

**MINUTES**  
**MANASOTA LEAGUE OF CITIES**  
**REGULAR MEETING (Hybrid)**  
**JULY 14, 2022**

**Present:** President Jen Ahearn-Koch (Sarasota), Vice President Debbie McDowell (North Port), Treasurer Brian Williams (Palmetto via Zoom), Commissioner Carol Carter (Anna Maria), Councilman Bill Sanders (Bradenton entered at 9:44 a.m.), Mayor John Chappie (Bradenton Beach), B.J. Bishop (Town of Longboat Key), Commissioner Carol Soustek (Holmes Beach)

**Absent:** Councilman Jim Boldt (Venice)

**Also Present:** Administrative Coordinator Gail Loeffler, Deputy Town Clerk Savannah Cobb, Administrative Assistant Stephanie Janney

**1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance**

President Ahearn-Koch called the Regular Meeting of the ManaSota League of Cities (MSLC) to order at 9:30 a.m., and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Special Presentations**

Florida League of Cities (FLC) Home Rule Hero Awards – Amber Hughes, FLC Senior Legislative Advocate

Florida League of Cities Senior Legislative Advocate, Ms. Amber Hughes, commented on the FLC Home Rule Hero Program and presented awards to the following individuals: Anna Maria City Commissioner Carol Carter, Sarasota City Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch, North Port City Commissioner Jill Luke, North Port City Commissioner Debbie McDowell, City of Sarasota Government Relations Manager Stevie Freeman-Montes, Longboat Key Town Commissioner B.J. Bishop, and Town of Longboat Key Town Manager Tom Harmer.

Ms. Hughes advised that former City of Venice Commissioner Joe Neunder (previous representative for the City of Venice) also received the award but was not present for the recognition.

Ms. Hughes discussed updates regarding the following legislative issues:

- redistricting and the new Congressional District maps
- election legislation
- regulation of smoking in public parks and on public beaches
- PFAS (perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances) House Bill (lack of concern over fines & fees)
- tree protection/property damage
- cyber security/public records exemptions (network and schematics)
- advertising of legal notices
- Local Business Protection Act
- campaign finance and utilization of public funds for campaign issues
- preemption bills, (local ordinances having a business impact statement)
- utility transfers/funding
- solid waste and collection services
- financial disclosure requirements
- property insurance
- Condo Reform Bill (resulting from the collapse of a building in Surfside, Florida)

- short term rentals
- sovereign immunity limits
- affordable housing

### **3. Public to be Heard**

No items were presented.

### **4. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of Regular Meeting on May 10, 2022.

**Member Chappie moved to approve the May 12, 2022, Regular Meeting minutes. The motion, seconded by Member Bishop, carried unanimously.**

### **5. Reports and Communications**

A. Associate Members and Ex-Officio Members

No items were presented.

B. President's Report

No items were presented.

C. Vice President's Report

Vice President McDowell introduced her husband, Mr. Scott McDowell, who was in the audience.

D. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Williams provided a verbal summary of the MSLC accounts and requested authorization to place monies in a high-yield account.

**Vice President McDowell moved to place the investment request on the next meeting agenda. The motion, seconded by Member Bishop, carried unanimously.**

**Vice President McDowell moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion, seconded by Member Chappie, carried unanimously.**

E. Administrative Coordinator's Report

Administrative Coordinator Gail Loeffler reviewed the items on her report that was distributed with the agenda material.

F. Florida League of Cities (FLC) Board of Directors

Treasurer Williams stated he was unable to attend the FLC Board of Directors meeting due to a conflict.

G. Florida League of Cities (FLC) Legislative Committee Member Reports

No items were presented.

H. Advocacy and Key Contact Reports

No items were presented.

### **6. Old Business**

A. Update on participation in FLC (Florida League of Cities) Breakfast Meeting at Annual Conference—Administrative Coordinator Loeffler

Administrative Coordinator Gail Loeffler commented on the FLC Regional League Breakfast Meeting and the cost of breakfast per person. Ms. Loeffler noted, that upon approval of the MSLC Board, Ms. Stephanie Janney, Administrative Assistant for the Town of Longboat Key, would be attending the Annual Conference on her behalf.

**There was consensus to authorize representation by Ms. Janney.**

**7. New Business**

A. Discussion Re: Hosting Florida House and Senate Candidates Forum prior to Primary Election – Administrative Coordinator Loeffler

Following comments by Administrative Coordinator Gail Loeffler, discussion ensued regarding sponsoring a Candidates' Forum at the Longboat Key Town Hall.

**Vice President McDowell moved to have Administrative Coordinator Loeffler schedule the Candidates' Forum prior to the Primary and General Elections, but if unsuccessful for the Primary Election, to schedule the Candidates' Forum prior to the General Election in November. The motion, seconded by Member Williams, carried unanimously.**

B. Approval Re: ManaSota League meeting dates for 2023

Administrative Coordinator Gail Loeffler discussed the meeting dates for next calendar year.

**Member Chappie moved to approve the meeting dates as presented. The motion, seconded by Vice President McDowell, carried unanimously.**

C. Discussion Re: Preparation for 2023 Legislative Priorities.

**Following comments, there was consensus to table this topic until the next meeting.**

**8. Member Comments**

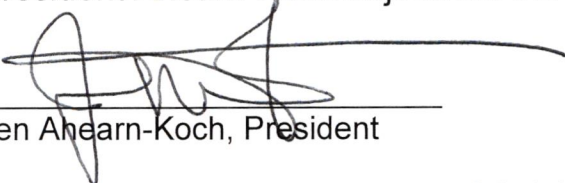
A. Organizations

Vice President McDowell stated she had been selected to be on the Florida League of Cities Nominating Committee.

**9. Next Meeting:** Thursday, September 8, 2022

**10. Adjournment**

President Ahearn-Koch adjourned the July 14, 2022, Regular Meeting at 11:00 a.m.

  
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Jen Ahearn-Koch, President

Submitted by: Stephanie Janney, Administrative Assistant, Town of Longboat Key

Minutes Approved: 09-08-2022