

Thursday, May 12, 2016 – 7:00 P.M.
Yerkes Center
14245 Cole Street
Waldo, Florida

The Alachua County Board of County Commissioners met in joint special session with the Waldo City Council.

PRESENT: Chair Robert "Hutch" Hutchinson, Vice-Chair Ken Cornell, Commissioners Mike Byerly, Charles S. "Chuck" Chestnut, and Lee Pinkoson

Mayor Louie Davis, Council Members Glen Johnson and Carolyn Y. Wade

ABSENT: Council Members Chuck Hall, Irvin Jackson, and Rick Pisano

ALSO PRESENT: County Manager Dr. Lee Niblock, Waldo City Manager Kim Worley, County Attorney Michele Lieberman, Deputy County Manager James Harriott, Deputy Clerk Bob Decker

Chair Hutchinson opened the meeting at 7:08 P.M.

The meeting was not televised.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

County Manager Lee Niblock stated that the Board may wish to add a public comments section to the agenda.

Commissioner Pinkoson moved adoption of the agenda as modified. The motion carried 5-0.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Bike Trail to Waldo
Amount: N/A
Recommended Action: Discuss bike trail to Waldo.

Transportation Planning Manager Jeff Hays presented the above item.

Chair Hutchinson recognized Waldo City Manager Kim Worley who presented comments to the Board.

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Commissioner Pinkoson moved to direct staff to contact Waldo to confirm the specifics of the trail and contact the Florida Department of Transportation to find out the status of the trail.

Chair Hutchinson recognized Transportation Planning Manager Jeff Hays and County Manager Lee Niblock who presented comments to the Board.

The motion carried 5-0.

2. Fire Department Personnel

Amount: N/A

Recommended Action: Discuss Fire Department Personnel.

Deputy Chief Harold Theus presented the above item.

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

3. Tree Donation from Alachua County to the City of Waldo

Amount: N/A

Recommended Action: Discuss tree donation from Alachua County to the City of Waldo.

Deputy County Manager James Harriott presented the above item.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Davis distributed letters from the City of Waldo to the Board of County Commissioners regarding annexation and storm water regulations.

Council Member Wade requested an update on the County Fairgrounds.

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

Mayor Davis stated that the Committee selected the Wiseman tract years ago.

Council Member Wade requested to know how the Board saw the development of Waldo and Waldo Road.

Commissioner Pinkoson stated that he thought the City of Waldo would continue to grow. He further stated that he did not know how Waldo Road would develop.

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Commissioner Cornell stated that he hoped to work with the City of Gainesville to develop Waldo Road up to the Fairgrounds.

Commissioner Chestnut stated that his vision would be a completion of the bike trail to Waldo and more housing and businesses within Waldo to build the tax base.

Council Member Wade stated that the City of Waldo is in the process of hiring an Economic Development Director to build businesses and attract new residents. She further stated that any help from the Board of County Commissioners would be appreciated.

Commissioner Pinkoson stated that Council Member Wade might wish to speak with the County's Economic Development Director Edgar Campa-Palafox.

Chair Hutchinson stated that one of the potentials for I-75 relief is the revamping of US 301. He further stated that he did not know what would happen but that there could be routes through Jonesville or Waldo.

Commissioner Chestnut stated that most citizens wanted the State to use existing corridors rather than building new roads. He further stated that there would be a meeting in June of the I-75 relief board and gave a brief overview of the agenda for that meeting.

Mayor Davis stated that there were plans in the early 1980s to bypass I-75 and/or widen US 301 between Waldo and Starke that were ultimately dropped.

Commissioner Chestnut stated that there is a 301 bypass being built around Starke.

Mayor Davis stated that the hope is that the Starke bypass will bring business to Waldo.

Council Member Wade asked the Board for their views regarding the School Board Superintendent.

Chair Hutchinson and Commissioner Pinkoson stated that is a School Board matter.

Commissioner Cornell asked for an update on the former school building.

Council Member Wade stated that there have been two requests for the old School.

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Chair Hutchinson stated that the State will not give grants for new school construction if there are empty schools. He further stated that there are multiple agencies that want Prairie View.

Council Member Wade stated that the School Board has removed all the food preparation appliances from the school.

Mayor Davis stated that the School Board's cost savings from closing the school was used to fund two new positions at the School Board.

Chair Hutchinson stated that the Chamber of Commerce could use the building as a spec building.

Chair Hutchinson recognized Diana Davis who presented comments to the Board.

Mayor Davis stated that Bradford County needs school space and suggested that the Alachua County School Board and the Bradford County School Board could jointly operate the Waldo Community School to serve students from both Counties.

Commissioner Chestnut stated that a joint school would cause issues with state education funds.

Mayor Davis stated that the joint school would be a model program for smaller counties.

City Manager Kim Worley stated that closing the Waldo Community School hurt local residents as it used to house a head start program.

Mayor Davis stated that County Road 1475 is in very bad shape and needs mowing.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Davis thanked the Board of County Commissioners for coming to Waldo.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 P.M.

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