

**MINUTES  
MANASOTA LEAGUE OF CITIES  
SPECIAL MEETING  
DECEMBER 9, 2022**

**Present:** President Jen Ahearn-Koch (Sarasota-via Zoom), Treasurer Brian Williams (Palmetto–via Zoom), Commissioner B.J. Bishop (Longboat Key), Commissioner Terry Schaefer (Holmes Beach–via Zoom), Vice President Debbie McDowell (North Port – Zoom, entered at 11:20 a.m.)

**Also Present:** Administrative Coordinator Gail Loeffler, Administrative Assistant Stephanie Janney.

**Not Present:** Commissioner Carol Carter (Anna Maria), Mayor John Chappie (Bradenton Beach), Councilman Jim Boldt (Venice), Councilman Bill Sanders (Bradenton)

**1. Call to Order**

President Ahearn-Koch called the December 9, 2022, Virtual Special Meeting of the ManaSota League of Cities to order at 11:00 a.m., at 501 Bay Isles Road, Longboat Key, Florida.

**2. Public Input**

No items were presented.

**3. Establish Legislative Priorities of ManaSota League of Cities (MSLC) for 2023 Legislative Session**

President Ahearn-Koch presented the submitted legislative priorities. Discussion ensued regarding addition and deletion of language changes on the legislative priorities.

**There was consensus to retain the language for Short-Term Rentals–Local Government Regulation as submitted, and continue to emphasize the grandfather clause language to legislative representatives during meetings in Tallahassee and/or other informal meetings with legislators.**

**There was consensus to retain the language for Tourist Development Tax Use Expansion as submitted.**

**Following comments, there was consensus to add language to the first sentence of the priority titled Water Quality, Sea-Level Rise, Florida Forever, as follows: “...and projects to mitigate the negative environmental economic impact of red tide and other harmful algae blooms threatening our public waterways and community health.”**

**There was consensus to retain the language for the priority titled Local Government Revenue–Communication Services Tax and Local Business Tax, as submitted.**

**Following discussion, there was consensus to change the structure/order of sentences for the priority titled Affordable Housing, but to otherwise retain the language as submitted.**

**Following comments, there was consensus to add language to the priority titled Mental Health Initiatives–Funding Mental Health Facilities and Programs, as follows: “These services are needed even more due to mental health issues evolving from the COVID-19 pandemic, Hurricane Ian, and other natural disasters.”**

Treasurer Williams noted he would like to consider a property insurance revision priority.

Following discussion, there was consensus to add a new priority as follows: "Property Insurance Reform–Support State efforts to address the untenable increasing insurance rates, limit claim duration process, address unsubstantiated cancellation of insurance policies, and eliminate assignment of benefits (AOBs)."

Following further discussion, there was consensus to add language to the priority titled Tourist Development Tax Use Expansion as follows: "...public safety services and infrastructure."

Vice President McDowell moved to approve the legislative priorities as amended. The motion, seconded by Member Schaefer, carried by a 5-0 roll call vote, as follows: Williams, aye; McDowell, aye; Bishop, aye; Schaefer, aye; Ahearn-Koch, aye.

Discussion ensued on the order in which to submit legislative priorities to the local delegations.

Following discussion, there was consensus to reorder the priorities for submittal in the following order: Property Insurance Reform; Affordable Housing; Short-Term Rentals–Local Government Regulation; Tourist Development Tax Use Expansion; Water Quality, Sea-Level Rise, Florida Forever; Local Government Revenue–Communication Services Tax and Local Business Tax; Mental Health Initiatives–Funding Mental Health Facilities and Programs.

### **3. Representation at Delegation Meetings**

A. Discussion Re: Presentation of legislative priorities to Manatee and Sarasota Legislative Delegations on January 12, 2023, due to both delegations meeting on same day at different times and locations (Manatee Delegation meeting: 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m./Sarasota Delegation meeting: 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

Vice President McDowell nominated Member Schaefer to present the Legislative Priorities to the Manatee Delegation.

Following comments, there was consensus for Member Schaefer to present the Legislative Priorities to the Manatee Delegation and for President Ahearn-Koch to present to the Sarasota Delegation.

B. Discussion Re: Rescheduling ManaSota League meeting of January 12, 2023 due to local Legislative Delegation meetings.

Following comments, there was consensus to reschedule the next Regular Meeting to Thursday, January 26, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.

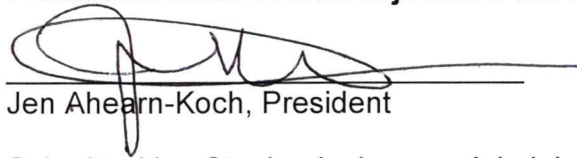
Member Schaefer noted his attendance at the next meeting would be via Zoom.

### **4. Member Comments**

President Ahearn-Koch noted the upcoming Legislative Action Days and Committee Sessions in Tallahassee and recommended dates to travel as a group.

### **5. Adjournment**

President Ahearn-Koch adjourned the Special Meeting at 12:23 p.m.



Jen Ahearn-Koch, President

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

Minutes Approved: 1-26-2023