

Alachua County Local Planning Agency/ Planning Commission Meeting Minutes: September 18, 2024

The Alachua County Planning Commission held a public meeting on September 18, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held **in person**.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Kristen Young, Vice-Chair

Melissa Norman

Barry Rutenberg

Jancie Vinson

Raymond Walsh

Samuel Mutch

Gailine McCaslin

*Kay Abbitt absent*

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Chris Dawson, Principal Planner, Development Services, Growth Management

Ben Chumley, Principal Planner, Comprehensive Planning, Growth Management

Corbin Hanson, Sr. Assistant County Attorney, County Attorney Office

Chief Harold Theus, Fire Rescue, Alachua County

Patricia McAllister, Clerk, Development Services, Growth Management

**Meeting Called to Order:**

**Meeting called to order by Vice-Chair Young at 6:04 p.m.**

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

**Motion** was made by *Commissioner Rutenberg* to **approve** the agenda.

Motion was **seconded** by *Commissioner Walsh*.

**Action:** The **agenda** was **approved** with a vote of **7-0**.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: August 21, 2024

**Motion** was made by *Commissioner Mutch* to approve the minutes from the August 21, 2024 meeting.

Motion was **seconded** by *Commissioner Rutenberg*.

**Action:** The **minutes** for the August 21, 2024 Local Planning Agency and Planning Commission meeting were **approved** with a vote of **7-0**.

3. LEGISLATIVE ITEM:

**Z24-000005 (Comprehensive Plan Text Amendment)**

County-initiated text amendment to the Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Capital Improvements Element to revise Policy 1.2.5(a) by clarifying the Level of Service guidelines for fire service response time.

**Staff Presentation:**

*Ben Chumley* presented this application. *Mr. Chumley* stated this application is a County-initiated amendment to the Comprehensive Plan to clarify Level of Service Guidelines for fire response times. *Mr. Chumley* stated the proposed policy revision to the Capital Improvements Element for Policy 1.2.5 of the Alachua County Comprehensive Plan is to clarify that the existing guidelines apply to travel time, and do not include alarm handling time and turnout time. He stated that this change is based on

NFPA standards and recommended by County Fire Rescue staff. Staff recommend transmittal of this application for state review with bases as noted in the staff report.

Discussion: Planning commissioners had questions and comments regarding current and future response travel time for rural and urban areas. It was noted that Fire Rescue is kicking off its Master Plan process which will look in more depth at the Level of Service Guidelines regarding response times and percentages. Brief discussion of how water is transported to each fire with the fire trucks and how the water supply is either on site (fire hydrants) or brought to a fire with the fire tanker trucks. Current travel time for calls within Urban Cluster is 6 minutes for 80% of all emergency calls and for rural areas is 12 minutes for 80% of all emergency calls within a 12-month period.

*Chris Dawson* mentioned that there are mitigation strategies for water supply that are analyzed when subdivisions are built such as homes with fire sprinklers or the distance a tanker truck is located to the site of the subdivision or could be a water source on site. *Mr. Dawson* stated that the type of emergency call and time of day also factor into the response times and these are guidelines and not standards. *Chief Theus* stated the guidelines may be used to determine where new fire stations would be needed or may be necessary.

**Motion** was made by *Commissioner Walsh* to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners **approval for the transmittal** of Comprehensive Plan Amendment Z24-000005 to state agencies.

Motion was **seconded** by *Commissioner Vinson*.

Public Comments: None

**Action: Z24-000005** was **recommended for approval for transmittal** to the Board of County Commissioners with a vote of **6-1** (*Commissioner Mutch* was opposed.)

4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

*Commissioner Vinson* nominated Commissioner Walsh as Chair and Commissioner Norman as Vice-Chair.

With no other nominations, *Commissioner Vinson* **motioned** Commissioner Walsh as Chair and Commissioner Norman as Vice-Chair.

Motion was **seconded** by *Commissioner Mutch*.

**Action:** Commissioner Walsh was approved as Chair and Commissioner Norman was **approved** as Vice-Chair with a **unanimous vote of 7-0**.

5. ATTENDANCE REPORT: Distributed in packets. No attendance issues.

6. PLANNING COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:

*Chris Dawson* mentioned we do have items for the next PC meeting in October 2024.

**Meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.**