

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AUGUST 19, 2024

A Budget Meeting was held at the Murdock Administration Complex in Commission Chambers; Room 119, Port Charlotte, Florida.

The following members were present: Chair Truex, Commissioner Constance, Commissioner Deutsch, Commissioner Doherty, and Commissioner Tiseo. Also in attendance were: County Administrator Flores, County Attorney Knowlton, Minutes Clerk Savino, and Minutes Clerk Welsh. The following members were absent: None.

The Meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Changes to the Agenda

Addition #1: Public Hearing Agenda, Conduct a public hearing to consider approving an emergency ordinance proposing an amendment to the charter relating to Economic Development and waiving notice requirements.

Requested by: County Attorney

Public Input

Jeff Lustig remarked on brackish water, septic to sewer conversion project, eligibility, and Construction Industry Licensing Board Appointment.

David Kalin discussed millage rates, affordable housing, business and rental properties, Save Our Homes, and budget.

Dave Kesselring commented on millage rates, property assessments, growth, spending, special interest projects, budget, Code Enforcement, Sunseeker, sidewalks, Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), tax payer dollars, revenue, Cornhole Tournaments, General Fund, impact fees, inflation, and economy.

1. Capital Projects Review

Gordon Burger, Budget and Administrative Services Director gave a brief overview of Agenda, Tentative Millage Rates, Allocated Expense vs Revenue Variance (Capital Projects) – presented 7/17/2024, Capital Projects – Expenditures by Category vs Capital Ad Valorem, Capital Project Details, Capital Project Variables, Ad Valorem Reserves, Millage Options, Tentative Millage Rates (Options 1 – 4), Lighting District – Long Range Projection, Ad Valorem Revenue Increase for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024/2025, and Valuation Impact on Homestead Tax Bill (Charlotte County Millage Only).

Chair Truex mentioned projects, savings opportunities, Ad Valorem Revenue Increase for FY 2024/2025, Tentative Millage Rates (Options 1 – 4), Option 4, Ad Valorem Reserves, funding, and Truth in Millage (TRIM) notices.

Commissioner Constance spoke to Capital Projects – Expenditures by Category vs Capital Ad Valorem, funding sources, Reserves, appropriation language and legislation, Ad Valorem Reserves, tax rates and rolls, property assessments, July 17, 2024 Tentative Budget Workshop, operating versus capital levels, Hurricane Ian, reconstruction, Tentative Millage Rates (Options 1 – 4), Option 4, TRIM notices, and September 5, 2024 First Budget Public Hearing. **Commissioner Deutsch** noted Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), funding, Reserves, Tentative Millage Rates (Options 1 – 4), Option 4, Hurricane Ian, and impacts. **Commissioner Doherty** discussed Capital Project Details, affordability, budgets, Workshop, funding sources, inflationary increases, threshold, Ad Valorem Reserves, flexibility, July 17, 2024 Tentative Budget Workshop, Tentative Millage Rates (Options 1 – 4), Option 4, staff efforts, and Valuation Impact on Homestead Tax Bill (Charlotte County Millage Only). **Commissioner Tiseo** commented on Ad Valorem Reserves, projects, budget, non-recurring expenses, inflation, infrastructure, insurance carriers, FEMA, Tentative Millage Rates (Options 1 – 4), Option 4, Valuation Impact on Homestead Tax Bill (Charlotte County Millage Only), threshold, Homestead Exemption, benefit, opportunities, and staff efforts.

County Administrator Flores replied to October 15, 2024 BCC Monthly Workshop, Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) process and review, TRIM notices, July 17, 2024 Tentative Budget Workshop, September 5, 2024 First Budget Public Hearing, and September 24, 2024 Final Budget Public Hearing.

Deputy County Administrator Emily Lewis responded to funding sources, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), FEMA, reimbursement process, Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group, projects, requirements, and Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM).

2. Utilities – Cape Haze Septic to Sewer Project Update

Dave Watson, Utilities Director gave a brief overview of Cape Haze Project Timing and Cape Haze Project Update.

Chair Truex mentioned roadway conditions and paving program. **Commissioner Constance** spoke to properties, location, water quality monitoring, Cape Haze Project Timing, Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU), and election ballot. **Commissioner Doherty** noted Cape Haze Project Timing and septic to sewer conversion project. **Commissioner Tiseo** remarked on Cape Haze Project Update, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) permit, septic to sewer conversion project, environmental scoring, and variables.

John Elias, Public Works Director replied to Cape Haze Project Timing, septic to sewer conversion and paving projects, challenges, and roadway conditions.

County Attorney Knowlton interjected on case law.

3. a) Accept the resignation of Dave Gammon, Economic Development Director; and b) Discussion and direction on the next steps; and c) Appoint an Interim Director.

COMMISSIONER DOHERTY MOVED TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF DAVE GAMMON, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CONSTANCE

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

Chair Truex discussed certainty, qualifications, knowledge, department staffing, business retention and expansion (BRE), contract negotiations, provisions, salary, interim adjustment, and September 24, 2024 BCC Regular and Land Use Meeting. Commissioner Constance commented on contract negotiations, Interim Director, educational partners, workforce needs, BRE, employment and training opportunities, qualifications, programs, process, salaries, and September 24, 2024 BCC Regular and Land Use Meeting. Commissioner Deutsch mentioned timeframe. Commissioner Doherty spoke to hiring process, contract negotiations, and salary adjustment. Commissioner Tiseo noted future employment, vision, department staffing, interim adjustment, Economic Development Directors, Dave Gammon, employment contract, language, negotiations, and salaries.

Kay Tracy, Business Recruitment Manager responded to vision, healthy economic development ecosystem, infrastructure, investments, diversified economy, targeted sector industries, sustainability, partnerships, skilled workforce, department staffing, needs, BRE, Florida Job Growth Grant Fund, appropriations, recruitment, and internship programs.

County Attorney Knowlton interjected on salary adjustment, Economic Development Directors, provisions, Dave Gammon, contract negotiations, and September 24, 2024 BCC Regular and Land Use Meeting.

COMMISSIONER CONSTANCE MOVED TO APPOINT KAY TRACY AS INTERIM DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DEUTSCH

MOTION WITHDRAWN

COMMISSIONER DEUTSCH MOVED TO APPOINT KAY TRACY AS DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, SECONDED BY CHAIR TRUEX

MOTION WITHDRAWN

COMMISSIONER DOHERTY MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO AUTHORIZE ADMINISTRATION AND LEGAL TO WORK WITH KAY TRACY TO NEGOTIATE A CONTRACT, SECONDED BY CHAIR TRUEX

MOTION WITHDRAWN

COMMISSIONER DOHERTY MOVED TO APPOINT KAY TRACY AS INTERIM DIRECTOR WITH A FIVE PERCENT PAY RAISE AND TO NEGOTIATE THE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT AT THE SEPTEMBER 24, 2024 BCC REGULAR AND LAND USE MEETING, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DEUTSCH

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA

(Addition #1) 4. Conduct a public hearing to consider approving an emergency ordinance proposing an amendment to the charter relating to Economic Development and waiving notice requirements.

Public Input

Tim Ritchie remarked on Emergency Ordinance, Economic Development Director Dave Gammon, resignation, traffic, overdevelopment, inflation, and budget.

COMMISSIONER CONSTANCE MOVED CLOSE PUBLIC INPUT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TISEO

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

County Attorney Knowlton highlighted Conduct a public hearing to consider approving an emergency ordinance proposing an amendment to the charter relating to Economic Development and waiving notice requirements, interjected on motion requirements, timing, language, election ballot, partnership, CRA Executive Director, County Administrator Flores, and notice waiver.

Chair Truex discussed Emergency Ordinance, Interim Director, hiring process, Business Recruitment Manager Kay Tracy, Charter Review Commission (CRC), Economic Development Department and Directors, certainty, challenges, information flow, coordination, direct oversight, accountability, County Administrator, job functions, modification process, terminology, Resolution, uncertainty, qualifications, feedback, and responsibility. **Commissioner Constance** commented on County Administration, Economic Development Department and Directors, election ballot, nondisclosure agreements (NDA), direct report, position creation, coordination, Interim Director, Business Recruitment Manager Kay Tracy, Emergency Ordinance, BRE, Sunshine Law, communication, opportunity, CRC, Resolution, Board direction, performance, timing, autonomy, meeting attendance, notice requirement, and Interim Director. **Commissioner Deutsch** mentioned Economic Development Directors and Department, CRC, election ballot, Chamber of Commerce, administrative operations, Business Recruitment Manager Kay Tracy, Interim Director, hiring process, public input, modifications, NDA, integrity, timing, Emergency Ordinance, and meeting attendance. **Commissioner Doherty** spoke to Home Rule Charter, amendment provisions, Ordinance 88-9, CRC, Economic Development Department and Directors, challenges, election ballot, position creation, community support, communication, timing, Supervisor of Elections, community outreach, turnovers, stability, predictability, opportunity, language, Interim Director, Business Recruitment Director Kay Tracy, and efficient and effective government. **Commissioner Tiseo** noted Emergency Ordinance, timing, Florida Statutes, language, Economic Development Directors, public outreach and input, ballot initiative, process, Interim Director, Business Recruitment Manager Kay Tracy, hiring process, position reallocation, autonomy, Sunshine Law, efficiency, effectiveness, communication, Board direction, meeting attendance, expectations, initiative, and partnership.

County Administrator Flores replied to commitment, vetting process, position and resource requests, rapid permitting and review, and opportunities.

Ms. Tracey responded to Economic Development Director, communication, projects, partnership, and commitment.

COMMISSIONER DOHERTY MOVED TO APPROVE EMERGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA, PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CHARLOTTE COUNTY HOME RULE CHARTER TO REPEAL ARTICLE II, SECTION 2.3(F) RELATED TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ON THE NOVEMBER 5, 2024 GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CONSTANCE

MOTION FAILED 3:2., COMMISSIONER DEUTSCH AND COMMISSIONER TISEO OPPOSED

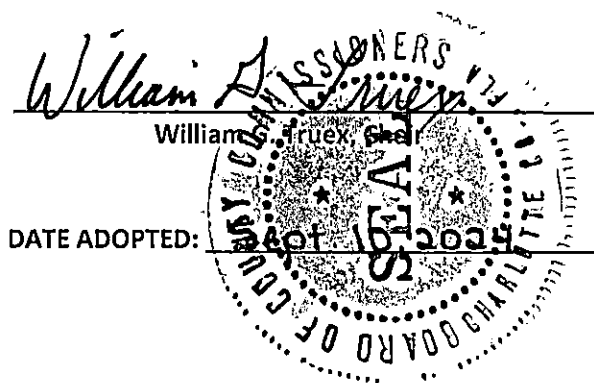
AA. County Administrator Comments - None

BB. County Attorney Comments - None

CC. Commissioner Comments

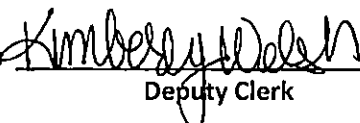
Commissioner Constance discussed August 16, 2024 Charlotte County Tourist Development Council Meeting, budget and marketing plan, and economic impact. Commissioner Tiseo commented on Sunseeker, tax rolls, July 17, 2024 Tentative Budget Meeting, Tourist Development Tax, Cornhole Tournament, Florida Statutes, funding sources, Tourism, and economic impact.

ADJOURNED: 3:19 pm


William A. Truex, Sr.
DATE ADOPTED: August 16, 2024

ATTEST:

ROGER D. EATON, CLERK
OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND
EX-OFFICIO TO THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By: 
Deputy Clerk