



Alachua County Special Meeting Minutes

March 24, 2025, 1:00 PM

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

A. Call To Order

Chair Chestnut called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

B. Welcome

C. Introduction

1. Harvey Ward Jr., Mayor, City of Gainesville
2. Charles Chestnut, Chair, Alachua County Commission

D. Adoption of the Agenda

Commissioner Wheeler moved to allow Commissioner Cornell to participate remotely due to extraordinary circumstances. The motion carried 3-0 with Commissioner Cornell and Commissioner Prizzia out of the room.

2nd Commissioner Alford

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

2nd Commissioner Wheeler

City Commissioner Ingle moved adoption of the agenda. The motion carried 6-0 with City Commissioner Duncan-Walker absent.

2nd City Commissioner Willis

Commissioner Prizzia entered at 1:03 p.m.

E. Items For Discussion

1. Annual GCRA Report

GCRA Director Rick Smith presented the above item.

Commissioner Alford, Commissioner Prizzia, City Mayor Ward, Commissioner Cornell, Downtown Ambassador Operation Manager Khalief Gamble, Downtown Ambassador Outreach Coordinator Eric Davis, City Commissioner Willits, Commissioner Wheeler, Chair Chestnut, City Commissioner Chestnut, and City Commissioner Book presented comments.

City Commissioner Book exited at 2:04 p.m.

City Commissioner Eastman presented comments.

F. Public Comment

Chair Chestnut recognized Kali Blount, Donald Sheppard, and Patricia Lee who presented comments to the Board.

G. Commission General Comments and Information Discussion

1. County Commission Comment

World Masters

Commissioner Wheeler stated that she spent Saturday welcoming people at the World Masters Event. She stated that the County has learned several things that need to improve to host an event like this. Since many of the participants are from out of the country they were used to a great public transit system. The County is definitely lacking in this area, and it has made it difficult for the participants to see the entire community. She thinks in the future there needs to be better coordination between the County and the City when hosting similar events.

Mrs. Wheeler further stated that every morning at 10:00 a.m. at Celebration Pointe they hand out the awards and they would love to have local officials volunteer to present them.

Eastside Urgent Care Update

Commissioner Prizzia requested an update on the eastside urgent care clinic that both the City and County invested in with the University of Florida at the next Joint Meeting.

Commissioner Prizzia would also like to have an update from Meridian Behavioral Health central receiving facility. She would like to see the

statistics on the program as well as any issues that may need to be worked out.

2. City Commission Comment

City Commissioner Chestnut thanked the committee for being awarded an opportunity to host the World Masters. She stated that if the County has another event such as this the City will definitely work with the County to eliminate some of the difficulties that were discovered. She further stated that the eastside health clinic has had such demand that they have added primary care services as well.

City Commissioner Willits stated that the city amended the SRO Ordinance to make it less restrictive to facilitate a boarding house model of affordable housing.

H. Adjourn

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:42 p.m.