

Thursday, February 20, 2020 – 9:00 A.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;, Commissioner Charles S. Chestnut IV,
Commissioner Ken Cornell, and Commissioner Marihelen Wheeler

ABSENT: Vice Chair Mike Byerly

ALSO PRESENT: County Manager Michele Lieberman, County Attorney Sylvia Torres,
Deputy County Manager James Harriot, Clerk J.K. “Jess: Irby, Esq.,
Chief Financial Officer Todd Hutchinson, and Deputy Clerk Steve
Donahey

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Cornell and Chair Hutchinson presented comments.

Commissioner Cornell moved adoption of the agenda in the following order:

- Discussion on the Administrative Complaint Policy
- Whistle-blower Ordinance
- Local Identification
- Kabat Letter

The motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Byerly absent.

Items for Discussion

1. Discussion on the Administrative Complaint Policy, Whistle-blower Ordinance and Recent Complaint 20-0178

Fiscal Consideration: N/A

Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution 20-XX (Administrative Complaint Policy) and authorize advertisement of Whistle-blower Ordinance for consideration for adoption at a public hearing.

Discuss recent complaint.

County Attorney Sylvia Torres presented the above item.

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Commissioner Cornell moved adoption of Resolution 20-08 the Administrative Complaint Policy. The motion carried 4-0.

Whistle-blower Ordinance

County Attorney Sylvia Torres presented that above item.

Commissioner Cornell moved to authorize the advertisement of the Whistle-blower Ordinance.

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

The motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Byerly absent.

Local Identification Card

Commissioner Wheeler presented the above item.

Commissioner Cornell and Commissioner Chestnut presented comments.

By consensus, the Resolution will remain on the next Regular Agenda.

Kabat Letter

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

Commissioner Cornell moved to refer the Kabat Letter to the County Attorney's Office for an investigation of the matter.

Meg Niederhofer, Bob Cohen, Commissioner Cornell, and Commissioner Chestnut presented comments.

The motion carried 4-0.

Leonard Perry Complaint

Chair Hutchinson advised that he has received a complaint from Mr. Perry in Court Services.

Commissioner Cornell moved to investigate the Perry Letter allegations.

County Manager Lieberman, County Attorney Torres,

The motion was withdrawn.

Closing Comments

Public Comment

Chair Hutchinson recognized Meg Niederhofer who presented comments to the Board.

Commission Comment

Event Center Downtown

Commissioner Cornell moved the following:

1. That if County is given the opportunity to discuss with City staff any event center options they should meet and bring an update to the Board.
2. Direct County staff to distribute the City of Gainesville CRA report with an analysis to the Board.

Communications Coordinator Mark Sexton presented comments.

The motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Chestnut expressed concerns regarding the discussions with the City of Gainesville regarding an event center at the 8th Avenue location and now to learn it is not in the CRA plans is troubling.

Commissioner Chestnut Health Concerns

Commissioner Chestnut expressed appreciation for all the thoughts, prayers, and support expressed regarding his recent health episode at a Commission Meeting. He stated that the medication issue has been resolved and he is feeling much better.

Commissioner Cornell, Commissioner Chestnut, Chair Hutchinson, County Manager Lieberman, and Chief Harold Theus presented comments.

Camp McConnell

Commissioner Wheeler stated that next Wednesday Camp McConnell will be open for interested parties to visit and discuss possible uses for the park.

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Charter Review Commission

County Attorney Torres advised the Board that the Charter Review Commission Attorney has advised the Commission to not have a Joint Meeting with the County Commission at this time. There are scheduling issues with both the Counsel and the Commission during the day.

The recommendation would be to schedule for an evening Joint Meeting at the Health Department for a future date to accommodate scheduling issues.

Children's Trust

Commissioner Cornell announced that the Governor has appointed the remaining Children's Trust Board. Lee Pinkoson is the new Chair and the Board has had their first meeting with full attendance.

Assistant County Attorney Bob Swain presented comments regarding the terms on Children's Trust appointees.

There being no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 A.M.