

**MINUTES OF THE  
TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
MARCH 13, 2020**

Chair Houston called the meeting to order at 9:42 a.m. and welcomed everyone. He led the pledge of allegiance and requested roll call. Thomas Lanahan, Council's Executive Director, took roll and announced a quorum was present.

The following members and alternates were present:

Indian River County:	Commissioner O'Bryan Commissioner Adams Vice Mayor Moss
Martin County:	Commissioner Smith Commissioner Townsend
St. Lucie County:	Commissioner Townsend
Palm Beach County:	Mayor Gerwig Vice Mayor Hmara Councilmember Marino, Alternate
Gubernatorial Appointees:	Douglas Bournique Michael Davis Michael Houston Peter Sachs Reece Parrish
Council Staff:	Thomas J. Lanahan Kathryn Boer Phyllis Castro Kim DeLaney Liz Gulick Stephanie Heidt Dana Little Jessica Seymour
Ex-Officios:	Vicki Gatanis, South Florida Regional Transportation Authority
Council Attorney:	Keith Davis

**Agenda Item 3: Agenda Approval**

*Council Action: Commissioner Smith from Martin County moved approval of the Agenda. Commissioner Adams from Indian River County seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.*

#### **Agenda Item 4: Consent Agenda**

*Council Action: Commissioner Smith moved approval of the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.*

Items remaining on the Consent were: 4B1, Financial Report – December 31, 2019; 4B2, Financial Report – January 31, 2020; 4B3, Minutes – January 17, 2020; 4B4, Greenacres Amendment No. 20-01ESR (46.73 acres from PBC HR-8 to City RS-MD); 4B5, Jupiter Amendment No. 20-01ESR (Water Supply Plan); 4B6, Palm Beach County Amendment No. 20-03ESR (West Boynton Center Self Storage); 4B7, Palm Beach Gardens Amendment No. 20-01ESR (Public Schools, CIE, Water Supply Plan, Transportation, and Intergovernmental Coordination); and 4B8, South Bay Amendment No. 20-01ESR (Water Supply Plan)

#### **Agenda Item 5: Resolution #20-01 COVID-19 Pandemic State of Emergency**

Mr. Lanahan indicated that the Council resolution being proposed would provide for continuity of Council operations in the event we are not able to have regular Council meetings due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. He explained that there are a few particular things that require Council approval and this resolution would delegate that authority to the Executive Director. He stated that the resolution would require the Executive Director to remain in close contact with the Council Chair when exercising any of the special duties outlined in the resolution. He noted that the resolution also provides an order of succession for the Executive Director and Council Chair, and provides for continuation of Council operations by providing the Executive Director a little more flexibility in administrative decision-making and making necessary changes to the Council approved budget.

Commissioner O'Bryan from Indian River County noted that he cannot remember Council ever having to do this before. Commissioner Smith stated not for Council, but certainly at the Counties. He stated he had spoken with Mr. Lanahan regarding the policy implications for Council if there is a Presidential or Gubernatorial declaration or local state of emergency. Mr. Lanahan indicated that he may, at a future meeting, bring forward for Council approval a standing document to address these types of situations. He noted that if not for the meeting today, he would have had to do what the previous Executive Director did in emergencies, which was just do what is outlined in the resolution but without Council consent. He stated that with his background in local government he is familiar with doing emergency declarations and this is very similar to what local governments may have already done or will be doing.

Commissioner Townsend from the Town of Jupiter Island asked if this resolution has an end. Mr. Lanahan indicated that the time horizon for this resolution is the duration of the declared State of Emergency by the Governor, or the ability to have a Council meeting with a quorum of members at the call of the Council Chair.

Councilmember Sachs, Gubernatorial Appointee from Palm Beach County, asked if there should be some provision to bring back to Council for ratification any actions the Executive Director took during this time. Council's attorney, Keith Davis, indicated that Section 9 of the resolution could be modified to indicate that when a meeting with a quorum occurs, any actions that were taken by the Executive Director could be brought back for ministerial ratification. Mayor Gerwig from the

Village of Wellington stated that should be worded to indicate it would be for informational purposes only, because if Council gives the Executive Director the authority to make decisions, they cannot take it back later. Mr. Lanahan indicated he would report back to Council any actions that were done. Mr. Davis agreed, stating that if there is any action later by Council it would only be to provide formal ratification for Executive Director decisions or actions made during the time covered by this resolution.

Vice Mayor Moss from the City of Vero Beach stated that this resolution is based on the assumption that Council will not be meeting again. She requested that Section 6 be amended to read "The Executive Director must confer with the Council Chair if exercising the authority granted in sections 2, 3, 4, and 5 above". She stated she believes everything should be done jointly with the Council Chair or the person next in the order of succession working with the Executive Director. She clarified that her proposed changes would change the word "shall" to "must," and removes "to the fullest extent practicable" language.

Commissioner O'Bryan concurred with Commissioner Smith that at the local level, usually for an event like a hurricane, a resolution is passed that gives authority to the County Administrator or municipal manager. He stated that the more conditions that are put into the current resolution, the harder it will be for the Executive Director to continue Council operations. He stated there may be a situation where Mr. Lanahan will not be able to contact anyone in the order of succession for Chair, and that having Mr. Lanahan report back is sufficient. He stated that if Council votes to confer that authority, Mr. Lanahan should have the authority to do what is outlined in the resolution.

Vice Mayor Moss stated that with a hurricane it is generally more time limited, but with the current situation we have no idea how long this will be. She stated that she does not see why there are objections to working together. Commissioner Adams stated it is not about not working together, the bottom line is Mr. Lanahan is a professional, has proven to be very good in his position, and would not do anything beyond what Council would approve. She stated that if Council puts too many limitations on this to the point Mr. Lanahan cannot act, then there really is no point of having a resolution at all.

Vice Mayor Moss asked what type of action or emergencies would be expected. Mr. Lanahan stated that a lot is unknown, but one example would be if Council is called upon by the State to assist the local government. That may require Council to staff positions within the local governments if their staff is out of commission. Council also has emergency management roles to perform and may be called upon for that. Actions could be hiring additional staff, entering into contracts, or moving around funds in the budget as priorities change. He noted that he, or whoever may be in the position of Executive Director, will confer with the position of the Chair to the fullest extent practicable. He noted that in the response environment during an event there may be no way to contact each other, because, for example, telephones and cell service may be down, or there is no electricity to charge cell batteries. He stated he hopes all systems will be operating, but there may be some circumstances that we are not aware of at this time that may require action.

Commissioner Smith stated that Mr. Lanahan is a professional manager and knows what he is doing. He noted that in every instance where his County was under some form of emergency, the administrator was in constant contact with the board members, updating them on what was occurring. He stated he believes it is a prudent decision to give Mr. Lanahan the ability to make decisions on Council's behalf, because he has full confidence in Council staff to make correct

decisions and do what is right. He asked that Mr. Lanahan provide an update to Council on any actions taken at the next meeting.

*Council Action: Commissioner Smith moved approval of the staff recommendation. Councilmember Bournique, Gubernatorial Appointee from Indian River County, seconded the motion.*

Mr. Davis asked if the motion included any modifications to the language of the resolution. Commissioner Smith stated the motion does not include any modifications.

Councilmember Sachs stated he supports the motion and encourages the Executive Director and Chair to report to Council more than they ordinarily might.

Chair Houston called for a vote on the motion, which passed with Vice Mayor Moss opposed.

Vice Mayor Moss stated that her vote is not a comment on confidence, but has to do with protocol. Mr. Lanahan thanked her for her perspective.

#### **Agenda Item 6: Presentation on Ocean Current Energy (postponed)**

*The presentation on Ocean Current Energy will be rescheduled for a future Council meeting due to the unavailability of Lake Worth Beach City Manager Michael Bornstein.*

#### **Agenda Item 7: Together Martin – Presentation by Ted Astolfi, CEO, Economic Council of Martin County**

Ted Astolfi, CEO of the Economic County of Martin County provided an overview of the *Together Martin* project, a collaborative, citizen-led initiative that is focused on building a vibrant community that is sustainable to not only create a talent base for our local businesses and industries, but attract and retain qualified talent as well. Mr. Astolfi noted that talent supply is the number one economic development issue today and large shares of local taxes are used to support education. He indicated that when looking at the Florida Chamber Foundation Community Scorecard for Martin County, it was very concerning to find that 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade testing scores, high school graduation rates, Associate's degrees, and Bachelor's degrees in the County are all declining. He noted that talent supply and talent development have now replaced other incentives such as land, buildings, and reduced taxes for bringing in new businesses. He indicated that in the fall, there will be a new superintendent for the School District and Indian River State College will also be under new leadership. He stated this is a good opportunity to have all the education leaders who are coming in new and fresh to work together with the business community to meet the talent supply demands of today and tomorrow.

Mr. Astolfi asked Council members when a child is determined successful. Commissioner O'Bryan stated when they are off the parents' payroll. Mr. Astolfi indicated that is the most common answer, but they will have to go to work to be financially independent. He noted that school districts define success in terms of testing performance. He stated that there needs to be a way to bring together those testing requirements and preparing students to be successful at work, in the military, or at college. He stated that a key part of this effort as it moves forward is the communication piece. He noted that one of the critical factors they will be looking at is the suicide rate in the County, because this has been steadily increasing since 2016.

Mr. Astolfi indicated that as part of this effort they would be doing community surveying to determine key quality of life issues and how everyone from wealthy retirees to the young people who have recently graduated from high school measure success. They will then create a dashboard for reporting survey results and identifying issues and resources for growing a qualified talent base for the County. He noted that the dashboard is being done regionally with collaboration from Pete Tesch, President of the Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County.

Councilmember Marino from the City of Palm Beach Gardens asked Mr. Astolfi if he is working with the Economic Council of Palm Beach County. Mr. Astolfi indicated that Palm Beach County is far ahead of Martin County in this area, but he does plan to work with them once this effort is underway.

Chair Houston noted that social media is now playing a large role in community projects, suggesting that this should be one element of this project, especially as other ways of communicating, such as newspapers, are disappearing. Mr. Astolfi agreed, noting that social media keeps evolving and they stay current on which social media platforms are being used.

Commissioner Smith noted that with social media there can be a lot of reporting that goes unchecked, but with printed media at least there is a way to fact check what has been printed. He stated that it is important to have information that is not only factual, but is easily accessed so people can actually find and use the data. Mr. Astolfi agreed, noting countering some of the misinformation is very hard, because people tend to only look at the media source that will tell them what they want to hear.

Vice Mayor Hmara from the Village of Royal Palm Beach complimented Mr. Astolfi for being able to pull together a stakeholder session to address this issue. He noted that when he asked how to ensure that the school systems are producing the kind of workforce needed today and in the future, he was told by the corporate heads that it was up to the presidents of the colleges to figure out what is needed. He stated that in Palm Beach County this has improved.

With respect to the suicide rate, Commissioner O'Bryan stated that one metric to look at is the number of people in the community that are on antidepressants. He stated that when looking at the pharmacy list for the County's healthcare plan, half of the top 10 medications are antidepressants. He stated he believes this goes back to the whole generation of millennials that were brought up to believe everyone gets a trophy and therefore no one learns to deal with adversity, so when the social bullying starts they do not know what to do, so they turn to suicide.

Mr. Astolfi stated that one of the outcomes of this pandemic is going to be a shift to how we do business, such as more telecommuting. He stated we also need to watch the negative social effects and suicide rates, because of the lack of social interaction.

### **Agenda Item 8: Traditional Planning Principles Education Series: 3. Neighborhoods, Districts, and Corridors**

Dana Little, Council's Urban Design Director, presented "*Neighborhoods, Districts, and Corridors.*" This is the third presentation in Council's series on traditional planning principles. Mr. Little discussed elements of American planning history, specialty districts, and how our corridors are vital components of sustainable communities. He indicated that the next presentation in the

series will be “*Streets, Blocks and Alleys.*” Mayor Gerwig requested the presentation to be provided on Council’s website. Mr. Lanahan noted that staff is available to do these presentations to local governments as needed.

### **Agenda Item 9: Announcements**

Mr. Lanahan made the following announcements:

On April 1<sup>st</sup> Palm Beach County will be hosting a mobility event that will explore different ways to achieve mobility, including the use of mobility fees.

On April 22<sup>nd</sup> the Urban Land Institute is having a regional mobility event in Fort Lauderdale that will focus on regional transportation, regional transit, and look at what has been occurring in Miami-Dade and Broward counties related to their new transportation tax.

Mr. Lanahan asked if Council members would still like to have the April 24<sup>th</sup> joint meeting with the South Florida Regional Planning Council. He noted that an agenda has been put together and the meeting is scheduled to take place at the Anne Kolb Nature Center in Hollywood. Commissioner Smith stated that he would be in favor of having this meeting, because this is where the two Councils can lay the groundwork for a legislative platform.

Mr. Lanahan invited everyone to stop by Council’s office building to see the newly installed Busha Building designation sign.

Mr. Lanahan highlighted articles in the Communication Package that reports how a California company is approaching Florida dairy farmers about turning their cow manure into biogas; supply chain-related career courses being developed at Palm Beach State College; the community reaction to Florida’s three proposed toll roads; and an article on how electric vehicle motors work.

### **Agenda Item 10: Chair’s Comments**

Chair Houston indicated he would use his time to discuss mobility fees during the Council Member Update agenda item.

### **Agenda Item 11: Council Member Update**

Vice Mayor Hmara thanked Mr. Lanahan for making a presentation on intergovernmental coordination at a recent joint meeting of the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners and Palm Beach County League of Cities. He noted that in Palm Beach County there is an Issues Forum that serves as a mechanism for dealing with multijurisdictional issues that may not be addressed very well in other forms. Mr. Lanahan indicated he has a lot of experience working with the Issues Forum and noted that the County/City meeting was very productive. Vice Mayor Hmara stated that in the Village they are looking at Complete Streets and Road diets from a public safety point of view and as a possible way of lowering traffic speed. One of the projects they have completed is resurfacing and adding a one-mile section of bike lane on one of the major thoroughfares in the Village. He stated they will be tracking the performance of this roadway. Commissioner Smith stated Martin County is finishing a road project to resurface and add a bike

lane on Jensen Beach Boulevard. He indicated that initially there was a lot of social media against the project, but now people are beginning to calm down as they are seeing the finished roadway.

Councilmember Davis, Gubernatorial Appointee from Palm Beach County, noted that he is on the design team for the South Dixie Highway lane elimination project in the City of West Palm Beach, so he understands how hard it is to get support for this type of project. He stated that we need to do a better job to dispel the myths about complete streets and traffic calming projects, and that they promote traffic congestion. He noted it is also important to provide information on the value these types of projects provide such as revenue increases to businesses and a decrease in traffic accidents. He cautioned elected officials to be aware of unintended consequences related to COVID-19 as it relates to public meetings and items that do not have a regulatory timeline. He stated his firm is not sending any of their employees to public meetings for their protection. Commissioner Smith noted that in the past the Governor and Legislature has deal with the issue of time extensions and public meetings.

Mayor Gerwig noted that in her community they have instituted the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and health department guidelines. She noted that they had to cancel many events including the final two weeks of the Winter Equestrian Festival.

Councilmember Marino stated they have also cancelled some events, but it is business as usual at City Hall. She expressed her interest in the mobility summit, because she believes the City of Palm Beach Gardens' actions in 2016 to amend their comprehensive plan to include mobility sparked this discussion. She stated they are currently working with the County to arrive at a resolution on the issue of mobility fees. She indicated that the City believes their mobility fees and plan are what is permitted by the State, which is contradictory to what the County believes.

Vice Mayor Moss noted that the Vero Beach Air Show, featuring the Blue Angels, is still scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. She indicated that she is running for a seat on the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners and looks forward to working with Susan Adams and Peter O'Bryan.

Vicki Gatani with the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority indicated the Tri-Rail trains are still operating. She noted they are issuing press releases, posting information on their website, and announcing on trains ways to travel safely during COVID-19. She noted they are seeing industry reports that have predicted public transportation ridership will be drastically falling, so they will continue to monitor that.

Commissioner O'Bryan indicted that, as of this morning, there have been no COVID-19 cases reported in Indian River County. He indicated that tonight the Firefighter's Fair will start. He stated they had one successful bill in the Legislature this year, which was a cooperative project with St. Lucie County to realign the county boundary line on AIA.

Chair Houston noted that the mobility discussion with Palm Beach County also involves the Cities of Delray Beach and Boca Raton and other eastern cities within the County who are doing similar mobility plans. He stated that mobility deals with quality of life and the importance of transportation options other than automobiles. He stated that he remembers when traffic impact fees were done 35 years ago in Palm Beach County, and now we are seeing this in the northern counties as well. He stated he represents the development industry, so it is important to understand how impact fees tie back to projects. He said that if those fees can be used in a way to help create quality

transit options and connection it is very different. He stated that he would like to see more specifics on how projects that include Complete Streets type options perform. He encouraged the elected officials, when looking at impact fees, to include all cities and their opportunities to use impact fees in different ways.

Vice Mayor Hmara indicated he worked with County staff to organize the mobility summit. He stated that some people are more visionary and others have to be more programmatic, because they are faced with the day-to-day reality. He stated that we need to start having conversations that not only include those of us who are living here right now, but what is appropriate for the next generation. He stated we need to take a hard look at this issue and see if it suggests a redistribution of resources.

Commissioner Smith noted that within 5 years the millennial generation will be in the majority for making decisions and they may not be thinking as our leaders do now. He stated that he believes that within the next 10 years we will see an enormous shift in how these fees will be spent.

Councilmember Marino stated that as Chair of the Palm Beach Transportation Planning Agency she is in constant discussion of how we go away from laying concrete to different modes of transportation. She stated we need to substitute the word “mobility” for “transportation” and have a mobility fee plan as opposed to road impact fee plan. She stated the City of Palm Beach Gardens has done a massive undertaking to lay all this out and include why mobility fees are important. She stated she hopes that the County sees the validity of mobility fees and we can come up with a solution, because it is not just about cars, but also about urban areas that are near a train station or a bus station where density can be added without adding vehicle traffic.

**Agenda Item 12: Public Comment**

None

**Agenda Item 13: Staff Comment**

Kathryn Boer, Council’s Emergency Management Programs Director, noted that the 2020 Governor’s Hurricane Conference is scheduled to take place in May. She also reported that the April State Emergency Response Commission meeting has been cancelled.

**Agenda Item 14: Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chair Houston adjourned the meeting at 11:28 a.m. This signature is to attest that the undersigned is the Secretary or a designated nominee of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, and that the information provided herein is the true and correct Minutes of the March 13, 2020 meeting of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature