

Tuesday, August 3, 2021 – 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 Regular Meeting.

**PRESENT:** Chair Ken Cornell; Vice Chair Marihelen Wheeler, Commissioner Mary Alford, Commissioner Charles S. Chestnut IV, and Commissioner Anna Prizzia

**ALSO PRESENT:** County Manager Michele Lieberman, Assistant County Attorney Bob Swain, and Deputy Clerk Steve Donahey

Approval of Agenda

**Commissioner Wheeler moved** adoption of the agenda. The motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Chestnut out of the room.

2<sup>nd</sup> Wheeler

Items for Discussion

1. Discussion of County's COVID Policies 21-0734

**Fiscal Consideration:** N/A

**Recommended Action:** Have a discussion.

Fire Chief Harold Theus presented updated COVID statistics for the County.

Commissioner Chestnut entered at 1:40 P.M.

Commissioner Alford, Chair Cornell, and Commissioner Prizzia presented comments.

County Manager Lieberman stated that Alachua County will offer the public service announcements regarding vaccination to the surrounding county for their use.

County Manager Lieberman presented the County proposed response to the recent COVID surge.

County Manager's employee policies:

- County controlled buildings will require a mask to enter.
- Employees will have the choice to vaccinate or not.
- Fully vaccinated employs will be asked to provide proof of vaccination or they will be treated as unvaccinated.

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- All employees will be asked to wear a mask indoors at all times unless eating, sleeping, or drinking.
- Unvaccinated employees will be required to wear a mask at all times indoors and outdoors unless eating, sleeping, or drinking. They will be required to get tested weekly on their first day back to work of the week.
- No travel at the County's expense will be permitted for unvaccinated employees.
- A one week leave at County expense will be permitted for those who test positive for COVID that have been vaccinated. This leave will not be provided to unvaccinated employees.
- In person staff meetings are discouraged unless necessary for business purposes. ZOOM is to be used for meetings. No non business gatherings shall take place.

Ms. Lieberman stated that this will be an interim step and monitored for effectiveness. If the steps are not effective then the County may pursue mandatory vaccination. Exceptions have to be made for ADA accommodations, accommodations based on a doctor's note, and sincerely held religious beliefs.

Those who simply refuse to follow the policies will be disciplined under the County's disciplinary policies.

Commissioner Prizzia, Commissioner Chestnut, Commissioner Alford, Assistant County Attorney Swain, Chair Cornell, Commissioner Alford, Commissioner Prizzia, and Assistant County Attorney Bob Swain presented comments.

Commissioner Chestnut exited at 2:14 p.m.

Public Comment

Chair Cornell recognized Tanya Silva and Matthew Ruby who presented comments to the Board.

Commissioner Alford presented comments.

2. County Commission Redistricting - Update and Policy Discussion 21-0438

**Fiscal Consideration:** N/A

**Recommended Action:** Hear a presentation on County Commission Redistricting, and provide direction to Staff as needed.

Transportation Planning Manager Chris Dawson presented the above item.

Commissioner Chestnut entered at 2:38 p.m.

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Commissioner Alford and Chair Cornell presented comments.

#### Public Comment

Chair Cornell recognized Nathan Skop who presented comments to the Board.

Commissioner Chestnut and Chair Cornell presented comments.

3. FY22 Budget Development Meeting - General Government and Budget and Fiscal Services 21-0682

**Fiscal Consideration:** Accept or modify the proposed budget for the General Government (County Attorney, County Manager, Human Resources, Communications, Commission Services), and Budget and Fiscal Services.

**Recommended Action:** Provide direction to staff for any adjustment to the County Manager's budget or proposed millage rates.

Assistant County Manager Tommy Crosby presented the above item.

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

A consensus of the Board stated that they wish the Phosphate Mine Assistance funds requested by the County Attorney be funded.

County Manager Lieberman stated that she did not recommend it be funded in the budget. She requested the Board look to the County Reserves or Fund Balance in order to fund this item at a future date.

By consensus, the Board requested that a future Regular Meeting, an item be placed on the agenda to discuss the following topics with the Sheriff and appropriate staff so that the Board may provide comments on areas of concern:

- Body Cams
- Food Service Contract
- Corizon Contract
- Communications for inmates via telephone and video

Staff should request that the food audit be done this year and that the Sheriff provide the contracts in advance for Board review.

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## Closing Comments

## Public Comment

Chair Cornell recognized Nathan Skop who presented comments to the Board.

## Commission Comment

## Economic Development Director

Commissioner Alford stated that she has been approached by many regarding the recent hiring process of this position. She encouraged each Commissioner to meet with him and get to know him. Many of the things that have been said regarding the applicant were not true and she would like for his application be brought back to the Board for reconsideration.

## Phosphate Mine

Commissioner Wheeler stated that she received a call from a citizen requesting the status of the application. She stated that she was unable to provide any detail.

County Manager Lieberman stated that the County will allocate the funding to support the legal efforts and that the Attorney's office is monitoring the matter and will advise the Board of any changes in the status.

## Tropical Storm Elsa Flooding

Commissioner Wheeler stated that a family purchased a home and it was not disclosed to them regarding the flooding issues. They bought and moved into the home and four days later it flooded and they lost everything. She inquired if there is anything the County can do about the property being sold with the issues being disclosed.

Chair Cornell requested that each Commissioner spend time with Public Works Director Gavarrete to discuss the studies the County conducted on the matter in the past and the options available to fix it prior to a Board meeting on the matter.

Commissioner Prizzia inquired if the design standards for the new developments have been sufficient and that the developments are retaining all the storm water they are supposed to.

County Manager Lieberman stated that the plans are reviewed by several departments and that calculations are made to ensure that the design is such to retain the storm water that is required.

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Commissioner Alford stated that the County may need to review the design standards to determine if they are sufficient for the changing weather and inspect historic retention ponds for maintenance issues.

Chair Cornell requested that the design standards and ongoing maintenance be place on an agenda for discussion at a Policy Meeting.

Pine Ridge

Commissioner Prizzia thanked the County staff that has been doing a wonderful job to find solutions to a very complicated situation in this community.

There being no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 P.M.