

Friday, April 22, 2016 – 10:00 A.M.
John R. "Jack" Durrance Auditorium
County Administration Building
12 Southeast First Street
Gainesville, Florida

The Alachua County Board of County Commissioners met in special session.

PRESENT: Chair Robert "Hutch" Hutchinson, Vice-Chair Ken Cornell,
Commissioners Mike Byerly and Lee Pinkoson

ABSENT: Commissioner Charles S. "Chuck" Chestnut, IV

ALSO PRESENT: County Manager Dr. Lee Niblock, County Attorney Michele Lieberman, Deputy County Manager James Harriott, Assistant County Manager Gina Peebles, Deputy Clerk Bob Decker

The meeting was televised on Cox Cable Channel 12.

Chair Hutchinson opened the meeting at 10:02 A.M.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Pinkoson moved adoption of the agenda.

Commissioner Cornell requested a Public Comment period.

The motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Chestnut out of the room.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Presentations

1. Looking Forward Presentation
Amount: N/A
Recommended Action: Hear Presentation.

County Manager Lee Niblock presented the above item.

Chair Hutchinson recognized Environmental Protection Director Chris Bird who presented comments to the Board.

Action Items

2. Discussion of RTS Facility

Amount: N/A

Recommended Action: Hear update and direct the County Attorney.

County Manager Lee Niblock and County Attorney Michele Lieberman presented the above item.

Commissioner Pinkoson moved to authorize the County Attorney to file a cause of action, adopt the resolution, and to draft a Chair letter expressing the Board's disappointment to be approved at the Tuesday, April 26, 2016, including the Board's documentation on the matter and the Board's reasons for bringing immediate legal action.

Chair Hutchinson recognized County Attorney Michele Lieberman and County Manager Lee Niblock who presented comments to the Board.

Commissioner Pinkoson moved the substitute motion to authorize the County Attorney to file a cause of action, adopt the resolution, and to transmit a Chair letter today including the Board's documentation on the matter and the Board's reasons for bringing immediate legal action. The motion carried 4-0.

Chair Hutchinson recognized County Attorney Michele Lieberman who presented comments to the Board.

Public Comment

There were no citizens present who wished to provide comments to the Board.

Commissioner General and Informal Discussion

Commissioner Pinkoson left the room 11:08 A.M.

Commissioner Cornell stated that the Board sent the City of Hawthorne a letter dated November 23, 2015 and inquired whether a follow up letter was in order.

Commissioner Cornell moved to send a follow up Chair letter to the City of Hawthorne regarding the letter dated November 23, 2015.

Chair Hutchinson stated that the City of Hawthorne held a planning workshop regarding the concerns raised in the letter and that there would be a follow up meeting soon.

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Commissioner Byerly requested to know when the matter would be addressed by the City of Hawthorne.

Chair Hutchinson recognized County Manager Lee Niblock who presented comments to the Board.

Commissioner Cornell withdrew his motion.

Chair Hutchinson stated that the proposed standards were the equivalent to or better than the City of Gainesville's standards with respect to wetlands and the County's standards with respect to buffering.

Commissioner Byerly stated the Board should withhold judgment until the City of Hawthorne adopts the standards.

Chair Hutchinson presented a brief overview of his trip to Washington DC as a part of the Stepping Up Initiative.

Commissioner Cornell requested to know if there is any place in Florida where a one-stop mental health facility is located.

Chair Hutchinson stated that there are none in Florida. He gave a brief overview regarding mental health efforts.

Commissioner Cornell stated that the County's mental health efforts should include the Sheriff's office.

Commissioner Byerly requested updates on the irrigation of County facilities, cogongrass, and the County's tree planting program.

Chair Hutchinson recognized Deputy County Manager James Harriott who presented comments to the Board.

Commissioner Byerly requested the County's tree planting workplan for the coming year.

Chair Hutchinson stated that the City of Gainesville plants trees on private property if it benefits public right of way.

Chair Hutchinson recognized County Attorney Michele Lieberman who presented comments to the Board.

Commissioner Byerly requested an update on the County's tree planting program at the April 26, 2016 regular meeting.

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Chair Hutchinson stated that the City has a program in which citizens can request the City plants a tree if the citizen agrees to water it for two years.

Commissioner Byerly stated that there is an existing and funded program for tree planting within the County and that he is looking for results.

Commissioner Cornell stated that the City of Gainesville could run the tree program for the County.

Commissioner Byerly stated that trees should be planted throughout the urban cluster and will likely eventually be annexed by Gainesville.

Chair Hutchinson recognized County Manager Lee Niblock and County Attorney Lieberman who presented comments to the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:29 A.M.

J. K. Irby, Clerk to the Board
of County Commissioners