

**City of Dunnellon
Special City Council Meeting**

Zoom Meeting

<https://dunnellon.zoom.us/j/84594730856?pwd=K0ZwcFFlcFhldENnUUNaWWtWMVB3UT09>

Meeting ID: 845 9473 0856

Date: December 20, 2021

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: City Hall, 20750 River Dr., Dunnellon, FL 34431

Dunnellon City Council meeting attendance information.

Anyone who wished to provide public comment was able to do so by participating in the City Council meeting in person, via the Zoom "AUDIO ONLY" platform and/or telephone, by speaking during public comment portions of the meeting when recognized or by submitting written comments, evidence and/or written testimony in advance of the meeting via email to the City Clerk at modom@dunnellon.org

Members of the public who were interested in participating were encouraged to register in advance by 8:00 a.m. on Monday, December 20th. Public input on non-agenda items were heard at the beginning of the meeting with a three (3) minute time limit.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor White called the meeting to order at approximately 9:02 a.m. and led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance. He invited any citizen wishing to volunteer to open with prayer. No one stepped forward, and Mayor White offered a moment of silence. Mayor White then called upon the City Clerk to call roll.

Roll Call

Bill White, Mayor, Seat 1

Louise Kenny, Councilwoman, Seat 2

Anita Williams, Councilwoman, Seat 3

Valerie Hanchar, Vice-Mayor, Seat 4

Jan Cabbage, Councilwoman, Seat 5

Staff Present

Mandy Odom, City Clerk

Troy Slattery, Public Works Manager

Jan Smith, Finance Officer

Georgina Cid, Community Development Manager

Julie Danowski, Records Clerk

Chief McQuaig, Police Department

Lt. Shane Yox, Police Department

Legal Counsel

Andrew Hand,
Shepard, Smith, Kohlmyer & Hand, P.A. – via Zoom

Proof of Publication

Mrs. Odom announced for the record the agenda for this meeting was posted on the City’s website and City Hall bulletin board on Tuesday, December 14, 2021 and was amended on December 16, 2021 to include backup to item #1.

One or more members of the City of Dunnellon advisory boards may have attended this meeting and may have spoken to Council.

Mayor White explained the public speaking portion and sign-up sheet. He said this is a recorded meeting with audio, video and closed captioning. This meeting proceeded under Roberts Rules of Order and Chair conducted the meeting. Council was advised to wait to be acknowledged before speaking.

Mayor White called for Council comments regarding agenda.

There were no comments.

Mayor White called for public comments on non-agenda items – 3 minute time limit.

There were no comments.

Regular Agenda

Agenda Item No. 1 – Resolution #RES2021-26, Opposing FDOT Northern Turnpike Extension

Public Comments:

Dr. Paul Reinhardt, republican candidate for District 34, said he supports signing the “No Build” Resolution. He shared his reasons for supporting it and he stated the US Government prefers to fix current roads prior to building new ones. He asserted this turnpike extension will cause destruction in its path. He explained that highway runoff would be directed toward the Withlacoochee River and he is for holding the Florida Transportation Organization accountable.

Peter Rosbeck, 12345 SW 140th Loop, thanked Council for taking action to stop the turnpike. He stated the resolution is timely. He provided a history of the Florida Turnpike, and stated four counties are impacted. He explained the direction each of the four alternative paths would take. He asserted all four counties should reject all four paths, and the State should conduct a new study allowing public input. He named the assorted damages caused by these highways.

Michael McGrath, representing the Florida Chapter of the Sierra Club, stated he is the organizer for No Roads to Ruin Coalition. He thanked Council for acting so quickly and stated it is very clear residents here are opposed to the turnpike. He commented Dunnellon is setting an example for other cities.

Art Jones, 12163 Palmetto Way, said if the “No Build” Resolution fails, the route should go toward Crystal River. He pointed out it is an area wide open, and would connect to the Suncoast parkway. He agreed with the State, and said there is a thick congested mess on I-75. He commented the turnpike can be viewed positively. He listed all the fine points of Crystal River, and reasons the turnpike would be beneficial there.

Dr. Burt Eno, 9220 SW 193rd Circle, disagreed with Mr. Jones’ point of view. He said he believes the back up on the turnpike is due to people actually trying to turn onto I-75. He stated the traffic flow indicates people don’t want to turn west. He claimed FDOT is simply trying to make work for their employees, and has nothing to do with diverting traffic. He asserted there is no doubt all of the routes will cause a great deal of damage, and cut across the primary basin of the Rainbow River. He stressed the people need to attend the Marion County Commission meeting tomorrow.

Vice-Mayor Hanchar moved Resolution #RES2021-26 be read by title only. Councilwoman Kenny seconded the motion.

Council Discussion

Councilwoman Cabbage referred to page 2, paragraph 5 of the Resolution. She read the verbiage “considerable citizen input”, and she suggested the word “considerable” be replaced with “massive”. She referred to paragraph 10, and suggested inserting “Rainbow River basin surficial aquifer”. She believes the environmental people could challenge it the other way, and the surficial aquifer describes it to be close to the surface. Councilwoman Cabbage referred to several other areas within the Resolution she would like to see changed, stating FDOT needs to be impressed with Dunnellon’s knowledge of the river.

Mayor White suggested the verbiage she presented makes the document sound more scientific, but doesn’t change the meaning of the Resolution.

Councilwoman Kenny said she would like Dr. Eno to provide input regarding the verbiage because he is familiar with scientific terminology.

Dr. Eno came forward and stated Councilwoman Cabbage made good points. However, the Resolution doesn’t need to be perfect, it just needs to be done now. He commented the timing of the changes would delay the Resolution a month.

Councilwoman Williams said the word massive could be substantial, but she agrees the Resolution needs to be submitted now.

Vice-Mayor Hanchar commented shorter is sweeter, and four pages is too wordy. She explained the words massive and substantial mean the same thing.

Mayor White agreed with Councilwoman Cabbage’s review and suggestions, but also said this isn’t a scientific statement, and one can get too technical. He recommended clarifying the Resolution

title to be more specific with verbiage showing the Council is against all the turnpike extensions not just the northern extension.

Vice-Mayor Hanchar moved the amended Resolution #RES2021-26 be read by title only.

A vote was taken, and the motion carried 5-0.

Mrs. Odom read the following into the record:

“RESOLUTION #RES2021-26

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF DUNNELLON, FLORIDA, REQUESTING THE HONORABLE GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS AND THE SECRETARY OF THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT TO ADOPT A "NO BUILD" OPTION FOR ALL PROPOSED TURNPIKE ROUTES, INCLUDING THE NORTHERN TURNPIKE EXTENSIONS THAT MAY BE PROPOSED TO RUN THROUGH OR NEAR THE CITY OF DUNNELLON AS WELL AS AMONG OTHER COMMUNITIES THAT WOULD ALSO BE NEGATIVELY IMPACTED BY THE PROPOSED ROUTES; DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO PROVIDE A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE GOVERNOR, THE SECRETARY OF FDOT, THE PRESIDENT OF THE FLORIDA SENATE, THE SPEAKER OF THE FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, FLORIDA HOUSE AND SENATE REPRESENTATIVES, THE MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, THE FDOT PROJECT MANAGER FOR FLORIDA’S TURNPIKE ENTERPRISE AND OTHER AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS AS DIRECTED BY CITY COUNCIL; AND SETTING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.”

Vice-Mayor Hanchar moved Resolution #RES2021-26 be approved. Councilwoman Williams seconded the motion.

Council discussion:

Mayor White said he wanted to explain the magnitude of the Resolution. He provided photos showing a sign from January of 1957 of the new Florida Turnpike being built. He showed photos of the turnpike under construction, and the destruction of the forest. He asserted it is a massive project. He stated overpasses would be built, road closures would happen for several years, there would be billboards and traffic. He pointed out US41 would be a main route to get to the turnpike if the southern route was developed. He commented all routes would impact Dunnellon directly.

Attorney Hand stated since Council has modified and read the title, Council needs to direct staff to modify the rest of the Resolution to be consistent.

Vice-Mayor Hanchar amended her motion and moved Resolution #RES2021-26 be approved with modifications to include the new verbiage “all proposed turnpike routes” where necessary within the document to reflect consistency with the approved title change. Councilwoman Kenny seconded the motion.

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A vote was taken, and the motion carried 5-0.

Agenda Item No. 2 – Adjourn

At approximately 10:00 a.m. Vice-Mayor Hanchar moved the City Council meeting be adjourned and Councilwoman Williams seconded.

A vote was taken, and the motion carried 5-0.

Attest:

Penned Signature of
Amanda Odom, CMC
City Clerk

Penned Signature of
William P. White, Mayor