



Hernando County
Board of County Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

January 29, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, in the John Law Ayers County Commission Chambers, Government Center, Brooksville, Florida.

<u>Attendee Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
Jerry Campbell	Chairman
Ryan Amsler	Vice Chairman
Steve Champion	Second Vice Chairman
John Allocco	Commissioner
Brian Hawkins	Commissioner
Toni Brady	Deputy County Administrator
Omar DePablo	Development Services Director
Dominique Holmes	Director of Communications & Government Affairs
Jan Houser	Human Resources Director
Jon Jouben	County Attorney
Jeffrey Rogers	County Administrator
Carla Rossiter-Smith	Chief Procurement Officer
Kristian Sloane	Deputy Fire Chief
Melissa Tartaglia	Assistant County Attorney
Nienke Osinga	Deputy Clerk
Heidi Prouse	Deputy Clerk

Invocation

Pledge of Allegiance

AGENDA

Motion

To approve the Agenda.

RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	Steve Champion
SECONDER:	Brian Hawkins
AYES:	Campbell, Amsler, Champion, Allocco and Hawkins

ELECTED OFFICIALS

There were no Elected Officials' comments.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Citizens commented on various topics and issues.

BOARD/STAFF RESPONSES

The Board and/or staff responded to questions and concerns expressed during Citizens' Comments.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Hernando County Tax Collector Amy Blackburn commented on various topics and issues.

DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF KRISTIAN SLOANE**Resolution Ratifying Declaration of Drought Emergency and Implementing Ordinance No. 2025-02****Motion**

To approve the staff recommendation (Resolution No. 2026-021).

RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	Brian Hawkins
SECONDER:	Steve Champion
AYES:	Campbell, Amsler, Champion, Allocco and Hawkins

CONSENT AGENDA

Amended Local Housing Assistance Plan for Use in State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program and Associated Resolution

Replacement Merchant Application and Agreement With Netevia for Government Payment Processing Services to Correct Omission in Previously Approved Agreement

Request Submitted by Library Services to Apply for Science Across America Grant Through HHMI Tangled Bank Studios and The Space Science Institute's STAR Library Education Network a/k/a STAR Net

Corporate Hangar Lease Agreement With Sentinel Services Group, LLC, for Corporate Hangar Located at 16308 Flight Path Drive at Brooksville-Tampa Bay Regional Airport

Corporate Hangar Lease Agreement With Sentinel Services Group, LLC, for Corporate Hangar Located at 16312 Flight Path Drive at Brooksville-Tampa Bay Regional Airport

Satisfaction of Code Enforcement Public Nuisance Abatement Special Assessment Lien for Richard E. Harrison

Satisfaction of Second Mortgage for Carol Raab Through Neighborhood Stabilization Program Purchase Assistance Program

Satisfactions of Mortgage for Mamie Davis and Julia L. Scourtas Through Homeownership Down Payment Assistance Program

Third Amendment to Gulf Consortium Subrecipient Agreement Pursuant to RESTORE Act Spill Impact Component and State Expenditure Plan for Artificial Reef Program and Associated Budget Resolution

Transmittal of List of Accounts Payable Disbursements for Weeks Ended December 12, 2025, December 19, 2025, December 26, 2025, and January 2, 2026

Various Satisfactions of Code Enforcement Special Master Liens

Release of Performance Bond and Acceptance of Maintenance Bond for Lake Hideaway Pod C

Resolution Proclaiming February 2026 as Black History Month

Motion

To approve the Consent Agenda (Budget Resolution No. 2026-023 and Resolution Nos. 2026-022 and 2026-024).

RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	John Allocco
SECONDER:	Steve Champion
AYES:	Campbell, Amsler, Champion, Allocco and Hawkins

CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

Notice of Purchasing Policy Exceptions for December 2025

Notification From Florida Public Service Commission of Commission Conference Agenda to Discuss Joint Petition to Extend Expired Territorial Agreement Between Duke Energy Florida, LLC, and Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Notification From Southwest Florida Water Management District of Total Habitat Restored Within District

Transmittal From Clerk of Circuit Court and Comptroller Audit Services Department of Management Action Plan Status Report of Tourist Department and Building Department Audits Dated December 31, 2025

Update Regarding Weeki Wachee River Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Restoration Project Six Months Post Installation

RECESS/RECONVENE

The Board recessed at 10:05 a.m. and reconvened at 10:15 a.m.

DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & STRATEGIC INITIATIVES CARLA ROSSITER-SMITH

Consideration of Proposal From Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University for Chinsegut Hill Retreat and Conference Center Operational Responsibility

This item was pulled and voted on separately.

Award of Contract and License Agreement With Historic Hernando Preservation Society, Inc., for Chinsegut Hill Retreat and Conference Center Steward and Property Manager (Contract No. 25-RFP01132/CT)

This item was pulled and voted on separately.

Change Order No. 3 to Purchase Order With Centrifuge-Systems, LLC, for Lease of Centrifuge Equipment for Utilities Department (Contract No. 25-SS0205/JC; Amount: \$90,000.00)

Increased Annual Expenditure and Change Order No. 2 to Purchase Order With Design Lab, Inc., for Uniforms and Related Items for Hernando County Fire Rescue and Emergency Services (Contract No. 26-P0268; Amount: \$110,000.00)

Utilization of Seminole County Schools Contract With Thompson Safety, LLC, for Fire Extinguishing Systems Inspections and Servicing for Facilities Maintenance Department (Contract No. 26-P0276; Amount: \$120,000.00)

Motion

To approve Item Nos. I-3 through I-5.

RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	John Allocco
SECONDER:	Steve Champion
AYES:	Campbell, Amsler, Champion, Allocco and Hawkins

Presentation of Proposed by Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University a/k/a FAMU for Preservation and Management of Chinsegut Hill Retreat and Conference Center

Presentation of Proposal by Historic Hernando Preservation Society, Inc., for Steward and Property Manager of Chinsegut Hill Retreat and Conference Center**Consideration of Proposal From Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University for Chinsegut Hill Retreat and Conference Center Operational Responsibility**

Comm. Allocco made the following Motion.

Motion

To go with the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University a/k/a FAMU and to deny the other proposal.

Comm. Allocco amended his Motion as follows:

Amendment to Motion

To accept the unsolicited proposal submitted by Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University a/k/a FAMU to enter into a no-cost lease for the Chinsegut Hill property and associated retreat facilities adjacent to the Brooksville Agricultural and Environmental Research Station and authorize the County Administrator and County Attorney to negotiate and return to the Board a final lease agreement consistent with the proposal, subject to Board approval.

Further, the negotiated lease includes provisions requiring coordination with the Tampa Bay History Center for ongoing historic interpretation and Manor House programming, and collaboration with the Historic Hernando Preservation Society for local heritage programming, community engagement, and preservation input, while retaining ultimate operational authority with the County and FAMU.

And that staff ensure the agreement preserves public access, historic preservation standards, and clear performance reporting requirements.

Comm. Hawkins seconded the Motion.

RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	John Allocco
SECONDER:	Brian Hawkins
AYES:	Campbell, Amsler, Champion, Allocco and Hawkins

Award of Contract and License Agreement With Historic Hernando Preservation Society, Inc., for Chinsegut Hill Retreat and Conference Center Steward and Property Manager (Contract No. 25-RFP01132/CT)

Comm. Allocco had previously made the following Motion:

Motion

To deny.

Comm. Allocco withdrew his Motion for denial and made the following Motion:

Motion

For a stay.

RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	John Allocco
SECONDER:	Steve Champion
AYES:	Campbell, Amsler, Champion, Allocco and Hawkins

RECESS/RECONVENE

The Board recessed at 12:00 p.m. and reconvened at 12:05 p.m.

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DOMINIQUE HOLMES**Revision to Board Policy No. 01-03 Regarding Public Record Requests****Motion**

To accept with new changes but add a subtitle for copy to be synonymous with a single page.

RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	John Allocco
SECONDER:	Steve Champion
AYES:	Campbell, Amsler, Champion, Allocco and Hawkins

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Proof of publication of Notice of Public Hearing was noted for the scheduled public hearing.

Ex Parte Communications

Chairman Campbell and Comms. Amsler, Champion, Allocco and Hawkins announced the ex parte communications that they had had concerning the quasi-judicial petitions being considered at this meeting.

County Attorney Jon Jouben advised the Commissioners that any ex parte communications, however received, could play no part in their deliberations.

Adoption of Informational Packet

The Agenda packet that was submitted to the Board included written information regarding the case to be considered which needed to be accepted into evidence for the hearing.

The staff recommended that the Board accept the Agenda packet, including the staff report, into evidence as if read aloud in their entirety.

Motion

To approve.

(Note: The Motion and vote to adopt the informational packet occurred after the presentation of the Item by Development Services Director Omar DePablo.)

RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	Steve Champion
SECONDER:	John Allocco
AYES:	Campbell, Amsler, Champion, Allocco and Hawkins

Approval of Report and Recommendation of Special Magistrate for Appeal of Denial of Rezoning Petition Submitted by Casey Cane, Trustee for 6191 Lockhart Road Land Trust for Property Located on Lockhart Road and Associated Resolution (H2520)

The Board accepted public input on this matter.

Motion

To deny the report recommendation of the Special Magistrate for appeal of denial of rezoning petition submitted by Casey Cane.

RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	Brian Hawkins
SECONDER:	Steve Champion
AYES:	Campbell, Amsler, Champion, Allocco and Hawkins

COUNTY ATTORNEY JON JOUBEN

Appointment of Christina Botto as Member to Hernando County Delegation on Government Efficiency a/k/a DOGE

Motion

To approve the staff recommendation.

RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	Brian Hawkins
SECONDER:	Steve Champion
AYES:	Campbell, Amsler, Champion, Allocco and Hawkins

Discussion Regarding Departure of Lake County and Seminole County From Interlocal Agreement for Cost Share of Medical Examiner Services

Motion

To not support the letter.

(Note: The Motion pertained to not supporting Marion County's counter proposal and not opposing or supporting Lake County leaving.)

RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	John Allocco
SECONDER:	Steve Champion
AYES:	Campbell, Amsler, Champion, Allocco and Hawkins

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR JEFFREY ROGERS

Appointment of Jan Houser to Fine Arts Council Until December 31, 2030

Motion

To approve the staff recommendation.

RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	Brian Hawkins
SECONDER:	Steve Champion
AYES:	Campbell, Amsler, Champion, Allocco and Hawkins

Update Regarding Ongoing Board Directives

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The Board commented on various issues.

Comm. Allocco left the meeting.

Chairman Campbell announced that the County would celebrate America's 250th Anniversary with a moment at the second business meeting of each month.

Comm. Hawkins requested Board consensus to direct staff to earmark money from the Tourism Department to support an event or local organizations for citizens to celebrate the 250th Anniversary.

The Board concurred.

County Administrator Jeffrey Rogers requested Board consensus to schedule a workshop on February 24, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. to have discussion and public input regarding flock cameras/license plate readers.

The Board concurred.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.