

**Nassau County Board of County Commissioners
Special Session, May 6, 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 Officials Present: Michael S. Mullin, County Manager/County Attorney, and Taco Pope, Assistant County Manager. Also present via speakerphone were Dr. Eugenia Ngo-Seidel, Nassau County Health Department Director; and Greg Foster, Emergency Management Director.

Staff Present: Megan Diehl, Office of Management and Budget Director, and Brenda Linville and Peggy Snyder, Deputy Clerks.

Official Agenda Summary:

Audience Input:

None.

SS200506 - 10:06:00 Dr. Seidel reported that the County's COVID-19 case count remains the same with 57 residents and two non-residents with approximately 40 of them released from isolation. The County's case count and case positivity is staying low and the County is meeting the requirements of decreasing influenza and coronavirus-like illnesses. The County Health Department is promoting testing and there will be a mobile testing in Callahan and Hilliard tomorrow, May 7, 2020. The average testing is approximately 41 tests per day and she would like that count to be closer to 55 tests per day across all the areas that test.

SS200506 - 10:09:00 Director Foster reported that the Emergency Operations Center continues to support the

Department of Health's (DOH) mission. He advised that the EOC continues to receive shipments of N95 masks from the state for the first responders. He and half his staff are at the Northeast Florida Fairgrounds along with other government officials meeting with the public to address concerns.

SS200506 - 10:10:11 Mr. Mullin advised that if anyone watching this meeting online wish 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. To watch this meeting remotely, a person can log onto the Clerk of Court's website www.nassauclerk.com.

RESOLUTION(S) :

SS200506 - 10:11:26 (Tab A) Approve a Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida, proclaiming the week of May 3 through May 9, 2020, as National Travel and Tourism Week.

Motion: Approve Tab A as stated above and authorize the Chairman to sign Resolution 2020-92 regarding same.

Maker: Commissioner Bell

Second: Commissioner Ford

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

Follow Up: County Manager, Tourist Development Council (TDC)

CONSENT ITEM(S) :

SS200506 - 10:15:50 (Tab B) Approve a Resolution extending the State of Emergency in Nassau County, Florida, due to COVID-19 through May 13, 2020.

Motion: Approve Tab B as stated above and authorize the Chairman to sign Resolution 2020-93 regarding same.

Maker: Commissioner Ford

Second: Commissioner Bell

Action: Aye: Commissioners Leeper, Bell, Edwards,
Ford, and Taylor
Follow Up: County Manager, EOC, Sheriff's Office

NEW BUSINESS:

SS200506 - 10:16:13 (Tab C) Approve and authorize the Chairman to sign a budget transfer in the amount of \$100,000.00 to contribute to the Council on Aging for their restaurant meals partnership.

Motion: Approve Tab C as stated above.
Maker: Commissioner Bell
Second: Commissioner Edwards
Action: Aye: Commissioners Leeper, Bell, Edwards,
Ford, and Taylor
Follow Up: Finance, OMB, County Manager

SS200506 - 10:16:35 (Tab D) Approve and authorize the Chairman to sign a budget transfer totaling \$356,573.00 for expenses incurred by the Florida Government Utility Authority (FGUA) for various Nassau Amelia Utility improvements.

Motion: Approve Tab D as stated above.
Maker: Commissioner Bell
Second: Commissioner Ford
Action: Aye: Commissioners Leeper, Bell, Edwards,
Ford, and Taylor
Follow Up: Finance, OMB, County Manager, Nassau Amelia
Utilities (NAU)

SS200506 - 10:16:62 (Tab E) Discussion of County beaches.

Discussion: Mr. Mullin reported that the County beaches reopened on May 1, 2020 and the parking lots were full. The weekend went without incident. The County presently continues to ban commercial activity in order to maintain social distancing. Regarding the horse trailers, it was his suggestion to wait at least another few weeks as currently there is no room to park those horse trailers. There is no change to the current status of "no parking, driving or camping on the beach."

Mr. Mullin advised that there will be a beach ordinance with a beach plan that staff will bring back to be heard at a public hearing in June 2020. In addition, staff will also be presenting a plan addressing the number of people permitted in the boardroom for public hearings.

Public input: Debra Mansur, Amelia Horseback Riding, came forward to explain the hours that the horses would be on the beach in the morning and at sunset only. The horses would be off the beach daily between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. depending on sunrise and sunset times. It was suggested to temporarily have the horse trailers park on the grass at Peters Point Park.

Mr. Mullin read an e-mail from Pete Smith, a citizen, asking when beach parking and camping would be made available and what restrictions would be enacted by the Federal Endangered Species Act during turtle nesting season. Mr. Mullin advised that these issues would be addressed in the proposed beach ordinance public hearing towards the end of June 2020.

Request: County Manager to bring back in June 2020 a beach plan for beach parking including commercial activity in accordance with the Governor's phasing schedule. County Manager to meet with Doug Podiak, Public Works Director, to bring back a plan on May 13, 2020 to address horseback riding on the beach and the parking of horse trailers at Peters Point parking lot for the three horseback riding vendors.

SS200506 - 10:28:25 Mr. Mullin responded to an email from Ron Crews who addressed a typographical error within Nassau County's Executive Order No. 6.

Noted: Mr. Mullin advised that there has been a correction to the verbiage in a Whereas clause in Executive Order #6 to reflect "3.5 percent of tests", not "3.5 percent of the population." He advised that the Whereas clauses have no enforcement effect.

EXPANSION ITEMS:

SS200506 - 10:06:06 Discuss when the Board members can return to the Commission Chambers for live meetings.

Motion: Expand the meeting to consider one (1) item as stated above.
Maker: Commissioner Taylor
Second: Commissioner Bell
Action: Aye: Commissioners Leeper, Bell, Edwards, Ford, and Taylor
Follow Up: County Manager

SS200506 - 10:28:59 Expansion Item #1: Discuss when the Board members can return to the Commission Chambers for live meetings.

Discussion: Mr. Mullin explained the phased-in approach that the Florida Governor has issued based upon his working group. Regarding local government meetings, the in-person quorum should remain suspended and the use of technology and video conferencing for local government meetings should be encouraged. Phase-2 stated that the quorum in the boardroom would resume and restrict no more than 60 people in attendance as long as social distancing guidelines could be maintained. Mr. Mullin advised that resuming quasi and judicial hearings will require a plan to accommodate any overflow of the public; possibly even with tents outside with monitors. Given the number of public hearings in the pipeline, these meetings could be lengthy.

SS200506 - 10:32:04 Mr. Pope provided an update on the Planning Department and North Florida Land Trust webinar presentation. The presentation can be viewed on the County's website under the Planning Department and the active survey will be available for another few weeks. He encouraged everyone to watch and share the presentation and survey.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

SS200506 - 10:31:54 Commissioner Bell's Business:

- Thanked everyone for social distancing on the beach.

SS200506 - 10:33:32 Commissioner Edwards' Business:

- Thanked everyone for continuing to social distance.
- Urged everyone to buy local.

- Thanked everyone on the front lines dealing with this COVID-19 pandemic.

SS200506 - 10:33:47 Commissioner Ford's Business:

- Thanked everyone for social distancing on the beach.
- Requested a plan for reopening the libraries in order for volunteers to obtain books to distribute to those unable to leave the house.

Request: County Manager to consult with the Library Director regarding plans to reopen the libraries in line with the Governor's phasing orders.

SS200506 - 10:35:35 Commissioner Taylor's Business:

- Thanked the Sheriff's Office deputies for monitoring the beach and the citizens for following the social distancing guidelines.

SS200506 - 10:35:55 Commissioner Leeper's Business:

- Thanked the Sheriff's Office, Fire Rescue and the City of Fernandina Beach for a successful beach reopening.
- Thanked staff and department heads for an excellent job getting the beaches open.
- Thanked the TDC for their weekly reporting and analysis of the travel industry to keep the citizens safe.
- Thanked the residents for adhering to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines.

SS200506 - 10:36:59 Mr. Mullin thanked the TDC for their weekly reports. He thanked the first responders, department heads, and EOC staff for their hard work.

no further
County Board

