

HIGHLANDS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Friday, June 30, 2023
2:00 PM
600 S. Commerce Ave. Sebring, FL 33870
AGENDA

1 MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Invitation to fill out “COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC” forms.
Please silence all cell phones and devices.

2 INVOCATION

3 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4 PUBLIC HEARING

- A. *Public hearing to consider the adoption of an additional 1% to the Tourist Development Tax collection, increasing the total collections to 5%.*
Leah Sauls, Development Services Director
Casey Hartt, Lead Marketing Consultant
The Fiscal Impact would be a one percent increase to Fund 152 (Tourist Development Trust) or approximately \$500,000.
[ORDINANCE 6th Penny_SGS.pdf](#)
[6-20 aff.pdf](#)
- B. *Public hearing to consider adoption of Ordinance No. 22-23-27, extending the moratorium of Impact Fees in Highlands County for up to one year from the date of adoption.*
Leah Sauls, Development Services Director
JD Langford, County Engineer
Clinton Howerton, Critical Infrastructure Director
The fiscal impact is not determinable at this time but is an estimated loss of \$2.5 million per year (500 new homes x \$5,000 per home impact fee assessment) that will not be collected for capital improvement items.
[Ordinance_Chapter_13_-_suspending_Impact_Fees.SGS.docx](#)
[6-20 aff.pdf](#)

5 ADJOURN

Any person who decides to appeal any decision made by this Board of County Commissioners of Highlands County, Florida, in public hearing or meeting is hereby advised that he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record will include the testimony and evidence upon which such appeal is to be based.

The Board of County Commissioners of Highlands County, Florida, does not discriminate upon the basis of any individual's disability status. This non-discrimination policy involves every aspect of the Board's functions, including one's access to, participation, employment or treatment in its programs or activities. "Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation as provided for in the Americans With Disabilities Act or Section 286.26 Florida Statutes should contact Human Resources, ADA Coordinator at: 863-402-6509 (voice), or via Florida Relay Service 711, or by e-mail: hrmanager@highlandsfl.gov." Requests for CART or interpreter services should be made as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours in advance to permit coordination of the service.

Please note our new website address: www.highlandsfl.gov/

Any invocation that may be offered before the official start of the Commission meeting shall be the voluntary offering of a private citizen, to and for the benefit of the Commission. The views or beliefs expressed by the invocation speaker have not been previously reviewed or approved by the Commission, and the Commission is not allowed by law to endorse the religious beliefs or views of this, or any other speaker.

**HIGHLANDS COUNTY
COUNTY COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM**

DATE OF ACTION REQUEST: June 30, 2023

PRESENTER: Leah Sauls, Development Services Director
Casey Hartt, Lead Marketing Consultant

SUBJECT/TITLE: Public hearing to consider the adoption of an additional 1% to the Tourist Development Tax collection, increasing the total collections to 5%.

STATEMENT OF ISSUE

On June 8, 2023 at a special meeting the Highlands County Tourist Development Council (TDC) voted unanimously to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners the adoption of Ordinance No. 22-23-24. This proposed ordinance provides for modifications to the Tourist Development Tax (TDT) collections, increasing the tax from 4% to 5%.

The TDT is paid by visitors staying in Highlands County for 6 months or less. Residents do not contribute to the TDT.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Move to adopt by Ordinance No. 22-23-24, increasing the Tourist Development Tax collections for Highlands County by 1%, increasing the total Tourist Development Tax to 5%.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Fiscal Impact would be a one percent increase to Fund 152 (Tourist Development Trust) or approximately \$500,000.

Attachments: [ORDINANCE 6th Penny_SGS.pdf](#)
[6-20 aff.pdf](#)

ORDINANCE NO. 22-23-24

AN ORDINANCE OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA, PERTAINING TO THE TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX AND THE TOURIST DEVELOPMENT PLAN; PROVIDING FOR LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT; PROVIDING AN AMENDMENT TO HIGHLANDS COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 8, ARTICLE VI, TOURIST DEVELOPMENT, DIVISION 3, TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX, SECTION 8-220, LEVY AND IMPOSITION OF TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX; PROVIDING AN AMENDMENT TO HIGHLANDS COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 8, ARTICLE VI, TOURIST DEVELOPMENT, DIVISION 3, TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX, SECTION 8-222, TOURIST DEVELOPMENT PLAN; PROVIDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION AND SCRIVENER'S ERRORS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Florida Statutes, Section 125.0104, the Florida Local Option Tourist Development Act, permits a County to levy tourist development taxes in the manner prescribed therein; and

WHEREAS, on February 14, 1995, Highlands County adopted Ordinance No. 95-4, establishing the Highlands County Tourist Development Council as prescribed by Florida Statutes, Section 125.0104(4)(e); and

WHEREAS, on June 25, 2002, Highlands County adopted Ordinance No. 01-02-20, which levied and imposed a tourist development tax at the rate of two percent (2%) pursuant to Florida Statutes, Section 125.0104(3)(c), adopted a tourist development plan as proposed by the Highlands County Tourist Development Council and provided for a referendum; and

WHEREAS, on November 5, 2002, the voters of Highlands County approved the tourist development tax by referendum election; and

WHEREAS, on June 5, 2018, Highlands County adopted Ordinance No. 17-18-13, which levied and imposed a tourist development tax at an additional rate of one percent (1%) pursuant to Florida Statutes, Section 125.0104(3)(d) and at an additional rate of one percent (1%) pursuant to Florida Statutes, Section 125.0104(3)(l)(4) and adopted an amended tourist development plan as proposed by the Highlands County Tourist Development Council; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands County Tourist Development Council has once again recommended that Highlands County adopt a tourist development tax at an additional rate of one percent (1%) pursuant to Florida Statutes, Section 125.0104(3)(m) and to amend the tourist development plan accordingly for a total tourist development tax of five percent (5%); and

WHEREAS, Highlands County has determined that it is in the best interest of its citizens to approve the recommendation of the Highlands County Tourist Development Council and increase the tourist development tax from four percent (4%) to five percent (5%) and amend the tourist development plan accordingly.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA, after due notice and public hearing, that:

SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT. Highlands County has complied with all requirements and procedures of the Florida law in processing this Ordinance. The above recitals are hereby adopted.

SECTION 2. AMENDING HIGHLANDS COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 8, ARTICLE VI, TOURIST DEVELOPMENT, DIVISION 3, TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX, SECTION 8-220, LEVY AND IMPOSITION OF TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX. Highlands County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 8, Article VI, Tourist Development, Division 3, Tourist Development Tax, Section 8-220, Levy and Imposition of Tourist Development Tax is hereby amended as follows:

Note: Underlined words constitute additions to existing text, ~~strikethrough~~ words constitute deletions to existing text, and asterisks (*) indicate omitted parts which are intended to remain unchanged.**

DIVISION 3. TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX

Sec. 8-220. Levy and Imposition of Tourist Development Tax.

- (a) Pursuant to the authority of Section 125.0104, Florida Statutes, Highlands County does levy and impose throughout the incorporated and unincorporated areas of Highlands County, Florida, a tourist development tax at a rate of ~~four~~ five percent (5%) of each dollar and major fraction of each dollar of the total consideration charged every person who rents, leases or lets for consideration any living quarters or accommodations in any hotel, apartment hotel, motel, resort motel, apartment, apartment motel, rooming house, mobile home park, recreational vehicle park, or condominium which renting, leasing, or letting is for a term of six (6) months or less, unless exempted according to the provisions of Chapter 212, Florida Statutes. When receipt of consideration is by way of property other than money, the tax shall be levied and imposed on the fair market value of such nonmonetary consideration. The ~~four~~ five percent (5%) tourist development tax is comprised of the following components authorized by the provisions of Florida law as Statutes ~~(2018)~~ identified below:
 - (1) The two percent (2%) levy authorized by F.S. § 125.0104(3)(c), providing for uses authorized by F.S. § 125.0104(5);
 - (2) The one percent (1%) levy authorized by § 125.0104(3)(d), providing for asset development and enhancement; and

- (3) The one percent (1%) levy authorized by § 125.0104(3)(l)(4), providing for the promotion and advertisement of tourism; and
- (4) The one percent (1%) levy authorized by § 125.0104(3)(m), providing for the promotion and advertisement of tourism.

SECTION 3. AMENDING HIGHLANDS COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 8, ARTICLE VI, TOURIST DEVELOPMENT, DIVISION 3, TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX, SECTION 8-222, TOURIST DEVELOPMENT PLAN. Highlands County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 8, Article VI, Tourist Development, Division 3, Tourist Development Tax, Section 8-222, Tourist Development Plan is hereby amended as follows:

Note: Underlined words constitute additions to existing text, ~~strikethrough~~ words constitute deletions to existing text, and asterisks (*) indicate omitted parts which are intended to remain unchanged.**

DIVISION 3. TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX

Sec. 8-222. Tourist Development Plan.

- (a) The Tourist Development Plan approved by Highlands County Ordinance No. 17-18-13 is hereby repealed in its entirety and replaced with the Tourist Development Plan attached to Highlands County Ordinance No. 22-23-24, as **Exhibit "A"**. ~~The plan for tourist development adopted by and attached to Highlands County Ordinance No. 01-02-20 as Exhibit "A" was amended by Highlands County Ordinance No. 11-12-01, effective January 1, 2012, and by Highlands County Ordinance No. 12-12-01, effective November 1, 2012; Ordinance No. 12-13-16, effective October 1, 2013; and was further amended by Highlands County Ordinance No. 17-18-13 effective August 1, 2018.~~
- (b) The Tourist Development Plan ~~plan for tourist development~~ as amended, ~~and~~ adopted by and attached to Highlands County Ordinance No. ~~22-23-24~~17-18-13, as **Exhibit "A"**, shall not be substantially amended except by ordinance enacted by an affirmative vote of a majority plus one additional member of the Board of County Commissioners.
- (c) Subject to the limitations of Section 125.0104, Florida Statutes, and the ~~plan for tourist development~~ Tourist Development Plan attached to Highlands County Ordinance No. ~~22-23-24~~17-18-13, as **Exhibit "A"**, the revenues collected pursuant to this division may be budgeted and used by the Board of County Commissioners for any of the purposes authorized in ~~Section 125.0104(5), Florida Statutes.~~

SECTION 4. IMPLEMENTING ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS. The County Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to take such actions as are deemed necessary and appropriate in order to implement the provisions of this Ordinance. The County Administrator may, as deemed appropriate, necessary and convenient, delegate the powers of implementation as herein set forth to such County employees as deemed effectual and prudent.

SECTION 5. SAVINGS CLAUSE. All prior actions of the Board of County Commissioners of Highlands County, pertaining to the adoption of an additional tourist development tax as set forth herein, are hereby ratified and affirmed consistent with the provisions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 6. CODIFICATION AND SCRIVENER'S ERRORS.

A. Section 2, of this Ordinance, shall be codified in the Highlands County Code of Ordinances and the sections, divisions and provisions of this Ordinance may be renumbered or re-lettered as deemed appropriate by the codifier of the Highlands County Code of Ordinances.

B. Typographical errors and other matters of a similar nature that do not affect the intent of this Ordinance, as determined by the County Administrator and County Attorney, may be corrected with the endorsement of the County Manager, or designee, without the need for a public hearing.

SECTION 7. CONFLICTS. Any ordinance or part thereof in conflict with this Ordinance or any part hereof is hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict.

SECTION 8. SEVERABILITY. The divisions, sections, subsections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses and phrases of this ordinance are severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, subsection, section, or divisions of this ordinance shall be declared invalid, unconstitutional or unenforceable by the valid judgment or decree of a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity, unconstitutionality or unenforceability shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, subsections, sections, and divisions of this ordinance.

SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Department of State.

DONE AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____ 2023.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA

(SEAL)

By: _____
Chris Campbell, Chairperson

ATTEST:

By: _____
Jerome Kaszubowski, Clerk

Exhibit “A”
Tourist Development Plan

PLAN FOR TOURIST DEVELOPMENT
5% LOCAL OPTION TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX REVENUE
Effective August 1, 2023
(Annual Revenue and Disbursements)

Estimated Tourist Development Tax (TDT) Annual Revenue with 5%: \$2,000,000

Uses of Tourist Development Tax Revenue	Allocations
<i>Use Category A (Tourist Asset Development & Enhancement)</i> -as authorized by Florida Statutes, Section 125.0104(3)(d), and Florida Statutes, Section 125.0104(5).	25% of TDT revenue
<i>Use Category B (Administration)</i> -as authorized by Florida Statutes, Section 125.0104(5), and Florida Statutes, Section 125.0104(9), and as approved through the budget process by the Highlands County Board of County Commissioners	TDT revenue (as specifically budgeted)
<i>Use Category C (Tourism Marketing/Promotions & Other Authorized Uses)</i> -as authorized by Florida Statutes, Section 125.0104(5), Florida Statutes, Section 125.0104(3)(1), and Florida Statutes, Section 125.0104(3)(n).	100% of remaining TDT revenue

100 % of TDT revenue
(Collected Prior to August 1, 2023)

Allocation and Use of Tourist Development Tax Revenue, Interest, Grants, and Other Miscellaneous Revenue Collected for Months Ending Prior to August 1, 2023, and Allocated to TDC - Fund 152

Prior to August 1, 2023, five accounts existed within Fund-152-Tourist Development Trust Fund in the accounting system of the Board of County Commissioners. Effective, August 1, 2023, and thereafter:

1. The funds attributable to revenue collected for months ending prior to August 1, 2023, allocated to account 152-55000-55200-5309, together with additional funds budgeted to that account for Use Category A by the Board of County Commissioners, shall be used for the purposes described in Use Category A pursuant to this Plan for Tourist Development.
2. The funds attributable to revenue collected for months ending prior to August 1, 2023, allocated to account 152-55000-55200-5301, together with additional funds budgeted to that account for

Use Category B by the Board of County Commissioners, shall be used for the purposes described in Use Category B pursuant to this Plan for Tourist Development.

3. The funds attributable to revenue collected for months ending prior to August 1, 2023, allocated to account 152-55000-55200-5305, together with additional funds allocated to Use Category C pursuant to this Plan for Tourist Development, shall be used for the purposes described in that Use Category C.
4. The funds attributable to revenue collected for months ending prior to August 1, 2023, allocated to account 152-55000-55200-5306, designated to receive and distribute funds pertaining to the financing of beach park facilities or beach improvement, maintenance, renourishment, restoration, and erosion control, including shoreline protection, enhancement, cleanup, or restoration of inland lakes to which there is public access as those uses relate to the physical preservation of the beach, shoreline, or inland lake pursuant to Section 125.0104(5)(a)4, Florida Statutes (2013), shall be expended from that account until exhausted to provide for beach park facilities and other uses as stated above.
5. The funds attributable to revenue collected for months ending prior to August 1, 2023, allocated to account 152-55000-55200-5307, shall be expended from that account until exhausted to promote and advertise tourism related to lakes in Highlands County, Florida.

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

Published Daily

SEBRING, HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case No. NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

TO CONSIDER COUNTY ORDINANCE

NOs. 22-23-24 and 22-23-27

STATE OF FLORIDA,

COUNTY OF HIGHLANDS

Before the undersigned authority, Janet Emerson, personally appeared who on oath says that she is the Classified Advertising Legal Clerk of Highlands News-Sun, a newspaper published at Sebring in Highlands County, Florida; that the attached copy or reprint of the advertisement, to the right, being a Public Notice, was published in said newspaper by print in the issues of or by publication on the newspaper's website, if authorized, on:

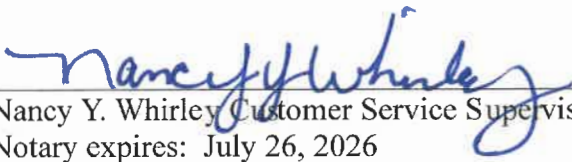
JUNE 20, 2023

Affiant further says that the Highlands News-Sun newspaper complies with all legal requirements for publication in chapter 50, Florida Statutes.

SIGNED:


Janet Emerson

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 20th day of June, 2023 by Janet Emerson, who is personally known to me.


Nancy Y. Whirley Customer Service Supervisor, Notary Number HH293555
Notary expires: July 26, 2026



NANCY Y. WHIRLEY
Notary Public
State of Florida
Comm# HH293555
Expires 7/26/2026

OBITUARIES

Rev. Stephen E. Braddock

Rev. Stephen Eugene Braddock, Ph.D. died on June 14, 2023 at the age of 58. He was born July 25, 1964. He is survived by his loving and devoted mother, Nonnie

Braddock; brothers, Glenn and Brian; sister-in-law, Tricia; nephew, Connor; and nieces, Amelia and Maira; his faithful and mischievous fury companion, Paco and his devoted service dog, Widget. He was predeceased by his proud father, Eugene Stephen Braddock, and his sister-in-law, Roseann Braddock.

After a successful early career as a licensed private investigator and owner and CEO of two New York-based security firms, Stephen entered the Roman Catholic Order of St. Camillus (Servants of the Sick & Poor) and studied theology at Sacred Heart School of Theology and Cardinal Stritch University. Cardinal Stritch University later bestowed upon him the University's "Alumni of the Year Award for Professional Distinction" in recognition of his achievements as chairman and CEO of St. Camillus Health Systems for North America.

Funds from the sale of his security firm helped to establish Centro San Francisco, a K thru 9 Catholic school within a poor barrio in Ponce Puerto Rico, as well as a small health clinic. During his tenure as head of the Camillus Health

System, Stephen founded St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry and became internationally known for his advocacy and leadership on behalf of those living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. He served as pediatric HIV/AIDS chaplain for children and families at Children's Hospital of Milwaukee.

Fr. Stephen was ordained to the priesthood by Milwaukee Archbishop Rembert Weakland, OSB. He served as chaplain and ethicist for numerous hospitals, nursing homes, and hospices. He founded Raphael House, a hospice for persons dying from AIDS, lectured widely on end-of-life care, gave retreats for families, friends, and professional caregivers and assisted with the establishment of AIDS programs in the U.S., Brazil, Africa, Italy, and the Philippines.

After a short 1998 sabbatical in Key West, Stephen returned there as Parochial-Vicar for St. Mary Star of the Sea Parish in 1999 until he assumed the role of president and CEO of the Florida Keys Outreach Coalition (FKOC), which was on the verge of bankruptcy. Over the next 17 years, he grew FKOC from a small 16-bed shelter for homeless male addicts to a multi-faceted organization consisting of seven facilities with 180 beds serving persons who were recovering from homelessness, domestic violence, alcohol and drug addiction, and living with serious mental illness.

Fr. Stephen also founded Key West's Loaves and Fish Food Pantry, established the annual Homeless Persons' Memorial Day, sat on and chaired numerous

nonprofit boards throughout the Keys, statewide and nationally and served as the lead hospice chaplain on the interdisciplinary team for Hospice-VNA of the Florida Keys.

In retirement, he continued ministry to the sick and dying as a Master Certified Death Doula and End-of-Life Specialist.

Fr. Stephen found a spiritual home at St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church in Lake Placid, Florida. He was a tenacious survivor of an Acquired and a Traumatic Brain Injury which led to his reluctant early retirement in 2017. He relocated to Lake Placid, Florida to be close to his mother, and a level of medical care that was not available in the Keys. He also battled type 1 diabetes and serious heart disease for decades. A dual citizen of the USA and Ireland, he enjoyed his retirement years visiting the Emerald Isle and traveling domestically and internationally. He loved cruises.

In lieu of flowers, Fr. Stephen requested contributions be made in his name to the Community Foundation of the Florida Keys for the Rev. Stephen Braddock Matthew 25 Fund which will provide meals for the hungry, support for addicts, mammograms for needy women, temporary emergency financial assistance to service workers in crisis, and service dogs for disabled individuals in Florida. Tax deductible donations are payable to: CFFK, Inc., 300 Southard Street, Suite 201, Key West, FL 33040. Memo: Rev. Braddock Matthew 25 Fund.

Funeral arrangements To be announced.

Robert L. Lausman



Robert Lee Lausman, of Lake Placid, Florida, died late Wednesday evening, June 14, 2023.

Robert was a native of Michigan born June 22, 1938 in Baroda. He was the son of

Robert and Irene Shafer Lausman.

Robert joined the U.S. Navy shortly after high school and served from 1956-1960. After his discharge from the Navy, he began a career as a machinist for a manufacturing company. For the past 23 years, Robert and his late bride, Rose Ann, have been Lake Placid residents where they were members of Trinity Lutheran Church. Robert was a baseball and softball umpire and a basketball referee. He was a member of AA.

Robert is survived by

his children, Sherri Nitz (Todd), Rick (Sophie), and Scott (Kendra); brother, Kenneth; grandchildren, Benjamin, Matthew and Christian; and great-grandchildren, Marek, Elizabeth and Eden. He was preceded in death by his wife, Rose Ann, in June of 2022.

Services and interment will take place in Michigan.

Arrangements are under the loving devotion of Michael A. Brochetti Funeral Home, Lake Placid, Florida. Phone 863-465-9997.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
TO CONSIDER COUNTY ORDINANCE
NOs. 22-23-24 and 22-23-27

NOTICE is hereby given that the Highlands County Board of County Commissioners will hold public hearings to consider for the purpose of enactment of the following ordinances on June 30, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as possible, in the County Commissioners' Board Room of the Government Center, 600 South Commerce Avenue, Sebring, Florida:

ORDINANCE NO. 22-23-24

AN ORDINANCE OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA, PERTAINING TO THE TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX AND THE TOURIST DEVELOPMENT PLAN; PROVIDING FOR LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT; PROVIDING AN AMENDMENT TO HIGHLANDS COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 8, ARTICLE VI, TOURIST DEVELOPMENT, DIVISION 3, TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX, SECTION 8-220, LEVY AND IMPOSITION OF TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX; PROVIDING AN AMENDMENT TO HIGHLANDS COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 8, ARTICLE VI, TOURIST DEVELOPMENT, DIVISION 3, TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX, SECTION 8-222, TOURIST DEVELOPMENT PLAN; PROVIDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION AND SCRIVENER'S ERRORS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE NO. 22-23-27

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE HIGHLANDS COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 13, IMPACT FEES; PROVIDING FOR LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT; PROVIDING FOR AN AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 13, IMPACT FEES, ARTICLE II, IMPOSITION OF IMPACT FEES, SECTION 13-29, SCHEDULE; PROVIDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION AND SCRIVENER'S ERRORS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

A copy of this notice is available for public inspection during regular business hours in the Office of the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners at the Highlands County Government Center, 590 South Commerce Avenue, Sebring, Florida 33870. The proposed Ordinance may be inspected by the public at the Highlands County Planning Division, 501 South Commerce Avenue, Sebring, Florida 33870, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Inquiries or written testimony should be directed to Leah Sauls, Development Services Director, at this address or by phone at (863) 402-6650.

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

All interested persons may appear and be heard at the time and place specified above. Any person who might wish to appeal any decision made by this committee/group, in public hearing or meeting is hereby advised that he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record will include the testimony and evidence upon which such appeal is to be based. The Board of County Commissioners of Highlands County, Florida, does not discriminate upon the basis of any individual's disability status. This non-discriminatory policy involves every aspect of the Board's functions, including one's access to, participation, employment or treatment in its programs or activities. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act or Section 286.26 Florida Statutes should contact Human Resources, ADA Coordinator at: 863-402-6509 (voice), or via Florida relay service 711, or by email: hrmanager@highlandsfl.gov. Requests for cart or interpreter services should be made as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours in advance to permit coordination of the service.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA
Chris Campbell, Chairman

ATTEST:
Jerome Kaszubowski, Clerk



NKorea calls failed spy satellite launch ‘the most serious’ shortcoming, vows 2nd launch

By **HYUNG-JIN KIM** and **KIM TONG-HYUNG**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Top North Korean officials vowed to push for a second attempt to launch a spy satellite as they called their country's first, and failed, launch last month “the most serious” shortcoming this year and harshly criticized those responsible, state media reported Monday.

In late May, a North Korean rocket carrying a military reconnaissance satellite crashed soon after liftoff, posing a setback to leader Kim Jong Un's push to acquire a space-based surveillance system to better monitor the United States and South Korea. The failed launch and North Korean efforts to modernize its weapons arsenal were discussed extensively at a three-day ruling party meeting that ended Sunday, with the presence of Kim and other top officials. A lengthy Korean Central News Agency dispatch on the meeting didn't clearly say who spoke, but said a report to the meeting “bitterly criticized the officials who irresponsibly conducted the preparations for (the) satellite launch.” The report set forth tasks for officials and scientists to learn the lessons of the failed launch, find what caused the rocket's crash and make a successful launch in a short span of time, KCNA said.

It didn't say exactly when North Korea might attempt a second launch. But



KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY/KOREA NEWS SERVICE

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, center, attends an enlarged plenary meeting of the ruling Workers' Party's Central Committee, which was held between June 16 and 18, at the party's headquarters in Pyongyang, North Korea.

South Korea's spy agency earlier told lawmakers that it would take likely take “more than several weeks” for North Korea to determine what went wrong in the failed launch.

North Korea monitoring groups haven't reported any purges or dismissals of scientists or others involved in the failed launch.

A spy satellite is among several high-tech military assets Kim has publicly vowed to acquire to cope with what he calls U.S.-led hostility. Other weapons systems Kim wants to possess are a multi-warhead missile, a nuclear submarine, a solid-propellant intercontinental ballistic missile and a hypersonic missile.

Since the start of 2022, North Korea has carried out more than 100 missile tests, some of which were related to developing a spy satellite and other powerful weapons on Kim's wish list.

During the meeting, Politburo members also

analyzed the “extremely deteriorating security situation” in the region caused by the “reckless war moves” of North Korea's rivals, the report said, apparently referring to the expanded U.S.-South Korea military drills.

The United States and South Korea have been expanding their military drills in response to North Korea's advancing nuclear arsenal and warn that any attempt to use nuclear weapons would result in the end of Kim's government.

The Politburo members set down unspecified “important tasks” for strengthening solidarity with countries that are “opposed to the U.S. brigandish strategy for world supremacy,” KCNA said.

North Korea has pushed to boost relations with Russia, including defending its military action in Ukraine. It says Russia is protecting itself against the West's “hegemonic policy.”

**HIGHLANDS COUNTY
COUNTY COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM**

DATE OF ACTION REQUEST: June 30, 2023

PRESENTER: Leah Sauls, Development Services Director
JD Langford, County Engineer
Clinton Howerton, Critical Infrastructure Director

SUBJECT/TITLE: Public hearing to consider adoption of Ordinance No. 22-23-27, extending the moratorium of Impact Fees in Highlands County for up to one year from the date of adoption.

STATEMENT OF ISSUE

Per the direction, the Board of County Commissioners provided at the June 6, 2023, BOCC meeting, the attached Ordinance is to extend the moratorium on impact fees for up to one year. The Board can revisit, review or modify the moratorium at any time, but no later than June 2024.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Move to adopt Ordinance No. 22-23-27, extending the moratorium of Impact Fees in Highlands County for up to one year from the date of adoption, referencing the mandatory findings of fact and becoming effective as provided by law.

FISCAL IMPACT

The fiscal impact is not determinable at this time but is an estimated loss of \$2.5 million per year (500 new homes x \$5,000 per home impact fee assessment) that will not be collected for capital improvement items.

Attachments: [Ordinance_Chapter_13_-_suspending_Impact_Fees.SGS.docx](#)
[6-20 aff.pdf](#)

ORDINANCE NO. 22-23-27

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE HIGHLANDS COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 13, IMPACT FEES; PROVIDING FOR LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT; PROVIDING FOR AN AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 13, IMPACT FEES, ARTICLE II, IMPOSITION OF IMPACT FEES, SECTION 13-29, SCHEDULE; PROVIDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION AND SCRIVENER'S ERRORS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Florida Statutes, Chapter 125, confers upon a local government, the authority to adopt ordinances and regulations which are designed to promote the public health, safety and general welfare of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, from time to time it is necessary for Highlands County to update and/or amend its codes and regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 13, provides for the imposition of impact fees to accommodate the cost of future growth necessitated capital improvements to the County's infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the County hereby deems it necessary, appropriate and in the best interest of the public health, safety, comfort, good order, appearance, convenience and general welfare to amend its regulations as set forth in this Ordinance.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.

SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT. Highlands County has complied with all requirements and procedures of the Florida law in processing this Ordinance. The above recitals are hereby adopted.

SECTION 2. AMENDING CHAPTER 13, IMPACT FEES, ARTICLE II, IMPOSITION OF IMPACT FEES, SECTION 13-29, SCHEDULE. Highlands County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 13, Impact Fees, Article II, Imposition of Impact Fees, Section 13-29, Schedule, is hereby amended as follows:

Note: Underlined words constitute additions to existing text and ~~strikethrough~~ words constitute deletions to existing text.

Sec. 13-29. – Schedule.

The impact fees imposed under this article shall become effective at the following times and in the following rates:

- (1) For the education facilities impact fee imposed pursuant to section 13-27 herein:
 - a. The impact fee shall be imposed effective January 1, 2007, at a rate 50 percent of the rate adopted in this chapter, subject to any adjustments in the impact fee rates made as a result of a resolution changing the impact fee amounts set forth herein; and
 - b. The impact fee shall be imposed effective January 1, 2008, at a rate 50 percent of the rate adopted in this chapter, subject to any adjustments in the impact fee rates made as a result of a resolution changing the impact fee amounts set forth herein.
- (2) For the impact fees imposed pursuant to sections 13-21 through 13-26 and 13-28 herein:
 - a. The impact fee shall be imposed effective January 1, 2007, at a rate 25 percent of the rate adopted in this chapter, subject to any adjustments in the impact fee rates made as a result of a resolution changing the impact fee amounts set forth herein; and
 - b. The impact fee shall be imposed effective January 1, 2008, at a rate 30 percent of the rate adopted in this chapter, subject to any adjustments in the impact fee rates made as a result of a resolution changing the impact fee amounts set forth herein.
- (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (1) and (2) of this section all impact fees imposed pursuant to sections 13-21 through 13-28 herein are suspended and shall not be imposed through and including June 30, 2024, and the Board is not required to adopt an annual impact fee index resolution during calendar year 2023 for an impact fee to be imposed pursuant to sections 13-21 through 13-28 herein. ~~for the period beginning July 1, 2009, and ending June 30, 2023. In addition, notwithstanding any provision in sections 13-21 through 13-28 herein to the contrary, the board is not required to adopt an annual impact fee index resolution during the calendar years 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 for any impact fee imposed pursuant to sections 13-21 through 13-28 herein.~~

SECTION 3. IMPLEMENTING ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS. The County Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to take such actions as are deemed necessary and appropriate in order to implement the provisions of this Ordinance. The County Administrator may, as deemed appropriate, necessary and convenient, delegate the powers of implementation as herein set forth to such County employees as deemed effectual and prudent.

SECTION 4. SAVINGS CLAUSE. All prior actions of the Board of County Commissioners of Highlands County pertaining to the revisions to Highlands County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 13, Impact Fees, as set forth herein are hereby ratified and affirmed consistent with the provisions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 5. SEVERABILITY. The divisions, sections, subsections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses and phrases of this ordinance are severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, subsection, section, or divisions of this ordinance shall be declared invalid, unconstitutional or unenforceable by the valid judgment or decree of a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity, unconstitutionality or unenforceability shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, subsections, sections, and divisions of this ordinance.

SECTION 6. CODIFICATION AND SCRIVENER'S ERRORS.

A. Section 2 of this Ordinance shall be codified in the Highlands County Code of Ordinances and the sections, divisions and provisions of this Ordinance may be renumbered or re-lettered as deemed appropriate by the codifier of the Highlands County Code of Ordinances.

B. Typographical errors and other matters of a similar nature that do not affect the intent of this Ordinance, as determined by the County Administrator and County Attorney, may be corrected with the endorsement of the County Manager, or designee, without the need for a public hearing.

SECTION 7. CONFLICT. Any ordinance or part thereof in conflict with this Ordinance or any part hereof is hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict.

SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Department of State.

Signatures on Following Page

DONE AND ADOPTED this _____ day of June 2023.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____
Chris Campbell, Chairperson

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

By: _____
Jerome Kaszubowski, Clerk

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

Published Daily

SEBRING, HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case No. NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
TO CONSIDER COUNTY ORDINANCE
NOs. 22-23-24 and 22-23-27

STATE OF FLORIDA,
COUNTY OF HIGHLANDS

Before the undersigned authority, Janet Emerson, personally appeared who on oath says that she is the Classified Advertising Legal Clerk of Highlands News-Sun, a newspaper published at Sebring in Highlands County, Florida; that the attached copy or reprint of the advertisement, to the right, being a Public Notice, was published in said newspaper by print in the issues of or by publication on the newspaper's website, if authorized, on:

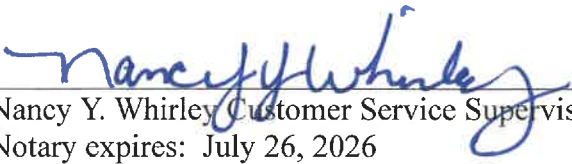
JUNE 20, 2023

Affiant further says that the Highlands News-Sun newspaper complies with all legal requirements for publication in chapter 50, Florida Statutes.

SIGNED:


Janet Emerson

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 20th day of June, 2023 by Janet Emerson, who is personally known to me.


Nancy Y. Whirley, Customer Service Supervisor, Notary Number HH293555
Notary expires: July 26, 2026



NANCY Y. WHIRLEY
Notary Public
State of Florida
Comm# HH293555
Expires 7/26/2026

OBITUARIES

Rev. Stephen E. Braddock

Rev. Stephen Eugene Braddock, Ph.D. died on June 14, 2023 at the age of 58. He was born July 25, 1964. He is survived by his loving and devoted mother, Nonnie

Braddock; brothers, Glenn and Brian; sister-in-law, Tricia; nephew, Connor; and nieces, Amelia and Maira; his faithful and mischievous fury companion, Paco and his devoted service dog, Widget. He was predeceased by his proud father, Eugene Stephen Braddock, and his sister-in-law, Roseann Braddock.

After a successful early career as a licensed private investigator and owner and CEO of two New York-based security firms, Stephen entered the Roman Catholic Order of St. Camillus (Servants of the Sick & Poor) and studied theology at Sacred Heart School of Theology and Cardinal Stritch University. Cardinal Stritch University later bestowed upon him the University's "Alumni of the Year Award for Professional Distinction" in recognition of his achievements as chairman and CEO of St. Camillus Health Systems for North America.

Funds from the sale of his security firm helped to establish Centro San Francisco, a K thru 9 Catholic school within a poor barrio in Ponce Puerto Rico, as well as a small health clinic. During his tenure as head of the Camillus Health

System, Stephen founded St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry and became internationally known for his advocacy and leadership on behalf of those living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. He served as pediatric HIV/AIDS chaplain for children and families at Children's Hospital of Milwaukee.

Fr. Stephen was ordained to the priesthood by Milwaukee Archbishop Rembert Weakland, OSB. He served as chaplain and ethicist for numerous hospitals, nursing homes, and hospices. He founded Raphael House, a hospice for persons dying from AIDS, lectured widely on end-of-life care, gave retreats for families, friends, and professional caregivers and assisted with the establishment of AIDS programs in the U.S., Brazil, Africa, Italy, and the Philippines.

After a short 1998 sabbatical in Key West, Stephen returned there as Parochial-Vicar for St. Mary Star of the Sea Parish in 1999 until he assumed the role of president and CEO of the Florida Keys Outreach Coalition (FKOC), which was on the verge of bankruptcy. Over the next 17 years, he grew FKOC from a small 16-bed shelter for homeless male addicts to a multi-faceted organization consisting of seven facilities with 180 beds serving persons who were recovering from homelessness, domestic violence, alcohol and drug addiction, and living with serious mental illness.

Fr. Stephen also founded Key West's Loaves and Fish Food Pantry, established the annual Homeless Persons' Memorial Day, sat on and chaired numerous

nonprofit boards throughout the Keys, statewide and nationally and served as the lead hospice chaplain on the interdisciplinary team for Hospice-VNA of the Florida Keys.

In retirement, he continued ministry to the sick and dying as a Master Certified Death Doula and End-of-Life Specialist.

Fr. Stephen found a spiritual home at St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church in Lake Placid, Florida. He was a tenacious survivor of an Acquired and a Traumatic Brain Injury which led to his reluctant early retirement in 2017. He relocated to Lake Placid, Florida to be close to his mother, and a level of medical care that was not available in the Keys. He also battled type 1 diabetes and serious heart disease for decades. A dual citizen of the USA and Ireland, he enjoyed his retirement years visiting the Emerald Isle and traveling domestically and internationally. He loved cruises.

In lieu of flowers, Fr. Stephen requested contributions be made in his name to the Community Foundation of the Florida Keys for the Rev. Stephen Braddock Matthew 25 Fund which will provide meals for the hungry, support for addicts, mammograms for needy women, temporary emergency financial assistance to service workers in crisis, and service dogs for disabled individuals in Florida. Tax deductible donations are payable to: CFFK, Inc., 300 Southard Street, Suite 201, Key West, FL 33040. Memo: Rev. Braddock Matthew 25 Fund.

Funeral arrangements To be announced.

Robert L. Lausman



Robert Lee Lausman, of Lake Placid, Florida, died late Wednesday evening, June 14, 2023.

Robert was a native of Michigan born June 22, 1938 in Baroda. He was the son of



Robert and Irene Shafer Lausman.

Robert joined the U.S. Navy shortly after high school and served from 1956-1960. After his discharge from the Navy, he began a career as a machinist for a manufacturing company. For the past 23 years, Robert and his late bride, Rose Ann, have been Lake Placid residents where they were members of Trinity Lutheran Church. Robert was a baseball and softball umpire and a basketball referee. He was a member of AA.

Robert is survived by

his children, Sherri Nitz (Todd), Rick (Sophie), and Scott (Kendra); brother, Kenneth; grandchildren, Benjamin, Matthew and Christian; and great-grandchildren, Marek, Elizabeth and Eden. He was preceded in death by his wife, Rose Ann, in June of 2022.

Services and interment will take place in Michigan.

Arrangements are under the loving devotion of Michael A. Brochetti Funeral Home, Lake Placid, Florida. Phone 863-465-9997.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
TO CONSIDER COUNTY ORDINANCE
NOs. 22-23-24 and 22-23-27

NOTICE is hereby given that the Highlands County Board of County Commissioners will hold public hearings to consider for the purpose of enactment of the following ordinances on June 30, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as possible, in the County Commissioners' Board Room of the Government Center, 600 South Commerce Avenue, Sebring, Florida:

ORDINANCE NO. 22-23-24

AN ORDINANCE OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA, PERTAINING TO THE TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX AND THE TOURIST DEVELOPMENT PLAN; PROVIDING FOR LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT; PROVIDING AN AMENDMENT TO HIGHLANDS COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 8, ARTICLE VI, TOURIST DEVELOPMENT, DIVISION 3, TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX, SECTION 8-220, LEVY AND IMPOSITION OF TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX; PROVIDING AN AMENDMENT TO HIGHLANDS COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 8, ARTICLE VI, TOURIST DEVELOPMENT, DIVISION 3, TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX, SECTION 8-222, TOURIST DEVELOPMENT PLAN; PROVIDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION AND SCRIVENER'S ERRORS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE NO. 22-23-27

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE HIGHLANDS COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 13, IMPACT FEES; PROVIDING FOR LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT; PROVIDING FOR AN AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 13, IMPACT FEES, ARTICLE II, IMPOSITION OF IMPACT FEES, SECTION 13-29, SCHEDULE; PROVIDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION AND SCRIVENER'S ERRORS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

A copy of this notice is available for public inspection during regular business hours in the Office of the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners at the Highlands County Government Center, 590 South Commerce Avenue, Sebring, Florida 33870. The proposed Ordinance may be inspected by the public at the Highlands County Planning Division, 501 South Commerce Avenue, Sebring, Florida 33870, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Inquiries or written testimony should be directed to Leah Sauls, Development Services Director, at this address or by phone at (863) 402-6650.

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

All interested persons may appear and be heard at the time and place specified above. Any person who might wish to appeal any decision made by this committee/group, in public hearing or meeting is hereby advised that he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record will include the testimony and evidence upon which such appeal is to be based. The Board of County Commissioners of Highlands County, Florida, does not discriminate upon the basis of any individual's disability status. This non-discriminatory policy involves every aspect of the Board's functions, including one's access to, participation, employment or treatment in its programs or activities. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act or Section 286.26 Florida Statutes should contact Human Resources, ADA Coordinator at: 863-402-6509 (voice), or via Florida relay service 711, or by email: hrmanager@highlandsfl.gov. Requests for cart or interpreter services should be made as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours in advance to permit coordination of the service.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA
Chris Campbell, Chairman

ATTEST:
Jerome Kaszubowski, Clerk



NKorea calls failed spy satellite launch ‘the most serious’ shortcoming, vows 2nd launch

By **HYUNG-JIN KIM** and **KIM TONG-HYUNG**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Top North Korean officials vowed to push for a second attempt to launch a spy satellite as they called their country's first, and failed, launch last month “the most serious” shortcoming this year and harshly criticized those responsible, state media reported Monday.

In late May, a North Korean rocket carrying a military reconnaissance satellite crashed soon after liftoff, posing a setback to leader Kim Jong Un's push to acquire a space-based surveillance system to better monitor the United States and South Korea. The failed launch and North Korean efforts to modernize its weapons arsenal were discussed extensively at a three-day ruling party meeting that ended Sunday, with the presence of Kim and other top officials.

A lengthy Korean Central News Agency dispatch on the meeting didn't clearly say who spoke, but said a report to the meeting “bitterly criticized the officials who irresponsibly conducted the preparations for (the) satellite launch.”

The report set forth tasks for officials and scientists to learn the lessons of the failed launch, find what caused the rocket's crash and make a successful launch in a short span of time, KCNA said.

It didn't say exactly when North Korea might attempt a second launch. But



KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY/KOREA NEWS SERVICE

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, center, attends an enlarged plenary meeting of the ruling Workers' Party's Central Committee, which was held between June 16 and 18, at the party's headquarters in Pyongyang, North Korea.

South Korea's spy agency earlier told lawmakers that it would take likely take “more than several weeks” for North Korea to determine what went wrong in the failed launch.

North Korea monitoring groups haven't reported any purges or dismissals of scientists or others involved in the failed launch.

A spy satellite is among several high-tech military assets Kim has publicly vowed to acquire to cope with what he calls U.S.-led hostility. Other weapons systems Kim wants to possess are a multi-warhead missile, a nuclear submarine, a solid-propellant intercontinental ballistic missile and a hypersonic missile.

Since the start of 2022, North Korea has carried out more than 100 missile tests, some of which were related to developing a spy satellite and other powerful weapons on Kim's wish list.

During the meeting, Politburo members also

analyzed the “extremely deteriorating security situation” in the region caused by the “reckless war moves” of North Korea's rivals, the report said, apparently referring to the expanded U.S.-South Korea military drills.

The United States and South Korea have been expanding their military drills in response to North Korea's advancing nuclear arsenal and warn that any attempt to use nuclear weapons would result in the end of Kim's government.

The Politburo members set down unspecified “important tasks” for strengthening solidarity with countries that are “opposed to the U.S. brigandish strategy for world supremacy,” KCNA said.

North Korea has pushed to boost relations with Russia, including defending its military action in Ukraine. It says Russia is protecting itself against the West's “hegemonic policy.”