

Tuesday, September 1, 2020 – 1:30 P.M.
John R. "Jack" Durrance Auditorium
County Administration Building
12 Southeast First Street
Gainesville, Florida

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

PRESENT: Chair Robert "Hutch" Hutchinson; Vice Chair Mike Byerly, Commissioner Charles S. Chestnut IV, Commissioner Ken Cornell, and Commissioner Marihelen Wheeler

ALSO PRESENT: County Manager Michele Lieberman, County Attorney Sylvia Torres, Deputy County Manager James Harriot, Clerk of the Court J.K. "Jess" Irby, Esq., and Deputy Clerk Steve Donahey

Approval of Agenda

Chair Hutchinson requested to add a discussion to the Agenda regarding the status of the Emergency Order.

Commissioner Cornell moved adoption of the agenda as amended. The motion carried 5-0.

Items for Discussion

1. CARES Plan Update 20-0754

Fiscal Consideration: N/A

Recommended Action: Hear presentation on an update regarding CARE Act funding.

CRI Representative April Shuping presented the above item.

Commissioner Byerly, Commissioner Cornell, Chair Hutchinson, Commissioner Wheeler, Commissioner Byerly, Commissioner Cornell, County Manager Lieberman, Commissioner Cornell, Commissioner Wheeler, County Manager Lieberman, Commissioner Chestnut, Commissioner Byerly, and Chair Hutchinson presented comments.

Commissioner Cornell moved the following:

1. Increase the individual assistance maximum to \$5,000 through July 31 immediately and retroactively.

Tuesday, September 1, 2020 – 1:30 P.M.

2. Exclude the \$600 per week pandemic unemployment (and any future federally funded unemployment pandemic payment) from the economic lose due to COVID calculation.
3. Set an appeals panel with representatives from the County Support Services, County Management Fiscal Services, and CRI Representative not involved with the application.
4. On previous applications provide access to a simplified application process with minimum documentation. (ID only if they have no changes required.) Set the maximum for assistance each month going forward starting in August of 2020 at \$1,600 per household.
5. New applicants that it is similar to the full application required covering the period of March 1 through August 31 and that the maximum household aid would be \$5,000 plus \$1,600.
6. Go live for round 2 changes by September 15, 2020.
7. Business Assistance merge small and medium businesses and raised the maximum aid through July 31, 2020 to be \$15,000 for all and similar round 2 processes as individuals to cover the impact of August 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020 with a maximum of \$3,000 per month.
8. Reduce the overall business allocation from \$15,000,000 to \$5,000,000.
9. Refer the Homeless and Eviction Support and Prevention Program back to staff to work with professionals in the community and return with a revised program at the first meeting in October.
10. Request staff contact the School Board Superintendent and the Children's Trust Executive Director to bring back proposed recommendations for their needs at the first meeting in October.
11. The BOCC is to have a similar meeting as today at the first meeting in October.
12. Staff to contact the Community Foundation and request they provide outreach to the nonprofit community for their needs and report back by the first meeting in October.

2nd Commissioner Byerly

Public Comments via Telephone

A Citizen, School Board Member Tina Certain, Telford Cartwright, and Lynnette presented comments.

The motion carried 5-0.

Closing Comments

Public Comment

Telford Cartwright presented comments.

Tuesday, September 1, 2020 – 1:30 P.M.

Commission Comment

Emergency Order

County Attorney Torres advised that she has met with the Alachua County Sheriff's Office, the University of Florida Attorney's Office, the City of Gainesville, and Santa Fe College to discuss the Emergency Order in regard to occupancy issues.

Mrs. Torres stated that the County can create a list to register events. There are some technical issues to be worked out. One issue to be worked out is if these violations will rise to the level of student discipline. They are intended to be civil violations and not criminal misdemeanors. The other issue to be worked out is consistent messaging from the agencies involved.

Commissioner Cornell, Chair Hutchinson, Commissioner Wheeler, and County Manager Lieberman presented comments.

Gatornationals

Communications Coordinator Mark Sexton advised that he has been in communication with the organizers of the Gatornationals. The event is a professional event which places the event outside of the County's regulatory authority. They have reduced the event from 5 days to 3. Also capacity will be reduced to 50% to allow for social distancing and mask are required.

Commissioner Cornell presented comments.

NAACP Housing Dash Board

Chair Hutchinson stated that the NAACP has been looking to establish a housing dashboard to provide information to the public. He stated that there is a ZOOM meeting on the matter and he planned to attend. He inquired if there is another Commissioner willing to volunteer to serve since he will be leaving the County Commission shortly. The Chair also requested that a few appropriate staff attend the ZOOM meeting to assist with the task.

Commissioner Wheeler stated she would attend.

Mask Lawsuit

County Attorney Torres advised that there is one lawsuit still ongoing involving Alachua County. The matter is under appeal and a law firm has volunteered to represent the County in the matter.

Tuesday, September 1, 2020 – 1:30 P.M.

Stimulus Money available

Commissioner Wheeler advised that there is still stimulus for those who are under the poverty line. The application is available on the non-filer portal on the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) website.

There being no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 3:41 P.M.