

AGENDA



**FORT MEADE SMART CITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2021
5:30 PM
ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86051220845?pwd=ZGdPOXdMbWVaTVZscTVXZXNPU0V0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 860 5122 0845 Passcode: 265464

**Call in # + 1 646 558 8656,,86051220845#,,,,*265464# US (New York)
FORT MEADE FLORIDA 33841**

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL –CLERK
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
 - A. Smart City Advisory Committee approval of Minutes from January 12, 2021.
4. NEW BUSINESS:
 - A. Receive the project summary list from the January 12, 2021 meeting. – *Breanna Smith*
 - B. Receive an update on possible funding for a feasibility study from the Legislative Delegation meeting via the Rural Infrastructure Fund Grant. – *Kara Lucas, Denise Grimsley*
 - C. Receive an update on possible grant funding available with the FL DEO via a COVID-19 CDBG Project and the FL DEO Rural Infrastructure Fund – *Danielle Judd, Breanna Smith*
 - D. Receive an update from Steven Cochran with Polk County Public Schools on the Career Academy (STEM) in Fort Meade. – *Steven Cochran*
 - E. Receive an update on the Fiber Demonstration Project. – *Breanna Smith*
 - F. Receive comments as to creating two subcommittee groups: Career Academy (STEM) and Fiber Demonstration Project. – *Mayor Berrien, Breanna Smith*
5. STAFF COMMENTS:
6. SMART CITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMMENTS:
7. ADJOURNMENT

**MINUTES
FORT MEADE SMART CITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021
5:30 PM**

A Meeting of the Fort Meade Smart City Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 5:30 P.M. via **Zoom Virtual Meeting**.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Meeting was called to order at 5:33 PM by Mayor Samuel Berrien.

2. ROLL CALL:

Mayor	Samuel Berrien	Present
CFRPC	Jennifer Codo-Salisbury	Present
Valmont Industries	Beth Hipp	Present
FM Chamber Director	Suzie Whitener	Present
FM Chamber Board Chair	Vera Cannon	Present
Data Integrity	Sam Heard	Present
City of Bartow	Frank Canovaca	Present
Advent Health Care	Denise Grimsley	Present
Citizens Bank & Trust	Greg Littleton	Present
Peace River Packing Co.	Larry Black	Present
The Mosaic Company	Morgan Odum	Absent
Polk County Public Schools	Steven Cochran	Present
State Representative Bell	Kara Lucas	Present
FM Citizens	Bradley Wellden	Absent*

* Bradley Wellden notified the City that he will no longer be able to serve on this Committee.

Staff Present

City Manager	Danielle J. Judd	Present
Finance Director	Breanna Smith	Present
Public Works Director	Jackie Cannon	Absent
Library Director	Jacqueline Rose	Present
Electric Director	Jan Bagnall	Present
Purchasing Specialist	Raquan Smith	Present

Also Present

Polk County Public Schools	Laura Webster	Present
CFRPC	Brenda Torres	Present
Pennoni Associates	Steven Elias	Present

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. Smart City Advisory Committee approval of Minutes of November 12, 2020.

Motion Larry Black, second Greg Littleton to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2020 Smart City Advisory Committee meeting.

4. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Receive comments from committee members for ideas regarding the direction of the committee. What is our vision for a Smart City in Fort Meade? – *Mayor Berrien*

The following members shared what they would like to see with the Smart Cities Committee in Fort Meade.

Steven Cochran shared a vision of preparing students at Fort Meade High School for jobs in the Fort Meade area to keep Fort Meade growing.

Mayor Berrien said he would like to see S.T.E.M. education for Fort Meade High School.

Greg Littleton said he would like to see high-speed internet for education and businesses in Fort Meade.

Mayor Berrien responded stating that the City is transitioning from a mining town to a new industry in technology.

Beth Hipp said in manufacturing they are looking for stable and high-speed internet connections to run efficiently in Fort Meade.

Denise Grimsley agreed with Beth Hipp. She also stated Advent Health is seeking opportunities to provide a primary care or urgent care facility in Fort Meade. She said they will need a stable, high-speed internet connection to transfer files between the hospitals.

Mayor Berrien asked residents to share public comments about what they would like to see in the community.

Kara Lucas said she has had difficulty attending Zoom meetings and streaming programs.

Mayor Berrien asked Ms. Rose to share her American Library Association “ALA” grant award for transforming communities. She stated the funding will be used to make sure that citizens are well connected and engaged in smart cities. She also stated the Library would like to train and educate the public on social media tools to be connected.

Beth Hipp said she was excited about the new computers to be setup with the grant funds because the applicants do not have internet connection or a computer to apply for a job at home.

Mayor Berrien closed the discussion by asking for any comments, questions, or concerns. No additional concerns were raised.

B. Research on Comcast and CenturyLink contacts as suggested by Mr. Black, Peace River Packing Representative at the November meeting. – *Mayor Berrien, Breanna Smith*

Breanna Smith presented research on Comcast and mentioned cities they have partnered with on Smart City initiatives.

Ms. Smith paused for a presentation by Steve Elias. Mr. Elias shared his screen about a draft for a master plan for broadband service. The presentation shows the data rate at critical community facilities on average. Mr. Elias suggests that the City get involved with others in our area that are planning Smart City initiatives and broadband services.

Breanna Smith thanked Mr. Elias for sharing his research and continued her discussion of research conducted on Lumen.

Mayor Berrien opened the floor for comments, questions, or concerns.

Larry Black stated that he likes the idea of broadband and wants to know how the City can expedite the process.

This opened the floor for discussion with the City of Bartow regarding use of their fiber network.

Mayor Berrien agrees with the idea and states that he is open to all avenues. He also wants to know if individuals at the City have skills to participate. Mayor Berrien also stated that he wants to bring more businesses to Fort Meade and offer what other larger cities have.

Jennifer Codo-Salisbury stated the Central Florida Regional Planning Council can contribute to the feasibility study for broadband.

Mayor Berrien asked about funding within the City's budget to support the project.

City Manager Danielle Judd mentioned possible grant funding with the USDA.

Steve Elias stated part of asking for assistance is knowing what to ask for. He suggested stimulating a conversation on asking and answering the right questions and determining the City's role.

Mayor Berrien asked if the Committee should assign subcommittees.

Denise Grimsley and Kara Lucas said they would mention the need for funding at the Legislative Delegation meeting in Tallahassee.

C. Discussion of member contributions, since the last meeting. – *Mayor Berrien, Breanna Smith*

Mayor Berrien highlighted the member contributions in the agenda packet.

D. Establish expectations for the first 12-months. – *Mayor Berrien, Breanna Smith*

Mayor Berrien asked about the next steps for the committee. Is there anything that can be added to this as we move forward? What are some action items to ensure that we are always moving forward?

Breanna Smith offered to make a list of summary notes of the meeting. The Mayor agreed.

Steve Cochran stated that he will be going to speak to schools about technical courses and would try to generate more interest among students at an earlier age.

Laura Webster stated the School Board could possibly begin the technical courses as early as the sixth grade. She would like to discuss more about the courses and needs for kids transitioning, with those in Fort Meade.

Sam Heard stated that his company is always looking for students to teach and bring onto the team. He will speak to Laura more about that suggestion.

5. STAFF COMMENTS:

Jacqueline Rose stated the library received a grant last year for I.T. learning for kids that was well received.

6. SMART CITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Mayor Berrien stated the Committee will await the meeting summary. He feels we are moving forward, and also stated we must have the skills present to occupy those jobs in the community.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Mayor Berrien adjourned the Smart City Advisory Committee Meeting of January 14, 2021 at 6:35 PM.

ATTEST:

Samuel Berrien, Commissioner

Raquan Smith, Recording Secretary

PROJECT SUMMARY



FORT MEADE SMART CITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING AS OF FEBRUARY 8, 2021

Below is a project summary list, including the project name, overview, status, main point of contact, and suggested next steps.

PROJECT	S.T.E.M. CAREER ACADEMY IN FORT MEADE
<i>Overview</i>	Establish a S.T.E.M. Career Academy in Fort Meade. Add S.T.E.M. curriculum at earlier grade levels to stimulate interest in the fields.
<i>Status</i>	Discussing the need within the community.
<i>Point of Contact</i>	Steven Cochran <steven.cochran@polk-fl.net>
<i>Next Steps</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Create a subcommittee?- Determine at what grade level curriculum can be implemented in Fort Meade.- Timeline to implement a S.T.E.M. Program in Fort Meade.
PROJECT	FIBER DEMONSTRATION PROJECT WITH CITY OF BARTOW
<i>Overview</i>	Establish a small group of participants on a test basis to provide internet service, utilizing the existing connections offered by the City of Bartow.
<i>Status</i>	Identified Demo Project participants and initiated communication.
<i>Point of Contact</i>	Frank Canovaca <fcanovaca.cis@cityofbartow.net>
<i>Next Steps</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Create a subcommittee?- Set a Zoom meeting date for the Mayors of Bartow and Fort Meade to discuss possibilities.- Designate a facility to house hardware.- Timeline to implement the project. (suggest 90-days)
PROJECT	FUNDING FROM THE LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION
<i>Overview</i>	To obtain funding for a feasibility study for broadband access in Fort Meade.
<i>Status</i>	Requested funding at the Legislative Delegation meeting in January 2021.
<i>Point of Contact</i>	Kara Lucas <Kara.Lucas@myfloridahouse.gov> Denise Grimsley <Denise.Grimmsley@AdventHealth.com>
<i>Next Steps</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Await a response from the State.

PROJECT**SMALL CITIES CDBG COVID-19 VIRUS FUNDING****Overview**

The project would involve bringing broadband into Fort Meade, going down a number of streets, connecting households which are occupied by primarily low- and moderate-income persons along those streets and providing them with internet service for approximately six (6) months. After six (6) months the cost of the internet service would be the occupant's responsibility. The primary use of the internet service would be remote learning or working from home. We would have to justify the households being connected to the system with grant funds with some sort of Covid-19 virus need.

Status

Grant Pre-Application in process.

Point of Contact

Jacqueline Rose <jrose@cityoffortmeade.com>

Next Steps

- Resolution No. R21-03; Adopting a Language Access plan for Limited English Proficiency for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Projects, which will be presented at the February 9, 2021 Commission Meeting for approval.
- Public Hearing on February 23rd to receive public comment on the grant pre-application.
- Will need to know where we will be hooking into the existing broadband system and the route along existing public right-of-way the backbone will be brought into the City of Fort Meade.
- The maximum grant amount the City can apply for is five million dollars (\$5,000,000.00). After grant admin. fees for preparing and managing the grant, the City will have between four million five hundred thousand dollars (\$4,500,000.00) and four million seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$4,750,000.00) to carry out the project, this includes design and construction, including household hook-ups. Pre-applications are due in the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) by March 15, 2021.
- Need to determine which residential streets the City will include in the application and Fred Fox Enterprises will need to complete income survey forms on the residents living along those streets. At a minimum, at least 51% of the households along those streets will need to be occupied by low- and moderate-income persons. The grant will only hook-up the low- and moderate-income households.

PROJECT	FUNDING FROM THE RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND
<i>Overview</i>	To obtain funding for broadband access in Fort Meade.
<i>Status</i>	Research funding opportunity as suggested by Kara Lucas.
<i>Point of Contact</i>	Kara Lucas <Kara.Lucas@myfloridahouse.gov>
	Cheryl Pierstorff <cpierstorff@cityoffortmeade.com>
<i>Next Steps</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Look into possible funding with the Rural Infrastructure Fund offered by the Florida Dept. of Economic Opportunity. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o We will need to apply by June 30, 2021 o It is a 50% match program. o The 50% match funding would need to be programmed into our next budget, subject to approval by the Commission, if awarded. o Determine a grant category for the application. Based on feedback from the SCAC, the following categories align with the consensus of the group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improvements to access and availability of broadband Internet service; and ▪ Improvements to inadequate infrastructure that has resulted in regulatory action.