



**AGENDA**  
**FORT MEADE SMART CITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021**

**5:30 PM**

**ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING**

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

**Meeting ID: 860 5122 0845 Passcode: 265464**

**One tap mobile**

**Call in#+16465588656,,86051220845#,,,,\*265464# US (New York)**

**FORT MEADE, FLORIDA 33841**

---

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL – *CLERK*
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 12, 2021 AND FEBRUARY 11, 2021
4. OLD BUSINESS
  - A. Update on next steps for possible funding for a feasibility study from the Legislative Delegation meeting via the Rural Infrastructure Fund Grant – *Kara Lucas, Denise Grimsley*
  - B. Update from Steven Cochran with Polk County Public Schools on the Career Academy (STEM) in Fort Meade. – *Steven Cochran*
  - C. Update on the submission of FL DEO Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) - COVID-19 Pre-application – *Mayor Berrien, Steve Elias*
  - D. Review and updating Project Summary list from January 12, 2021 – *Jacqueline Rose*
5. NEW BUSINESS:
  - A. Informational Review of the Smart City Solution for a Post Pandemic World Conference – *Mayor Berrien*
6. STAFF COMMENTS:
7. SMART CITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMMENTS:
8. 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
Pennonni 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 skills have 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:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Raquan Smith, Recording Secretary**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Samuel Berrien, Mayor**

**MINUTES**  
**FORT MEADE SMART CITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2021**  
**5:34 PM**

A Meeting of the Fort Meade Smart City Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 5:34 P.M. **via Zoom Virtual Meeting.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Meeting was called to order at 5:34 PM by Mayor Samuel Berrien.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

Mayor	Samuel Berrien	Present
CFRPC	Brenda Torres	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	Absent
Advent Health Care	Denise Grimsley	Absent
Citizens Bank & Trust	Greg Littleton	Absent
Peace River Packing Co.	Larry Black	Present
The Mosaic Company	Heather Nedley	Present
Polk County Public Schools	Steven Cochran	Present
State Representative Bell	Kara Lucas	Absent

**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

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**B.** Smart City Advisory Committee approval of Minutes of January 12, 2021.

The minutes were asked to be tabled because we did not have a quorum by B. Smith; the mayor approved.

**No Action Taken**

**4. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A.** Receive the project summary list from the January 12, 2021. – Breanna Smith

Ms. Breanna gave an overview of the list of all pending projects in the packets: opened the floor for questions.

- 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

Ms. Breanna gave an update on behalf of Kara Lucas and Denise Grimsley.

- C.** Receive an update on possible funding available with the FL. DEO via a COVID-19 CDBG project and the FL. DEO Rural Infrastructure Fund - Danielle Judd, Breanna Smith

Ms. Judd gave an update on this grant. This application is a pre-application due March 15, 2021. Mayor Berrien requested a meeting with the city manager to see how the different grants work together.

- D.** Receive an update from Steven Cochran with Polk County Public Schools on the Career Academy (STEM) in Fort Meade. – Steven Cochran

Mr. Cochran began discussions with the middle school regarding the stem project. PCPS is working to implement more technology at the schools.

Sam Heard will start recruiting at the to high schools to find students that want or have a technical background.

Mayor Berrien asked Mr. Heard what an internship looks like at his company.

Mr. Heard replied that the students shadow coworkers, submitting mission backups in the cloud & etc.

Mayor Berrien wants everyone to grasp the value of what an internship can do for students and young people.

- E.** Receive an update on the Fiber Demonstration Project. – Breanna Smith

The timeline was extended on this project. – Ms. Breanna

- F.** Receive comments as to creating two subcommittee groups: Career Academy (STEM) and Fiber Demonstration Project. – Mayor Berrien, Breanna Smith

Mayor Berrien asked Mr. Cochran if he thought it was premature to move forward with this.

Mr. Cochran stated it would be best to wait until the next meeting. Mr. Cochran wants to set the foundation for sub committees to bring in other professionals.

**5. STAFF COMMENTS:**

Danielle Judd expressed how close she will be working with the Library Director Jacqueline Rose to finish up the project.

**6. SMART CITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMMENTS:**

Mayor Berrien thanked Ms. Breanna & Ms. Judd with Smart Cities and the grants. He is excited to obtain better service of internet coming to the city. Mayor Berrien is also excited about the strategies of bringing in quality companies that can make our workforce better.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, Mayor Berrien adjourned the Smart City Advisory Committee Meeting of February 11, 2021 at 6:05 PM.

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Samuel Berrien, Mayor**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Raquan Smith, Recording Clerk**