

Thursday, May 11, 2023 – 6:00 P.M.  
14450 NE148th Avenue  
Waldo, Florida

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

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

Council Chair Carolyn Wade, Vice Chair Irvin Jackson, Councilmember Shannon Boal, Councilmember Glen Johnson, and Councilmember Rick Pisano

**ABSENT:** Mayor Louie Davis

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

City Manager Kim Worley and City Attorney John K. McPherson

Call To Order

Welcome

Introduction

Council Chair, Carolyn Wade, City of Waldo

Chair, Anna Prizzia, Alachua County Commission

Adoption of the Agenda

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

2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Chestnut

**City Commissioner Boal moved** adoption of the agenda. The motion carried 5-0.

Items For Discussion

2. Alachua County Tree Planting Program and Interlocal Agreements Update  
[23-0805](#)

**Recommended Action:** No action required. For information only.

**Fiscal Consideration:** N/A

**Strategic Guide:** N/A

Conservation Lands Manager Andi Christman and County Arborist Lacy Holtzworth presented the above item.

Ms. Christman stated that the County is looking for opportunities to partner with agencies to find locations to plant trees. If the City of Archer has any suitable locations for tree plantings the County would appreciate being able to plant trees on the site.

1. Infrastructure Surtax Update

1A. Conservation Lands [23-0804](#)

**Recommended Action:** No action required. For information only.

**Fiscal Consideration:** N/A

**Strategic Guide:** N/A

Conservation Lands Manager Andi Christman presented the above item.

Ms. Christman displayed maps that showed the lands that have been purchased, those that are on the acquisition list, and the State wild life corridor that are a priority for land purchases. She advised that this cycle will make the conservation of farm land a priority through the purchase of conservation easements which will pay the landowners for the development rights on the land but allow it to continue to be used for agricultural purposes. The Hitchcock Ranch is a great example of this practice. The tax is expected to raise \$150,000,000 for conservation lands and \$37,500,000 for the County active parks.

Chair Prizzia, City Manager Worley, Commissioner Cornell, City Commissioner Jackson, and City Commissioner Boal presented comments.

1B. Parks and Open Space [23-0807](#)

**Recommended Action:** No action required. For information only.

**Fiscal Consideration:** N/A

**Strategic Guide:** N/A

Assistant County Manager Peebles presented the above item.

Mrs. Peebles informed the City of the Parks Master Plan process that the County undertook and displayed the results of the plan to the City showing them the plans for the City of Waldo area to meet the needs of the community.

Commissioner Cornell, Chair Prizzia, Commissioner Wheeler, City Manager Worley, and City Commissioner Boal presented comments.

1C. Roads [23-0808](#)

**Recommended Action:** No action required. For information only.

**Fiscal Consideration:** Funding Sources include General Fund Transfer, Infrastructure Surtax (70% of  $\frac{1}{2}$ ), Grants, 5 Cent Local Option Gas Tax (ELM Nickel), Impact Fees, and Multi Modal Transportation

**Strategic Guide:** N/A

Public Works Director Ramon Gavarrete presented the above item.

Mr. Gavarrete explained the County's 10 year plan towards road pavement management. He advised that a software called AgileAssets has been employed to help maximize the effectiveness of the revenues spent and that inequity has been factored into the formula to help address some of the historical failings of road funding. He advised that some bonds the County issued for road paving will be paid off in 2027. The staff is looking to reissue bonds in 2028 to make an additional \$9,000,000 in funds available for road projects.

City Commissioner Boal, City Commissioner Jackson, Commissioner Cornell, Commissioner Alford, City Commissioner Jackson, Chair Prizzia, City Manager Worley, and a citizen presented comments.

3. Lake Alto Project Update and Opportunities to Collaborate [23-0809](#)

**Recommended Action:** No action required. For information only.

**Fiscal Consideration:** N/A

**Strategic Guide:** N/A

Conservation Lands Manager Andi Christman presented the above item.

4. Economic Development for the East Side of Alachua County [23-0806](#)

**Recommended Action:** No action required. For information only.

**Fiscal Consideration:** NA

**Strategic Guide:** N/A

Economic Development & Food Systems Manager Sean McLendon presented the above item.

Mr. McLendon discussed the Eco Loop Project off of Waldo Road to attract business to the site. The first tenant is currently negotiating a lease with the County. It is expected that they will invest \$7,000,000 on a facility on the site. There are other applications pending. The site is a 37 acre property.

Thursday, May 11, 2023 – 6:00 P.M.

He further advised the Boards on the Army Reserve Equipment Site that will be under construction soon at the old County Fairgrounds site just south of the Gainesville Airport. The site will be used to maintain and repair equipment in the area. There will be opportunities for local citizens to be trained to maintain equipment and gain employment. There will be 110 jobs associated with the site that are not military jobs. They are open to civilians.

There are currently talks under way with the Alachua County School Board and Santa Fe College to train the diesel mechanics that will be needed for the site and create a pipeline of employment for local citizens. The County and the City of Gainesville are also in need of diesel mechanics as well.

Commissioner Cornell, City Commissioner Jackson, City Commissioner Boal, and Chair Prizzia presented comments.

5. Waldo Road Bike/Multiuse Trail [23-0810](#)  
**Recommended Action:** No action required. For information only.  
**Fiscal Consideration:** N/A  
**Strategic Guide:** N/A

Small Cities and Towns Tourism Grant Program

Tourism Manager Jessica Hurov presented the above item.

Ms. Hurov advised that the currently has a \$10,000 tourism grant available for use. There is no matching funds required for the grant. The current grant must be used by September 30, 2023. In October 2023 another \$10,000 grant will become available. She stated that 25% of the grant must be used to market the event. The remaining 75% of the grant can be used to run the event.

She also stated that the Tourism Department has resources to track the success of advertising and performing the advertising that should the City need any assistance they can contact her department.

Commissioner Cornell, City Commissioner Jackson, Chair Prizzia, City Commissioner Boal, Commissioner Wheeler, and a citizen presented comments.

Waldo Road Greenway Extension

Transportation Planning Manager Chris Dawson presented the above item.

Thursday, May 11, 2023 – 6:00 P.M.

Mr. Dawson stated that the design cost for a 90% design would be approximately \$600,000. The cost is high because of the many drainage and wetland issues that would have to be addressed. If the design work is done he feels the project would be competitive for State funding.

Commissioner Cornell, City Commissioner Boal, and Chair Prizzia presented comments.

#### Public Comment

Julie Stokes and Commissioner Alford presented comments.

A citizen presented comments regarding a Florida Department of Transportation flooding study that was performed. She stated that the study stop before her property which has flooding issues and a ditch that needs to be maintained. She would like to know who owns the ditch and is responsible for the maintenance.

Chair Prizzia stated that she would like to get her contact information so that she can connect her with the appropriate parties to find the answers to her questions.

#### Commission General Comments and Information Discussion

#### County Commission Comment

Commissioner Chestnut stated that he is excited to hear the plans the City has for the future and looks forward to working with the City in the future.

City Commissioner Jackson thanked the County for visiting and she will definitely be in contact the County to work on projects in the future.

Commissioner Wheeler stated that the County is focused on helping bring opportunities to the eastside of the County and would truly like to work with the City as much as possible.

Commissioner Cornell thanked the Citizens who attended this evening. He stated that citizen participation is vital to the progress of the County.

Commissioner Alford stated that she has fond memories from her childhood in Waldo Florida. She stated that there seems to be some exciting projects planned for the area. She would like to see some more restaurants within the City.

Chair Prizzia thanked the City for hosting the meeting and thinks the partnership with the County will provide some results in the near future.

Thursday, May 11, 2023 – 6:00 P.M.

City Commission Comment

Council Chair Wade stated that this meeting has been a very positive meeting and she is hopeful for the future of Waldo.

Adjourn

There being no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 P.M.