

**MANATEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING; FIFTH FLOOR, MANATEE ROOM  
1112 Manatee Avenue West  
Bradenton, Florida  
March 1, 2022**

Meeting video link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUlgjuGhS-qV966RU2Z7AtA>

Present were:

Kevin Van Ostenbridge, Chairman  
James A. Satcher III, First Vice-Chairman  
George Kruse, Second Vice-Chairman  
Carol Whitmore, Third Vice-Chairman  
Reggie Bellamy  
Vanessa Baugh  
Misty Servia

Also present were:

Dr. Scott L. Hopes, County Administrator  
William Clague, County Attorney  
Vicki Tessmer, Board Records Supervisor, Clerk of the Circuit Court



Chairman Van Ostenbridge called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

**INVOCATION**

The invocation was led by Ann Crawford, 518 Group.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Charlie Bishop, Deputy County Administrator.

**AGENDA**

BC20220301DOC008

**1. PUBLIC WORKS/CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE**

Dr. Scott Hopes, County Administrator, introduced the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).




Wendell Gardner, Financial Advisor, Public Resources Advisory Group, used a slide presentation to discuss the municipal bond market, and compared figures to other bond markets. Municipal bond rates are effected by interest rates and supply and demand. He continued to provide a market update as of February 16, 2022, and noted the markets are trying to combat inflation rates, There is concern regarding interest rate hikes, and there have been constant outflows. As of today the volatility has risen, but there has been a drop in rates for the municipal bonds. He continued the slides with the Municipal Market Date (MMD) yield curve, historical MMD rates, treasury rate ratio, Muni Fund Flows, Bloomberg Survey for Forecasted Bond Yields, and the Debt Map.

Dr. Hopes stated it may be the time to go out and finance the long term debt.





Jan Brewer, used a slide presentation to review three credit lines, the remaining balances, interest rates on two of the lines of credit at .29 percent and the Utility at .32 percent. The County is currently in design for a lot of the large projects, so there may need to be three issuances.


Dr. Hopes pointed out that as considerable amount of projects are moving at this time.


 Chad Butzow, Public Works Director, continued the slides to review status updates for the CIP including the 44th Avenue extension over the Braden River and east of the Braden River with realignment with Morgan Johnson/Caruso Road; Ft. Hamer Road extension to the north of U.S. 301; Honore at Old Farm Road (not currently active); and Memphis sidewalks.


Scott May, Deputy Director Engineering Program, County Engineer, addressed eight projects that were added to the CIP, the survey work is occurring while the initial design work is being worked on, which gives more time for right-of-way acquisition and reduces design time. Studies have been done and alignments are complete, but there is a delay with surveying, due to a lack of labor.

 Dr. Hopes recognized staff that has been helpful with these projects with moving them forward, including the County Attorney's office and Public Works.


 Charlie Bishop, Deputy County Administrator, announced that today is Joy Leggit-Murphy's last day, and she played a role in this process as well.


 Chairman Van Ostenbridge explained the work is very important and has a direct impact on the daily lives of citizens.


 Commissioner Bellamy requested a timeline for the Canal Road project.


 Mr. May stated an alignment study is complete, and they have divided the project into different phases. There are property acquisitions that must be completed prior to work near Mendoza.


Dr. Hopes stated they will have a meeting on how to use the dashboard to get updates on CIP projects.

 Ms. Brewer stated the 63rd Avenue project will be added by the next day.

 Discussion ensued regarding thanking staff for all their efforts, and have something regarding the CIP should be on the front page of the website for residents to see progress being made.

 Tom Yarger, Property Management Construction Services Manager, used the slides to address parks projects including the G. T. Bray Park Racquet Center, John Marble Park projects, Kinnan Park, Lincoln Park, and the Parrish Community Park.

 Dr. Hopes stated there was a delay for Parrish project which involved the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) land swap, which is now under progress, since FDOT will give the property to the County in exchange for a future land swap.

 Mr. Yarger continued to address other improvements at Lincoln Park, the east county library, Robinson Preserve Projects (volunteer building) and Washington Park.

Discussion ensued that the kayak tubes at Robinson Park are already held, naming Kinnan Park, and Phase 1 will begin at Parrish Community Park.

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2. **DEPARTMENT REDESIGNS**

Dr. Scott Hopes, County Administrator, addressed reorganization within the County departments, which is helping the County to be more productive. He used slides to address the organization when he began with the County. Code Enforcement has moved to Public Safety, as well as the Jail medial program, and Records Management moved to County Administration. The County hired a Cyber Security Consultant, and there will be a shade meeting with the Board regarding this. Commissioner Aids have been hired and are under County Administration, and renovations were made to the 9th floor to provide work spaces for the aids.



Discussion ensued regarding aids being able to schedule meetings for Commissioners, aids now have access to certain calendars, working on getting 3-1-1 operators to work in the lobby of County Administration building, each Commissioner can have special requirements regarding their calendars, Commissioners can show that time is busy, but calendars are released at the end of the month for the public record.



Dr. Hopes continued to review departments and addressed Redevelopment and Economic Opportunity, Economic Development and Redevelopment were moved to County Administration, and the housing programs are being moved under Neighborhood Services. The County pays the Bradenton Economic Development Council (EDC), and they felt that some projects being under the EDC is more efficient. Building and Development Services has been reimaged to Development Services; Code Compliance shifted to Code Enhancement, and Neighborhood Services has been rebranded to Community and Veteran Services. He provided a breakdown of services under each County Administrator. An additional Deputy Director will be added to Public Safety. The leadership team will meet regarding a fourth Deputy County Administrator.

Discussion ensued that Public Works and Utilities are both large departments, and deserve their own Deputy County Administrator, Public Works needs to be split up, no new positions were created with the redesign, a director was eliminated, and jobs have been reclassified, government will need to grow as the County grows, Redevelopment and Economic Opportunity is being partly privatized, need to also create efficiency, County Administrator does not need to be at every meeting, the organizational charge is being realigned, make the planning department a priority, Southwest Tax Increment funding (SWTIF) should still be a priority, and is there a policy regarding which staff members Commissioners can meet and speak with.




Dr. Hopes stated the most expeditious way to get information Commissioners need is to go through a Deputy County Administrator, because a Director may not be available. The Deputies have the ability to set up meetings. Directors were being tasked with requests from Commissioners and then other work was being effected when they drop other tasks to meet the Commissioner needs. The goal is to make the County run more efficiently. If Commissioners are not getting what they need, they can contact the County Administrator.




Commissioner Bellamy expressed concern regarding being able to speak with Directors, and there needs to be a set policy.





Dr. Hopes requested that Commissioners contact anyone who reports directly to him. The deputy administrators know what tasks the departments have.


 Chairman Van Ostenbridge noted the Board makes policies. Meetings can be set up with the deputy directors.


 Discussion ensued that Commissioners can do what they want and they can copy the County Administrator and the Deputy County Administrators, Directors do not have access to the 9th Floor, and it was unintentional to erase things from a calendar.

 Dr. Hopes stated the EDC contacted the County Administrator to assist with projects.


 Discussion continued regarding staff feeling Commissioners were intruding on them, trying to revamp government, at times Commissioners just need information from staff, because they would like to know what is happening, if there is something more than a simple request and if Commissioners are trying to schedule a meeting they should go through a Deputy Administrator, trying to maintain a certain level in the Government, all Commissioners should get the same information, staff is busy and they worry about their jobs and the climate in the County, expectations so everyone can follow the same policy, and need to serve the County in the best way possible.

 Chairman Van Ostenbridge stated it is reasonable for the County Administrator to send a one paragraph email with his expectation regarding communication.

 Discussion ensued that the Commissioners are front facing with their constituents and they need to respond to concerns.


 Dr. Hopes stated the best way to get non-emergency information is through a Deputy County Administrator, because they know exactly who to go regarding that topic.


**RECESS/RECONVENE:** 3:36 p.m. to 3:47 p.m. All Commissioners present.

 Discussion continued regarding the role of the County Administrator, each Commissioner has their own style, it is important to know where Commissioners are coming from, the County is still understaffed and the County Administrator's job is to keep the Commissioners informed, Commissioners should know each other's direction, communication needs to flow in the right direction, use Commissioner Aids to help coordinate, 3-1-1 is an option as well to get information, improving security, and it is fair to accommodate the wishes of the County Administrator.

(Continued to later in the meeting)

### **19TH STREET EAST, ELLENTON**

 Chad Butzow, Public Works Director, announced that 19th Street East, Ellenton will be permanently closed underneath the I-75 overpass to construct the two new bridges over the Manatee River. Staff will put message boards up if FDO does not. The road is only closed under the bridge.

 Discussion ensued this is the back way to the other side of I-75.

(Continued from earlier in the meeting)

### **DEPARTMENT REDESIGNS**

**Development Services**

Courtney DePol, Development Services Director, used a slide presentation to review the divisions under Development Services including Building, Planning and Zoning, Comprehensive Planning, Code Enhancement, and Administration. The website will be updated and made clearer. The motto for the Department will be "Building with the Community". The Code Enhancement division will be collaborative and proactive to address issues within the community. There will also be new public hearing signs that contain the project name and a QR code that will direct people to all the information for public hearings.

Lacey Prichard, Business Services, stated the public hearing information will also be on the website for easy access.



Discussion ensued regarding these changes are welcome.

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**Community and Veterans Services**



Lee Washington, Community and Veterans Services Director, used a slide presentation to review the rebranding of Neighborhood Services to Community and Veterans Services. Division include Community Development, County Probation, Human Services, and Library Services. The direction is being changed to engagement verses outreach, with Ambassador Programs, extended and standardized hours at the libraries, expansion of services for aging programs, and veteran transitional housing.

William Clague, County Attorney, stated there should be a motion for the name changes to move to approve the name changes, and the reorganization of County Departments as presented. The motion as stated by Mr. Clague was moved by Commissioner Whitmore and seconded by Commissioner Kruse.

There being no public comment, Chairman Van Ostenbridge closed public comment.

Following a brief discussion the motion carried 7-0.

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**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Chairman Van Ostenbridge adjourned the meeting at 4:34 p.m.

Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_