Emerald Coast Republican Liberty Caucus
President Sherry Chapman
Vice President Rene Johnmeyer
Treasurer David Farrow
7Aug2025

Sherry Chapman Called the Meeting to Order

✨ Summary

The meeting focused on local infrastructure concerns, election integrity, and upcoming legislative issues, with a strong emphasis on community engagement and the importance of local governance. Key decisions included support for local officials, addressing the implications of recent legislation affecting building codes during hurricanes, advocating for more time to review zoning agendas, and the establishment of a dedicated zoning website. The meeting also focused on the introduction of candidates for county commissioner and highlighted key issues facing the county, including environmental concerns and fiscal management. Action items include exploring funding opportunities for infrastructure improvements and addressing the enforcement of building regulations.

📋 Outline

1. Infrastructure Concerns • 00:00:00

- Discussion centered around the long turning lane and its implications for future development in the area.
- Concerns were raised about the lack of communication from state engineers regarding local infrastructure changes.
- The county is required to maintain a 40-year growth plan, and community awareness of land use changes is essential.

2. Election Integrity • 00:05:05

- The election integrity group is actively working on addressing issues and pushing for new legislation in the upcoming session.
- Lobbyists are being hired to support election integrity bills, with a focus on preventing undue influence from lobbyists.

3. Local Government Updates • 00:08:24

- Marilyn Farrer reported on the upcoming city council meeting, where important issues, including a proposed RV park, will be discussed.
- Community members are encouraged to attend the meeting to express their opinions on the RV park rezoning.

4. Membership and Dues • 00:11:13

- The treasurer reported that there is currently $440 in the bank, but not all attendees have paid their dues.
- An application form for dues payment was distributed to ensure proper record-keeping.

5. Legislative Issues - SB 180 • 00:12:42

- SB 180 has raised concerns as it allows builders to override local ordinances during hurricanes, impacting community governance.
- The legislation could lead to significant changes in building codes and community planning, prompting a call for community support to address these issues.

6. Community Involvement in Local Governance • 00:15:25

- The speaker emphasized the need for community members to engage in local governance to influence decisions affecting their neighborhoods.
- A recent example highlighted was the approval of housing developments without adequate public awareness or input.

7. Zoning Agenda Communication • 00:17:06

- There is a lack of timely communication regarding zoning changes, with agendas often released too close to meetings for proper public review.
- The speaker suggested that the county should provide more notice and transparency about upcoming zoning issues.

8. Zoning Board Support • 00:19:50

- The speaker expressed concern that the zoning board is not receiving adequate support from county commissioners.
- There is a need for commissioners to actively engage with the zoning board's recommendations to ensure informed decision-making.

9. Importance of Public Meetings • 00:23:10

- Attendance at public meetings is crucial as it allows citizens to voice their opinions and influence council decisions.
- The speaker noted that public input is often overlooked if no objections are raised during meetings.

10. Building Inspection Issues • 00:26:15

- Concerns were raised about a specific company having excessive control over building inspections, leading to potential safety issues.
- The speaker highlighted the need for stricter regulations and oversight to ensure compliance with building codes.

11. Upcoming Community Event • 00:29:54

- An announcement was made regarding the 17th annual Constitution Day dinner, which will feature notable speakers and provide an opportunity for community engagement.
- Attendees were encouraged to participate and consider forming a group to attend the event together.

12. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes • 00:00:00

- A motion was made by Sharon Regan to approve the minutes from the last board meeting.
- Donna Long seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

13. Introduction of County Commissioner Candidates • 00:00:24

- Candidates introduced include Jeff Ates, Terry Smith for District Two, and Ray Eddington for District Four.
- Jeff Ates provided a five-minute overview of his background and motivations for running.

14. Key Issues Facing the County • 00:04:13

- Jeff Ates identified environmental issues and fiscal mismanagement as critical concerns for the county.
- He emphasized the need for better enforcement of existing regulations to address flooding and erosion control.

15. Infrastructure and Traffic Concerns • 00:08:54

- Discussion centered on traffic congestion caused by a new distribution site in East Milton.
- Suggestions were made to leverage funding from companies to improve traffic light systems on state roads.

16. Enforcement of Building Regulations • 00:15:36

- Concerns were raised about the lack of enforcement against builders violating regulations.
- Jeff Ates expressed commitment to push for stricter enforcement of building licenses to ensure compliance.

Public Link:

https://webapp.sembly.ai/minutes-public/6xl-c9e5d3410eb36f420322438aa347dff56221c278

https://webapp.sembly.ai/minutes-public/6xl-16eae5ed99e46c6055fd6c679ed2d82894256190

Motion to approve minutes Sharon Regan and Donna Long

Motion to Adjourn David Farrow and Renee Johnmeyer

Next Meeting 4September2025

SC/cew