



Alachua County Special Meeting

Minutes

August 22, 2024, 1:30 PM

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

A. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Prizzia moved adoption of the agenda. The motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Cornell out of the room.

2nd Commissioner Chestnut

County Manager Lieberman advised that the Board had requested an item regarding the Mill Creek property in the City of Alachua be on the agenda. She stated that the matter has been continued for a few months in Alachua and staff needs time to prepare the information to have an informed discussion on the matter. It will be brought to the Board at the September 24, 2024, meeting.

Chair Alford recognized Tamara Robbins and Derek Dunlop who presented comments to the Board.

EPD Director Stephen Hoffstetter stated that the matter has many technical aspects to it and staff needs time to review the proposed project to determine mitigation strategies and impacts. The two-day time frame the Board called for was not sufficient to perform the work. He contacted the City of Alachua, and no work can be done prior to the City giving final approval which is a few months out.

B. Items for Discussion

1. FY25 Budget Development Departmental Review 3 and FY25 Budget Development Final Review Staffing Charts, Schedule of Fees, Capital, Improvement Plan, Budget, Millage, Tax Rates, Assessments Finalized - 24-00695

Assistant County Manager Tommy Crosby presented the following items.

Commissioner Cornell entered at 1:42 p.m.

Commission Services & County Attorney

- \$48,000 has been allocated so that each Commissioner will have access to the services of an intern should they request it.
- The County Attorney has no new request and has submitted a continuation budget.

County Manager's Office

- Grant Specialist position has been requested.
- Human Resources has two funded request which are an Executive Director Position and lead software to track FMLA matters.

EPD Request

EPD has seven funded request in the budget

- FTE for a Climate Specialist
- FTE for a Land Senior Planner for Ag lands
- FTE of a Land Preserve Ranger
- Fire Engine
- UTV Trailer
- Commercial Grade Zero Turn Mower
- UTV with Slide in Skid Unit

Lands Conservation Manager Andi Christman presented comments.

Fire Rescue

- FTE for a Senior Fiscal Assistant
- FTE for a Network Specialist
- FTE for a Logistics Captain
- Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Replacement
- Fire Tower Training Center

Fire Chief Harold Theus, Commissioner Prizzia, Commissioner Cornell, Chair Alford, and Commissioner Wheeler presented comments.

Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Emery Gainey and Sheriff's Office Chief Financial Officer Patti Justice presented comments.

Sheriff Gainey stated that the City of Gainesville and Marion County have increased their starting salary to \$60,000 which has put Alachua County at a disadvantage in the recruitment and retainment of new officers. The office currently has 141 vacant positions.

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

Assistant County Manager Crosby stated that he would not recommend increasing base salaries with the lapse salaries as that is one time funding for a continual expense. Mr. Crosby advised that it is estimated to cost \$350,000 to \$400,000 for certified Law Enforcement to raise those making below \$55,000 to the base of \$55,000 without addressing compression issues.

Sheriff's Office Chief Financial Officer Justice stated that she did her calculation for all staff and addressing compression. Sheriff's numbers are as follows:

- \$625,000 for Law Enforcement
- \$100,000 for Court Security
- \$760,000 for Jail staff
- Total \$1,400,000

Commissioner Cornell moved to direct Assistant County Manager Crosby work with the Sheriff to raise base salary for Law Enforcement (from \$53,000 to \$55,000) this year and work with the Sheriff's Department staff to come up with a 2-to-3-year plan that is more in line with the Fire Safety plan over the next two to three years.

2nd Commissioner Chestnut

Commissioner Prizzia moved the substitute motion to direct staff to cover the base salary increase (from (\$53,000 to \$55,000) this year for both Law Enforcement and Corrections Officers and look at the 2-to-3-

year plan for an overall compression study and alignment with all the Public Safety Officers and step plans.

2nd Commissioner Cornell

Chair Alford recognized Tamara Robbins who presented comments to the Board.

The substitute motion carried 5-0.

FTE Increases

- 19 new positions have been requested in this budget

Commissioner Prizzia moved to approve the staffing recommendations.

2nd Commissioner Cornell

Chair Alford recognized Tamara Robbins who presented comments to the Board.

Chair Alford and County Manager Lieberman presented comments.

The motion carried 5-0.

Schedule of Fees

Commissioner Prizzia moved adoption of the Fee Schedule.

2nd Commissioner Cornell

Assistant County Manager Crosby stated that included in the fees as an appendix are the towing fees. He stated that they are not the County's fees but are included since people look to the County fee schedule for the fees.

Chair Alford recognized Tamara Robbins who presented comments to the Board.

The motion carried 5-0.

Capital Improvement Plan

Chair Alford, Commissioner Prizzia, Assistant County Manager Crosby, Facilities Director Travis Parker, Fire Rescue Chief Harold Theus, Commissioner Wheeler, Commissioner Cornell, and County Manager Lieberman presented comments.

Commissioner Cornell moved approval of the capital improvement budget.

2nd Commissioner Wheeler

Chair Alford recognized Tamara Robbins who presented comments to the Board.

The motion carried 5-0.

Update on the Budget Changes

Assistant County Manager Crosby stated that the County Manager proposed budget was \$806.6 million with the amendments made the budget is \$849.9 million.

C. Closing Comments

1. Public Comment

Chair Alford recognized Tamara Robbins, Commissioner Cornell, and Commissioner Prizzia who presented comments.

2. Commission Comment

CAPP Funding & Small Farms Grant Funding

Commissioner Prizzia stated that the Small Farms Grant Funding will be exhausted this year. She would like to see the program continued as it has made a big impact. She would like the Board to discuss the matter in the future.

The Board had discuss raising the CAPP funding from 1% to 2%. With the State cutting funding for the arts and other nonprofits providing core services such as Peaceful Paths she would like the Board to have discussion of the best method to fund these providers of services.

The Board stated that they would like to get a list of the sole source providers and competitive providers to consider funding options for the future.

Election Results

Commissioner Cornell congratulated Chair Alford on her primary win.

City of Hawthorne Climate Summit

Commissioner Prizzia stated that she feels it will be a great event and County staff will be presenting information. They are currently seeking sponsorships which she would like the County to consider. She further

inquired if it needed to be noticed as two or more Commissioners will be present.

County Attorney Torres stated that she will speak to her about the specifics of the event in order to give a legal opinion.

West End Community Engagement

County Manager Lieberman advised that the Community Engagement regarding West End will be coming to the Board the 2nd Meeting in September.

Peaceful Paths Funding

County Manager Lieberman advised that the Peaceful Paths funding will reduce CAPP \$150,000 not \$250,000 as previously stated.

Chair Alford thanked the staff for the wonderful job of providing the necessary information for the Board to make the necessary budget decisions.

D. Adjourn

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:09 p.m.