in, that demographic may change
- Commissioner Hawkins expressed support of offering more services to retirement age residents and cited a recent visit to the Timber Pines community who is focused on that.
- School Board Member Guadagnino asked about water resources for the future, which was discussed by Commissioner Hawkins from the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council standpoint. Commissioner Allocco discussed SWFWMD permitting regulations and acknowledged their jurisdiction over this matter.
- School Board Chair Prescott brought up issues such as the septic to sewer conversion project, which Commissioner Allocco expounded on.

6. Hernando County School Board Addition Updates
Attachment submitted by HC School Board

It was agreed to move this item before the lunch break.

Jim Lipsey, School Manager of Planning, Design and Construction, presented a power point on proposed school expansions, Phases I, II and III. Superintendent Stratton advised that there are master plans for each site and he could share that with those present. Discussion ensued regarding concurrence for Charter schools and that fact that there are no plans to expand the Charter schools. There was comments made on expanding magnet programs, private schools, and need for school expansion to the northwest corner of the County. Stratton mentioned the proposed Endeavor and Discovery expansions or improvements. At this point, proposed or existing technical schools will not have an athletic program.

E. **12:00 p.m. - RECESS FOR LUNCH**

F. **12:30 p.m. - RECONVENE**

G. **CONTINUED ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

1. Interlocal Public School Facility Planning and School Concurrency Implementation [moved up earlier in agenda]
Attachment Submitted by HC Board of County Commissioners

This was presented by Jim Lipsey and Chris Wilson, CJ Wilson Law, and a lengthy discussion ensued regarding school concurrency issues, which touched on:

- The concept of establishing a "working group" who would meet to work on an interlocal agreement (draft of which Mr. Wilson offered to provide), then meet once a year to review
- How long "seats" are held and what stage of development or platting should trigger concurrency was a topic of discussion.
- The desire was expressed by Commissioner Hawkins to have updated concurrency or space availability listed on the School Website to be more transparent. Lipsey advised that Florida Statutes does regulate that to some point.
- Commissioner Allocco felt that concurrency approvals or considerations should be on the HC School Board agendas for transparency.
- A lengthy discussion took place over safe routes to school, stacking of cars at drop off and pick up at schools, ingress and egress to schools and FDOT requirements regarding congestion on roadways.
- Comments were made on whether egress and ingress issues should be addressed during school design or by the County during engineering approval

2. Wimbledon Avenue - joint legislative request
Attachments Submitted by HC Board of County Commissioners

County Administrator Rogers presented this item related to the need for improvements in the area adjacent to the Weeki Wachee school complex. There was no discussion.

H. **CITIZEN INPUT [LIMITED TO 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER]**

Mayor Bell called for citizen's input and there was none

I. **RESPONSE BY ELECTED OFFICIALS/STAFF**

None necessary

J. **GENERAL COMMENTS - CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEMBER THIERYUNG**

He thanked everyone for coming. Many of those present thanked Red Mule Pub for providing lunch.

VICE MAYOR TANNER

She felt it was a good meeting.

MAYOR BELL

He agreed it was a great meeting and looked forward to the Hernando County School Board organizing it next year.

COUNCIL MEMBER BRONSON

He appreciated the City having input on school zones within the municipality.

K. **GENERAL COMMENTS - HERNANDO COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

BOCC COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL

He thanked the City for organizing the meeting and felt that the agencies are "better together".

BOCC COMMISSIONER CHAMPION

He felt it was a good meeting and a well put-together agenda

BOCC COMMISSION CHAIR Narverud

She thanked all for coming

BOCC COMMISSIONER HAWKINS

He looked forward to the interlocal agreement and solidarity between agencies

BOCC COMMISSIONER ALLOCCO

He thanked all for working together.

L. **GENERAL COMMENTS - HERNANDO COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER RODRIGUEZ**

She thanked PHSC and the City of Brooksville for their part in organizing the meeting.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON

He thanked Mayor Bell for running a good meeting and felt it was very cohesive that everyone was working together.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER GUADAGNINO

He referenced a dangerous parking situation at the Veterans Park on Spring Hill Drive and Glenridge Dr. and County Administrator Rogers advised he has an upcoming meeting on options for that problem.

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR PRESCOTT

She thanked all for coming. She also spoke about the homeless population in Hernando County. County Administrator Rogers advised of a Hernando County Homeless Coalition recently formed that meets each month to discuss the problem and potential solutions. Superintendent Stratton advised he has estimated numbers of the homeless population of students and he would share that with everyone.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER DUVAL

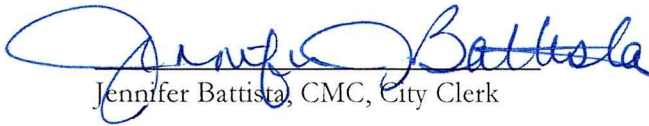
She thanked everyone for coming.

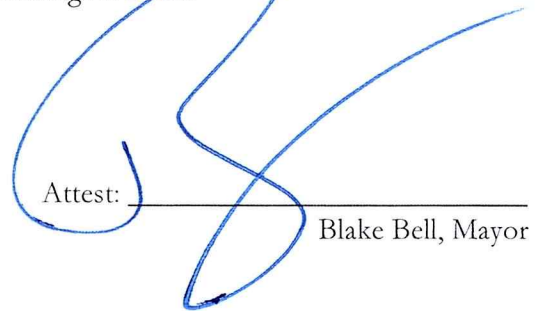
M. **ADJOURNMENT**

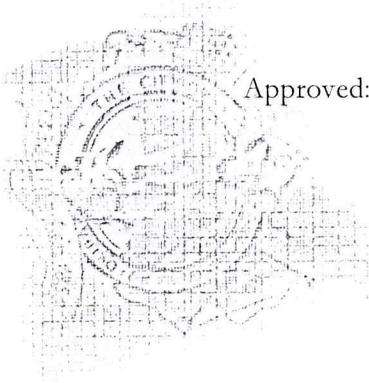
There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons with disabilities needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the ADA Coordinator at 352-540-3810 no later than 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Meeting agendas and supporting documentation are available from the City Clerk's office, and online at www.cityofbrooksville.us.

Any person desiring to appeal any decision with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, may need a record of the proceedings including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based, and therefore must make arrangements for a court reporter to ensure that an admissible verbatim record of the proceedings is made.


Jennifer Battista, CMC, City Clerk

Attest: 
Blake Bell, Mayor



Approved: April 1, 2024