

**MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP FOR THE JOINT CITY / COUNTY
COMMISSION MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS FOR
THE CITY OF PORT ST. JOE FLORIDA AND THE GULF COUNTY BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN THE CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS
April 13, 2021, at 4:00 P.M.**

The following were present: Mayor Buzzett, Commissioners Ashbrook, Hoffman, Lowry, and Langston. City Manager Jim Anderson, City Clerk Charlotte Pierce, City Attorney Clinton McCahill, and Chief of Police Jake Richards were also present. Representing the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners were Chairman Sandy Quinn, Commissioners Phil McCroan, Ward McDaniel, David Rich, Patrick Ferrell, and County Attorney Jeremy Novak. Other County Staff present were: Kari Summers, Leanna Roberts, County Administrator Michael L. Hammond, Mark Cothran, Austin Horton, Matt Herring, Sherry Herring, Kaci Rhodes, and Sheriff Mike Harrison.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss topics of interest to each governing board.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rex Buzzett at 4:00 P.M. He expressed his appreciation for the joint meeting of the Boards and welcomed those present to the meeting.

Chairman Quinn thanked the City for having the meeting.

Mayor Buzzett asked the County Commissioners to share their thoughts and each of them yielded to Chairman Quinn.

The question of density of the City Public Works site was discussed.

Mayor Buzzett shared that the City had met the state requirements for the Annexation. City Planner, Ray Greer prepared the Large-Scale Amendment, and it has been sent to DEO for their review.

City Manager Jim Anderson noted there are approximately 58 acres in the parcels and that the area in question has R-1 and R-3 designations, there is also a sandy ridge consisting of about 25 acres of uplands in the R-3 Zone.

The County upholds to a density of 4 units per acre and wants the City to do the same. They are also concerned about the infrastructure for the project as well as roads in and out of the location.

County Attorney Jeremy Novak stressed that the County has a very short window of time to decide what their response to the annexation would be and asked for a commitment from the City Commission on their plans. He stated the City had annexed the property, gone through all the steps, and asked for compromise.

Mayor Buzzett reminded everyone that the annexation is the primary focus of the Commission and until an RFP is released, there are no plans for development.

City Attorney McCahill noted that the annexation had been done, all state requirements were met, and the City is waiting to hear from DEO on the Large-Scale Plan Amendment.

Commissioner McCroan asked about the County having any leverage on this topic in the future.

Attorney Novak shared that what is in the City is the City's and once this is done, the County will have no input.

Consensus was for the two Commissions to work towards a compromise on density, possibly create a special district for the parcels in question, and meet again on this issue.

Mayor Buzzett requested discussion on the Field of Dreams opportunities and Tenth Street Park.

Chairman Quinn noted the need for new dugouts at the 10th Street Facility and pledged \$5,000 of his discretionary funds to the project. He expressed his concerns about relocating the facility to the Field of Dreams property because of the location and ability for his side of town being able to get to the property.

Commissioner McCroan also noted the condition of the dugouts and pledged \$5,000 of his discretionary funds to the project.

Commissioner Hoffman stated the Washington Gyn Bathrooms are the worst in the County and questioned the previous commitment from the County of \$75,000 towards the project.

Chairman Quinn shared that the County has submitted a \$500,000 application for funds to help with the project and are requesting an additional \$500,000 from another source as well. He stated that if the grant funds do not come through, the County is on board to help.

Mayor Buzzett thanked everyone for the good discussion, stated he would get with Chairman Quinn before the next meeting to formulate an Agenda, and noted there would be another meeting in three months.

After thanking everyone for their attendance, Major Buzzett adjourned the meeting at 5:00 P.M.

Approved this 20th day of April 2021.



Rex Buzzett, Mayor

4/20/21

Date



Charlotte M. Pierce, City Clerk

4/20/21

Date