



## MINUTES

### Board of County Commissioners

Tuesday, June 15, 2021 @ 5:30 PM

Paxton Town Hall

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 Clay Adkinson, City Attorney and Interim County Attorney

##### CITY

##### REPRESENTATIVES

##### PRESENT:

Council Member William "Bill" McRae, Council Member Jenice Armstrong, Council Member Travis McMillan, Council Member Bobby Charles Kemp, Mayor Ann Sexton, and Ms. Suzan Imfeld, City Clerk

#### OPENING COMMENTS

The Regular Meeting of Paxton City Council was begun, and the presentation of the mobility plan by the county was presented as Agenda Item 3.

#### 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 the council for allowing the county to present the proposed mobility plan. He gave an overview of the plan to manage the transportation throughout the county. He talked about how the plan has progressed through the years and the efforts made to communicate with the municipalities. He said due to growth the transportation network needs to be improved. The transportation plan will look at the needs over the next 20 years. Mr. Carpenter said that staff is encouraging the municipalities to submit their plans.

Ms. Kristen Shell, Planning Manager briefly reviewed the four projects for the northern zone. She said having projects listed on a needs plan provides for transparency and

development. The list will be instrumental in receiving funding for the project. She said the City of Paxton is not in the Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), but the four projects are in the draft that will be sent to the organization. Council Member McMillan asked for more information on the TPO. Ms. Shell discussed the purpose of the TPO and said it is made up of local officials. Mr. Carpenter noted that the county is attempting to obtain more funding for the projects and that a unified plan would put Walton County in better standing with the TPO. He talked about the different funding sources that would be made available through the TPO. He spoke on how the roadways connect the entire county.

Council Member McRae discussed the traffic issues on Clear Springs Road and C.R. 147 (Webster Lane). He recommended the following upgrades to the roadways to be included in the project list: sidewalks, road improvements, and lengthening the school zone. He said all the city streets need to be widened and the walking trail around the lake completed. Mr. Carpenter said a list of projects would be needed in order to determine how much funding could be received. He asked if the city had an engineer. Council Member McRae said they did not. Mr. Carpenter asked if the council would be willing to sit down with the county engineering staff to see what needs to be added or removed from the plan. Chairman Nick said the mobility plan moves people as well as vehicles. Commissioner Glidewell asked for Mr. Ronnie Ard, District 2 Foreman to be included in the discussion. He said the TPO has never recognized the rural areas and that a new program is being initiated, the Rural Transportation Program. He encouraged the council to take advantage of this program when they meet with them in July. Further discussion was held on the upcoming meeting with the TPO regarding the Rural Transportation Program and making sure the city council and citizens speak up on the city's needs. Council Member McRae will meet with county staff to discuss the projects.

Council Member McRae thanked the board for showing interest in Paxton. Mr. Carpenter said staff is well aware of the effects the summertime traffic has on Paxton. Commissioner McCormick said he and county staff are interested in doing all that can be done to make Paxton successful.

Council Member McRae asked if signaling would be included with the projects. Mr. Carpenter said a master list is needed to see where signaling could be installed.

Chairman Nick encouraged the council to work with county staff to create a list of projects to be submitted. Mr. Carpenter spoke on the need to get everyone involved to ensure transparency.

Mr. Harold Turner spoke in opposition to the widening of U.S. Highway 331 citing increased traffic concerns. He voiced concern there was no funding currently available. He talked about Paxton being a farming community and that widening U.S. Highway 331 would be detrimental to the town. Mr. Carpenter said the funding source has not been identified and that staff has been asked to identify the need in order to secure the funding. Ms. Shell said that U.S. Highway 331 is a state road and there is no local funding for it. Further discussion was held regarding the current safety issues and the issues which would occur with the widening. Attorney Adkinson said that in previous discussions, FDOT had stated the school would have to be moved or a bypass

constructed. He said when the State of Alabama refused to widen U.S. Highway 331 to the state line, FDOT said they would no longer consider the widening.

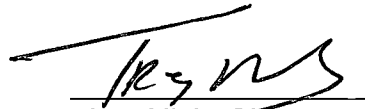
Commissioner Anderson thanked the council for their time and for providing a meal. He said the mobility plan is an opportunity to get needed transportation projects in the TPO system. He stated the board is not trying to run the city, but rather wants to provide help where it is needed.

Commissioner Glidewell said the board is here to help and will do the best job they can.

More discussion was held regarding the traffic safety issues, increasing safety in the school zone, and the need for an additional driveway into the school to alleviate traffic jams. County staff will consult with the school board staff to schedule a meeting to see what can be done.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further discussion, the county's presentation was ended.

  
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Trey Nick, Chairman

  
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Attest: Alex Alford, Clerk of Court and County Comptroller