



Alachua County Board of County Commissioners
Minutes

October 28, 2025, 11:30 AM

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

Absent: Commissioner Mary Alford

A. Invocation

Pastor Jacob Newton, High Springs Church of God provided the Invocation.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Call to Order

Chair Chestnut called the meeting to order at 11:30am.

D. Approval of Regular and Consent Agenda

Commissioner Prizzia moved adoption of the Regular and Consent Agenda as printed.

2nd Commissioner Cornell

The motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Alford absent.

Commissioner Wheeler entered the meeting at 11:34am

Public Comments

Chair Chestnut recognized Evan Hale and Gabrielle, Barry from Carson Springs Wildlife, Jerry Lynn representing Dance Company of Gainesville, a citizen from Gainesville community playhouse, and a citizen from Gainesville big band who presented comments.

E. Announcements

Communications Director, Mark Sexton, presented the following announcements:

- Climate Festival celebrating the completion of the county's climate action plan.

Saturday November 15th, 2025, 9am - 3pm.

This event is free, open to the public, and will take place at the UF/IFAS Extension Office, 22712 W Newberry Rd.

Register on Eventbrite at [tinyurl.com/Climate-Festival](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/climate-festival-2025-tickets-744444444444).

The Climate Festival will feature:

- Ceremonial acceptance of the County's Climate Action Plan
- Keynote by Michael Grunwald, award-winning journalist and author of the book *We Are Eating the Earth: The Race to Fix Our Food System and Save Our Climate**
- Panel discussions with municipal and local food system leaders
- Performance by the Star Center Theater Youth
- Exhibits from community organizations showcasing climate resiliency in action
- Opportunity to meet and talk with authors of the Climate Action Plan and community collaborators
- Coffee and light breakfast in the morning, food trucks in the afternoon

F. Approval of Recognitions

Commissioner Cornell moved approval all Proclamations on the agenda.

2nd Commissioner Prizzia

The motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Alford absent.

1. Presentation of a proclamation recognizing October as Cybersecurity Awareness Month in Alachua County, Florida. - 25-00809

Commissioner Wheeler presented the above proclamation recognizing October as Cybersecurity Awareness Month in Alachua County, Florida.

The County IT department director and staff proudly accepted the proclamation and presented remarks.

2. Presentation of a proclamation recognizing November as Youth Homelessness Outreach, Prevention, and Education (HOPE) Month in Alachua County, Florida - 25-00941

Commissioner Cornell presented a proclamation recognizing November as Youth Homelessness Outreach, Prevention, and Education (HOPE) Month in Alachua County, Florida.

Joy gladly accepted the proclamation and presented brief remarks on behalf of CDS Family and Behavioral Health Services.

3. Citizens Disability Advisory Committee Disability-Friendly Employer Award - 25-00857

Jackie Chung, Equal opportunity Manager presented the above award.

Members of the County Citizens Disability Advisory Committee Staff presented awards to Grow HUB recipients who gladly accepted.

Commissioner Prizzia presented comments.

G. Board and Committee Items

1. Alachua County Land Conservation Board (LCB) Appointment - 25-00872

Chair Chestnut recognized applicants Amy Schwarzer, Paul Lyrene, Casey Harris, and Larsen McBride who presented comments.

Deputy Clerk Miller called on each Commissioner for their one nomination to appoint one citizen to Natural Resource Professional with a term ending September 30, 2029.

Commissioners Cornell, Prizzia, Wheeler and Chair Chestnut nominated Amy Schwarzer.

Commissioner Cornell moved appointment of Amy Schwarzer to Natural Resource Professional with a term ending September 30, 2029.

2nd Commissioner Prizzia

The motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Alford absent.

Deputy Clerk Miller called on each Commissioner for their one nomination to appoint one citizen to Citizen at large term ending September 30, 2029.

Commissioner Wheeler nominated Paul Lyrene.

Commissioners Cornell, Prizzia and Chair Chestnut nominated Larsen McBride.

Commissioner Cornell moved appointment of Larsen McBride to Citizen-at-Large with a term ending September 30, 2029.

2nd Commissioner Wheeler

The motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Alford absent.

2. Victim Services and Rape Crisis Center Advisory Council Presentation - 25-00344

Laura Kalt, VSRCC Director and Shereka Nicole Williams-O'Neal, Chair presented the above item to the Board.

H. Public Comment

Chair Chestnut recognized Jim Konish, Bert Werthington, a citizen, Julie from the Cade Museum, Susan D from Dance Alive, Amanda the president of Dance Company, Syed Mohammed Haider (handout given), Mark, Michelle Bear, Andrea M, Ann Rudick, Bryan Bisher, Izzy B, and a citizen who presented comments.

Commissioner Cornell, Steve Hofstetter, Commissioner Prizzia, Commissioner Wheeler, and Assistant County Manager Jeff Hays presented comments.

Commissioner Prizzia exits the meeting at 12:05pm

Commissioner Prizzia returns to the meeting at 12:06pm

I. **Action Items**

1. Building Permitting Fee Schedule Update - 25-00867

Growth Management Director Jeff Hays presented the above item.

Commissioner Prizzia moved approval of an increase of building division fees of generally 25%.

2nd Commissioner Cornell

The morion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Alford absent.

2. Presentation: 2025 Alachua County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) and Resolution to adopt the plan - 25-00811

Jen Grice, MPH, FPEM Director of Emergency Management presented the above item.

Organizational Structure:

- Multiagency Coordination/Policy Group
 - Policy-level decisions
 - Members have countywide responsibilities
 - Government closures
 - Local state of emergency
 - Evacuations
 - EOC activation
 - Other protective measures
- EOC Director
 - Translate MAC/Policy decisions into actionable objectives for the Emergency Operations Team
- Jurisdictional Liaison

- Municipalities, Constitutionals, Special Taxing Districts
- Recovery Liaison
 - FEMA reimbursement
 - Documentation
- Business, Industry, & Econ. Stabilization (ESF 18)
 - Communicate with businesses to address unmet needs and maintain situational awareness
 - Liaise with hoteliers for bed availability and coordinate hotels for response/recovery needs
- 311 Critical Information Line
- Hospital Liaison
 - UF Health, HCA, VA
- Public Works (ESF 3)
 - Road clearance operations
 - Stormwater management
 - Sandbag distribution (coordinate w/ municipalities)
- Public Health & Medical (ESF 8)
 - Special Needs Sheltering
 - Epidemiological surveillance
 - Communicate with healthcare facilities
- Mass Care (ESF 6)
 - Sheltering
 - Coordinate fixed feeding sites in impacted areas
 - Oversee mass casualty reunification and family assistance center operations
- Volunteers and Donations (ESF 15)
 - Connect volunteers with emergency and community needs
 - Liaise with Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD)

- IT
 - Website
 - Incident coordination software
 - Phones
 - Internet connectivity
 - A/V system

Programs:

- Special Needs Registry
- Emergency Alerts– Text ALACHUA to 888-777
 - Wireless Emergency Alerts– Alert Alachua
- Local Mitigation Strategy
- Continuity of Operations planning 13
- Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD)

Future of FEMA:

- Nothing is set in stone
- Decisions made after 2025 Hurricane Season
- Block grants to states
- Increase in \$ threshold for declarations
- Reimbursement likely never over 75%
- No more Disaster Recovery Centers 14
- Streamlined application process for impacted residents
- Alachua County Actions
 - Life safety remains our top priority
 - no change in posture or protective measures due to potential decreases in funding

- Identifying agencies, locations, resources needed to stand up County or State-run Mutual Aid Resource Centers (MARC)
- Increasing financial reserves to address potential reductions in FEMA Public Assistance
- Continue building Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) membership
- EM will be increasing our cache of supplies once the warehouse is ready
- Continue to educate our partners who handle the recovery reimbursement side of things as we get new information
- Continue to expand outreach efforts to prepare our community

Commissioner Wheeler, Commissioner Prizzia, and Commissioner Cornell presented comments.

Commissioner Cornell moved to receive the 2025 Alachua County Comprehensive Emergency plan update and adoption of the resolution.

2nd Commissioner Prizzia

The motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Alford absent.

Public Comment

Chair Chestnut recognized a citizen who presented comments.

3. Request to Advertisement Amendments to the Unified Land Development Code for Inclusionary Housing - 25-00778

Chris Dawson, Principal Planner presented the above item.

Commissioner Prizzia and Commissioner Cornell presented comments.

Commissioner Prizzia moved advertisement of the Unified Land Development Coe for Inclusionary Housing.

2nd Commissioner Cornell

The motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Alford absent.

J. Presentations

1. Update: Alachua County Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Action Plan - 25-00692

Alison Moss, AICP, Transportation Planning Manger presented an update on the above item to the Board.

Commissioner Cornell, Commissioner Prizzia, Chair Chestnut, Public Works Director Ramon Gavarrete, and Commissioner Wheeler presented comments.

Safe System Approach:

- Elements • Safe Road Users • Safe Vehicles • Safe Speeds • Safe Roads • Post-Crash Care
- Remove Severe Conflicts • Reduce Vehicle Speeds • Manage Conflicts in Time • Increase Attentiveness & Awareness

What is a High Injury Network?

- Where the highest concentrations of fatal and severe injury crashes occur
- Helps to prioritize and allocate limited resources
- Identify locations for systemic improvements

Safety Indicators:

- Segments
- State Highway System (SHS)
- Local Roadways – County & City
- Excludes I-75

- Signalized Intersections
- State Roadways Intersecting with State Roadways
- State Roadways Intersecting with Local Roadways
- Local Roadways Intersecting with Local Roadways
- HINs by Mode – Pedestrian, Bicycle, Vehicle, & Motorcycle

HIN Summary:

- HIN covers 73% of All Mode Fatal and Serious Injury Crashes Countywide
- 161 miles of State Roads & 148 miles of Local Roads
- 109 State & 28 Local Intersections
- HIN covers 70% of Vulnerable User Involved Crashes Countywide
- 78 miles of State Roads & 91 miles of Local Roads
- 88 State & 29 Local Intersections

HIN for Vehicle Only Crashes:

73% of FSI Vehicle Only Crashes Countywide

- 49% of Total Mileage
- 35% of Signalized Intersections

HIN for Bike Crashes:

100% of FSI & 71% of All Severity Bike Crashes Countywide

- 21% of Total Mileage 36% of Signalized Intersections

Commissioner Prizzia exits the meeting at 2:14pm

K. Land Conservation Projects

1. Barr Hammock - Fiol Tract Option Contract to Purchase Real Property - 25-00869

Land Conservation Project Manager Andi Christman presented the above item to the Board.

Commissioner Cornell moved the following staff recommendations:

1. Approve and authorize the Chair to exercise the Barr Hammock – Fiol Contract to purchase Real Property, subject to the County’s rights to conduct due diligence inspections and notice Seller of Title Defects and Environmental Defects as set forth in the Contract; and
2. Delegate to the County Manager the authority to decide whether to accept or reject title exception #6 based on the County Manager’s evaluation as to whether said title exceptions will substantially impair the County’s proposed use of the property; and
3. Delegate to the County Manager the authority to decide whether to close the acquisition subject to title exception #6 based on the County Manager’s evaluation as to whether said title exceptions will substantially impair the County’s proposed use of the property; and
4. Authorize staff to execute additional documents as necessary to close the transaction.

2nd Commissioner Wheeler

The motion carried 3-0 with Commissioner Alford and Commissioner Prizzia absent.

L. Public Hearings

1. FY25 Budget Amendment to Reallocate Funds - 25-00833

Mo Rischitelli, Budget Manager presented the above item to the Board.

Commissioner Cornell moved to adopt resolution and approve budget amendment.

2nd Commissioner Wheeler

The motion carried 3-0 with Commissioner Alford and Commissioner Prizzia absent.

M. Quasi-Judicial Public Hearings

1. Z25-000014: Clay Electric Special Exception for a Major Utility (Vehicle Staging Area) - 25-00798

County Attorney Torres read the rules and procedures for the public hearing.

Deputy Clerk asked for anyone who would wish to seek additional party status.

There was no one present who wished to seek additional party status.

Deputy Clerk Miller inquired if the Commissioners have received any ex-parte communications and if so please disclose them.

There were no ex-parte communications disclosed.

Deputy Clerk Miller issued the oath to all those who wished to participate in the hearing.

Mehdi Benkhatar presented the above item. Terra Howel, representing Clay Electric provided a brief presentation.

Commissioner Cornell and Commissioner Wheeler presented comments.

Public Comment

Chair Chestnut recognized a citizen who presented comments.

Commissioner Cornell moved approval of Z25-000014 with the conditions and bases as listed in the staff report.

2nd Commissioner Wheeler

The motion carried 3-0 with Commissioner Alford and Commissioner Prizzia absent.

N. Items Pulled From Consent

O. NOTE: This meeting will NOT reconvene at 5:01 PM

P. Closing Comments

1. Public Comment

There were no comments presented.

2. County Attorney Comment

There were no comments presented.

3. County Manager Comment

There were no comments presented.

4. Commission Comment

Commissioner Cornell stated that he read the EJI (Equal Justice Initiative) Chair Letter, and he thought it was very well done and hopes to hear from them in the coming weeks.

Commissioner Wheeler stated the book sale is going on downtown currently and she encourages everyone to attend. There is a new ice cream shop open in high springs named Serendipity and it's amazing everyone should stop by. The Melrose art gallery is having an online auction, and she ask for all citizens to support them and the auction.

Chair Chestnut stated EJI (Equal Justice Initiative) received the email but has not received the official letter yet. They have not set any criteria for the bronze or the marker to come back to Alachua County. There will be a meeting held tomorrow to bring comments in terms of what reconciliation might look like in Alachua County.

Q. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

R. Consent Items

1. Community Support Services
 1. Lutheran Services of Florida Amendment 100 Increasing Funding for 988 Crisis Line - 25-00854

Approve Lutheran Services of Florida Agreement Amendment, approve the Resolution, Budget Amendment, and authorize the Chair to sign the contract.
 2. Alachua County Veteran Services Board (VSAB) Resolution - 25-00810

Authorize chair to approve and sign resolution
 3. City of Gainesville (Gainesville Police Department) funding for a Victim Advocate - 25-00899

Approve Amendment, Resolution and authorize the Chair to execute it.
2. County Attorney's Office
 1. Request for an attorney-client litigation strategy session regarding: Trixie Farr, Plaintiff, vs. Alachua County, Defendant, Case #2025-CA-1528. - 25-00865

Approve the County Attorney's request for a closed-to-the-public attorney-client litigation strategy session to occur on December 9, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. regarding the case styled Trixie Farr, Plaintiff, vs. Alachua County, Defendant, Case #2025-CA-1528.
3. Court Services
 1. Agreement with Meridian Behavioral Healthcare for Services and Payment Related to the CJMHSAG Cash Match - 25-00571

Approve Agreement
4. Environmental Protection
 1. Addition of Land Conservation Projects to the Alachua County Forever Active Acquisition List - 25-00861

Approve the addition of the following property on the Active Acquisition List

1.Lake Santa Fe – Mason (Full Price List)

5. Equal Opportunity

1. Human Rights Board Appointment - 25-00883

Appoint Niusha Nazar Kazemi to the Citizens Disability Advisory Committee Representative position on the Human Rights Board for a three (3) year term, November 1, 2025 – October 31, 2028.

6. Fire Rescue

1. Revised Certification of Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Roll for the Fire Assessment - 25-00784

Accept the Revised Certification of Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Roll and Authorize the Chair to sign

2. Lutheran Services of Florida Amendment 100 - 25-00839

Approve Amendment 100 to Agreement PO049 with Lutheran Service of Florida

7. Growth Management

1. Resolution to extend the sunset date of the Alachua County Rural Concerns Advisory Committee through December 31, 2030. - 25-00863

Approve the Resolution extending the Sunset Date of the Alachua County Rural Concerns Advisory Committee through December 31, 2030.

2. Resolution to extend the sunset date of the Alachua County Historical Commission through December 31, 2030 - 25-00871

Approve the resolution extending the sunset date of the Alachua County Historical Commission through December 31, 2030.

8. Procurement

1. Agreements with Taylor'd HVAC Services Inc. (14813), WH Construction, LLC (14814), Climate Control Mechanical Services, Inc. (14815), Coker Industrial Contractors, Inc. (14816), for Facilities Management - 25-00842

Approve and authorize the Chair to execute Agreements for RFP 26-111-MB Annual Mechanical Services Job Order Contract, NTE \$750,000.00 annually, to the following entities:

Agreement 14813 with Taylor'd HVAC Services Inc.

Agreement 14814 with WH Construction, LLC

Agreement 14815 with Climate Control Mechanical Services, Inc.

Agreement 14816 Coker Industrial Contractors, Inc.

2. Agreements with WH Construction, LLC (14834) and Coker Industrial Contractors, Inc. (14867) for Facilities Management. - 25-00845

Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the following Agreements for RFP 26-112-MB Annual Plumbing Services Job Order Contract, NTE \$750,000.00 annually:

Agreement 14834 with WH Construction, LLC. (Primary)

Agreement 14867 with Coker Industrial Contractors, Inc. (Secondary)

3. Award and Agreement with Sciens Building Solutions LLC (14819) for Bid 26-215-MB Annual Fire Protection Maintenance Services for Facilities Maintenance. - 25-00848

Approve the Award and authorize the Chair to execute Agreement 14819 with Sciens Building Solutions LLC, for Bid 26-215-MB Annual Fire Protection Maintenance Services, in the amount not to exceed (NTE) \$350,000.00 annually.

4. Request for Application (RFA) 26-201-PM Annual Community Health Offering Innovative Care & Educational Services (CHOICES) Grant Review Committee Award Recommendations for Community Support Services. - 25-00851

Approve the ranking and authorize staff to negotiate agreements for RFA 26-201-PM Annual Community Health Offering Innovative Care & Educational Services (CHOICES) Grant Review Committee Award Recommendations:

1. Grace Healthcare

2. We Care Physician Referral Network

Additionally, delegate contract signature authority to the County Manager for all awards regardless of funding amount.

5. Change Order 1 to Blanket Purchase Order 26-941 with Preferred Materials Inc., in the amount of \$115,000.00 for Public Works. - 25-00876

Approve the issuance of Change Order 1 to Blanket Purchase Order 26-941 with Preferred Materials Inc., in the amount of \$115,000.00. The revised Blanket Purchase Order is \$150,000.00.

6. Change Order 1 to Blanket Purchase Order 25-481 with Napa Auto Parts, in the amount of \$2,800.00 for Public Works. - 25-00879

Approve the issuance of Change Order 1 to Blanket Purchase Order 25-481 with Napa Auto Parts, in the amount of \$2,800.00. The revised Blanket Purchase Order is \$99,300.00.

7. Change Order 1 to Blanket Purchase Order 26-942 with VE Whitehurst & Sons Inc., in the amount of \$110,000.00 for Public Works. - 25-00880

Approve the issuance of Change Order 1 Blanket Purchase Order 26-942 with VE Whitehurst & Sons Inc., in the amount of \$110,000.00. The revised Blanket Purchase Order is \$150,000.00.

8. Purchase Order to Motorola Solutions Inc., in the amount of \$999,768.23 for Fire Rescue. - 25-00881

Approve the issuance of a purchase order to Motorola Solutions Inc., in the amount of \$999,768.23.

9. Second Amendment to Lease Agreement with Cinque Holdings, Inc. (13376) for space located at 249 West University Avenue, Gainesville, Florida, for Facilities Management. - 25-00890

Approve and authorize the Chair to execute Second Amendment to Lease Agreement with Cinque Holdings, Inc. (13376) substantially in the form attached to this agenda item for Suites A and B located at 249 West University Avenue, Gainesville, Florida.

9. Public Works

1. NW 43rd Street North of NW 16th Boulevard and NW 23rd Avenue - FDOT Local Agency Program (LAP) Agreement - 25-00838

Adopt resolution for the intersection safety modifications at NW 43rd Street North of NW 16th Boulevard and NW 23rd Avenue which

includes recognizing unanticipated revenue, approve budget amendment, authorize the Chair to execute the agreement and authorize the County Manager, Public Works Director, or County Engineer to execute subsequent agreements related to the project.

10. Tourism & Economic Development

1. Approve Recommended FY26 Nature and Culture Destination Enhancement Grant Program Funding Awards - 25-00873

Approve the scoring evaluation committee funding recommendation of \$1,400,000 for the FY26 Nature and Culture Destination Enhancement grant awards. Approve the contract agreement template and authorize the County Manager to execute agreements with each grantee, including those where the funding recommendations exceeds \$50,000. Make the legislative factual determination that the events, venues and activities recommended for funding have as one of their main purpose of the attraction of tourists as evidenced and as set forth in their respective applications, and that each grant award, inclusive of allowable operations and marketing expenditures, is primarily related to the advancement and promotion of tourism.

S. Notation for Record

1. Infrastructure Surtax Oversight Board – June 3, 2025 Minutes - 25-00846
No action necessary. For informational purposes only.
2. Arts Council of Alachua County – September 2, 2025 Minutes - 25-00877
No action necessary. For informational purposes only.

T. Notice of Upcoming Meetings