

Tuesday, May 5, 2020 – 1:30 P.M.
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 and Clerk of Court J.K. “Jess” Irby, Esq., Chief Financial Officer Todd Hutchinson, Deputy Clerk Steve Donahey

Approval of Agenda Items for Discussion

Commissioner Cornell moved adoption of the agenda. The motion carried 5-0 with Commissioner Byerly out of the room.

1. Discussion of Alachua County Emergency Order 20-0370

Fiscal Consideration: N/A

Recommended Action: Have a discussion on the Alachua County Emergency Order.

Chair Hutchinson, County Attorney Torres, Commissioner Byerly, Assistant County Attorney Bob Swain, Commissioner Cornell, Commissioner Wheeler, Commissioner Cornell, Health Department Director Paul Myers, Commissioner Byerly, Commissioner Cornell, Commissioner Chestnut, Commissioner Wheeler, and Chair Hutchinson presented comments.

Commissioner Byerly moved to direct staff to prepare for Board consideration at the next meeting a legal and procedural framework for the County to move forward with opening certain kinds of pools under certain conditions. 2nd Chestnut

City of Newberry Mayor Marlowe, Rosanne Caton, Anthony Johnson, Citizen, Loretta Holly, citizen, James, Citizen, Citizen, Carl Ambrose, Nick Zissimopoulos, Esq.,

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Assistant County Attorney Bob Swain, and Health Department Director Paul Myers presented comments.

The motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Byerly, Chair Hutchinson, Communications Coordinator Mark Sexton, Commissioner Byerly, Health Department Director Paul Myers, Commissioner Cornell, and Chair Hutchinson presented comments.

Reopening of County Government

County Manager Lieberman presented the above item.

Mrs. Lieberman stated that County operations will remain as they are currently through Phase 1. During Phase 2 a rotating schedule of staff will be developed. Services will be provided by appointment only to avoid crowded lobbies. Cloth mask have been secured for employees and disinfectant supplies for offices and vehicles have been secured. Park will remain open with limited uses and Poe Springs will not be reopened at this time due to the crowds it attracts. No restrooms will be available and playgrounds will not be open.

2. Syringe Exchange Program 20-0196

Fiscal Consideration: None

Recommended Action: Authorize County Attorney to develop an Ordinance on the Syringe Exchange Program and present in a Public Hearing

Health Department Director Paul Myers, Community Support Services Director Claudia Tuck, Gay Koehler-Sides, Olgert Bardhi, and Austin Spitz presented the above item.

Commissioner Cornell moved to authorize County Attorney to develop an Ordinance on the Syringe Exchange Program and present in a Public Hearing. The motion carried 5-0.

No public comments were taken on this item. Public Comments will be taken at the Public Hearing for adoption of the program.

3. Community Agency Partnership Program (CAPP) Presentation and Policy Discussion 20-0334

Fiscal Consideration: N/A

Recommended Action: Hear presentation and discuss various policy implications CAPP Policy

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Assistant County Manager Carl Smart and Community Agency Partnership Program Manager Cindy Bishop presented the above item.

Commissioner Byerly, Commissioner Wheeler, Commissioner Chestnut, Chair Hutchinson, Commissioner Byerly, Assistant County Manager Carl Smart, Community Support Services Director Claudia Tuck, Commissioner Cornell, and Commissioner Byerly presented comments.

4. Mental Health Issues, Trends, and Opportunities presentation and related policy discussion 20-0290
Fiscal Consideration: N/A
Recommended Action: Hear presentation and discuss related policy opportunities.

Assistant County Manager Carl Smart, Community Support Services Assistant Director Tom Tonkavich, Diversion Resource Coordinator Stuart Wegener presented the above item.

Commissioner Cornell, Commissioner Wheeler, Chair Hutchinson, Mr. Tonkavich, Chair Hutchinson, and Commissioner Wheeler presented comments.

5. Rural and Agricultural Comprehensive Plan policies: Follow up to previous Commission discussion and direction of draft changes to policies on Rural Clustered Subdivisions and Rural Subdivision internal road paving requirements. 20-0348
Fiscal Consideration: N/A
Recommended Action: Receive presentation and provide direction on draft changes to the Rural and Agricultural Policies of the Comprehensive Plan and authorize advertisements of public hearings by the Local Planning Agency and the County Commission.

Principal Planner Ken Zeichner and Interim EPD Director Stephen Hofstetter presented the above item.

Commissioner Byerly, Commissioner Cornell, Chair Hutchinson, Commissioner Cornell Ken Zeichner recommendation, Commissioner Byerly request language to define when the management of the land transfers to the HOA.

Commissioner Cornell, Chair Hutchinson

Commissioner Byerly moved to accept the changes and modifications proposed by staff with the following amendments:

1. Section 6.2.12 (c)1

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c. Permitted and Prohibited Uses.

1. Permitted uses in the open space area are natural resource conservation areas, non-intensive agriculture for food production including community gardens, farms, and orchards, non-intensive silviculture consistent with (3) below, and common open space, resource-based recreation uses which maintain the undeveloped area in a natural state, permeable stormwater facilities consistent with Stormwater Element Policy 5.1.11, community energy systems, and common water supply systems and common septic system drainfields. Agricultural uses such as larger scale food production, livestock, and equestrian-related uses may be permitted subject to performance standards required in management plans in 6.2.12(e)(3). ~~A residential unit used as a homestead just prior to the creation of the clustered subdivision can continue to be used as a homestead within the open space area and not counted toward the total number of units allowed in the rural-clustered subdivision.~~
2. That in 6.2.12 (e)1 that a stipulation that in the land development regulations a mechanism for transfer of ownership and maintenance responsibility from the landowner or developer to the homeowners association will be spelled out as some percentage of lots sold or built upon whichever staff is more comfortable with. The intent is for staff to develop the language in the appropriate Policy Section.
3. Staff is authorized to make the appropriate advertisements.

Commissioner Wheeler, Commissioner Byerly, and Chair Hutchinson presented comments.

No citizens called into to comment on the item.

The motion carried 5-0.

Closing Comments

Public Comment

A Citizen, Mark van Soestbergen, Anthony Johnson, County Manager Lieberman, Nicole Patel, Nicole Babchuk, and Jon Samborski presented comments.

Commission Comment

Town of Tioga Speed Limit

Commissioner Cornell advised that he forward an email he received regarding the dog being hit on SW 8th Avenue in Town of Tioga and had requested staff provide a report on the matter.

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Deputy County Manager Harriott presented the results of the speed limit study. Mr. Harriott stated that the 85% percentile study showed most drives are following the speed limit. There was on section that should the 85th percentile speed study that the limit was being exceeded. Mr. Harriot stated that the study would justify lowering the speed limit to 35 mph. Signage that displays a drives speed and enhanced crosswalks would be an option as well.

Commissioner Cornell moved to lower the speed limit to 35 mph and investigating other radar/speed safety signs and crosswalk options as soon as possible.
2nd Byerly

Commissioner Byerly, Commissioner Cornell, and Chair Hutchinson presented comments.

The motion carried 5-0.

SWAG Center

Commissioner Cornell requested that the County IT Department assist the SWAG Center with a camera system for the facility.

By consensus the Board directed staff to work with SWAG on a camera system.

Unemployment System

Commissioner Cornell stated that the City of Gainesville has a grant program to assist the unemployed. He stated that what the County could do is help process unemployment applications for the State Unemployment System.

311 not accessible

Commissioner Wheeler stated that the Turkey Creek area still has issues with connecting to the County 311 help line.

Signage for mask

Commissioner Wheeler inquired if the County is willing to require the signage for wearing mask as businesses. Ms. Wheeler stated that it appears the City of Gainesville is more strictly enforcing the requirements. She expressed concerns regarding customers with medical conditions being forced to wear a mask and thinks the County needs to do a better job communicating the exempts to establishments.

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County Attorney Torres advised that the rules for Quasi-Judicial Hearings moving forward. There will be hearings coming up on the Board's Agenda.

There being no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 6:38 P.M.