

August 15, 2023

Alachua Board of County Commissioners
12 SE 1st Street, 2nd Floor
Gainesville, FL 32601

Reference: Request for Second Joint Commission Meeting

Dear Chair Prizzia,

The Newberry City Commission has received your request for another joint meeting to discuss the potential small-scale regional meat processing facility, and we respectfully decline. On behalf of the Commission, we are grateful to the BOCC for recognizing that Newberry cherishes our agricultural heritage and for identifying a potential partnership to invest in that heritage. We are hopeful that the County puts this project forward to the community as a Request for Proposals to see if a potential operator is out there, as that is the last missing piece of this puzzle. Your staff has done an excellent job outlining the benefits of this project, and all that is left is to see if an operator can put forth a viable business plan to manage the facility to achieve the goals you have outlined.

As you have already heard directly from our elected officials and our residents in the two public meetings that we have participated in, and in public interviews, our Commission supports the project, our farmers support the project, and our community supports the project. Therefore, we do not feel there is anything left to say that would warrant another meeting to restate what has already been said. Our enthusiastic support has been evidenced by our willingness to attend meetings to support this project, host meetings to discuss the project with our residents, and of course, you can see how much we support the three proposed projects in our willingness to donate two acres for the County's Fire Training Facility, 10 acres for the recycling center, and 10 acres for the meat processing facility, which were all unanimously agreed upon by our five commissioners. All that our Commission has asked for in return is an acknowledgment that the County's three projects would precipitate an elevated timeline for the safety improvements to County Road 337 from 2030 to 2026.

The Newberry Commission has voted to hold acreage aside for the BOCC's three proposed projects, and the Newberry Commission never fails to do what they agreed to do. The Newberry Commission has already stated its support for all three projects, and the residents and farmers of Newberry have already stated their support. From our perspective, we cannot

state, in any clearer terms, where we stand on this issue. We value your time, and we value the time of our residents. Therefore, we wish to save everyone's valuable time in meetings in which no further points can be made.

Again, thank you for hearing Newberry's concerns about growth and development and our desire to preserve our agricultural heritage. We appreciate that you have listened to us and created a concept designed to help us hold to that heritage. It is, truly, the relationship with the County that we have always hoped for and worked towards, and we will continue to hope that there is an operator out there who can take this concept and turn it into a reality.

Sincerely,



Jordan Marlowe
Mayor

c: Newberry Commission
Mike New, PE, City Manager
S. Scott Walker, Esquire, City Attorney
Michele Lieberman, County Manager
file