

**Nassau County Board of County Commissioners
Special Session, April 17, 2020, 10:00 a.m.
Commission Chambers, 96135 Nassau Place, Yulee, Florida**

Call to Order

Commissioners:

Present: Chairman Daniel B. Leeper.

Present via speakerphone: Commissioners Justin Taylor, Aaron C. Bell, Pat Edwards, and Thomas R. Ford.

Other Official Present: Michael S. Mullin, County Manager/County Attorney; and Taco Pope, Assistant County Manager. Also present via speakerphone was Dr. Eugenia Ngo-Seidel, Nassau County Health Department; and Greg Foster, Emergency Management Director.

Staff Present: Megan Diehl, Office of Management and Budget Director; and representing the Clerk's office Peggy Snyder and Brenda Linville, Deputy Clerks.

Official Agenda Summary:

Audience Input (via e-mail)

SS200417 - 10:01:25 Mr. Mullin read the e-mails received applicable to this meeting.

- Brad Nitz regarding reopening the County beaches.
- Jeremy Prescott, small business owner, regarding relaxing the restrictions for opening businesses prematurely.

Mr. Mullin advised that if anyone watching this meeting online wished to have their comments read into the record, they can do so by e-mailing their comments to comments@nassaucountyfl.com. If a person wishes to be telephoned during this meeting, they can e-mail their contact information and topic for discussion to the same e-

mail address. Voicemails may also be left at 904-530-6009 and the call will be returned during this meeting.

SS200417 - 10:04:11 Dr. Seidel provided an update regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, the case count in Nassau County has been corrected from the 40 affected people reported yesterday to 39. A case reported yesterday was actually a non-Florida resident whose case will be reported in their state of residence. A total of 813 tests have been completed, both public and private. There have been 9 hospitalizations associated with the 40 cases and no deaths. There are currently three residents hospitalized. Dr. Seidel responded to questions posed by the Board regarding COVID-19 testing and the process time for results.

SS200417 - 10:09:18 Director Foster advised that Nassau County Emergency Management is anticipating some larger push notifications coming from the State of Florida regarding resources such as masks and other health related items. His department continues to push out information from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) for COVID-19 prevention and preparedness. He has also received questions regarding testing and result timing. The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) stays in contact with the regional partners and FDOH several times a day.

NEW BUSINESS:

SS200417 - 10:10:17 (Tab A) Discuss/consider a contribution to Barnabas to assist in their program to help individuals who have been furloughed as the result of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

Discussion: Following several conversations with Wanda Lanier with Barnabas regarding their program to help furloughed individuals, Mr. Mullin has a recommendation to provide to the Board regarding financial assistance. The Convention and Visitor's Bureau will be contributing \$50,000.00 (not Tourist Development Council money). He requested that the Board consider and approve a \$50,000.00 contribution to Barnabas to a \$100,000.00 total. There are private donors who will match the \$100,000.00 for a total of \$200,000.00 to be made available to furloughed

employees. The Chamber of Commerce will provide the necessary forms and submit them to Barnabas. The funding would be made available to assist with utilities, rent, or other necessity items for furloughed employees.

Motion: Approve to contribute \$50,000.00 to Barnabas to assist in their program to help individuals who have been furloughed as a result of COVID-19 pandemic.

Maker: Commissioner Taylor

Second: Commissioner Bell

Action: Aye: Commissioners Leeper, Bell, Edwards, Ford, and Taylor

Follow Up: County Manager/County Attorney, OMB, Finance

EXPANSION ITEMS

SS200417 - 10:03:39 (1) Discussion of report from Council on Aging [COA]. (2) Discussion of Nassau County beaches.

Motion: Expand the meeting to consider two (2) items as stated above.

Maker: Commissioner Bell

Second: Commissioner Ford

Action: Aye: Commissioners Leeper, Bell, Edwards, Ford, and Taylor

Follow Up: County Manager/County Attorney

SS200417 - 10:16:15 Expansion Item #1: Discussion of report from Council on Aging (COA).

Discussion: Mr. Mullin explained that the COA has been providing meals for senior citizens and they are currently at capacity. In speaking with Janice Ancrum, Executive Director of COA, the idea of involving local restaurants has been discussed at a per meal cost. This would allow more people to be served and provide work for the restaurants. Three restaurants, Ciao, Garden Street Bistro, and Stephanie's Sugar and Spice Cafe, told Ms. Ancrum that they will prepare a total of 650 meals at the cost of \$8.00 per meal for the next 40 senior citizens on the waiting list. Mr. Mullin will provide the Board with the exact cost per meal.

Motion: Authorize the County Manager to complete the funding for the Council on Aging (COA) to utilize local restaurants to feed forty (40) senior citizens a total of 650 meals at the cost of \$8.00 per meal.

Maker: Commissioner Edwards

Second: Commissioner Ford

Action: Aye: Commissioners Leeper, Bell, Edwards, Ford, and Taylor

Follow Up: County Manager/County Attorney, Finance, OMB

SS200417 - 10:18:21 Expansion Item #2: Discussion of Nassau County beaches.

Discussion: Mr. Mullin explained that the City of Jacksonville's Mayor, Lenny Curry, opened the beaches in Jacksonville unexpectedly yesterday from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. daily. The beaches will only be open for exercise; no sunbathing or sitting. Social distancing guidelines must be followed. Mr. Mullin had hoped the beach openings would be a regional approach.

Mr. Mullin reviewed the information provided by the University of Florida Shands from a meeting yesterday which stated that a six-foot social distancing is fine for people sitting; however, for people who are jogging or running, their respiratory droplets can reach 27 feet. Regarding reopening the beach, the City of Fernandina Beach will address this issue at their regular meeting on April 21, 2020. Mr. Mullin explained that he would not recommend opening the beaches without an enforcement plan in place.

Discussion: Director Foster stated that St. Johns and Flagler Counties have been discussing the reopening of their beaches as well. In his opinion, there is significant planning that must go into effect with reopening the beaches. Chairman Leeper suggested opening the beach when it was safe to do so.

Mr. Mullin received an e-mail from Mac Morriss who had received a text message requesting that the County consider a once a day, three-hour period in the morning to open the beach.

Motion: Authorize County Manager/County Attorney, Assistant County Manager, and Chairman to have a

conference call with the Sheriff's Office, Director of Emergency Management, Health Department, and representatives from the City of Fernandina Beach to bring back a plan in order to possibly reopen the County beaches.

Maker: Commissioner Edwards
Second: Commissioner Ford
Action: Aye: Commissioners Leeper, Bell, Edwards, Ford, and Taylor
Follow Up: County Manager/County Attorney

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

SS200417 - 10:29:54 Commissioner Bell's Business:

- Keep first responders and medical workers in thoughts and prayers.

SS200417 - 10:30:26 Commissioner Taylor's Business:

- Excited about partnership with Barnabas.
- Agreed with a phased-in approach to reopening the beach.

SS200417 - 10:31:04 Commissioner Edwards' Business:

- Thanks to all Commissioners and all the people in the field working together during this pandemic.
- Norman Heubeck of Oyster Bay has expressed concern with numerous employees of fast food restaurants or essential workers not wearing masks; some taking a food order within two feet of the car.

SS200417 - 10:32:10 Commissioner Ford's Business:

- Appreciation to all county employees.
- Shout out to Doug Podiak and Cameron Hansen for the work performed on D. B. Hicks Road.
- Requested everyone to buy local when possible.
- Looking forward to the partnership with Barnabas.

SS200417 - 10:32:49 Commissioner Leeper's Business:

- Request that everyone buy local.
- Looked forward to a great partnership with Barnabas and the Chamber of Commerce to help furloughed and displaced employees during this pandemic.
- Shout out to Gil Langley and Jack Healan for their contributions to Barnabas.

There being no further business, the special session of the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

Daniel B. Leeper, Chairman

Attest:

John A. Crawford, Ex-Officio Clerk