



Alachua County Board of County Commissioners

Minutes

September 11, 2025, 5:00 PM

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

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Call to Order

Chair Chestnut called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

C. Approval of Regular Agenda

Commissioner Cornell moved adoption of the agenda as printed. The motion carried 5-0.

2nd Commissioner Alford

D. Announcements

There were no announcements.

E. Public Comment

F. Public Hearings

1. Adopt FY26 Proposed Millage Rates and Tentative Budget Public Hearing after 5:01 PM - 25-00724

The budget script was read for the public.

Chair Chestnut recognized James Carrington, Jackie Casanova, Beatrice Morales, Jo Harben, and Stefania who presented comments to the Board.

Assistant County Manager Crosby presented comments.

Commissioner Cornell moved adoption of Resolution 2025-50 establishing FY 2026 Proposed General County Millage Rates. The motion carried 5-0.

2nd Commissioner Prizzia

Commissioner Alford moved adoption of Resolution 2025-51 adopting changed revenue estimates and the FY 2026 Tentative County Budget. The motion carried 5-0.

2nd Commissioner Cornell

Commissioner Prizzia moved adoption of Resolution 2025-52 establishing FY 2026 Proposed Municipal Services Taxing Unit - Law Enforcement millage rate. The motion carried 5-0.

2nd Commissioner Cornell

Commissioner Cornell moved adoption of Resolution 2025-53 adopting Changed Revenue Estimates and the FY 2026 Tentative Municipal Service Taxing Unit - Law Enforcement Budget. The motion carried 5-0.

2nd Commissioner Wheeler

2. FY26 Sugarfoot Oaks Cedar Ridge Final Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Rates Adoption Hearing - 25-00725

Commissioner Prizzia moved adoption of the Sugarfoot Oaks/Cedar Ridge Special Assessment District Final Non-Ad Valorem Assessments Rates and Final Rate Resolution. The motion carried 5-0.

2nd Commissioner Alford

3. FY26 Stormwater Non Ad Valorem Assessment Final Rate Resolution Adoption Hearing - 25-00726

Commissioner Alford moved adoption of the Stormwater Final Assessment Resolution for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 and authorize the Chair to certify the Stormwater Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Roll to the Tax Collector.

2nd Commissioner Cornell

Chair Chestnut recognized Jackie Casanova who presented comments to the Board.

The motion carried 5-0.

4. FY26 Fire Services Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Final Rate Resolution - 25-00727

Commissioner Wheeler moved to adopt the Fire Service Final Assessment Rate Resolution for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 and authorize the County Manager to certify the Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Roll to the Tax Collector. The motion carried 5-0.

2nd Commissioner Cornell

5. FY26 Solid Waste Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Final Rate Resolution - 25-00728

Commissioner Cornell moved to adopt the Solid Waste Final Assessment Resolution for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 and authorize the Chair to certify the Solid Waste Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Roll to the Tax Collector. The motion carried 5-0.

2nd Commissioner Wheeler

G. Closing Comments

1. Public Comment

A citizen thanked the Commission for the chip seal on Qual Street. He stated that nothing is perfect, but it has fixed the dust situation on the road.

2. County Attorney Comment

There were no comments offered.

3. County Manager Comment

There were no comments offered.

4. Commission Comment

Commissioner Wheeler thanked the citizens of Sugar Foot/Cedar Oaks for the way they have stepped up and voluntarily taxed themselves to maintain the community. It is truly amazing.

Commissioner Prizzia encouraged citizens to participate during the budget development process so that they can have input prior to the budget being approved. She would like to see that for future budget adoption meetings that staff provide more of a presentation to inform the public on how millages are set and the reasons why.

Commissioner Alford advised citizens that Alachua County is very transparent with the budget. On the County website citizens can view every page of the budget as well as every check written. She encouraged them to attend the Citizen's Academy and learn about the county departments and operations and become involved in local government.

Commissioner Cornell stated that if there are 1,600 heirs' properties and 25% are delinquent that seems to be a manageable number to work with. He would like to see staff reach out to these individuals to educate them on available exemptions and the overall process. He also stated that the Library Governing Board voted to lower the millage rate for the library district.

Commissioner Wheeler stated that she would like to see a Tax Workshop to discuss what ability the County does have to reduce the tax burden on citizens.

Chair Chestnut stated that when he first became a Commissioner the County was close to the 10-mil cap. He would like to thank the staff that has put the County in a financial position to lower the millage rate for several years while still providing the services needed.

H. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

I. Notice of Upcoming Meetings