

MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, THE PENSACOLA CITY COUNCIL, AND THE MAYOR

APRIL 16, 2026

Board of County Commissioners

Present: Commissioner Ashlee M. Hofberger, Chair, District 4
Commissioner Steven R. Stroberger, Vice Chair, District 1
Commissioner Steven L. Barry, District 5
Commissioner Michael S. Kohler, District 2
Commissioner Lumon J. May, District 3

City of Pensacola Mayor

Present: Mayor D.C. Reeves

Pensacola City Council

Present: Council Member Allison Patton, President, District 6
Council Member Jennifer Brahier, Vice President, District 1
Council Member Charles Bare, District 2
Council Member Jared Moore, District 4
Council Member Delarian Wiggins, District 7

Absent: Council Member Teniadé Broughton, District 5
Council Member Casey Jones, District 3

Location: Pensacola Bay Center, 201 East Gregory Street, Second Floor West, C-Series,
Pensacola, Florida

Minutes prepared by: DeLana Allen-Busbee

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Call to Order

Per Board of County Commissioners' (BCC) Resolution R2026-30, Commissioner Hofberger, BCC Chair, called the Joint Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Allison Patton, City Council President, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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AGENDA ITEMS – Continued

3. Proof of Publication / Was the Meeting Properly Advertised?

The Board, Mayor, and Council were advised by DeLana Allen-Busbee, Operations Supervisor, Clerk and Comptroller's Office, that the meeting was advertised in the *Pensacola News Journal* on April 9, 2026, in the Board's weekly meeting schedule.

4. Welcoming Remarks - Escambia County BCC Chair Ashlee Hofberger

Commissioner Hofberger provided opening remarks.

5. Welcoming Remarks - Pensacola City Council President Allison Patton

Council Member Patton provided opening remarks.

6. Welcoming Remarks - City of Pensacola Mayor D.C. Reeves

Mayor Reeves provided opening remarks.

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AGENDA ITEMS – Continued

7. Presentations

I. Pensacola Bay Center for the Future Presentation by Legends Global

The team from Legends Global reviewed its presentation, which is also filed as agenda backup, both in person and via Microsoft Teams. The presentation included information on the history of the Bay Center; recommended renovations, including recent and in-progress updates; the demand and opportunities shown in an analysis of the market; and the performance projections and potential economic impact expected to come from various proposals, such as an event center and practice ice rink. The team also reviewed detailed conceptual designs for the spaces.

Speaker(s):

Michael Capps
Doug Thornton
Bill Krueger
Aaron Bruckerhoff
Michael Kenny

II. Pensacola Convention Center Analysis by WT Partnership

The team from WT Partnership reviewed its presentation, which is also filed as agenda backup. The presentation included an analysis of the site and surrounding location; the Pensacola market broken down into sectors; emerging trends and potentials for private funding; and a comparison of local offerings in terms of square footage as compared to regional peers. The team assessed that there is a documented need for larger and more modern facilities and that, based on resident surveys, parking challenges are high on the list of concerns. The team also reviewed pathways to development and broad potential next steps.

Speaker(s):

Sana Dadabhoy
Jose Davila

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AGENDA ITEMS – Continued

7. Continued...

III. Escambia County Destination Marketing Organization (DMO) Presentation

Ted Ent, speaking on behalf of the DMO, provided comments regarding his group's support of a multipurpose event center/space and updates to the Bay Center. Mr. Ent also outlined the reasons the group does not support a convention center and attached hotel as they feel there is not enough need for a dedicated convention center and sufficient existing or upcoming hotel room inventory that would support the development of a proposed facility.

8. Discussion

Commissioner Hofberger opened the discussion with the goal to agree on a path forward, and to bring something back to the respective decision-making bodies as soon as practicable. Commissioner May advised that Visit Pensacola should be part of the discussion, and the bodies agreed that making decisions as soon as possible was in everyone's best interest.

In response to Mayor Reeves, Ms. Dadabhoy again reviewed the concept of a modular additional facility that can accommodate many, but not all, events and needs. In conjunction with input from both presenting firms, the Board and Council discussed how a multi-use space differs from a dedicated convention center in furnishings and types of events. The groups also discussed different funding types/sources, and the possibility of grants and financing tools.

The Board and Council reviewed issues with parking, traffic, connectivity, and walkability, and how synergy is needed between the facilities being proposed and the rest of the downtown area to maximize use and economic impact. Broad support was expressed for renovations to the Bay Center, and a second facility, and there was open-mindedness about a second sheet of ice that may take advantage of public support in some way, but with limited or absent public dollars. A hotel was also discussed, but the discussion was mostly informative and open-ended.

The meeting ended with discussions on how to move forward, and there was general agreement that the City would take the lead on parking/transportation issues and the County would lead discussions on renovations. Administrative staff will work together and bring something back to their respective bodies, ideally by June.

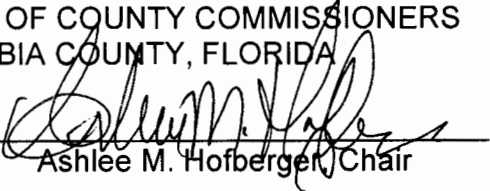
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ADJOURNMENT

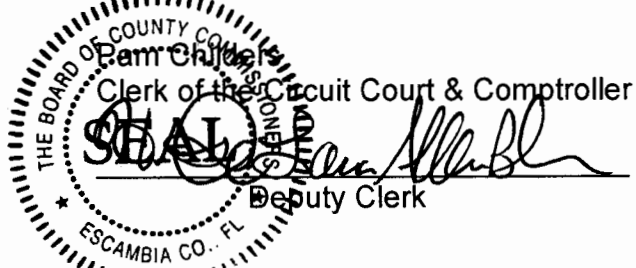
There being no further business to address, Commissioner Hofberger, BCC Chair, declared the Joint Meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____


Ashlee M. Hofberger, Chair

ATTEST:



Approved: May 7, 2026