

Thursday May 24, 2018 – 1:30 P.M.
Special Budget Meeting
Grace Knight Conference Room
County Administration Building
12 Southeast First Street
Gainesville, Florida

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

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

ALSO PRESENT: Interim County Attorney Sylvia Torres, Interim County Manager Lieberman, Assistant County Manager Crosby, and Clerk Tierra McClendon

The meeting was televised on Cox Cable Channel 12.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Pinkoson at 1:30PM.

Approval of Agenda

1. 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.

Chair Pinkoson asked that Item 3 be switched with Item 4 due to his need to leave at 5:00PM.

Commissioner Cornell moved the approval of the agenda with a modification switching Item 3 for Item 4 and adding the approval of a Chair letter addressed to Governor Rick Scott to the Consent Agenda. The motion carried 3-0 with Commissioner Byerly and Vice Chair Chestnut out of the room.

(Approval of items on the Consent Agenda are generally considered to be routine matters and the motion to adopt the Agenda approves all items on the Consent Agenda and is the first action taken by the Board at the beginning of the meeting. There will be no discussion on these items unless requested. Anyone wishing to speak to an item on the Consent Agenda may come forward and request the item be moved to the Regular Agenda prior to the approval of the agenda.)

Commissioner Byerly entered the room at 1:33 PM

Chair Pinkoson wished to announce an apology to the Board and the Clerk's Office for confusion during the last Special Budget meeting concerning the correct procedures when making motions.

Vice Chair Chestnut entered the room at 1:34 PM

Action Items

2. Sheriff Budget Presentation
Fiscal Consideration: N/A
Recommended Action: Hear Budget Presentation.

Sheriff Sadie Darnell presented the above item.

Sheriff Sadie Darnell thanked the Board for their consideration in allowing her the ability to postpone the budget presentation to today's Special Budget meeting.

Assistant County Manager Crosby, Commissioner Cornell, Interim County Manager Lieberman, Commissioner Byerly, Chair Pinkoson, Commissioner Cornell, Commissioner Hutchinson, Colonel Huckstep, Chair Pinkoson, Interim County Attorney Torres, and Commissioner Cornell presented comments.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to authorize the Chair to send a letter to the superintendent and to provide a copy to the Sheriff requesting that the School Board cooperate with 50/50 funding of the SRO program.

Commissioner Cornell presented comments.

The motion carried 5-0.

Chair Pinkoson and Commissioner Hutchinson presented comments.

Public Comments

Anthony Johnson and Sheriff Sadie Darnell presented comments.

4. Alachua County Fairgrounds Update
Fiscal Consideration: The Budget Director will be present to discuss all options for potentially financing the Fairgrounds at a greater cost.
Recommended Action: Staff seeks direction: Proceed with Project on the Weseman Tract? Proceed with Project on the Current Fairgrounds Location?

Public Works Director Gavarrete presented the above Item.

Chair Pinkoson and Interim County Manager Lieberman presented comments.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to direct Staff to bring back to the Board an update on alternative sites to the next meeting in 45 days.

Vice-Chair Chestnut, Interim County Manager Lieberman, and Chair Pinkoson presented comments.

Public Comments

Guy Hail, Chair of Tourist Development Council Ann Koralewski, and Alachua County Fair Coordinator Robert Mullen presented comments.

The motion carried 5-0.

3. Local Business Tax discussion

Fiscal Consideration: The repeal of the Local Business Tax will result in a reduction of \$200,000 reduction in Revenues for the County and \$40,000 less in fees for the Tax Collector. The total impact to the FY19 budget will be \$240,000 if enacted for the FY20 Business Licenses. The total impact to the FY18 budget will be an additional \$240,000 if enacted for FY19 Business Licenses. Five year history of the revenues received by the BoCC after the Tax Collector has retained their 20%:

FY13 \$235,709

FY14 \$229,979

FY15 \$221,217

FY16 \$211,063

FY17 \$198,432

However, the Tax Collector always returns excess fees to the BoCC at the end of each fiscal year.

Recommended Action: Provide direction to staff for any adjustment to the tentative budget.

Assistant County Manager Crosby presented the above item.

Growth Management Missy Daniels, Chair Pinkoson, Interim County Manager Lieberman, Commissioner Hutchinson, Commissioner Byerly Chair Pinkoson, Fire Chief Northcutt, and Commissioner Cornell presented comments.

Commissioner Byerly moved the following:

1. Direct Staff to prepare an ordinance for the next Public Hearing to repeal the business tax.
2. Request Staff propose alternative means as to how to ensure that the information that Staff believes is critical as a result of part of the whole occupational business tax can still be collected and utilized if needed.
3. Propose an enforcement mechanism if necessary for failure to register any home based business for a tax I.D. that would result in a penalty/fee.
4. Determine whether or not Staff can gather the information necessary from another source other than the separate processes of the business tax registry.
5. Request Staff specifically notify the Chamber of Commerce of when this Item will return so that they can provide comment.

Commissioner Cornell, Interim County Manager Lieberman, Growth Management Interim Director Missy Daniels, Assistant County Manager Crosby, Commissioner Hutchinson, Commissioner Cornell, Commissioner Byerly, Assistant County Manager Crosby, Vice-Chair Chestnut, Tax Collector Jon Costabile, Commissioner Cornell, Commissioner Byerly, Chair Pinkoson, Assistant Property Appraiser Colleen Keene, Growth Management Interim Director Missy Daniels, Commissioner Cornell, and Anthony Johnson presented comments.

The motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Hutchinson voting “nay”.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to refer to Staff to make the current website on how to start a business in Alachua County more easily accessible to the public.

Commissioner Byerly, Chair Pinkoson, Interim County Manager Lieberman, Growth Management Interim Director Missy Daniels, and Anthony Johnson presented comments.

The motion carried 5-0.

Closing Comments

5. Public comments
Fiscal Consideration: N/A
Recommended Action: Hear public comments.

Anthony Johnson and Adele Franson presented comments to the Board.

6. County Commission comments

Fiscal Consideration: N/A

Recommended Action: Hear County Commission comments

Interim County Attorney Torres provided for the Board an update on the Supervisor of Elections case regarding the local bill, HB 759 that was passed to set up an advisory Board for GRU. Further, the bill established that there will be a referendum on the ballot in the fall.

Chair Pinkoson, Vice-Chair Chestnut, Senior Assistant County Attorney Bob Swain, Commissioner Cornell, and Interim County Manager Lieberman presented comments.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to encourage the attorney's office to continue having someone to represent the Board of County Commissioners interests and to advise the Board if and when there are conditions that warrant their involvement. **The motion failed for lack of a second.**

Interim County Manager Lieberman stated that HB 759 is a State bill that was signed by the Governor but is also a local bill and it is of interest of the local people.

Commissioner Byerly, Commissioner Hutchinson, and Senior Assistant County Attorney Bob Swain, Commissioner Cornell, and Interim County Attorney Torres presented comments.

Commissioner Cornell recognized Ms. Adele Franson and stated that he has been in touch with Mr. Washington and he is working on a memo that will be sent to the Board and once that is received, the Board will move forward to see if anything can be done about the alleged animal abuse.

Chair Pinkoson presented comments.

Interim County Attorney Torres clarified that the County's office and animal services have been asked to lay out what generally happened in this case and have collected a file that dates back to July of last year and are working to develop a report so that the Board can see how this played out from their perspective.

Vice-Chair Chestnut left the room at 4:18PM

Commissioner Hutchinson wished to discuss the timing and creation of an authority by which the County can clean up property that presents a problem and would like to be informed on when that would come back to the Board.

Interim County Attorney Torres stated that she believes that this issue was assigned to the County Manager but they do support that. Further, the options normally used with code enforcement are not the only options available especially in extreme cases Staff can seek injunctions from the court and get a court order requiring change.

Senior Assistant County Attorney Bob Swain stated that the 2 options are to request the court allow self-help and then charge for it or if one doesn't comply to notify the individual that they will be held in contempt because there is an injunction against said individual. Further, it would probably help if there was an abatement program that they could point to.

Commissioner Hutchinson, Interim County Attorney Torres and Commissioner Hutchinson presented comments.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to request Staff to come back to the Board with information on any schools that could be annexed into municipality based on their location. **The motion carried 4-0 with Vice-Chair Chestnut out of the room.**

CONSENT ITEMS

Chair Letter

Fiscal Consideration: N/A

Recommended Action: Approve Chair letter addressed to Governor Rick Scott.

Adjourn

There being no further business before the board the meeting was adjourned at 4:25 P.M.