



## Alachua County Board of County Commissioners

### Minutes

February 10, 2026, 11:30 AM

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

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#### A. Invocation

Bishop James Dixon provided the Invocation.

#### B. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Cornell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### C. Call to Order

Chair Cornell called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m..

#### D. Approval of Regular and Consent Agenda

**Commissioner Alford moved** adoption of the Regular and Consent Agenda with the amendment of having County Attorney, County Manager, and Commission Comments at the end of the morning agenda. The motion carried 5-0.

2nd Commissioner Prizzia

#### E. Announcements

Communications Director, Mark Sexton, presented the following announcements:

- A video of the new My Alachua County App was displayed for the public.
- A video for the new Find Help APP was displayed for the public.
- The complete Alachua County Cents and Sensibility series has been released to the public. It is one collection of eight Chapters that is a total

of 40 pages. This series will educate the citizens on the budget of Alachua County, and all are encouraged to read the material.

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

#### **F. Approval of Recognitions**

The were no Proclamations to approve.

1. Alachua County Fire Rescue Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS) Recertification - 26-00113

Chief Harold Theus presented the above item.

Chief Theus stated that this accreditation is the gold standard for Emergency Medical Services. This is the second time that County has received this accreditation which occurs every three years. There are only 200 units in the Country and 24 in the State of Florida with this accreditation. There were 107 standards measured. Alachua County did not have one deficiency which is a great accomplishment.

#### **G. Board and Committee Items**

1. Health Facilities Authority Appointment - 26-00079

Deputy Clerk Donahey called on each Commissioner for their two nominees for the Citizen-at-Large Representatives.

Commissioners Chestnut, Wheeler Cornell, and Prizzia nominated Timothy Guinn Jr. and Samantha Neuwirth.

Commissioner Alford nominated Timothy Guinn Jr. and Pranay Arora.

**Commissioner Prizzia** moved appointment of Timothy Guinn Jr. and Samantha Neuwirth to the Health Facilities Authority. The motion carried 5-0.

2nd Commissioner Chestnut

2. Arts Council Appointments - 26-00123

Deputy Clerk Donahey called on each Commissioner for their one nominee for the Citizen-at-Large Representative to the Arts Council.

Commissioner Alford nominated Jay Rosen.

Commissioners Chestnut, Cornell, Prizzia, and Wheeler nominated Alexander Sanchez-Hamilton.

**Commissioner Prizzia moved** appointment of Alexander Sanchez-Hamilton as the Citizen-at-Large Representative to a term ending September 30, 2028, and Jay Rosen as the Alternate Representative. The motion carried 5-0.

2nd Commissioner Wheeler

3. Arts Council Update - 26-00111

Chair of the Arts Council Carol Velazquez-Richardson presented the above item.

Mrs. Velazquez-Richardson stated that two art projects were completed this year. The first is a sculpture entitled Bunker Gear at Station 21 and the second is a mural entitled Burning Bush at the fire training center.

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

**H. Public Comment**

Chair Cornell recognized a citizen who presented comments in support of the Wildflowers Music Festival.

Chair Cornell recognized Mark van Soestbergen who presented comments regarding signage in wildflowers plants on right of ways educating the public on the role of pollinators in the environment.

Chair Cornell recognized Stanley Richardson who advised that his group had applied for a grant through the Art Council for a Poetry Jam event. They were awarded \$3,000 but due to a quorum issue he was informed that the award is invalidated. This has caused issues for the event, and he is requesting that the Board reinstate the award.

Chair Cornell recognized Mitch Glazer who presented comments regarding the innovative companies that are at Tech City and the companies locating to Tech City. The farmers market recently moved to Tech City and their patronage has increased 4-fold.

Commissioner Wheeler stated that the Tourism Board would like to see Poetry Festivals during the slower tourism periods in the County. She further stated that she found poetry very useful when teaching children to read as a teacher and encouraged Mr. Richardson to continue his good work.

Commissioner Prizzia inquired if the Board can restore the \$3,000 in funding for the poetry event. She would like to be informed during County Manager

Comments regarding the details of what actually occurred with award of the funds.

Commissioner Alford presented comments regarding the pollinator proposal which she finds to be an interesting proposal, and she would like to encourage people to transition lawns to pollinator friendly spaces. Commissioner Alford stated that she would support the signage as well.

Commissioner Wheeler stated that she would really like a presentation on the innovation that is occurring at Tech City and the community.

County Manager Lieberman advised the Board that staff is working on location for signage in the right of ways for the pollinators as the Board previously has requested.

Commissioner Prizzia stated that she knows Public Works Director Gavarrete will be before the Board in the near future and she would like information on how the County makes a determination of when the County plants wildflower seed in the right of ways and when the County does not plant wildflower seed in the right of way.

## **I. Action Items**

### **1. Transportation Disadvantaged Service Discussion - 26-00097**

Growth Management Director Jeff Hays presented the above item.

County Manager Lieberman, Commissioner Prizzia, Commissioner Alford, Chair Cornell, MV External Affairs Vice President Michael Ralsky, and Commissioner Chestnut presented comments.

**Commissioner Prizzia moved** staff recommended action with the following amendments:

1. Direct Staff to prepare necessary contract amendments with MV Transportation for the continuation of transportation disadvantaged service outside of the City of Gainesville on a month-to-month basis.
2. Direct Staff to coordinate with stakeholders and bring forward recommendation regarding longer term solution to transportation disadvantaged service.

#### Amendments:

Authorize the County Manager to sign an amendment to an existing MV contract that would

- Allow up to \$120,000.00 in additional payment.
- Not to exceed 120 days.
- MV agrees to take action necessary with the State to terminate so we can request State to procure.
- Reduce cost to the County by any amount of additional contracts obtained.
- Ask MV Transport to provide historical data and current data regarding ridership, drop off distances, wait lengths, equipment needed, special assistance needed for the riders so that the County can have better data in terms of planning the long-term strategy for our transportation disadvantage service.

2nd Commissioner Chestnut

Commissioner Wheeler requested that the County get this information out to the public so that the users of the service can be assured of the continuation of the service.

**The motion carried 5-0.**

**J. Presentations**

1. Impact of Potential Property Tax Reductions to future budgets, 26-00085

County Manager Lieberman and Assistant County Manager Tommy Crosby presented the above item.

Commissioner Alford, Chair Cornell, Commissioner Prizzia, Commissioner Wheeler, and Commissioner Chestnut presented comments.

**K. Quasi-Judicial Public Hearings**

1. Revised Preliminary Development Plan for 75th Street Self-storage - 26-00105

County Attorney Torres presented the rules and procedures for the Quasi-Judicial Hearing.

There was no ex-parte communications disclosed.

Deputy Clerk Donahey issued the Oath to all those who wished to participate.

Senior Planner Leslie McLendon presented the above item.

Agent for the Applicant Michelle Bach presented the application.

**Commissioner Prizzia moved** approval of the Revised Preliminary Development Plan. The motion carried 5-0.

2nd Commissioner Wheeler

**L. Items Pulled From Consent**

**M. NOTE: This meeting will reconvene at 5:01 PM**

**N. Quasi-Judicial Public Hearings**

1. TU25-000020 WildFlowers Music Festival Temporary Use Permit - 26-00118

Chair Cornell presented the order and process that the Board will take to for the Quasi-Judicial Hearing.

Assistant County Attorney Corbin Hanson presented the rules and procedures the hearing.

The following list of citizens were recommended to be recognized for party status was presented:

1. Sandra Gottschalk
2. Michelle Baer
3. Arlene Barbara Antz-Hanson
4. Brandie McKinney
5. Christina & Teddy Goings
6. Brittany Wasdin
7. Pegi Bonner
8. ~~Danielle Jolley~~ Kurt and Jan Merritt
9. Michael Hines & Cameron Hines
10. Larry Easton

**Commissioner Prizzia moved** to approve the list 1-10 individuals to be granted Party Status.

2nd Commissioner Alford

Chair Cornell recognized Mark Goldstein who stated that he had requested Party Status but was not included in the recommendation.

Chair Cornell recognized Curt and Jan Barrett who stated that they are requesting party status as they have 600 sq. ft. of frontage across the street.

Chair Cornell recognized Anne Rudig who requested Party Status.

Chair Cornell recognized Danielle Jolley who stated that she did not need the Party Status and would present comments during the regular public comment period.

**Commissioner Prizzia moved the amended motion** to approve the list with the amendment of removing Danielle Jolley and adding Curt and Jan Barrett.

**The motion carried 5-0.**

Deputy Clerk Donahey inquired of all Commissioners if they have received any ex-parte communications and if so please disclose them.

Commissioner Alford stated that numerous emails have been received and she has had text with applicant Hutch Hutchinson. She also had conversations with some residents in Melrose.

Commissioner Prizzia stated that she toured the site and had conversations with the applicant Hutch Hutchinson.

Commissioner Chestnut stated that he the opportunity to meet with the applicant Hutch Hutchinson and tour the property. There were numerous emails received that he read.

Commissioner Wheeler stated that she toured the property. She further stated that she spoke with Dr. Goldstein and members of the Santa Fe Lake Dwellers.

Chair Cornell stated that he spoke with Dr. Goldstein, Dr. Antonelli, Amy and Harry Siren, Mark Avera, Adam Briscoe, Katie Davis, Brandi McKinney, Mrs. Cornell, Ruth Burkeman, Meg Niederhofer, John Mills, Mr. Easton, Scott Camille, and Jerry Steiner. He toured the property with the applicant Hutch Hutchinson.

Deputy Clerk Donahey issued the Oath to all those who wished to address this matter.

Principal Planner Chris Dawson presented the above item.

Chair Cornell paused the hearing at 5:30 p.m. for General Public Comments.

Chair Cornell resumed the hearing at 5:37 p.m.

Principal Planner Chris Dawson continued his presentation.

Natural Resources Program Manager Mark Brown presented the environmental impacts of the application.

Commissioner Wheeler, Chair Cornell, and Commissioner Alford presented comments.

Principal Planner Dawson presented the transportation/traffic control portion of the application.

Commissioner Prizzia, Chair Cornell, Commissioner Alford, Public Works Director Ramon Gavarrete, and Deputy Fire Chief Jeff Taylor presented comments.

President of Wildflowers Music Park, Inc. Guy Fortune, Wildflowers Music Park Representative Charles Jordan Puryear, Wildflowers Music Park Civil Engineer Larry Hagen, P.E., Wildflowers Music Park Representative Peter Theoktisto, Wildflower Music Park Representative Lee Cook, Wildflower Music Park Representative Jack Putz, Wildflowers Music Park Board Member Andy Kane, and Wildflowers Park Representative Hutch Hutchinson presented the Applicants presentation.

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

Party Status Presentations:

Chair Cornell recognized Sandra Gottschalk, Michelle Baer, Arlene Barbara Antz-Hanson, Brandie McKinney, Mark Goldstein, Brittany Wasdin, Bristol Wasdin, Pegi Bonner, Kurt Merritt, Jan Merritt, Nathan Merritt, Alachua County Civil Engineer Lalit Lalwani, Michael Hines, Cameron Hines, and Larry Easton who presented comments.

**COMMISSION RECESSED AT: 8:37 P.M.**

**COMMISSION RECONVENED: 9:00 P.M.**

Commission Deliberations:

Commissioner Alford, Commissioner Prizzia, Commissioner Wheeler, Commissioner Chestnut, and Chair Cornell presented comments.

**Commissioner Prizzia moved** approval with amended Conditions as outlined in Staff Report and Resolution:

1. This Temporary Use Permit is issued to WildFlowers Music Park for a music festival on March 12 to 16, 2026. Gates may open to the general public no earlier than 9 am on March 12, 2026, and all attendees shall have left the property no later than 2 pm on March 16, 2026.
2. Set up on the site may begin no earlier than 10 am on February 27, 2026, and take down shall be complete no later than March 26, 2026. Set up and take down activities include activities related to locating vendors, temporary potable water or electricity, temporary stages or performance venues, and delivery of sanitary sewer and solid waste services.
3. Amplified music or sound on the site is allowed beginning at 10 am and ending no later than 9 pm on Thursday, 10 pm Friday and Saturday and 7 pm on Sunday.
4. Sound levels at the property line shall not exceed 60 dBA during the hours of 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. or 55 dBA during the hours of 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. Consistent with Chapter 110 of the County Code of Ordinances, enforcement of sound level requirements shall be by the Alachua County Sheriff's Office.
5. The maximum number of attendees, including vendors, performers and staff, shall not exceed 5,000 at any one time.
6. Pedestrian trails and paths shall be located no closer than 100 feet from the property boundary. Trails and paths along the perimeter of the property shall be signed for use only during daylight hours.
7. The old homesteaded are in the southwest corner of the site shall be fenced and signed to prohibit access by festival attendees.
8. No later than March 6, 2026, the applicant shall provide to the County a surety in the amount of \$15,950.
9. A right-of-way use permit from Alachua County Public Works is required. The right-of-way use permit shall address all previously provided comments and shall include the following:
  - a. Prohibition of festival access from Quail Street.
  - b. Traffic control at the intersection of CR 219a and NE 35th Avenue.
  - c. Directional messaging locations

d. Hours of off-duty law enforcement support

10. A driveway connection permit from Alachua County Public Works is required for the connection to NE 35th Avenue. The permits must address two-way traffic on NE 35th Avenue and the timing of installation of fencing.

11. The following fencing or silt barrier is required to be installed and inspected no later than 1 week prior to the opening of the site to the public.

a. Potentially occupied burrows (Active or Inactive) located within Active Festival Areas will be protected prior to and during the event with a 26-foot-radius barrier enclosure; if trenching is necessary, installations will be set so that trenching and post installation occur outside the 25-foot radius used in FWC permitting guidance.

b. Uncertain-origin burrows located within Active Festival Areas will be protected prior to the event with a 26-foot-radius, high-visibility exclusion perimeter using stakes and rope and enclosure signage.

c. Burrows located outside Active Festival Areas will be protected through area-wide access exclusion using perimeter barriers and signage establishing no entry, no camping, and no vehicles; individual 26-foot-radius trenched enclosures will not be installed inside these closed zones.

12. To the maximum degree possible, stormwater will be retained close to the proposed festival facilities to minimize runoff and erosion into wetlands. This may require slight grading and/or swales adjacent to segments of the access road.

13. Please contact EPD-NR Division if any questions or comment and to schedule an inspection of barricades and signage within the week prior of the music festival.

14. Permits for all tents over 900 sq. ft. and any applicable permits demonstrating compliance with the Florida Building Code must be approved no less than one week prior to the event beginning.

**15. No parking signs posted along the right-of-way on 35th and no trespassing signs placed along private property boundaries.**

Public Comments:

Chair Cornell recognized June Mitchell, Sandra Lyons, Anne Rudig, Annmarie Sickmeyer, Annie Rini, Micki Dickerson, David Balloo, Colleen Hodge, Danielle Jolley, Megan Hernandez, Harriet Huss, Eric Amundson,

Josh Mitchell, Jim Konish, a citizen, Mahadeu Ferry, Brent Bolde, Jeff Davis, Janice Garry, Connor Hogan, Laura Berkelman, Rebecca Matson, Aaron Crouch, Michael Buchanon, Rylee Crouch, Ellen Ribe, Steve LeBel (documentation provided), Ruth Berkelman, Catherine Booth, Albert Cleary, Luke Haas, Doug Hornbeck, and Summer who presented comments to the Board.

Commissioner Alford, Commissioner Wheeler, Commissioner Prizzia, Commissioner Chestnut, and Chair Cornell presented comments to the Board.

**The motion carried 5-0.**

**O. Closing Comments**

1. Public Comment

Chair Cornell recognized Jim Konish and Leyna Xoi who presented comments to the Board.

2. County Attorney Comment

3. County Manager Comment

Arts Funding

County Manager Lieberman stated that in regard to the funding brought up by Mr. Stanley the funding was not awarded. There was a recommendation to award funding to several organizations. One of the Committee members had to recuse themselves due to a conflict of interest which led to there not being a quorum to approve the recommendation. The matter will be addressed on March 2, 2026, at the meeting and the funding recommendation will be approved at that meeting as the quorum issue will be resolved.

Commissioner Prizzia requested that staff follow up with Mr. Richardson and inform him of the situation. Also advise him on the Tourism Development Grants as this event may qualify for that source of funding as well.

4. Commission Comment

Zoning Meeting at Eastside High School

Commissioner Wheeler advised that there is a School Board Rezoning meeting tomorrow. She thinks it is helpful for a County Commissioner to

be present at the meetings and encouraged any Commissioner that can make it to attend.

Commissioner Prizzia stated that she would like to request that the School Board come and give a presentation to the Board on their rezoning plan. She stated that it will impact County decisions, so the Commission needs to be informed. She does not want to do it at one of the Zoning Meetings they have scheduled because there needs to be a question-and-answer session between the entities and she does not want to tie up opportunities for the public.

**Commissioner Prizzia moved** to request a presentation to the County Commission on the rezoning plan from the School Board. The motion carried 5-0.

2nd Commissioner Chestnut

#### Potential ICE Facility in Bradford County

Commissioner Wheeler stated that the Commission in Starke has voted to engage ICE to establish a facility in Bradford County. Commissioner Wheeler stated that this is a development that she feels the County should keep a close eye on.

#### Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) Trip

Commissioner Chestnut stated that there was a trip to EJI in Alabama. He said that it was an excellent event. Mrs. Gainey did an excellent job with the planning and scheduling of the event. The only disappointment was that he was hopeful that a member of the staff would meet with them but that did not occur. He is disappointed that they will not be giving the County the bronze marker that the County has made several efforts to receive.

#### Nonprofit Center of Excellence and Peak Literacy

Commissioner Prizzia requested to have the Nonprofit Center of Excellence and Peak Literacy to come and give a presentation around the 6-month mark on the progress and accomplishments of the literacy efforts.

By consensus, the Board agreed to request the meeting.

County Manager Lieberman informed the Board that both organizations are scheduled to present at the Joint County City of Gainesville Meeting. She inquired if that would be sufficient or if the Board wished to have a separate presentation at County Commission Meeting.

The Board stated that the Joint Meeting would be great and there was no need to have the County Meeting on the matter.

#### Scorpio Construction

Commissioner Prizzia wanted to thank Scorpio Construction for resurfacing a derelict basketball court at no expense. There is an organization that mentors youth and has been performing community cleanups. They were working on a neighborhood cleanup of a basketball court. However, the surface was so damaged from neglect that it was not usable. Scorpio Construction has resurfaced the court at no expense to help the community improve. She wanted to thank them for being such great community members.

Chair Cornell further stated that Dominic from Scorpio Construction also donated a \$1,000 to the Children's Trust to assist with helping the youth of the County. He wanted to express his gratitude for the assistance with helping the community.

#### Healthy Counties Innovation Council for NACO

Commissioner Alford stated that the County received an invitation to participate in the Public Health Leadership Academy. She would like to do so and be the County's Representative, but she would need a motion to approve her participation.

**Commissioner Wheeler moved** to approve Commissioner Alford to be the County Representative and participate in the Public Health Leadership Academy. The motion carried 5-0.

2nd Commissioner Prizzia

#### Animal Services Changes

Commissioner Alford stated that she has received emails regarding changes of staff at the Animal Services Center and she was wondering what the situation is since residents are concerned.

County Manager Lieberman advised that we did lose two employees at the facility. One employee followed a significant other who received a job opportunity elsewhere. The second employee was poached away by Marion County. The County is making efforts to fill the positions. Unfortunately, both positions just happened to become vacant at roughly the same time.

## **P. Adjournment**

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:57 p.m.

**Q. Consent Items**

1. Clerk of the Court
  1. Request Approval of the Attached BOCC Minutes - 26-00114  
Approve Publication of Final BOCC Minutes
2. Community Support Services
  1. Alachua County Health Care Advisory Board (HCAB) Appointment - 26-00074  
Approve and authorize Chair to appoint Kyle LaChance in the position of Mental Health Care Professional and Mal Lea to position of Alternate
3. County Attorney's Office
  1. Authorization to settle civil case of Paul Graham, Jr. vs. Alachua County #2025-CA-1469 - 26-00090  
Approve the settlement with Paul Graham, Jr. for \$95,000 and authorize the County Attorney and Risk Management to take such actions as are necessary to bring the matter to a conclusion.
4. Environmental Protection
  1. Conservation Easement for Town of Tioga South Annex Traditional Neighborhood Development - 26-00073  
Approve staff's recommendation to receive the 35.6-acre Conservation Easement being granted by the Town of Tioga, LLC to Alachua County.
  2. Amendment 1 to Newnans Lake System Hydrologic Restoration Project - 26-00094  
Sign Amendment 1
5. Procurement
  1. Award and Agreement with Watson Construction Company, LLC (14907), for Bid 26-573-LC NW 122nd Street Extension from SR 26 to NW 17th Ave for Public Works. - 26-00106

Approve the Award and authorize the Chair to execute Agreement 14907 with Watson Construction Company, LLC, substantially in the form attached to this agenda item, for Bid 26-573-LC NW 122nd Street Extension from SR 26 to NW 17th Ave, for a total fiscal impact of \$2,749,601.68. Also, approval of attached budget amendment increasing the funds in the project by \$1,704,514.

6. Public Works

1. Right-of-Way Maintenance Maps for NE 71st Terrace and NE 70th Street - 26-00100

That the Board approve the Right-of-Way Maintenance Maps for NE 71st Terrace and NE 70th Street and authorize the Chair to sign the maps.

2. Authorize Chair Signature of Replats of Facilities Warehouse Property - 26-00096

Authorize the Chair to sign the 3 Replats (Attachments 2, 3 and 4) and all other documents, approved by the County Attorney, and authorize staff to submit the replats to the City of Gainesville for their approval, and complete the replat process.

**R. Notation for Record**

1. Infrastructure Surtax Oversight Board Minutes – Sep. 22, 2025 - 26-00101

No action necessary. For informational purposes only.

2. Arts Council Minutes from Nov. 3 and Dec. 1, 2025 - 26-00110

No action necessary. For informational purposes only.

3. Rural Concerns Advisory Committee Minutes of November 18, 2025 - 26-00120

No Action necessary. For Informational purposes only

**S. Notice of Upcoming Meetings**