



MINUTES

Board of County Commissioners

Monday, June 14, 2021 @ 4:00 PM

DeFuniak Springs Board Room

Joint Special Meeting

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSIONERS

PRESENT:

Chairman Trey Nick, Commissioner Michael Barker, Commissioner Boots McCormick, Commissioner Danny Glidewell, and Commissioner Tony Anderson

STAFF PRESENT:

Ms. Dede Hinote, Deputy Administrator, Mr. Stan Sunday, Deputy Administrator, and Attorney Clayton Adkinson, City Attorney and Interim County Attorney

CITY

REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT:

Council Member Todd Bierbaum, Council Member Kevin Crystal, Council Member Henry Ennis, Council Member Anthony Vallee, Mayor Bob Campbell, and Mr. Robert Thompson, City Manager

OPENING COMMENTS

Chairman Nick called the meeting to order and welcomed the City of DeFuniak Springs Council.

Mayor Campbell addressed the council, staff, and attendees. He asked that all questions be withheld until the end of the presentation.

A roll call was taken of the commissioners, council members, and staff in attendance.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

1. Mobility Plan and Fee – Continued - First Reading. Request to approve an ordinance of the Board of County Commissioners of Walton County, Florida, approving and adopting the county's mobility plan and mobility fee technical report, consistent with the provisions of section 163.3180 et seq., Florida Statutes, specifically subsection (5) (i) with regard to transportation concurrency; providing a conflicts clause, a severability clause, and authority to codify; providing an effective date; and for other purposes.

Mr. Mac Carpenter, Planning and Development Director thanked everyone for attending and said this is an opportunity for local governments to work together as a team. He gave a brief history of why the mobility plan is being considered. He spoke about Proportionate Fair Share and how it measures the impact of new development. Mr. Carpenter reported that a mobility plan is FDOT's preferred method to address traffic

concurrency and the agency is encouraging governments not to use Proportionate Fair Share. A transportation consultant has been hired to work with county staff on the county's mobility plan. He spoke on the county's need to meet with all the municipalities to discuss the transportation needs and impact to the cities. He addressed the impact south Walton tourists have on all of the municipalities. Mr. Carpenter said one of the reasons for the mobility plan is to create a comprehensive list of projects throughout the county and municipalities to present to the Transportation Planning Organization (TPO). Walton County is tremendously outnumbered on the TPO. He commended the teamwork between the city and county on the 20th Street sidewalk project. He talked about the importance of city projects to the county. He said this is an opportunity for all the cities and the county to work together. He said there are several viable ways to fund the projects and that having a mobility plan in place would give more opportunities to receive state and federal funding. He asked the city council to authorize staff to work with county staff on a list of projects that would best benefit this particular transportation zone. Some of the projects may not be funded through the TPO system and would require local funding.

Ms. Kristen Shell, Planning Manager reported the draft Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) was released last week. She stated there were differences in the county's mobility plan and the LRTP. She discussed the cost feasible and needs list created by the TPO. The needs list is the longer of the two lists. Ms. Shell said Walton County is attempting to create similar lists (mobility plan and needs plan) to present to the TPO. The projects are contingent upon the cities opting in. She said a needs plan would be beneficial to receive grant funding, capital programming, developer contribution, and maintaining transparency. The needs list will also allow the county to get involved with the TPO process. She said projects can be moved up based on development. Ms. Shell said county planning staff would do whatever is necessary to work on behalf of the cities and county.

Mr. Cliff Knauer, Dewberry Engineering-representing the City of DeFuniak Springs stated the mobility plan is a tool to help the city to get new developments to help pay for sidewalks, widening of roads, etc. He talked about the different projects which would be beneficial to the city and said there are a lot of projects that are not identified on the county's map. He encouraged the city to work with the county staff to update the map and to create a list of projects to submit to the TPO.

Discussion was held regarding the proposed Bruce Avenue extension which would act as a connector between the east and west sides of the city, a connector between Walton Middle School and West DeFuniak Elementary School, a possible connector to the airport, and an access to a proposed sports complex.

Mr. Carpenter stated the current transportation plan focuses on moving vehicles. He talked about how the mobility plan will focus on moving people and vehicles.

Council Member Vallee talked about the proposed Complete Streets multi-modal program and how U.S. Highway 90 has divided the city. He talked about the number of fatalities that have occurred on that highway in recent months. He said the plan is to lessen U.S. Highway 90 to three lanes from 1st Street to U.S. Highway 331. Discussion continued on the Complete Streets programs, improving safety on U.S. Highway 90,

interconnecting the city, and the teamwork needed to strengthen Walton County's presence on the TPO.

Council Member Crystal voiced concern that funding sources had not been identified. He noted there is at least a half of billion dollars' worth of projects on the list with no concrete means of funding. He said he supported a plan and questioned what the next steps would be after a list is created. Commissioner Anderson concurred that everyone is concerned about the funding, but that a list is needed to identify the most important projects. Discussion was held on how the state and federal agencies require a prioritized list of projects before offering funds.

Council Member Bierbaum said he has represented DeFuniak Springs on the TPO and agrees a plan is needed. He felt a city's TPO representative along with its engineers should be on a working committee with the county to create the county's project list. He noted the City of DeFuniak Springs is attempting to move away from impact fees and said he would favor a sales tax which is mostly paid by visitors.

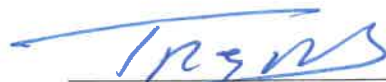
Mr. Thompson discussed how a united front would prove beneficial. He encouraged the board to take action that would benefit the citizens of Walton County and DeFuniak Springs.

Commissioner Glidewell noted the city's citizens are also county citizens and that the board would do what they can to get what the city needs. He encouraged continuing the communication between the county and the municipalities.

Mayor Campbell said the city will come up with a list, have their engineers draw up a map, and schedule another meeting to present their needs to the county. Ms. Shell reminded everyone that the TPO deadline is in October. She said that the TPO would not entertain local/neighborhood roads. Council Member Bierbaum said that roads connecting to schools can be on the prioritized needs list. Ms. Shell said criteria has been added dealing with equity and that it would be beneficial for DeFuniak Springs and north Walton County to further research that criteria. Commissioner Anderson noted that 19th Street has become a bypass and should also be considered. Chairman Nick asked that the school board be consulted as well.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:06



Trey Nick, Chairman



Attest: Alex Alford, Clerk of Court and County Comptroller

Bob Campbell

Bob Campbell, Mayor

Maryanne Schrader

Attest: Maryanne Schrader, City Clerk

