

**Nassau County Board of County Commissioners
Special Session, June 3, 2020, 10:00 A.M.
Commission Chambers, 96135 Nassau Place, Yulee, Florida**

Call to Order

Commissioners:

Present: Chairman Daniel B. Leeper.

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

Other Officials Present: Michael S. Mullin, County Attorney/County Manager; 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:

SS200603 - 10:03:43 Dr. Seidel provided a COVID-19 pandemic update advising that as of this morning, there have been a total of 81 cases in Nassau County of which 74 are residents and 7 non-residents. Of the non-residents, 6 are from Georgia. Two percent of the County's population has been tested which shows a low positivity rate. The Health Department continues to push for testing in the long term care facilities to make sure that the residents are protected. There will be routine mobile testing available throughout the community on a rotating basis on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Dr. Seidel advised that the new COVID-19 cases were not specific to the reopening of local businesses or a specific age group. In response to a question posed by Mr. Mullin related to youth athletic organizations restarting league play, Dr. Seidel recommended that all organizations that are reopening should follow Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines.

She also advised that the non-resident cases from Georgia were mainly work-related, not from beach activity.

SS200527 - 10:10:00 Director Foster provided an update of the Nassau County Emergency Management response to the COVID-19 pandemic. They continue to support the Department of Health (DOH) and their mission of testing. Additional COVID-19 test kits are being sent from the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM). Emergency Management's logistic section continues to take in Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) from FDEM and he thanked the County for providing long term storage space in order to store the PPE for the hurricane season shelter activity and into the fall flu season.

The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has been moved into a Level Three Activation which is "monitoring" with current staff from Monday through Friday. The EOC is preparing for hurricane season and are in discussion with the School District in reference to expanding sheltered populations because of the additional social distancing for COVID-19 pandemic. Regarding the recent civil unrest throughout the country, Emergency Management along with the Sheriff's Office and Fernandina Beach Police Department continue to monitor the trends and have plans in place to protect the lives and property in Nassau County.

When asked whether Emergency Management had any immediate needs, Director Foster replied that they are running short on gowns and Clorox wipes. There is always an interest in masks and eye protection, he added.

Audience Input:

SS200603 - 10:13:53

None.

SS200603 - 10:14:20 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 or 904-530-6100 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.

CONSENT ITEM(S) :

SS200603 - 10:15:21 Approve the following: **(Tab A)** Resolution extending the State of Emergency in Nassau County, Florida, due to COVID-19 through June 10, 2020. **(Tab B)** Final plat for Amelia Concourse Phase III, Unit A, filed by DFC Amelia Concourse Phase III, LLC, owner, and McCranie and Associates, agent, to divide 30.11 acres into 31 quarter-acre, single-family lots and five Tracts off Amelia Concourse. The property is zoned Residential Single Family-2 [RS-2] with a Future Land Use Map [FLUM] designation of Medium Density Residential [MDR]. **(Tab C)** Schedule Public Hearing to Amend the Impact Fee Ordinance and Repealing and Replacing Fire Rescue, Law Enforcement and Administrative Facilities Impact Fees. Recommended date: July 16, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard.

Discussion: Commissioner Bell inquired whether the resident who came to a previous meeting had her questions answered regarding Tab B. Mr. Mullin replied that the Planning Director supplied information regarding landscape buffers and the contact information for Ms. Diehl regarding impact fees.

Motion: Approve Consent Items Tabs A, B, and C as stated above and authorize Chairman to sign Resolution 2020-103 regarding Tab A.

Maker: Commissioner Bell

Second: Commissioner Ford

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

Follow Up: OMB, County Manager, County Attorney, Planning Department.

NEW BUSINESS:

SS200603 - 10:16:16 (Tab D) Approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the CERT/Citizen's Corps Contract Amendment extending the contract through August 30, 2020.

Motion: Approve Tab D as stated above.

Maker: Commissioner Edwards

Second: Commissioner Taylor

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

**Follow Up: Finance, OMB, Emergency Management,
Grants, Contract Management**

COUNTY MANAGER BUSINESS:

SS200603 - 10:16:44 Mr. Mullin reviewed the budget meeting process noting that the first meeting was live-streamed to allow for transparency for the public. Numerous meetings will be held before the budget is brought to the Board in a workshop session. The public is encouraged to follow these meetings and submit their questions and concerns.

SS200603 - 10:18:11 Ms. Diehl came forward to discuss the budget process and the continuing effort to provide transparency. She welcomed suggestions and input from the public in order to improve the process and provide the best information available. She received the preliminary taxable value from the Property Appraiser's Office and her office is currently reviewing this information in an effort to provide a range of different millage rates available to levy not to exceed ten mills. She discussed a potential "blended rate" that would take in account new construction and new valuation to provide a weighted average approach. Her department is still collecting requests for Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) and fleet replacement by various departments. Her hope is to receive and compile all this information within the next few weeks to share. Various options for the proposed budget will also be presented.

SS200603 - 10:24:49 Mr. Pope advised that on June 8, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. in a County Commission workshop, Dr. David Barth will provide a report to the Board explaining the existing conditions and the needs assessment on the Recreation Master Plan. He invited the public to participate in this presentation.

SS200603 - 10:21:31 Chairman Leeper thanked Mr. Pope, Ms. Diehl and Mr. Mullin as well as his fellow commissioners and members of the Tourist Development Council and the Amelia Island-Fernandina Beach-Yulee Chamber of Commerce for their help in encouraging Florida Governor Desantis to release CARES Act funding to local governments. This funding could help local businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Chairman Leeper pointed out that the citizens of Nassau County know what is best for their community. He

encouraged everyone to continue to reach out to the Governor to explain that "local knows best."

EXPANSION ITEMS:

SS200603 - 10:14:10

None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

SS200603 - 10:28:22 Commissioner Edwards' Business:

- Expressed concern regarding businesses in the area and hoped that Nassau County's low COVID-19 case rate would meet the Governor's guidelines.
- Thanked the Health Department and Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for their hard work out in the field.

SS200603 - 10:29:27 Commissioner Bell's Business:

- Echoed Commissioner Edwards' concern regarding small businesses in the area.
- Stated that with the coordinated efforts of County staff, Emergency Management, Sheriff's Office, Health Department, First Responders, Fire Rescue, and Road Department, the County can handle what comes our way. If anyone is in fear, reach out to Emergency Management and share your concerns. There is an emergency plan for almost everything.

SS200603 - 10:30:27 Commissioner Taylor's Business:

- Thanked the Chairman for his great remarks regarding the CARES Act and the Governor releasing those funds. He had a conversation with Senator Aaron Bean last week who was onboard with the smaller counties receiving these funds to help the small businesses.
- Asked whether hotels, motels and vacation rentals must continue the burdensome reporting of all their guests; not just the guests from the Tri-State area of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. Mr. Mullin responded that he will be signing a new executive order today which will only require the reporting of

guests from the Tri-State area including New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and also Louisiana.

SS200603 - 10:32:17 Commissioner Ford's Business:

- Echoed the comments of the other commissioners.
- Thanked the Health Department and Emergency Management for all that they do.

SS200603 - 10:32:17 Commissioner Leeper's Business:

- Thanked the IT Department for all their support with livestreaming the meetings.

SS200603 - 10:32:40 Gil Langley, Executive Director of the Amelia Island Tourist Development Council (TDC) provided an update regarding tourism in the County. He advised that the TDC has been working diligently for the past 45 days to determine the proper message and timing to get back into the market place. At the TDC meeting to be held this afternoon, he will recommend an \$800,000.00 advertising program targeted on visitors within a six hour drive distance to this area. The April numbers for the bed tax was \$78,000.00; the budget amount was \$850,000.00. In his opinion, the County has hit the bottom as far as the numbers are concerned. His hope was that the Board will approve of the new marketing program moving forward.

He thanked the Board for funding Barnabas to provide assistance to the furloughed hospitality industry workers.

There being no further business, the special session of the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Daniel B. Leeper, Chairman

Attest:

John A. Crawford, Ex-Officio Clerk

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