

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING  
CONVOCAION OF GOVERNMENTS  
CITY COUNCIL, SARASOTA, FLORIDA

JANUARY 17, 2020

A Special Meeting of the Venice City Council, Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners, Sarasota County School Board, City of Sarasota Commissioners, Town of Longboat Key Commissioners, and City of North Port Commissioners, was held this date at the Suncoast Technical College Conference Center, 4748 Beneva Road, Sarasota, Florida.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS AND OTHERS PRESENT**

The following officials were present: City of Venice Vice Mayor Chuck Newsom, Council Members Joe Neunder and Nick Pachota, City Manager Ed Lavallee, City Attorney Kelly Fernandez, Assistant City Manager Len Bramble and City Clerk Lori Stelzer; Sarasota Board of County Commissioners Chair Michael Moran, Vice Chair Al Maio, Commissioners Charles D. Hines and Christian Ziegler, County Administrator Jonathan Lewis, and Deputy Clerk Charlie Maloney; City of Sarasota Mayor Jen Ahern-Koch, Vice Mayor Shelli Freeland Eddie, Commissioners Liz Alpert, Hagen Brody, and Willie Shaw, Deputy City Manager Marlon Brown, and City Auditor and Clerk Shayla Griggs; Town of Longboat Key Mayor George Spoll, Commissioners Jack Daly, Mike Haycock, and Randy Clair, Town Manager Thomas Harmer, and Deputy Town Clerk Savannah Schield; City of North Port Mayor Debbie McDowell, Vice Mayor Jill Luke, Commissioner Christopher Hanks, City Manager Peter Lear, and Interim City Clerk Heather Taylor; School Board of Sarasota County Chair Caroline Zucker, Vice Chair Shirley Brown, Board Member Bridget Ziegler and Chief Operating Officer Jody Dumas and Administrative Assistant Kathy Tomkins.

**I. WELCOME/PLEDGE/INTRODUCTIONS**

Ms. Zucker called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions were made.

**II. CONVOCAION GOALS AND AGENDA**

Ms. Zucker reviewed agenda items and goals.

**III. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

There were no speakers.

#### **IV. UPDATE ON SCSB ENROLLMENT AND PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE**

Micki Ryan, Sarasota County School Board (SCSB) Planning Department, gave a history on the planning of local government with the school district, noted enrollment is at 43,981 students, and spoke to school capacity in north, central and south counties.

Diane Cominotti, SCSB Planning Department, discussed vacant lots in North Port with potential for development, and potential school sites for the North Port area.

#### **V. SCHOOL SECURITY/POLICE UPDATE**

Chief Tim Enos, SCSB Police Department, reported on school security being provided to the schools, staffing levels and positions, coordinating with city and county departments, identified sectors, records management, camera coverage, training, compliance with the Senate Bill, school safety teams, and threat assessment teams on campus.

In response to questions, Chief Enos reported on active shooter drills, including notification to teachers, but not parents, state law mandate, providing information to charter schools, and crosswalks.

Ms. Ryan reported on status of crosswalks.

Chief Enos spoke to the difference of a guardian to a sworn officer.

Paul Pitcher, SCSB Construction Services Department Director, spoke on the Sarasota High School project.

Chief Enos commented on mitigating active shooter situations as soon as possible, homeless, guardians, charter schools, active shooter notifications after the fact, lockdowns, and effectiveness of drills.

#### **VI. TOWN OF LONGBOAT KEY: TOM HARMER, TOWN MANAGER**

Mr. Harmer provided an update on commission members, 80 students in Longboat Key, active shooter participation, sheltering first responders, minimal development, recent three party agreement for emergency management with Sarasota and Manatee counties, underground utilities underway, replacing and renovating fire stations, and construction and seasonal traffic affecting visitors, residents and employees.

#### **VII. CITY OF NORTH PORT: PETER LEAR, CITY MANAGER**

Mr. Lear had nothing to add other than the two items that were on the agenda.

**VIII. CITY OF SARASOTA: MARLON BROWN, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER**

Mr. Brown thanked the county for progress on projects, and asked the county and school board to consider adding trees to the high school.

Mr. Shaw requested updates on classroom job skill training (i.e., plumbing and HVAC), and potential of attainable and affordable housing for staff and teachers.

Ron DiPillo, Sarasota County Schools Suncoast Technical College Executive Director, spoke to career preparation in high schools and noted construction programs are offered at Suncoast Technical campuses in Sarasota and North Port.

Mr. Dumas spoke to affordable housing, potential sites, teacher recruitment and retention, and partnering with Sarasota County.

Ms. Freeland Eddie spoke to the upcoming census and children missing from the last census resulting in revenue losses. Ms. Zucker offered to serve with the Complete Count Committee.

Ms. Freeland Eddie spoke to improving recycling efforts in the school lunch program, with Mr. Dumas agreeing to have the school district review the matter.

**IX. SARASOTA COUNTY GOVERNMENT: JONATHAN LEWIS, ADMINISTRATOR**

Mr. Lewis spoke to the status of the one-cent sales tax and Surtax IV preparation, and the need for a coordinated approach.

Mr. Ziegler spoke on timing of the referendum election for the surtax and requested an update from the school board. Ms. Zucker noted this issue has not been discussed as of this date.

Mr. Moran requested an update on the joint use of athletic fields. Mr. Dumas responded that the school board continues to collaborate with the parks and recreation department and several competition high school football fields are being converted to synthetic turf.

Mr. Moran reported that the commission has directed staff to obtain input on mental health care special districts.

**X. CITY OF VENICE: ED LAVALLEE, CITY MANAGER**

Mr. Lavallee spoke on the importance of this forum, legacy with the school district, including installation of streetlights on Bahama Street, sharing of tennis courts, Venice's strategic planning process, police presence, school holiday card contest, Student Government Day, internship

programs, students serving on advisory boards, offering an exposure program on utilities to students, interest in service to the school district for recycling efforts, offering opportunities to get more students interested in aviation since there is an active student aviator club at Venice High School, and noted the city is interested in re-engaging with the school district on police presence and involvement with the reduction of school resource officers from the city.

Mr. Newsom thanked the county for moving up the schedule to repave and improve East Venice Avenue.

Ms. Zucker thanked Venice for the partnership for the Venice Performing Arts Center (VPAC).

**XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

Ms. Luke noted the absence of students for Veterans Day due to school being in session. Ms. Zucker reported that each school has a Veterans Day ceremony.

Ms. Luke encouraged the school board to collaborate with water sports at North Port's new facility. Mr. Dumas stated that meetings will be forthcoming.

Discussion followed on Veteran Day participation by student band members.

Ms. Zucker announced the next meeting will be held on January 15, 2021.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

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Ron Feinsod, Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk