



Alachua County Special Meeting

Minutes

May 12, 2025, 7:00 PM

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

A. Call To Order

Mayor Marden called the meeting to order at 7:04pm

B. Welcome

Pastor Ian Campbell, Newberry United Methodist Church provided the invocation
Newberry City Commissioner Mark Clark led the pledge of allegiance.

C. Introduction

1. Tim Marden, Mayor, City of Newberry
2. Charles Chestnut, Chair, Alachua County Commission

D. Adoption of the Agenda

Commissioner Wheeler moved approval of the agenda as printed.

2nd Commissioner Alford

The motion carried 4-0 with Chair Chestnut not present.

Newberry Commissioner Clark moved approval of the agenda as printed.

2nd Commissioner Long

The motion carried 4-0.

The invocation was provided by Pastor Ian Campbell.

To approve the Agenda.

E. Items For Discussion

1. CRA Presentation - 25-00312

Newberry Community Redevelopment Agency Coordinator Sarmistha presented the above item.

Newberry CRA Formed in 2021 - Total area approx 694 acres

Total FY 24-25 Budget: \$1,0654,301.20

Base Year taxable value (2020): \$36,079,104

Current Year taxable value: \$86,241,984

Current Year tax increment value: \$50,162,880

Ongoing/Future Projects:

- Facade Grant Program
- Barry Park Beautification
- Hitchcock Pond Landscaping
- Seaboard Drive Land Acquisition
- Implement Downtown Strategy plan
- Mural/Community Art Project
- Christmas Decorations (Annual)
- NW 260th Street Construction
- SW 254th Reconstruction
- Festivals

The Commission had a brief discussion regarding the CRA presentation.

2. Proposed County Use of City Buildings Discussion

Interim City Manager Dallas Lee presented brief remarks regarding the above item.

Commissioner Wheeler, Commissioner Prizzia, Commissioner Cornell, Mayor Marden, and City Commissioner Clark presented comments.

3. Road Paving Plan - SW 15th Ave - 25-00414

Jamie Jones, CPM, Assistant Newberry City Manager for Public Works and Utilities presented the above item.

Commissioner Cornell, Commissioner Wheeler, Commissioner Alford, Commissioner Prizzia, Commissioner Cornell, City Mayor Marden, Public Works Director Ramon Gavarrete, City Manager Jaime Jones, City Manager Malone, City Commissioner Clark, City Mayor Marden, and Public Works Director Ramon Gavarrete presented comments.

Commissioner Alford moved to direct county staff to look into the SW 15th Roadway proposal, including land acquisition costs. Discuss the findings with the City of Newberry and bring back more information to the Board.

2nd Commissioner Wheeler

The motion carried 4-0 with Chair Chestnut not present.

Public Comment

Commissioner Cornell recognized Jessica Kerry who presented comments.

Chair Chestnut entered the meeting at 7:36pm

4. Phoenix Award Presentation

Newberry Fire Chief Jason Lyman presented the above item.

Mayor Marden and Chair Chestnut distributed the Phoenix Awards to the following individuals:

- 911 Telecommunicator Cherie Muse
- 911 Communications Supervisor Jennifer Frohberg
- Deputy Adam Gargulak, Alachua County Sheriff's Office
- Deputy Christopher Drake, Alachua County Sheriff's Office
- Firefighter/EMT Nicholas Alfieri, Alachua County Fire Rescue
- Rescue Lieutenant Michael Reddig, Alachua County Fire Rescue
- Firefighter/Paramedic Kristy Langston, Newberry Fire Department
- Firefighter/Paramedic Louis Derosie, Newberry Fire Department
- Driver/Operator Amby Cason, Newberry Fire Department
- Lieutenant Justin Asbell, Newberry Fire Department

Commissioner Cornell presented comments.

F. Public Comment

Chair Chestnut recognized Janice Smith and Tina Certain who presented comments.

G. Commission General Comments and Information Discussion

1. County Commission Comment

Commissioner Prizzia stated she would like to thank the public safety officials and the city of Newberry for recognizing them and everything that they do. Also thank you to the city of Newberry for having the county visit and for all of the collaborations.

Commissioner Alford also thanked the city of Newberry for having the county commission out and stated that the county is doing everything they can to get the roads the attention they need. Commissioner was very pleased and happy to see the public safety officials recognized.

Commissioner Wheeler stated she would like to thank the city for hosting the meeting. Congratulations to the new Mayor and the new City Manager as well, commissioner looks forward to working with them all.

Commissioner Cornell appreciates all of the collaboration between the two and he thanks the city for welcoming the county. A lot of road pavement will be done in the next coming 10 years. Commissioner Cornell stated the county has a plan and is trying to supplement that with grants as best as possible.

Chair Chestnut thanked everyone for welcoming the County into the city of Newberry and congratulated everyone on their new roles. He believes the fire departments and the rescue staff are doing a excellent job in the community.

2. City Commission Comment

Commissioner Long stated he would like to say thank the county for coming out and would like to thank all of the first responders for everything they do. It was a great meeting.

Commissioner Clark would like to thank everyone for attending the meeting. Commissioner says the Veterans memorial is beautiful and he welcomes everyone to come out at 9:30am for the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Commissioner Coleman said God Bless America and Jesus is Lord.

Mayor Marden said he appreciates the county for attending the meeting and the open ear to try and help the mutual citizens that we both have in the community.

H. Adjourn

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15p.m.

To adjourn the meeting.