

**Nassau County Board of County Commissioners
Special Session, August 26, 2020, 9:00 A.M.
Commission Chambers, 96135 Nassau Place, Yulee, Florida**

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

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.

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

Official Agenda Summary:

Audience Input: Agenda and Non-Agenda Items

SS200826 - 9:01:11 Mr. Mullin advised that citizens wishing to speak to the Board live during meetings can attend via Zoom or can submit an email to comments@nassaucountyfl.com and for the individuals to provide their name and address. He advised that if anyone would like to be called during the meeting to call 904-530-6009 and leave a message with their name, phone number, address and topic of discussion for **(Tab A)** Non-Agenda Items and **(Tab B)** Agenda Items.

There was no public input.

SS200826 - 9:03:34 Dr. Eugenia Ngo-Seidel, Nassau County Health Department, came forward to provide a public health update related to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). As of August 25, 2020, the County had a total of 1,522 positive cases of which 1,427 were residents. Public Health Department has released 354 cases under quarantine. There were 161 new cases last week of which 44 percent were a result of congregate long term care living. The percent positivity is 10.8 percent; however, the rate is closer to

six percent without the congregate long term care centers. There are currently nine new hospital cases since last week and three additional deaths. Her message this week is to stay home if you are sick.

Dr. Seidel distributed the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) pamphlet "Considerations for Wearing Masks". She explained that the use of plastic face screens are considered eye protection and do not protect others from sneezes or coughs. In addition, the use of masks with valves is not recommended as droplets can escape through the valves. She promoted the use of masks inside. She reviewed upcoming testing sites.

SS200826 - 9:05:59 Greg Foster, Emergency Management Director, came forward and stated in reference to COVID 19, they did a special last Friday, "*Back to School During a Pandemic*" which was well received. Emergency Management has an Information Call-In Line that begins this week for any questions on how to remain safe. Emergency Management continues to support the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) in their efforts. They support the continuance of the mask ordinance and they have cloth masks available. Emergency Management is receiving increased requests for the N-95 masks from assisted living centers and skilled nursing facilities and they have located a vendor. Testing is also being promoted daily and they continue to work with the School District on contingency plans. There are two tropical waves that came off Africa but are not expected to be a threat.

NEW BUSINESS:

SS200826 - 9:11:34 (Tab C) Approve a Resolution extending the State of Emergency in Nassau County, Florida due to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) through September 2, 2020.

Motion: Approve Tab C as stated above and authorize the Chairman to sign Resolution 2020-146 regarding same.

Maker: Commissioner Edwards

Second: Commissioner Bell

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

Follow Up: County Manager, Emergency Management, Health Department, Sheriff's Office, Fire Rescue

SS200826 - 9:26:10 (Tab D) Approve and authorize the Chairman to sign Amendment No. 3 to Contract No. CM275, extending the term of the agreement with Government Services Group (GSG) through December 30, 2020 and to increase the compensation of the agreement with a total sum for Phase I and Phase 2 not to exceed \$850,000.00. Funding source: 01254525-531000.

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

SS200826 - 9:11:54 (Tab E) Consider the extension of Executive Order No. 16, regarding mandatory wearing of face coverings.

Discussion: Mr. Mullin reviewed the mask mandate restrictions in Executive Order #16. A lengthy discussion followed regarding an exit strategy in the future to make masks optional but still protect the county's 88,000 residents until a vaccine is made available. It was noted that the School District dictates the COVID-19 precautions for schools.

Public input: Bo Hodges provided public input via Zoom. He agreed with finding an end to this mask mandate and pointed out that only 1.7 percent of the county's population has tested positive with only a .016 percent chance of dying of COVID-19. He felt that this mask mandate was a burden to the citizens and it was time to end the State of Emergency. Mr. Mullin explained that the Board can override any Emergency Order.

Motion: Approve Tab E as stated above.
Maker: Commissioner Edwards
Second: Commissioner Bell
Action: Aye: Commissioners Leeper, Bell, Edwards, Ford, and Taylor
Follow Up: County Manager, County Attorney, Sheriff's Office, Emergency Management, Fire/Rescue, Health Department

COUNTY MANAGER BUSINESS:

SS200826 - 9:28:22 Mr. Mullin addressed the Ordinance for American Beach Water and Sewer approved on August 24, 2020. He advised that for Section 5, Advisory Board, the five-member Advisory Board shall be property owners from within American Beach boundary.

Motion: Authorize staff to prepare a resolution setting forth procedures for appointing members (within sixty days from August 24, 2020) and the authority of the Advisory Board, to present to the stakeholders, and bring back for approval; and, authorization for the Chairman to sign the American Beach Water and Sewer Ordinance approved on August 24, 2020.

Maker: Commissioner Bell

Second: Commissioner Ford

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

Follow Up: County Manager

SS200826 - 9:30:15 Schedule special meeting for September 2, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. to extend the State of Local Emergency.

Motion: Schedule a special meeting for September 2, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. to extend the State of Local Emergency.

Maker: Commissioner Edwards

Second: Commissioner Ford

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

Follow Up: County Manager

EXPANSION ITEMS:

SS200826 - 9:02:37 Authorization for the Chairman to sign the necessary form to give Taco E. Pope unlimited signing authority from August 28, 2020 through September 4, 2020.

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

Maker: Commissioner Edwards

Second: Commissioner Ford

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

Follow Up: County Manager

SS200826 - 9:26:32 Expansion Item #1: Authorization for Chairman to sign the necessary form to give Taco E. Pope unlimited signing authority from August 28, 2020 through September 4, 2020.

Motion: Approve expansion item 1 as stated above.
Maker: Commissioner Ford
Second: Commissioner Bell
Action: Aye: Commissioners Leeper, Bell, Edwards, Ford, and Taylor
Follow Up: County Manager, Finance, OMB

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

SS200826 - 9:30:53 Commissioner Taylor's Business:
None

SS200826 - 9:30:54 Commissioner Bell's Business:
None

SS200826 - 9:30:59 Commissioner Ford's Business:

- Thanked Mr. Hodges for his public input regarding the mask mandate. It is this Board's job to make hard decisions.

SS200826 - 9:31:50 Commissioner Edwards' Business:
None

SS200826 - 9:31:49 Commissioner Leeper's Business:
None

There being no further business, the special session of the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

Daniel B. Leeper, Chairman

Attest:

John A. Crawford, Ex-Officio Clerk