

Tuesday, April 17, 2017 – 6:30 P.M.  
Hawthorne City Hall Auditorium  
6875 SE 221 Street  
Hawthorne, FL 32640

The Alachua County Board of County Commissioners met for the Joint Meeting.

**PRESENT:** Chair Lee Pinkoson Ken Cornell, Vice-Chair Charles “Chuck” Chestnut, Commissioners Mike Byerly, Ken Cornell, and Robert “Hutch” Hutchinson

Mayor Matthew Surrency, Vice Mayor Tommie Howard and Commissioners DeLoris Roberts, Jimmy Floyd Sr. and Patricia Bouie

**ALSO PRESENT:** County Manager Michele Lieberman, County Attorney Sylvia Torres, Deputy County Manager Harriot, County Engineer Ramone Gavarrete Deputy Clerk Steve Donahey, City Manager Ellen Vause, City Attorney Audrie Hoehn, City Clerk LaKesha Hawkins-McGruder

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

City Commissioner Patricia Bouie gave the Invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **WELCOME INTRODUCTION:**

1. Matt Surrency, Mayor, City of Hawthorne  
**Fiscal Consideration:** N/A  
**Recommended Action:** N/A
2. Lee Pinkoson, Chair, Alachua County Commission  
**Fiscal Consideration:** N/A  
**Recommended Action:** N/A

#### **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

3. Approve the agenda  
**Fiscal Consideration:** N/A  
**Recommended Action:** A motion to Approve the Agenda: (a) approve any amendments to the agenda; and (b) adopt the Agenda.

**City Commissioner Howard moved** adoption of the agenda as printed. The motion carried 5-0.

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**Commissioner Chestnut moved** adoption of the agenda as printed. The motion carried 5-0.

## **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

4. Progress on industrial and commercial development of the Weyerhaeuser properties in Hawthorne  
**Fiscal Consideration:** Hear City of Hawthorne fiscal considerations.  
**Recommended Action:** Hear update from the City of Hawthorne.

City Manager Ellen Vause presented the above item.

Commissioner Cornell and Commissioner Hutchinson presented comments.

5. Update on the CRA efforts  
**Fiscal Consideration:** In FY 2018, Alachua County issued a transfer payment of \$51,982 to the City of Hawthorne CRA.  
**Recommended Action:** No action necessary. For informational purpose only.

City of Hawthorne Mayor Surrency and City Manager Ellen Vause presented the above item.

Commissioner Byerly, Commissioner Cornell, and City Commissioner Roberts presented comments.

City of Hawthorne Mayor Surrency advised the County Commission that the City will be requesting an extension of the CRA in the near future from the County so that they may continue the work that is starting to make progress revitalizing downtown Hawthorne.

6. Update on the School Efforts  
**Fiscal Consideration:** N/A  
**Recommended Action:** Have a discussion on the school efforts to stay open and whether the BoCC could offer a letter of support.

City of Hawthorne Mayor Surrency presented the above item.

Mayor Surrency stated that the City is confident that the school will receive a C grade this year and remain open. However, they are applying for an extension that would guarantee the school will be open for one more year to assist with planning. He stated that it is difficult to retain teachers and students when it is not clear if the school will be closing next year or not. He stated that State Senator Keith Perry and State Representative Clovis Watson and both in favor of the extension based on the progress

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made. He is hoping that the County Commission will provide a letter of support as well for their appeal to the State Board of Education in Tallahassee.

**Commissioner Cornell moved** to authorize a letter of support for the extension for Hawthorne Schools and direct staff to coordinate with the School Board on the matter. The motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Cornell stated that he would be willing to travel to Tallahassee with the delegation in support of the extension if they feel it would help.

**City Commissioner Howard moved** to authorize a letter of support for the extension from the City of Hawthorne. The motion carried 5-0.

7. CR 2082 Road Repairs

**Fiscal Consideration:**

**Recommended Action:** City request is for discussion of maintenance concerns with the roadway surface conditions, stormwater drains, sidewalks, etc. No action is recommended by County Staff. County staff will be present at the meeting to provide input as necessary.

City of Hawthorne Mayor Surrency and County Engineer Ramone Gavarrete presented the above item.

City Commissioner Roberts, City Commissioner Floyd, City Commissioner Bouie, and Commissioner Cornell presented comments.

Mayor Surrency stated that Hawthorne is a ready community and if that status can assist in obtaining funding for the road projects the City is will to assist in any way that they can.

**Commissioner Cornell moved** to direct County to work with the City staff to see if there are any ready grants or other funding opportunities available to fund the Hawthorne projects.

Chair Pinkoson recognized Gilbert Randell who expressed concerns regarding the drainage and pavement conditions on 248<sup>th</sup> Street. He stated that the drainage is not being cleaned out and is leading to flooding.

Chair Pinkoson encouraged Mr. Randell to contact County Engineer Ramone Gavarrete.

**The motion carried 5-0.**

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8. Update on Countywide Wetlands Protection Code

**Fiscal Consideration:**

**Recommended Action:**

City of Hawthorne Mayor Surrency presented the above item.

Commissioner Byerly, Commissioner Hutchinson, Mayor Surrency, and City Manager Vause, and County Manager Lieberman presented comments.

**Commissioner Byerly moved** that the appropriate County staff work with the potential applicant and determine the specifics of this case and report back to the Board with the findings. The motion carried 5-0.

9. Local Option Gas Tax

**Fiscal Consideration:** N/A

**Recommended Action:** Discuss the local option fuel tax.

City of Hawthorne Mayor Surrency presented the above item.

Mayor Surrency stated that he felt that the County should not have involved themselves in the distribution of gas tax with the municipalities. He stated that he would like the opportunity to work out an equitable resolution to the gas tax distribution.

The Board of County Commissioners stated that the Board did give a 90 day period to address the matter. They further advised that if the municipalities work out an agreed upon resolution to the matter the County Commission would be willing to change the distribution formula.

Chair Pinkoson, County Manager Lieberman, Commissioner Byerly, and City Manager Vause presented comments.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

10. Public comments

**Fiscal Consideration:** N/A

**Recommended Action:** Hear public comments.

Dorothy Benson, Mayor Surrency, Chair Pinkoson, Commissioner Hutchinson, and Commissioner Cornell presented comments to the Board.

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## **COMMISSION GENERAL COMMENTS AND INFORMAL DISCUSSION**

11. County Commission comments

**Fiscal Consideration:** N/A

**Recommended Action:** Hear County Commission comments.

Commissioner Chestnut stated that he saw a concern of speeding on CR 2082 as well as the maintenance issues. He said that was not addressed tonight and wanted to make sure that it was properly addressed.

City Commissioner Roberts thanked Commissioner Chestnut for bring up the matter. She is concerned regarding the speeds with which people travel on the road.

Mayor Surrency stated that the City is working with the Sheriff's Office to address the problem.

Commissioner Hutchinson encouraged the City of Hawthorne to contact the Constitutional Officers to see if there is an opportunity to have a satellite officer in Hawthorne. He stated that the new facility appears to be quite suitable for a Constitutional Officers office.

12. City Commission comments

**Fiscal Consideration:** N/A

**Recommended Action:** Hear City Commission comments.

City Commissioner Howard stated that he was recently speaking with the Tax Collector regarding having a satellite office in Hawthorne and thanked the County Commission for visiting Hawthorne.

There being no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 P.M.