

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**MAY 4, 2026**

A Special Meeting was held at the Murdock Administration Complex in Commission Chambers; Room 119, Port Charlotte, Florida.

The following members were present: Chair Tiseo, Commissioner Constance, Commissioner Deutsch, Commissioner Doherty, and Commissioner Truex. Also in attendance were: County Administrator Flores, County Attorney David, and Minutes Clerk Welsh. The following members were absent: None.

**The Meeting was called to order at 9:00 am**, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Changes to the Agenda - None**

**PUBLIC INPUT - AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

Tim Ritchie spoke against Conduct a Public Hearing to consider a Sales Tax Ordinance and Referendum.

Joe Blais discussed Conduct a Public Hearing to consider a Sales Tax Ordinance and Referendum.

James Fuccillo spoke against Conduct a Public Hearing to consider a Sales Tax Ordinance and Referendum.

**PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA**

**9:00 A.M. Public Hearing or soon thereafter, as the agenda allows.**

1. Conduct a Public Hearing to consider a Sales Tax Ordinance and Referendum

**County Attorney**

Conduct a Public Hearing on May 4, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as may be heard, in Room 119 at 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, Florida, to consider approving an ordinance levying a local sales tax and providing for a referendum for an extension of the local sales tax, to be held in conjunction with the November 3, 2026 general election. **ORD 2026-014**

County Attorney David highlighted Conduct a Public Hearing to consider a Sales Tax Ordinance and Referendum, interjected on Florida Statute 212.055, and voter referendum language requirement.

**Chair Tiseo** mentioned voter referendum statutory process and ballot language, Tier 1 and 2 project prioritization and conservative cost estimates, Bucee’s, new developments and growth taxable revenue streams, impact fees, Harborview Road, 2020 Sales Tax Program, 20 Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) requirements, Sales Tax Focus Group, project prioritization, sales tax program term and funding usage limitations, water quality improvements and impacts, Cultural Center, City of Punta Gorda sales tax distribution and needed infrastructure, and Ordinance language consistency and modification. **Commissioner Constance** spoke to New York City sales tax rate and income taxes, project rates and efficiencies, South County Annex, Cultural Center, local sales tax life quality impacts, funding needs, and benefits, property and income taxes, property tax reform impacts, and statutory requirements. **Commissioner Deutsch** commented on local sales tax infrastructure funding and ad valorem tax

impacts, tourist spending, program term extension, 2020 Sales Tax Program referendum ballot results, and voter education. **Commissioner Doherty** noted local sales tax program history and extension, benefits, bonding opportunities, project funding distribution, and revenue source. **Commissioner Truex** discussed local sales tax millage rate impacts, tourism benefits, regressive taxes, project funding, firehouses, libraries, infrastructure repairs, long-term dedicated funding sources, property tax, and Ordinance language.

Deputy County Administrator Emily Lewis responded to statutory process, Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA), Department of Revenue, Charlotte County Supervisor of Elections ballot language deadline, and 2020 Sales Tax Program referendum ballot results.

**Public Input**

Tim Ritchie mentioned Sales Tax Program term and extension, impact fees, project and infrastructure funding, law enforcement, first responders, military, money management and printing, fiscal policy, property tax reform impacts, inflation, and the Vietnam War.

James Fuccillo commented on penny tax term and images, 2020 Sales Tax Program referendum ballot results, voter referendum language, Cultural Center, regressive taxes, impacts, and revenue stream.

Joe Blais noted flood insurance and construction material and labor costs, sales tax benefits, St. Vincent de Paul President Jerry Presseller and community benefit, affordability, firehouses, Cultural Center, weather, City of Punta Gorda, 911 system improvements, Water Quality Manager Brandon Moody, Charlotte Harbor, and Peace River.

**COMMISSIONER CONSTANCE MOVED TO CLOSE PUBLIC INPUT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DOHERTY**

**MOTION CARRIED 5:0.**

**COMMISSIONER TRUEX MOVED TO ORDINANCE 2026-014 OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA, EXTENDING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE SALES SURTAX ("LOCAL SALES TAX") IN CHARLOTTE COUNTY; PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY OF THE LOCAL SALES TAX; PROVIDING FOR A REFERENDUM; PROVIDING FOR THE DURATION OF THE LOCAL SALES TAX; PROVIDING FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF REVENUES OF THE LOCAL SALES TAX; PROVIDING FOR HOLDING THE REFERENDUM WITH THE 2026 GENERAL ELECTION; PROVIDING FOR THE BALLOT QUESTION; PROVIDING FOR THE USE OF REVENUES; PROVIDING FOR THE DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION CONCERNING THE LOCAL SALES TAX; PROVIDING FOR NOTIFICATIONS BY THE COUNTY ATTORNEY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DOHERTY**

**MOTION CARRIED 5:0.**

**AA. County Administrator Comments - None**

**BB. County Attorney Comments - None**

**CC. Economic Development Director Comments - None**

**DD. County Commissioner Comments**

**Chair Tiseo** discussed availability letter distribution and timeframe, statutory obligation, MSBU, rate payer funding mechanism, line extension connection program and repayment plan, Human Services, assistance plan option, Code Enforcement Special Magistrate, precedent, property liens, Health Department septic tank repair permits, and Economic Development Department updates. **Commissioner Constance** spoke to utility connection fee payment options, septic to sewer conversion MSBU assessment, property development, precedent, Code Enforcement, line extension funding and connections, financing mechanism, and derelict vessel cases. **Commissioner Deutsch** remarked on line extension connection options and consistency. **Commissioner Doherty** mentioned Glen Avenue, utility line extension program termination and financing mechanism reinstatement, MSBU septic to sewer program financing option, statutory connection obligation and payment, communication, May 12, 2026 Regular Meeting, and property lien. **Commissioner Truex** commented on April 28, 2026 Disaster Recovery Reform Meeting, May 7, 2026 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Review Council Meeting, streamlined applications and process, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin, precedent, line extension required connection, statutory requirements, funding mechanism, secondary property lien, and Economic Development Department updates.

Assistant County Administrator Claire Jubb replied to line extension program letter distribution, loan program elimination, Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program challenges, utility infrastructure, Code Enforcement Officer, and July 23, 2026 Utilities Department Quarterly Update Meeting.

**ADJOURNED: 10:07 am**

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**Joseph M. Tiseo, Chair**

**DATE ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTEST:**

**ROGER D. EATON, CLERK  
OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND  
EX-OFFICIO OF THE BOARD  
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**By:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Deputy Clerk**