



Alachua County Special Meeting Minutes

August 28, 2023, 3:00 PM

Present: Vice Chair Mary Alford, Commissioner Charles S. Chestnut, IV, Commissioner Ken Cornell, Chair Anna Prizzia, Commissioner Marihelen Wheeler

A. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m.

The Boards observed a moment of silence for the victims of gun violence in Alachua County and Jacksonville, Florida.

B. Welcome

C. Introduction

1. Mayor Harvey L. Ward, Jr., City of Gainesville
2. Chair Prizzia, Alachua County Commission

D. Adoption of the Agenda

Commissioner Alford moved adoption as amended. The motion carried 5-0.

2nd Commissioner Cornell

Chair Prizzia recognized Tamara Robbins and Karen Herrington who presented comments to the Board.

City Commissioner Duncan-Walker moved adoption of the agenda with the addition of Public Comments at the end of the agenda. The motion carried 4-0 with City Commissioners Book, Chestnut, and Saco out of the room.

2nd City Commissioner Eastman

Communications Coordinator Mark Sexton presented comments regarding the approaching Hurricane.

City Commissioner Cynthia Chestnut entered at 3:10 p.m.

Chair Prizzia, Commissioner Alford, Mayor Ward, and City Commissioner Chestnut presented comments.

E. Items For Discussion

1. Homeless Services Funding Gaps/Needs - 23-00509

City Manager Curry and Executive Director of GRACE John DeCarmine presented the above item.

City Manager Curry stated that currently fund in the proposed budget is \$1,050,000. The leaves a budget shortfall of \$450,000.

Mr. DeCarmine stated that the total funding request from GRACE is \$500,000. The outreach program has shortfall of \$350,000 and will cease to operate after November 30, 2023 without additional funding. The Shelter is short \$150,000 which is requested to be restored. The shelter funding would bring 10 beds back into service.

Chair Prizzia, Commissioner Cornell, City Commissioner Saco via ZOOM, Mayor Ward, Chair Prizzia, City Commissioner Chestnut, Community Support Director Claudia Tuck, Commissioner Alford, Chair Prizzia, Commissioner Chestnut, City Commissioner Eastman, City Commissioner Willits, Commissioner Wheeler, Community Support Services Director Tuck, Commissioner Alford, Mayor Ward, City Commissioner Book entered at 3:45 p.m., Commissioner Cornell, Chair Prizzia, Commissioner Chestnut, GRACE Director Jon DeCarmine, Commissioner Wheeler, and Commissioner Alford presented comments.

Commissioner Alford moved to fund GRACE at a \$500,000 level with \$150,000 to restore housing and \$350,000 to fund the street outreach program and direct staff to return to the Board with recommendations and a financial analysis of what a future continuum of care would look like if the County were to take it over. Failed for a lack of second.

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

Commissioner Cornell moved to provide to City of Gainesville or GRACE Marketplace a one-time \$150,000.00 of stop gap funding to bring the total GRACE funding up to \$1,500,000. Staff is to bring back a recommendation at the September 5, 2023 meeting for an additional

\$350,000 for Street Outreach funding for next year and work on a transition of the service, an outsource to the city, or a County take over with the City of Gainesville staff and GRACE Marketplace staff.

2nd Commissioner Wheeler

Public Comment

Bobby Mermer, Joy Glanzer, Kimber Tuff, a citizen, a citizen, a citizen, a citizen, Kali Blount, Jo Beaty, Gordon Bernstein, Ramin, Mike Rayburn, Commissioner Cornell, and Mayor Ward presented comments.

Commissioner Alford exited 4:47 p.m.

The motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Alford out of the room.

Commissioner Alford entered at 4:48 p.m.

2. Gun Violence Prevention - 23-00507

City of Gainesville Chief Inclusion Officer Yvette Carter presented the above item.

Mayor Ward exited at 4:58 pm

Commissioner Alford, Mayor Ward, City Commissioner Book, City Commissioner Duncan-Walker, City Commissioner Chestnut, Commissioner Wheeler, Commissioner Cornell, City Commissioner Book, Children's Trust Executive Director Marsha Kiner, Chair Prizzia, Commissioner Cornell, City Commissioner Duncan-Walker, Interim City Clerk Kristen Bryant, City Commissioner Willet, Commissioner Alford, Commissioner Cornell, and Chair Prizzia presented comments.

City Commissioner Chestnut exited the meeting at 5:07 p.m.

City Commissioner Duncan moved to convene a safety task force with the goal of including an office of neighborhood safety. The motion failed for lack of a second.

City Commissioner Willet moved that the city continue to set up a task force in the vein of neighborhood safety comprised of community partners and stakeholders with Santa Fe College around gun violence with the intent to study the office of neighborhood safety as one possible solution.

2nd City Commissioner Eastman

Commissioner Alford moved to work with the city to set up a task force in the vein of neighborhood safety comprised of community partners and

stakeholders with Santa Fe College around gun violence with the intent to study the office of neighborhood safety as one possible solution. .

2nd Commissioner Cornell.

Public Comment

Kali Blount, Karen Herrington, Vice President for Student Affairs Naima Brown, Chanay Jackson, Tamara Robbins, Marine Wist, Jasmine Hall, Amanda Goldsmith, Pastor Anderson, a citizen, Keyon Young, Leha Cohen, Robert Manse, Angela Wright, Jo Beatty, Alex Hood, and Matthew Hurst presented comments.

City Commissioner Book, City Manager Cynthia Curry, City Commissioner Eastman, City Commissioner Duncan-Walker, City Manager Curry, City Commissioner Willet, Commissioner Chestnut, City Commissioner Duncan-Walker, Chair Prizzia, and Commissioner Alford presented comments.

Commissioner Cornell moved the substitute motion to direct County staff to work with Santa Fe and hopefully the City of Gainesville staff to create a community-based gun violence task force and bring back recommendations for these Boards to consider by November 1, 2023.

2nd Commissioner Chestnut

The motion carried 5-0.

City Commissioner Eastman moved the substitute motion to direct City staff to work with Santa Fe and the County staff to create a community-based gun violence task force and bring back recommendations for these Boards to consider by November 1, 2023.

The motion carried 4-0 with City Commissioner Saco, Mayor Ward and City Commissioner Chestnut out of the room.

City Commissioner Chestnut entered 6:07 p.m.

3. Thelma Bolton Update - 23-00478

City of Gainesville Parks and Recreation Peter McNeese presented the above item.

Chair Prizzia presented comments.

Commissioner Cornell moved that the City of Gainesville reconsider the current direction on the Thelma Bolten Center and consider a partial

restoration instead of a demolition and reconstruction and work with the friends of Thelma Bolten.

2nd Commissioner Alford

City Commissioner Eastman, Commissioner Alford, City Commissioner Book, Chair Prizzia, City of Gainesville Chief Operating Officer Andrew Persons, Commissioner Cornell, City Commissioner Willits, Commissioner Wheeler, and Chair Prizzia presented comments.

Public Comment

Matthew Hurst, Jo Beatty, Melanie Barr, Robert Mounts, Pam Lahav, Paula Stahmer, Betsy Hurst, Kali Blount, Jim Konish, Karen Herrington, Mimi Carr, and Tamara Robbins presented comments.

City Commissioner Willits exited at 7:55 p.m.

City Commissioner Eastman, Commissioner Cornell, City Commissioner Book, Commissioner Wheeler, City Commissioner Duncan-Walker, and Commissioner Alford presented comments.

The motion carried 4-0.

Chair Prizzia exited at 8:00 p.m.

F. Consent Items

1. Joint City/County Housing and Homeless Services Update - 23-00508

The City Commission and Board of County Commissioners review the information provided and ask questions or provide direction as needed.

G. Public Comment

Tamarra Robbins presented comments about trees planted on SW 20th Avenue which are dying or dead in the public right of way.

City Commissioner Book stated that he believes that is in the City of Gainesville and will refer it to staff to check on the situation.

Betsy Hurst and Jo Beatty presented comments.

H. Commission General Comments and Information Discussion

1. County Commission Comment

Commissioner Cornell thanked the commissioners and citizens for being willing to put in a long night. He stated that he wished everything could be resolved by the budget, but a lot was done this evening.

City Commissioner Ducan-Walker stated that she is concerned about letting the public housing to deteriorate. She stated that the community cannot afford to loss housing stock and encouraged both agencies to be active in preserving the housing stock that is currently available.

Commissioner Alford encouraged citizens to be vigilant with the approaching hurricane.

2. City Commission Comment

I. Adjourn

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.