



September 1, 2026 - Regular Meeting

Subject

Confirmation of Appointment of Deputy County Administrator

Category

REGULAR

Briefings

None

Contact and/or Presenter Information

Charlie Bishop, County Administrator

Action Requested

Confirmation of Appointment of Stephanie Garrison as Deputy County Administrator.

Enabling/Regulating Authority

N/A

Applicable Advisory Board

N/A

Background Discussion

- Stephanie Garrison is a strategic executive whose career spans global technology, entrepreneurship, and public service. She brings two decades of private-sector leadership experience to Manatee County Government, with a track record of building high-performing teams, leading through change, and turning strategy into action.
- Garrison joined Manatee County in January 2025 as Director of Government Relations, where she built and led a multidisciplinary department encompassing Legislative Affairs, Grants, Economic Development, Communications, Records, Customer Experience, and Process Improvement. Under her leadership, the County secured more than \$18 million in state and federal funding during the 2026 legislative session. She also helped lead Manatee County's first organization-wide strategic plan and major initiatives including Lasting Manatee and Valor Commons, the County's future veterans resource hub and memorial park.
- Prior to public service, Garrison spent 14 years with Apple in ten roles across its retail and corporate organizations. Her career included international leadership

assignments in the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, and China, leading global teams and special projects, and helping Apple expand their retail and corporate programs. Her experience spans organizational transformation, customer experience, business development, executive communications, and strategic leadership.

- In 2023, Garrison and her husband, Richard, started a bicycle and triathlon sports business serving the Sarasota-Manatee community. Her experience as an entrepreneur provides firsthand perspective on the challenges and opportunities facing local businesses.
- Garrison began her public-sector career on the staff of Florida State Senator Joe Gruters before joining Manatee County Government. As Deputy County Administrator, she will provide executive oversight for seven departments: Government Relations, Development Services, Public Safety, Community and Veterans Services, Financial Management, Information Technology, and Human Resources.
- Garrison earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia, where she studied government, and later pursued her passion for food and cooking through professional culinary training at the French Culinary Institute in New York City. Raised in a military family, she lived throughout the United States and in Germany, experiences that shaped her adaptability, global perspective, and commitment to public service. She and her husband are raising their four children and Teddy, a German Shepherd mix adopted from the Manatee County Animal Shelter.

Attorney Review

Not Reviewed (No apparent legal issues)

Instructions to Board Records

None

Cost and Funds Source Account Number and Name

N/A

Amount and Frequency of Recurring Costs

N/A



September 1, 2026 - Regular Meeting

Subject

Updates to Agenda - August 27, 2026

Category

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Briefings

None

Contact and/or Presenter Information

Bobbi Roy, Agenda Division Supervisor, ext 6878

Action Requested

Updates incorporated appropriately

Enabling/Regulating Authority

N/A

Applicable Advisory Board

N/A

Background Discussion

Below are agenda updates (dated 8/27/26) for the meeting of September 1, 2026:

GENERIC PUBLIC COMMENTS

- This agenda item was added to the Agenda.

AWARDS/PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

Presentations

Item 2, Project Grace Follow-Up Discussion and Staff Responses to Board and Community Questions and Concerns - District 5

- This item was updated with additional public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

Community and Veterans Services

Item 40, Review of Proposed FY 2026 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program - Local Formula Application for Manatee County Sheriff's Office Public Safety Needs, Dr. Renese M. Remy, Criminal Justice Policy Coordinator - Countywide

- This agenda item was added to the Agenda.

Financial Management

Item 13, Adoption of Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-105; and Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-106 for Infrastructure Sales Tax

- This agenda item was updated with Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-106 and revised Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-105.

REGULAR

Administrator

Item 32, Confirmation of Appointment of Deputy County Administrator

- This agenda item was updated with Stephanie Garrison's resume.

Financial Management

Item 38, Continued Discussion Regarding County Reserve Policy, Claudia Campos, Interim Chief Financial Officer

- This agenda item was added to the Agenda.

Government Relations

Item 34, Approval of Project Wolf - Advanced PFAS Treatment for Landfill Leachate and Biosolids at Lena Road Landfill; and Adoption of Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-109, Aimee Johnson, Economic Development Division Manager - District 5

- This agenda item was updated with Commissioner Questions, revised Cover Sheet that includes a revised Title and Action Requested (in strikethrough/underline format), Resolution R-26-122, and the County Administrator Recommendation Memorandum (dated 8/27/26).

Human Resources

Item 37, Approval of the 2027 Medical, Dental, Vision, and Retiree cost sharing for the self-funded and fully insured employer sponsored benefits, Kate Rucker, Human Resources Manager

- This agenda item was added to the Agenda.

REPORTS

Public Works

Item 39, Projected Transit System Changes for Manatee County

- This agenda item was added to the Agenda.

Attorney Review

Not Reviewed (No apparent legal issues)

Instructions to Board Records

N/A

Cost and Funds Source Account Number and Name

N/A

Amount and Frequency of Recurring Costs

N/A

Strategic public sector executive and former Fortune 100 leader with deep experience in large-scale organizational change management. Proven track record leading large teams, shaping public policy, and driving cross-sector initiatives with measurable impact. Known for delivering results, aligning strategy with execution, and bringing a global perspective to local challenges. I am energized by using innovation, data, and strong relationships to help teams work better for the people they serve.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Manatee County Government

Jan 2025 - Present

Interim Deputy County Administrator

April 2026-present

- Lead Departments for Government Relations, Public Safety, Development Services, Community and Veterans Services, reporting to the County Administrator.

Director, Government Relations, Bradenton, Florida

January 2025-April 2026

- Led a newly centralized Government Relations Department of 100+ staff across six divisions, integrating legislative affairs, grants, communications, economic development, public records, 311, and process improvement to strengthen countywide strategy and service delivery.
- Advised Board of County Commissioners on federal and state legislative strategy, advancing priorities that support economic growth, infrastructure investment, and community resilience.
- Provided executive oversight of \$600M+ in grant funding, strengthening compliance, coordination, and strategic allocation to maximize community impact.
- Directed development of economic incentives and public-private agreements that support business attraction, retention, and expansion.
- Lead the County's first comprehensive Strategic Plan, aligning policy, operations, and community priorities around measurable long-term goals.
- Oversee enterprise communications, branding, and digital engagement, strengthening transparency, public trust, and consistent messaging across the organization.

Florida Senate

Nov 2024 - Jan 2025

Senior Legislative Aide, Office of Senator Joe Gruters, District 22 (Sarasota/Manatee)

- Appointed during a leadership transition to support legislative strategy, stakeholder engagement, and policy research for District 22.
- Served as a liaison among constituents, community leaders, and local government

Playtri Sarasota Bike Shop & Triathlon Store

Sep 2023 - Present

Business Owner, Sarasota, Florida

- Provide strategic leadership for a \$1.5M bike shop and triathlon store serving over 6,000 customers.
- Achieved a 150% year-over-year revenue increase and grew profitability by 50%
- Strengthen community engagement by aligning product offerings and services with local needs, enhancing customer satisfaction and fostering repeat business.
- Partner with local clubs, community associations, government officials, and nonprofit organizations to promote fitness initiatives, strengthen brand recognition, and reinforce public-private collaboration.

Apple

June 2009 - June 2023

Locations: Remote Office, Florida, Cupertino, Austin, Beijing, London, Hong Kong, Washington DC Metro

Change Management Leader, Apple Communications & Engagement

Oct 2020 - June 2023

Global Program Manager, Internal Mobility, Talent Strategy

June 2017 - Oct 2020

Global Program Manager, New Apple Retail Store Design

April 2016 - June 2017

Apple Recruiting Manager, Remote - USA, Mexico, Brazil

June 2015 - April 2016

Senior Manager, Apple Retail Atlanta, Georgia

Oct 2014 - June 2015

People Leader, Apple Retail London, United Kingdom

Sep 2013 - Oct 2014

Senior Manager, Apple Retail Beijing, China & Hong Kong

April 2012 - Sep 2013

Business Manager, Shanghai, Beijing, China
Business Manager, Apple Retail Washington D.C.

Dec 2010 - April 2012
Jun 2009 - Dec 2010

- Held multiple leadership roles across retail and corporate organizations in the U.S., China, Hong Kong and UK, leading teams up to 350 employees and overseeing operations exceeding \$200M in revenue.
- Promoted 9 times in 14 years, selected repeatedly for first-of-their-kind roles at Apple, building new programs, teams, and operating models in high-ambiguity environments.
- Led global change management initiatives impacting a 200,000-person workforce across 45 countries.
- Selected to build and lead global programs, including internal mobility initiatives resulting in 2,000 employee transfers, new store change management, and workforce planning.
- Partnered with 27 senior executives on talent strategy, recruiting, and organizational transformation.
- Selected and Graduated from Apple University Leadership Development (High Growth Talent Indicator).
- Appointed as a brand ambassador supporting Apple's expansion in Greater China, developing high-performing retail business teams and reinforcing operational and cultural standards.

International Culinary Center
Assistant Chef, New York, New York

Jan 2009 - June 2009

Cvent, Inc.
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EDUCATION

University of Virginia, *Bachelor of Arts, Government & American Politics*

Charlottesville, Virginia

International Culinary Center, Grand Diplome in Classical Culinary Arts
University of Alabama, Certificate, PMI Project Management

New York City, New York
Huntsville, Alabama

COMMUNITY

Leadership Manatee	2025 - 2026
Lorraine Lakes HOA Board Member	2025 - present
Bradenton Area Economic Development Corporation, Board Member	2025
Sarasota Manatee Bicycle Club, Board Member	2024 - 2026
Sarasota Storm Triathlon Club	2023 - present
VI Cycling Club	2023 - present
FundHerTri, Board Member	2024 - present
USA Triathlon	2021 - present
Business Network International (BNI), Member	2024 - 2025
Financial Peace University Facilitator, Building Church	2019 - 2021

CORE COMPETENCIES

Large Team Leadership, Public Private Partnerships, Government Relations, Stakeholder Engagement,
Organizational Transformation, Policy Strategy, Strategic Communications, Consensus Building,
Economic Development, Change Management, Tech Strategy, Executive Advising

LANGUAGES

English, Mandarin, Swedish, Spanish

HOBBIES & PERSONAL INTERESTS

Triathlons, Running, Cycling, Piano, Cooking & Gastronomy, German Shepherd Training



September 1, 2026 - Regular Meeting

Subject

Updates to Agenda - August 31, 2026

Category

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Briefings

None

Contact and/or Presenter Information

Bobbi Roy, Agenda Division Supervisor, ext 6878

Action Requested

Updates incorporated appropriately

Enabling/Regulating Authority

N/A

Applicable Advisory Board

N/A

Background Discussion

Below are agenda updates (dated 8/31/26) for the meeting of September 1, 2026:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Generic Public Comments

- This agenda item was updated with additional comments.

AWARDS/PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

Presentations

Item 2, **9:00 A.M. TIME CERTAIN** - Project Grace Follow-Up Discussion and Staff Responses to Board and Community Questions and Concerns - District 5

- This agenda item was updated with public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

Community and Veterans Services

Item 11, Execution of Lease Agreement between Manatee County and The Eternity Temple Washington Park Community Development Corporation, Inc., Johanna Beville, Program Analyst for Community and Veterans Services Department – District 2
Board of County Commissioners September 1, 2026

- This agenda item was updated with a revised Lease Agreement.

12, Execution of Lease Agreement between Manatee County and Rubonia Community Association, Inc., Johanna Beville, Program Analyst for Community and Veterans Services Department – District 2

- This agenda item was updated with a revised Lease Agreement.

Financial Management

Item 13, Adoption of Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-105; and Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-106 for Infrastructure Sales Tax, Claudia Campos, Interim Chief Financial Officer

- This agenda item was updated with final Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-106.

Natural Resource Department

Item 41, Acceptance and Refund of Donation from Big Bill Foundation for 18th Annual Robinson Preserve 5K/10K Race, Aedan Stockdale, Education & Volunteer Division Manager - District 3

- This agenda item was added to the Agenda.

Property Management

Item 25, Execution of Lease Agreement between Manatee County and SPCA Property Co, LLC, for the property located at 5516 21st Avenue West, Bradenton, Florida 34209, Peter Morrow, Property Acquisition Division Manager - District 3

- This agenda item was updated with revised Instructions to Board Records (in strikethrough/underline format) and public comment.

Public Safety

Item 26, Adoption of Resolution R-26-110, accepting a State Grant Award from the State of Florida, Division of Emergency Management, for the Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance (EMPA) Grant Agreement FY 26/27; and the Adoption of Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-098, Joel Richmond, Deputy Chief of Emergency Management - Countywide

- This agenda item was updated to revise the Action Requested to include Adoption of Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-098 (in strikethrough/underline format).

Public Works

Item 27, Adoption Resolution R-26-087, authorizing the Chairperson or designee to sign the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2026 annual Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Certifications and Assurances, Benita Zarr, Interim Transit Division - Countywide

- This agenda item was updated to revise the Action Requested (in strikethrough/underline format) and attach a Letter designating Signature of Authority for FTA Assistance and Awards.

ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARINGS – LEGISLATIVE

Presentations Scheduled

Item 30, Adoption of Ordinance 26-40, Amending Article IV of Chapter 2-25 of the Manatee County Code and Revising ELMAC Membership Eligibility, Terms, Number of Seats and Procedures, Kara Koenig, Environmental Lands Program Manager - Countywide

- This agenda item was updated with the clean version of Ordinance 26-40 and the strikethrough/underline version of Ordinance 26-40.

REGULAR

Government Relations

Item 34, Approval of Project Wolf - Advanced PFAS Treatment for Landfill Leachate and Biosolids at Lena Road Landfill; Adoption of Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-109; and Adoption of Resolution R-26-122, Aimee Johnson, Economic Development Division Manager - District 5

- This agenda item was updated with public comment and a revised PowerPoint Presentation.

Property Management

Item 35, Adoption of Resolution R-26-97 authorizing the conveyance of County-owned property, known as the GTE building, located at 1009 4th Avenue West, Bradenton, Florida 34205, and execution of a County Deed to the City of Bradenton, a Florida municipal corporation, Peter Morrow, Property Acquisition Division Manager - District 3

- This agenda item was updated with public comments.

REPORTS

Public Works

Item 36, Light Up Manatee Project Status Update, Aaron Burkett, Traffic Operations Division Manager, and Chris DeCosta, Sr, Assessment Coordinator

- This agenda item was updated with public comments and a PowerPoint Presentation.

Attorney Review

Not Reviewed (No apparent legal issues)

Instructions to Board Records

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