



Joint City-County Commission Special Meeting
MINUTES

December 16, 2024, 1:00 p.m.
City Hall Auditorium
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, FL 32601

Members Present: Commissioner Book, Mayor Pro Tempore Chestnut, Commissioner Duncan-Walker, Commissioner Eastman, Mayor Ward, Commissioner Willits

Members Absent: Commissioner Saco

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 1:00 p.m.

B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Commissioner Eastman

Seconded by Commissioner Willits

Motion: The City Commission adopt the regular agenda with the understanding item 2024-945 may be moved earlier.

Aye (6): Commissioner Book, Mayor Pro Tempore Chestnut, Commissioner Duncan-Walker, Commissioner Eastman, Mayor Ward, and Commissioner Willits

Absent (1): Commissioner Saco

Approved (6 to 0)

C. BUSINESS DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. 2024-948 Street Light Payment in the Unincorporated Area (B)

Phil Mann, Special Advisor to the City Manager, gave an overview of the item.

Tommy Crosby, Assistant County Manager for Budget and Fiscal Services, spoke to the item as to prior interaction regarding the payment to the county.

Missy Daniels, Assistant County Manager for Public Works and Growth Management, spoke to the item indicating the GRU Authority has not said whether they will continue the service or not.

Public Comment: Chuck Ross, Jim Konish

Recommendation: The Joint City/County Commission discuss negotiation of new agreement between Alachua County and Gainesville Regional Utilities for streetlights in the unincorporated area of the county.

Moved by Mayor Pro Tempore Chestnut

Seconded by Commissioner Book

Motion: 1) Notify the GRU Authority of the streetlight dilemma, the county plans to undertake a franchise fee study, 2) Ask county staff to bring back options to the next Joint City and County meeting, and 3) That city staff provide the City Commission with the historical context of the agreement.

Aye (6): Commissioner Book, Mayor Pro Tempore Chestnut, Commissioner Duncan-Walker, Commissioner Eastman, Mayor Ward, and Commissioner Willits

Absent (1): Commissioner Saco

Approved (6 to 0)

2. 2024-949 Joint Surtax Project Grant Application (B)

Phil Mann, Special Advisor to the City Manager, gave a presentation on the Joint Surtax Project Grant Application.

Elizabeth Waite, Wild Spaces Public Places Director, gave a presentation on the joint city-county Wild Spaces Public Places projects.

A revised presentation will be added to the minutes for the Wild Spaces Public Places joint projects given during the meeting.

Cynthia Curry, City Manager, spoke to the item.

Phil Mann, Special Advisor to the City Manager, spoke to the item.

Recommendation: The Joint City/County Commission 1) discuss the proposed Infrastructure projects and 2) request the County to approve the grant applications for six projects.

Heard

3. 2024-945 One Nation One Project GNV Data Review and Best Practices Presentation (B)

In order to allow the present commission to hear this item before anyone needed to leave, it was moved to number three on the agenda.

Brittany Coleman, Gun Violence Intervention Program Manager, gave an overview of the item.

Cherie Kelly, Youth Services Manager, and Brandace Stone, Director of Community Health Initiatives, gave a presentation on One Nation One Project (ONOP) GNV: Best Practices and Next Steps.

Commissioner Willits left the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

Commissioner Chestnut left the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Carl Smart, Executive Liaison - Public Safety and Community Relations, spoke to the item regarding two youth steering committees possibly being started at the county.

Commissioner Duncan-Walker spoke to the update on the cultural arts center and that it lacked a location, but there are plans for the item to come back to the commission.

Cynthia Curry, City Manager, spoke to item on the status of the development of this center.

County Commissioner Ken Cornell recognized the work of Caleb Young.

Public Comment: Donald Shepherd

Recommendation: The Joint City/County Commission hear a presentation from City of Gainesville staff.

Heard

4. 2024-947 Camping on Public Right-of-Way, Property and Parks (B)

Phil Mann, Special Advisor to the City Manager, gave an overview of the item.

Recommendation: The Joint City/County Commission 1) receive a presentation from staff and 2) take action as appropriate.

Heard

D. MEMBER COMMENT

Commissioner Book: Spoke to pedestrian safety issues and the effort to strengthen distracted driving laws.

Public Comment: Dimitrius Branca

Mayor Ward: Also spoke to the importance of pedestrian safety.

Moved by Commissioner Book

Seconded by Commissioner Duncan-Walker

Motion: Refer to the City Attorney to review enhancements to FSS 316.305 regarding traffic safety such as hands-free language, for the purpose of considering a resolution supporting legislation in the Spring Legislative Session.

Aye (4): Commissioner Book, Commissioner Duncan-Walker, Commissioner Eastman, and Mayor Ward

Absent (3): Mayor Pro Tempore Chestnut, Commissioner Saco, and Commissioner Willits

Approved (4 to 0)

E. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

Kristen J. Bryant, City Clerk