

**Nassau County Board of County Commissioners  
Special Session, July 1, 2020, 9:00 A.M.  
Commission Chambers, 96135 Nassau Place, Yulee, Florida**

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

**Commissioners:**

**Present:** Chairman Daniel B. Leeper, 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 Peggy Snyder and Heather Nazworth, Deputy Clerks.

**Official Agenda Summary:**

**SS200701 - 9:01:23** 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](mailto: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](http://www.nassauclerk.com).

**SS200701 - 9:02:19** Dr. Seidel provided a COVID-19 pandemic update advising that as of this morning, there are 14 new cases, which brings the total resident count to 188. Out of the 188 cases, 100 of them were reported within the past two weeks. Currently, there are 2 patients with COVID-19 at Baptist Nassau. She advised that the demographics are reporting younger patients. The Department of Health (DOH)

continues to schedule mobile COVID-19 drive-up/walk-up testing throughout the County.

Dr. Seidel responded to an email inquiry from Mr. Aiken explaining the testing and the low percentage of residents that are infected. She provided an explanation of the dashboard results and offered to provide a presentation in the future to help citizens understand the dashboard. She explained the difference between COVID-19 and the flu.

**SS200701 - 9:09:16** Mr. Mullin acknowledged the following emails received regarding face masks and driving on the beach: Diane Hill, Cathy Martinez, Cyndi Sleight, John Fournier, Ginni Henry, Janet Hild, Sherril McLeod, Bruce Cox, and Ron Eschman.

**Audience Input: Non-Agenda Items**

**SS200701 - 9:13:54** Wade Bell expressed concerns regarding the continued closed parking area of County-owned property located at American Beach.

Chairman Leeper responded that the location is near a residential neighborhood and when there is overflow from that location individuals start parking in private residences driveway, yards, and right-of-way which create issues for residents in that area.

**SS200701 - 9:16:30** John Retchless expressed his concerns regarding the air quality with the use of the face masks.

**CONSENT ITEM(S):**

**SS200701 - 9:21:11 (Tab A)** Resolution extending the State of Emergency in Nassau County, Florida, due to COVID-19 through July 8, 2020.

**Motion:** Approve Tab A as stated above and authorize Chairman to sign Resolution 2020-116 regarding same.

**Maker:** Commissioner Edwards

**Second:** Commissioner Bell

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

**Follow Up:** County Manager, County Attorney

**COUNTY MANAGER BUSINESS:**

**SS200701 - 9:21:42 (Tab B)** Discuss/consider on Beach Driving at Scott Road beach access.

**Discussion:** Mr. Mullin explained that the Scott Road beach access was closed to vehicular access for various reasons such as the economics, limited space, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff is researching plans to reopen the Scott Road beach access; however, there is no specific plan or accommodations to provide today. A special meeting will be scheduled if necessary once staff has a plan for beach parking at the Scott Road beach access.

Public Input: Wade Bell inquired whether staff has data from property owner's that are eligible to receive the passes and the number of vehicles going on the beach. Mr. Mullin stated that there are no out of county residents going on the beach where beach parking is allowed. Mr. Mullin responded to inquiries from Mr. Bell stating that individuals that own property in Nassau County but do not live here can go to the Tax Collector's office to receive a photo ID verifying that they own property in Nassau County and that county staff is not collecting data as to the number of individuals receiving said ID's.

**EXPANSION ITEMS:**

**SS200701 - 9:21:11** (1) Discuss/consider the resolution for the mandatory use of face coverings in response to COVID-19.

**Motion:** Expand the meeting to consider one (1) item as stated above.

**Maker:** Commissioner Ford

**Second:** Commissioner Taylor

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

**Follow Up:** County Manager

**SS200701 - 9:28:04** Director Foster explained that his department continues increased messaging regarding face masks and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) information. There has been continued work with the Florida Department of Health including an order of additional testing kits from Florida Division of Emergency Management and a large

quantity order of cloth face masks from the Department of Health and Human Service. With the assistance of faith-based, non-governmental, governmental, and business partners the masks are being provided throughout the community. As to date, there is a total of 250,000 cloth face masks, 50,000 will be provided to the Nassau County School District with the remaining 200,000 to be distributed within the community.

**SS200701 - 9:29:28 Expansion Item #1:** Discuss/consider the resolution for the mandatory use of face coverings in response to COVID-19.

**Discussion:** Mr. Mullin provided a brief overview of the expansion item. He explained that the meeting will recess in order for the Chairman, Mr. Pope and himself to attend a conference call at 10:00 a.m. with other local officials to discuss the mandatory use of face coverings. He also provided for the Board's review documentation from other counties in Florida that have addressed the use of face masks. Discussion followed.

The meeting recessed at 9:42 a.m. and resumed at 10:52 a.m.

**SS200701 - 10:53:26** Mr. Mullin acknowledged an additional public comment email received from Susan Batchelor regarding face masks.

**SS200701 - 10:52:24**

**Discussion:** Mr. Mullin provided an update on the conference call. He stated that they reviewed the ordinance from Martin County. They decided that there should be a joint effort between the City of Fernandina Beach and Nassau County due to the lines of demarcation could be confusing to individuals. It was also discussed whether the approach should be on a limited basis such as thirty days or less to see if there are any changes in the number of cases. Mr. Mullin advised that Martin County's Ordinance includes statutory penalty language and encourages utilization of the Surgeon General's Guidelines regarding masks and social distancing. Discussion ensued.

**Request:** County Attorney to draft Executive Order regarding mandatory face coverings for review by the Board and the

City of Fernandina Commission in order to receive a consensus prior to executing. A special meeting will be scheduled if necessary.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**SS200701 - 11:13:23** Commissioner Edwards' Business:

**Request:** Public Works Director to research adding funding for maintaining County Parks restrooms to his budget.

**SS200701 - 11:13:18** Commissioner Bell's Business:

- Wear masks out in public.

**SS200701 - 11:13:01** Commissioner Taylor's Business:

None

**SS200701 - 11:13:20** Commissioner Ford's Business:

- Echoed Commissioner Bell's comment regarding face masks.

**SS200701 - 11:15:49** Commissioner Leeper's Business:

- Thanked the public for their comments.
- Echoed Commissioner Bell's comment regarding face masks.

There being no further business, the special session of the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

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Daniel B. Leeper, Chairman

Attest:

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John A. Crawford, Ex-Officio Clerk