

Monday, December 12, 2016 – 3:00 P.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 Ken Cornell, presiding, Vice-Chair Lee Pinkoson, Commissioners Mike Byerly and Robert "Hutch" Hutchinson

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 Carl Smart, Deputy Clerk Bob Decker

The meeting was televised on Cox Cable Channel 12.

Chair Cornell opened the meeting at 3:02 P.M.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

1. Approve the Agenda

Fiscal Consideration: N/A

Recommended Action: The motion to approve the Agenda: (a) approves any amendments to the Agenda; and (b) adopts the Agenda.

Commissioner Pinkoson moved adoption of the Agenda. The motion carried 3-0 with Commissioner Byerly out of the room.

COMMISSIONER PROPOSED ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

2. University of Florida Strategic Plan Update

Fiscal Consideration: N/A

Recommended Action: Hear an update on the University of Florida's Strategic Plan.

Commissioner Byerly entered the room at 3:03 P.M.

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UF Senior Vice President Charlie Lane presented the above item.

Chair Cornell recognized UF College of the Arts Dean Lucinda Lavelli and Telford Cartwright who presented comments to the Board.

3. Discussion of Renewal of Local Option Fuel Taxes

Fiscal Consideration: The local option fuel taxes are the primary funding source for the maintenance of the County's transportation infrastructure.

Recommended Action: Hear the presentation and discuss options regarding renewal of the local option fuel taxes.

Deputy County Manager Jim Harriott presented the above item.

Chair Cornell recognized Commissioner Harvey Budd who presented comments to the Board.

4. Fire Station 19 Update on Staff Discussion

Fiscal Consideration: N/A

Recommended Action: Hear presentation of Fire Station 19 update on staff discussion.

Assistant County Manager Carl Smart and Chief William Northcutt presented the above item.

Chair Cornell recognized Commissioner Harvey Budd who presented comments to the Board.

5. Regional Transit System Update

Fiscal Consideration: N/A

Recommended Action: Hear RTS Update.

County Attorney Michele Lieberman presented the above item.

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

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Commissioner Byerly moved to direct staff to draft a letter for the Chair's signature by Tuesday, December 13, 2016 to the Gainesville City Commission explaining the BOCC's position on the Phase II 2004 study.

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

The motion carried 3-1 with Commissioner Hutchinson voting nay.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Cornell recognized Kali Blount who presented comments to the Board.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Pinkoson requested to know if it would be inappropriate to discuss the agenda for December 13, 2016.

Chair Cornell asked the County Attorney whether the Board could discuss the agenda.

County Attorney Michele Lieberman indicated the Board could discuss the agenda.

Commissioner Pinkoson requested to defer item 19 to an off-Tuesday meeting.

Without objection, the Board agreed to defer item 19.

County Attorney Michele Lieberman stated that the Board would need to adopt any changes to the agenda but she would notify the County Manager of the proposed changes.

Commissioner Byerly requested to defer items 21 and 25 to future meetings.

Without objection the Board agreed to defer items 21 and 25 to a future meeting.

Commissioner Byerly requested to move items 13 and 16 to the Consent Agenda.

County Attorney Michele Lieberman stated that her office reviewed items 13 and 16 and that if there was no objection from the Board they could be moved to Consent.

Without objection the Board agreed to move items 13 and 16 to the Consent Agenda.

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Commissioner Hutchinson discussed creating a Committee to discuss potential referenda on future ballots.

Commissioner Pinkoson requested to discuss the item during an off-Tuesday meeting.

Chair Cornell requested that Deputy County Manager James Harriott inform the County Manager of the Board's wishes with regard to the December 13 agenda.

Commissioner Hutchinson stated Chamber of Commerce is drafting a referendum for a future ballot. He further stated that the Board of County Commissioners should create an Advisory Committee to discuss and advise the BoCC on proposed referenda.

Commissioner Pinkoson stated that the proposed Advisory Committee should be discussed during a policy meeting to flesh out the proposal. He further stated that citizen-driven referenda will be more successful than the BoCC initiated ones.

Commissioner Hutchinson stated that the Chamber of Commerce convened a Blue Ribbon Committee to discuss their proposed referendum. He further stated the Chamber could gather the signatures necessary to put the referendum on the ballot.

Commissioner Byerly stated that getting the requisite signatures would be harder than Commissioner Hutchinson thought.

Chair Cornell stated the item should be discussed at a Policy meeting. He further stated there would be a benefit if the initiative was citizen-led.

Commissioner Hutchinson stated that he would like to know what referenda are being proposed so the County doesn't propose a competing referendum.

Chair Cornell stated he would not want to short-circuit the process.

Commissioner Byerly stated he didn't have a problem with the established petition process.

Chair Cornell stated he wanted to hold the discussion at a policy meeting.

Commissioner Pinkoson stated the Board should invite any interested groups to the meeting.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to schedule an item for the Referenda Committee on the January Policy Discussion meeting. The motion carried 4-0.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:12 P.M.

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

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