

**CITY OF BROOKSVILLE  
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
201 HOWELL AVENUE**

**AGENDA**

June 22, 2015

4:00 P.M.

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

**B. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**C. REGULAR AGENDA**

**1. Resolution No. 2015-07 - Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD)**

Consideration of a resolution in opposition of moving the SWFWMD District Office to Tampa.

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Presentation:   | City Manager  |
| Recommendation: | Approval of Resolution No. 2015-07 upon roll-call vote. |
| Attachments:    | Resolution  |

**D. ADJOURNMENT**

*Meeting agendas and supporting documentation are available from the City Clerk's office, and on line at [www.cityofbrooksville.us](http://www.cityofbrooksville.us). Persons with disabilities needing assistance to participate in any proceedings should contact the City Clerk's office 48 hours in advance of the meeting at 352/540-3853.*

*Any person desiring to appeal any decision with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, may need a record of the proceedings including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based, and therefore must make arrangements for a court reporter to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made.*

**RESOLUTION NO. 2015-07**

**HERNANDO BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND CITY OF BROOKSVILLE JOINT RESOLUTION EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO THE MOVING OF THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT'S HEADQUARTERS.**

**WHEREAS**, on May 19, 2015, the Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) announced its plans to move the officially designated Headquarters of the District from the Brooksville-Tampa Bay Regional Airport in Hernando County to Tampa, Florida; and,

**WHEREAS**, no reference to the intended relocation was included on the published meeting notice, the meeting agenda, or included in the 260-page packet of information accompanying the meeting agenda; and,

**WHEREAS**, prior to the May 19, 2015, meeting, there was no effort by any District Governing Board member, the District's staff, Florida Department of Environmental Protection staff or the Office of the Governor to notify, explain or inform the public, the media, the governments, or the legislative delegations of the District's northern counties which would be most affected; and,

**WHEREAS**, the intent to move the District headquarters was purportedly derived from a "Business Plan" developed by the District costing over \$100,000, and although moving the designation of the District's Headquarters to Tampa was not specifically mentioned in the report, justification for doing so was provided by staff at the May 19, 2015, Board meeting as follows:

- Tampa is most centrally located, providing better access for the Governing Board and public;
- Tampa is now the site for most Governing Board meetings;
- Staff consolidations (moves) have already occurred; there are no immediate plans to move additional staff;
- Thus, there will be no economic impact upon Hernando County;
- Tampa is the fastest growing area in the District and has the largest labor pool;
- The majority of District staff will be retiring over the next ten years necessitating significant recruitment; and,

**WHEREAS**, at their May 19, 2015, meeting District staff and Governing Board members stressed to State Senator Simpson and other representatives from Hernando County and the City of Brooksville who attended the meeting, that there would be no economic impact because "consolidation" had already occurred involving a substantial number of staff who have already been relocated to Tampa and there were no immediate plans to shift more staff to Tampa; and,

**WHEREAS**, even though the total number of District staff has been reduced some 40% since 2010, the District's current total annual payroll and benefits package remains about \$45 million; and,

**WHEREAS**, if only one third of that \$45 million has already been removed annually from Hernando County, the counties surrounding the District's current Headquarters and the City of Brooksville by the past relocation of staff to the Tampa office, compounded over ten years the direct negative impact could actually be well over \$150 million, and several times that amount of impact could be occurring as secondary or indirect impacts attributable to loss of payroll in the Brooksville area; and,

**WHEREAS**, before the Governing Board's relocation of staff over the last four years, delivery of the District's statutorily mandated resource management responsibilities was being successfully and effectively carried out at its Brooksville Headquarters and three field offices located in the cities of Tampa, Bartow and Sarasota for 50 years; and,

**WHEREAS**, each of these referenced offices were designed to accommodate meetings of the Governing Board (and the now dismantled Basin Boards) from time to time in order to bring government decision-making closer to the affected public throughout the District's 10,000 square mile, 200 mile long area; and,

**WHEREAS**, moving the Headquarters to Tampa which is approximately 35 miles south of its current Brooksville location will not result in any more effective delivery of services provided by the District to the affected public throughout the District and will likely cost tens of millions of dollars in order to construct new facilities to house the relocated staff; and,

**WHEREAS**, Hernando County and the City of Brooksville are struggling to recover from the Global Recession which has substantially depressed the local economy for over seven years; and,

**WHEREAS**, substantial harm, therefore, has already been caused to the local economies of Hernando County, the City of Brooksville and surrounding counties by the relocation of substantial numbers of District staff from Brooksville to Tampa that has already occurred; and,

**WHEREAS**, the economic harm that has already occurred as a result is not a one-time event but will continue to be compounded each year for as long as the impacts are allowed to continue; and,

**WHEREAS**, the statements by Governing Board members and District staff that there are no immediate plans to relocate additional staff from the Brooksville Headquarters are not credible based upon slides shown by District staff at the May 19, 2015, meeting that indicate all Well Construction Permitting staff, all Environmental Resource Permitting staff, all Water Use Permitting staff, all Regulatory Production and Administrative staff, all Legal staff, and all Executive staff would be relocated to the Tampa office, and only some Administration and Field and Compliance staff would be left at the Brooksville, Sarasota, and Bartow offices; and,

**WHEREAS**, the District staff proposition that Tampa may be the fastest growing area in the District provides no rational basis for relocating the District's Headquarters there because the majority of the District's most problematic and pressing resource management problems are arguably not located only in Tampa; and,

**WHEREAS**, previous District experience has shown that newly graduated and inexperienced engineers are not going to be dissuaded from applying for reasonably-paying jobs with reasonable benefits and retirement program because those jobs are available 35 miles north of where they were educated; and,

**WHEREAS**, highly technical vacant positions will be filled not because the Tampa Bay area may have a higher educated labor pool but because such positions are typically advertised nationwide and are easily filled or not easily filled from the national labor pool depending upon the level of skill required for the position, the national economy and the adequacy of the compensation being offered; and,

**WHEREAS**, the actual annual turnover rate at the District in the five years before 2011 was low, estimated at 2%-3%, due to the stable employment environment, acceptable pay and benefits, and the high degree of respect enjoyed by the District within the scientific community for the cutting edge work it was doing in the natural resource management field at that time; and,

**WHEREAS**, the statement that 96% or 98% of the District's workforce will be lost over the next ten years "... because 33.6% of district staff are eligible for retirement within the next 5 years and the District experiences about a 10%, and sometimes higher, turnover rate..." (Business Plan 2015-2020, p. 11) is credible only in context with the fact that 40% of the staff have been purposefully discharged or forced to retire in the four years since 2011 and the historical advantages of employment at the District such as pay rates and employment stability have been purposefully reduced; and,

**WHEREAS**, it is disingenuous to now use statistics that include the purposeful discharge of staff and purposeful reduction of pay, benefits and employment stability that has been rendered upon the employees of the District in order to justify moving its Headquarters from Brooksville to Tampa; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Headquarters of the Southwest Florida Water Management District has been located at the Brooksville-Tampa Bay Regional Airport in Hernando County for over 50 years and represents a substantial and significant investment of public financial resources of at least \$10 million in the office buildings, 37 acres of improvements and infrastructure; and,

**WHEREAS**, no in-depth accurate analysis of all the costs and benefits associated with such a move of personnel and correspondent construction of new facilities has been completed that would justify the abandonment of an existing 50,000 square foot, four-story, multi-million dollar, state of the art facility and construction of a new facility that will do nothing more than replace the space being abandoned; and,

**WHEREAS**, there is no credible evidence that the District's headquarters location in Brooksville has led to or will lead to any inability to recruit and retain quality, professional staff resources, particularly given the ample highway network now linking the northern region of the District with the Tampa Bay area; and,

**WHEREAS**, the actual driving time to Brooksville from Tampa for those living in Tampa and working in Brooksville is comparable to the time it takes to drive from West Tampa to East Tampa during morning and afternoon rush hours; and,

**WHEREAS**, if the staff's reasoning pertaining to educated labor pools for the removal of the District Headquarters from Brooksville to Tampa were valid, then the same reasoning could be used to justify the removal of the St. Johns River Water Management District Headquarters from Palatka to Jacksonville (Jacksonville University) or Orlando (University of Central Florida), removal of the Suwannee River Water Management District Headquarters from Live Oak to Gainesville (University of Florida), removal of the Northwest Florida Water Management District Headquarters from Havana to Tallahassee (Florida State University) and removal of the South Florida Water Management District Headquarters from West Palm Beach to Coral Gables (University of Miami).

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HERNANDO COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND THE CITY OF BROOKSVILLE CITY COUNCIL:**

**SECTION 1:** The Governing Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District is hereby strongly urged to maintain its official Headquarters at its existing Brooksville office located at 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, Florida now and into the future; and,

That the Governing Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District maintain at its Headquarters a proportionate overall level of District staff resources that will effectively serve the water resource management needs of the northern region of the District, that will provide all centralized functions of the District for the remaining parts of the 16-county District area, and which fully demonstrates that the Brooksville office is the functioning official Headquarters of the Southwest Florida Water Management District; and,

That the District re-establish the full complement of District services, functions and purposes that were historically located at the existing District Brooksville Headquarters.

**SECTION 2:** Copies of this Resolution shall be provided to all members of the District Governing Board, the Governor, Speaker of the House, President of the Senate, all members of the District's Legislative Delegation and other delegations that may have interest in this matter, the Pasco County Board of County Commissioners, Lake County Board of County Commissioners, Marion County Board of County Commissioners, Sumter County Board of County Commissioners, Citrus County Board of County Commissioners and Levy County Board of County Commissioners, as well as Councils and Commissions of each of the Municipal City Governments located in those counties.

**SECTION 3:** This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

**ADOPTED** in Regular Session this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015, by the Hernando County Board of County Commissioners; and this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015, by the City of Brooksville City Council.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nick Nicholson, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
James Adkins, Vice-Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Holcomb, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Wayne Dukes, Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Diane Rowden, Commissioner

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Donald C. Barbee, Jr.  
Clerk of Circuit Court & Comptroller

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Attorney's Office

**CITY OF BROOKSVILLE**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Frankie Burnett, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph E. Johnston, III, Vice-Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Battista, Council Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Betty Erhard, Council Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Natalie Kahler, Council Member

SEAL

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Janice L. Peters, CMC  
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM FOR THE RELIANCE OF  
THE CITY OF BROOKSVILLE ONLY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas S. Hogan, Jr., The Hogan Law Firm, LLC  
City Attorney