



City Commission Regular Meeting
MINUTES

March 2, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
City Hall Auditorium
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, FL 32601

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

-
- A. CALL TO ORDER - 10:00 AM**
B. INVOCATION

Prophet George Young

Heard

- C. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**
D. CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Commissioner Saco

Seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker

Motion: The City Commission adopt the agenda with the following modifications:

1) 2023-236 Mayor Harvey L. Ward, Jr. – Permitless Carry Non-Binding Resolution - Added Item; 2) 2023-99 Fiscal Year 2022 City Investment Performance Report - Added Item; 3) 2023-209 - Potential Sale of the Public Radio System to Alachua County - Updated Text and Updated Backup; 4)

2023-233 Commissioner Duncan-Walker: Letter of Support for a Community Benefits Agreement for the East Gainesville Clinic project - Added Item; 5) 2023-140 Third Budget Amendment to the FY 2023 General Government Financial and Operating Plan - Added Item; 6) 2023-234 Gideon Day Proclamation - Added Item; and 7) 2023-243 Commissioner Chestnut: Budget Reduction Recommendations - Added Item.

Aye (7): Mayor Ward, Commissioner Book, Commissioner Chestnut, Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker, Commissioner Eastman, Commissioner Saco, and Commissioner Willits

Approved On Consent (7 to 0)

1. Approval of Minutes from the February 20, 2023 City Commission Meeting (B)

Moved by Commissioner Saco

Seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker

Recommendation: The City Commission approve the minutes from the February 20, 2023 City Commission Meeting (B)

Approved On Consent

2. 2023-111 Authorization to Accept the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection Grant Award, and Authorization to Execute Award Agreement (B)

Moved by Commissioner Saco

Seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker

Recommendation: The City Commission: 1) authorize the City Manager or their designee to accept an award by the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection for its Electric Transit Bus Grant Program; and 2) authorize the City Manager or their designee to execute the grant award agreement and any other necessary documents, subject to approval by the City Attorney as to form and legality.

Approved On Consent

3. 2023-143 Risk Management Settlement of Workers' Compensation Claims (NB)

Moved by Commissioner Saco

Seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker

Recommendation: The City Commission authorize Special Counsel to prepare and execute the appropriate documents for a lump-sum settlement of Justin Poirot's Worker's Compensation claims of \$120,000.00.

Approved On Consent

4. 2023-174 Tree City USA Application (B)

Moved by Commissioner Saco

Seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker

Recommendation: The City Commission approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the Tree City USA Application.

Approved On Consent

5. 2023-177 Amendment to the Gainesville Community Reinvestment Area Advisory Board Rules (B)

Moved by Commissioner Saco

Seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker

Recommendation: The City Commission approves the amendment to the Gainesville Community Reinvestment Area Advisory Board Rules as presented.

Approved On Consent

6. 2023-189 Resignation of Madilena Campbell from the Nature Centers Commission and Stan Kiser from the Public Recreation and Parks Board (B)

Moved by Commissioner Saco

Seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker

Recommendation: The City Commission accept the resignations of Madilena Campbell and Stan Kiser, effective immediately.

Approved On Consent

E. EARLY PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

F. BUSINESS DISCUSSION ITEMS - MORNING

1. 2023-175 Gainesville Fire Rescue Quarterly Update (B)

Cynthia Curry, City Manager spoke to the item.

Joseph Dixon, Fire Chief gave a presentation.

Brandy Stone, Community Health Director spoke to the item.

Joseph Hillhouse, Deputy Fire Chief spoke to the item.

Public Comment: Zarah Abyazne Jarl, Jo Beaty

Recommendation: The City Commission hear a presentation from Gainesville Fire Rescue.

Heard

2. 2023-179 American Rescue Plan (ARPA) Quarterly Update (B)

Cynthia Curry, City Manager introduced the item.

Cintya Ramos, Advisor to Charter Officer gave a presentation.

Public Comment: Donald Shepherd, Armando Grundy-Gomes

Recommendation: The City Commission: 1) reduce the Personal Protective Equipment project budget to \$134,602.40; 2) allocate \$134,602.40 to the Affordable Housing Downpayment Assistance project, and 3) approve the feasibility study project name change to “Feasibility Study – Cultural Arts Center”.

Moved by Commissioner Saco

Seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker

Motion: Approved recommendation with modification to the budget.

Aye (7): Mayor Ward, Commissioner Book, Commissioner Chestnut, Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker, Commissioner Eastman, Commissioner Saco, and Commissioner Willits

Approved (7 to 0)

G. RESOLUTIONS – MORNING (Roll Call Required)

1. 2023-236 Mayor Harvey L. Ward, Jr. – Permitless Carry Non-Binding Resolution (B)

Lonnie Scott, Police Chief spoke to the item.

Public Comment: Donald Shepherd

Recommendation: The City Commission adopt the resolution.

Moved by Commissioner Saco

Seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker

Motion: Approve as Recommended.

Aye (7): Mayor Ward, Commissioner Book, Commissioner Chestnut, Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker, Commissioner Eastman, Commissioner Saco, and Commissioner Willits

Approved (7 to 0)

Recess: 12:07 PM

12:00-1:00 PM Lunch Break

H. CALL TO ORDER – 1:01 PM

I. GAINESVILLE HISTORY MOMENT

Donna Waller

Heard

J. EARLY PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Armando Grundy-Gomes, William Rohan, Jay Rosenback

K. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Mounts, Karen Arrington, Debbie Martinez, Peggy Carr, Kim Tanzer, Don Fields, Jo Beaty, Armando Grundy-Gomes

Andrew Persons, Special Advisor to the City Manager spoke to the issue brought up during General Public Comment.

L. BUSINESS DISCUSSION ITEMS - AFTERNOON

1. 2023-190 Appointments to the City Plan Board and Development Review Board (B)

Bobby Mermer spoke to his application for the City Plan Board.

Braxton Linton III spoke to his application for the City Plan Board.

Vishnu Malhotra spoke to his application for the City Plan Board and Development Review Board.

Kurt Johnson spoke to his application for the City Plan Board.

Nickolas Hill spoke to his application for the City Plan Board.

Recommendation: The City Commission discuss the appointments to the City Plan Board and the Development Review Board and take appropriate action.

Moved by Commissioner Saco

Seconded by Commissioner Willits

Motion: Appoint Nickolas Hill to the City Plan Board.

Aye (3): Mayor Ward, Commissioner Saco, and Commissioner Willits

Nay (4): Commissioner Book, Commissioner Chestnut, Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker, and Commissioner Eastman

Failed (3 to 4)

Moved by Commissioner Chestnut

Seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker

Motion: Appoint Braxton Linton III to the City Plan Board.

Aye (3): Mayor Ward, Commissioner Chestnut, and Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker

Nay (4): Commissioner Book, Commissioner Eastman, Commissioner Saco, and Commissioner Willits

Failed (3 to 4)

Moved by Commissioner Saco

Seconded by Commissioner Eastman

Motion: Appoint Nickolas Hill to the City Plan Board.

Aye (4): Mayor Ward, Commissioner Eastman, Commissioner Saco, and Commissioner Willits

Nay (3): Commissioner Book, Commissioner Chestnut, and Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker

Approved (4 to 3)

Moved by Commissioner Chestnut

Seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker

Motion: Appoint Braxton Linton III to the Development Review Board.

Aye (7): Mayor Ward, Commissioner Book, Commissioner Chestnut, Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker, Commissioner Eastman, Commissioner Saco, and Commissioner Willits

Approved (7 to 0)

Public Comment: Don Fields, Jo Beaty, Debbie Martinez

2. 2023-99 Fiscal Year 2022 City Investment Performance Report (B)

Cynthia Curry, City Manager introduced the item.

William Johnston, Investment Manager gave a presentation.

Public Comment: Donald Shepherd

Recommendation: The City Commission review and accept the submitted FY2022 City Investment Performance Summary Report as recommended by the Finance Committee.

Moved by Commissioner Saco

Seconded by Commissioner Willits

Motion: Approve as Recommended.

Aye (7): Mayor Ward, Commissioner Book, Commissioner Chestnut, Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker, Commissioner Eastman, Commissioner Saco, and Commissioner Willits

Approved (7 to 0)

Recess: 3:07 PM

Reconvene: 3:20 PM

3. 2022-762 Open Container Discussion and Direction (B)

Andrew Persons, Special Advisor to the City Manager spoke to the item.

Lonnie Scott, Police Chief spoke to the item.

Daniel Nee, City Attorney spoke to the item.

Public Comment: Robert Mounts, Adam Rosenthal, Debbie Martinez, Armando Grundy-Gomes, Don Fields, Ernesto Martinez, Donald Shepherd, Jo Beaty

Recommendation: The City Commission discuss the draft ordinance(s), provide direction to staff, and if appropriate, direct the City Attorney's office to schedule the ordinance for first reading.

Moved by Commissioner Book

Seconded by Commissioner Willits

Motion: Bring back information for entertainment areas within land use and zoning where they gather and bring to Public Safety Committee.

Withdrawn

Moved by Commissioner Saco

Seconded by Commissioner Eastman

Motion: Approve recommendation and have staff return to a GPC meeting for ideas/options on how an entertainment zone might work.

Aye (3): Mayor Ward, Commissioner Eastman, and Commissioner Saco

Nay (4): Commissioner Book, Commissioner Chestnut, Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker, and Commissioner Willits

Failed (3 to 4)

Moved by Commissioner Book

Seconded by Commissioner Chestnut

Motion: Repeal as presented and direct staff to bring back ordinance that goes back to 2019 standards.

Aye (3): Commissioner Book, Commissioner Chestnut, and Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker

Nay (4): Mayor Ward, Commissioner Eastman, Commissioner Saco, and Commissioner Willits

Failed (3 to 4)

Moved by Commissioner Book

Seconded by Commissioner Chestnut

Motion: Have staff bring back the entertainment district-style idea to the General Policy Committee as soon as possible.

Aye (7): Mayor Ward, Commissioner Book, Commissioner Chestnut, Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker, Commissioner Eastman, Commissioner Saco, and Commissioner Willits

Approved (7 to 0)

Moved by Commissioner Book

Seconded by Commissioner Chestnut

Motion: Direct the City Attorney to return open container to 2019 standards.

Aye (3): Commissioner Book, Commissioner Chestnut, and Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker

Nay (4): Mayor Ward, Commissioner Eastman, Commissioner Saco, and Commissioner Willits

Failed (3 to 4)

4. 2023-189 GRU Solar Contract (B)

Anthony Cunningham, General Manager of Utilities introduced the item.

Eric Walters, Chief Sustainability Officer for GRU gave a presentation.

Public Comment: Wes Wheeler, Angela Casteel, Jeffrey Shapiro, Don Fields, Tyler Forrest, Bobby Mermer, Jo Beaty

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the City Commission discuss the amended solar contract and take any action deemed appropriate. The UAB recommends that the City Commission reaffirm their previous approval of the amended solar contract.

Moved by Commissioner Chestnut

Motion: Direct the General Manager not to executive the contract at this time.

Died for lack of second

Moved by Commissioner Eastman

Seconded by Commissioner Saco

Motion: Accept additional recommendation: Allow staff to engage in additional discussions with concerned stakeholders. Staff will return with results of discussions and recommendations for the Origis project on or before April 20, 2023.

Aye (7): Mayor Ward, Commissioner Book, Commissioner Chestnut, Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker, Commissioner Eastman, Commissioner Saco, and Commissioner Willits

Approved (7 to 0)

- M. RESOLUTIONS - AFTERNOON (Roll Call Required)**
- N. ORDINANCES: ADOPTION READING - AFTERNOON (Roll Call Required)**
- O. ORDINANCES: SECOND READING - AFTERNOON (Roll Call Required)**
- P. ORDINANCES: FIRST READING - AFTERNOON (Roll Call Required)**
- Q. COMMISSION COMMENT**
- 4:30 - 5:30 PM Dinner Break**
- R. CALL TO ORDER - 5:30 PM**
- S. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Girl Scouts of Gateway Council Troops

Heard

- T. PROCLAMATIONS & SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS**
 - 1. 2023-182 Girl Scouts Day Proclamation (B)**

Recommendation: To be received by Membership Manager for Girl Scouts of Gateway Council Heddy Vernon.

Heard

2. 2023-217 News Literacy Day Proclamation (B)

Recommendation: To be accepted by the Bateman Team.

Heard

3. 2023-234 Gideon Day Proclamation (B)

Recommendation: To be accepted by Stacy Scott.

Heard

4. 2023-209 - Potential Sale of the Public Radio System to Alachua County (B)

Anthony Cunningham, General Manager of Utilities introduced the item.

Lewis Walton, Chief Business Services Officer for Utilities gave a presentation.

Harold Theus, Alachua County Fire Chief spoke to the item.

Cynthia Curry, City Manager spoke to the item.

Claudia Rasnick, Chief Financial Officer for Utilities spoke to the item.

Public Comment: Jo Beaty, Tyler Forrest

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the City Commission direct the GRU General Manager to work with Alachua County to develop an agreement for the sale of the Public Safety Radio System to be brought back to the City Commission for final approval. The UAB recommends that the City Commission approve the staff recommendation.

Moved by Commissioner Saco

Seconded by Commissioner Willits

Motion: Approve with staff recommendation and that proceeds go to principle pending debt obligations.

Aye (7): Mayor Ward, Commissioner Book, Commissioner Chestnut, Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker, Commissioner Eastman, Commissioner Saco, and Commissioner Willits

Approved (7 to 0)

Recess: 6:27 PM

Reconvene: 7:05 PM

U. EARLY PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Craig Brashier, Tana Silva

V. 2022-703 Quasi-Judicial Rezoning LD22-84 ZON Located at 4100 North West 16th Boulevard (B)

Craig Brashier, CHW spoke to the item.

Recommendation: The City Commission adopt the proposed ordinance.

Moved by Commissioner Book

Seconded by Commissioner Willits

Motion: Approve as Recommended.

Aye (7): Mayor Ward, Commissioner Book, Commissioner Chestnut, Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker, Commissioner Eastman, Commissioner Saco, and Commissioner Willits

Approved (7 to 0)

W. 2023-233 Commissioner Duncan-Walker: Letter of Support for a Community Benefits Agreement for the East Gainesville Clinic project (NB)

Andrew Persons, Special Advisor to the City Manager spoke to the item.

Cynthia Curry, City Manager spoke to the item.

Zeriah Folston, Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion spoke to the item.

Public Comment: Tyler Forrest, Bobby Mermer, Donald Shepherd

Recommendation: The City Commission discuss and direct the Mayor to draft a letter to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) requesting that City and County staff work with the East Gainesville Community and the University of Florida Health to create a Community Benefits Agreement for the East Gainesville Clinic project.

Moved by Commissioner Chestnut

Seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker

Motion: Approve as Recommended.

Aye (7): Mayor Ward, Commissioner Book, Commissioner Chestnut, Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker, Commissioner Eastman, Commissioner Saco, and Commissioner Willits

Approved (7 to 0)

X. RESOLUTIONS - ROLL CALL REQUIRED

1. 2023-140 Third Budget Amendment to the FY 2023 General Government Financial and Operating Plan (B)

Cynthia Curry, City Manager spoke to the item.

Brecka Anderson, Interim City Auditor spoke to the item.

Recommendation: The City Commission adopt the proposed resolution as recommended by the Finance Committee.

Moved by Commissioner Chestnut

Seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker

Motion: Approved with changes as noted by the City Manager, including freezing of 4 of 5 positions.

Aye (7): Mayor Ward, Commissioner Book, Commissioner Chestnut, Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker, Commissioner Eastman, Commissioner Saco, and Commissioner Willits

Approved (7 to 0)

Y. BUSINESS DISCUSSION ITEMS - EVENING

1. 2023-243 Commissioner Chestnut: Budget Reduction Recommendations (NB)

Cynthia Curry, City Manager spoke to the item.

Anthony Cunningham, General Manager of Utilities spoke to the item.

Public Comment: Jo Beaty, Bobby Mermer, Donald Shepherd

Recommendation: The City Commission:

- 1) Directs the City Attorney to draft an ordinance repealing 2022-758 Commission Salaries Ordinance,
- 2) Authorize the Mayor to send a letter to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee requesting assistance in discussions with the University of Florida to provide payment in lieu of taxes,
- 3) Directs the Charter Officers to reduce their budgets and submit to the City Commission by March 23, 2023, and
- 4) Directs the City Manager and the General Manager of Utilities to review duplicative services and areas of consolidation with the assistance of a third party.

Motion 1 of 3:

Moved by Commissioner Chestnut

Seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker

Motion: The City Commission: Directs the City Attorney to draft an ordinance repealing 2022-758 Commission Salaries Ordinance.

Aye (5): Mayor Ward, Commissioner Book, Commissioner Chestnut, Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker, and Commissioner Eastman

Nay (2): Commissioner Saco, and Commissioner Willits

Approved (5 to 2)

Motion 2 of 3:

Moved by Commissioner Chestnut

Seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker

Motion: Authorize the Mayor to send a letter to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee requesting assistance in discussions with the University of Florida to provide payment in lieu of taxes.

Aye (7): Mayor Ward, Commissioner Book, Commissioner Chestnut, Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker, Commissioner Eastman, Commissioner Saco, and Commissioner Willits

Approved (7 to 0)

Motion 3 of 3:

Moved by Commissioner Chestnut

Seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker

Motion: Directs the City Manager and the General Manager of Utilities to review duplicative services and areas of consolidation with the assistance of a third party.

Aye (7): Mayor Ward, Commissioner Book, Commissioner Chestnut, Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker, Commissioner Eastman, Commissioner Saco, and Commissioner Willits

Approved (7 to 0)

Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Duncan-Walker left the meeting at 9:20 PM.

- Z. PUBLIC HEARINGS (Including Planning Petitions)**
- AA. ORDINANCES: ADOPTION READING - EVENING (Roll Call Required)**
- AB. ORDINANCES: SECOND READING - EVENING (Roll Call Required)**
 - 1. 2023-70 Residential Rental Unit Permit Program (B)**

Recommendation: The City Commission adopt the proposed ordinance.

Moved by Commissioner Eastman

Seconded by Commissioner Chestnut

Motion: Approve as Recommended.

Aye (6): Mayor Ward, Commissioner Book, Commissioner Chestnut, Commissioner Eastman, Commissioner Saco, and Commissioner Willits

Absent (1): Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker

Approved (6 to 0)

2. 2022-380 Request To Vacate A Right-of-way (LD22-000009 SVA) (B)

Recommendation: City Commission to adopt the proposed ordinance.

Moved by Commissioner Eastman

Seconded by Commissioner Chestnut

Motion: Approve as Recommended.

Aye (6): Mayor Ward, Commissioner Book, Commissioner Chestnut, Commissioner Eastman, Commissioner Saco, and Commissioner Willits

Absent (1): Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker

Approved (6 to 0)

3. 2023-105 Consolidated Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement Plan (B)

Recommendation: The City Commission adopt the proposed ordinance.

Moved by Commissioner Chestnut

Seconded by Commissioner Eastman

Motion: Approve as Recommended.

Aye (6): Mayor Ward, Commissioner Book, Commissioner Chestnut, Commissioner Eastman, Commissioner Saco, and Commissioner Willits

Absent (1): Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker

Approved (6 to 0)

4. 2022-704 LD22-129 TCH Certified Mail Requirement (B)

Recommendation: The City Commission adopt the proposed ordinance. The City Plan Board recommends approval of the proposed ordinance.

Moved by Commissioner Eastman

Seconded by Commissioner Willits

Motion: Approve as Recommended.

Aye (6): Mayor Ward, Commissioner Book, Commissioner Chestnut, Commissioner Eastman, Commissioner Saco, and Commissioner Willits

Absent (1): Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker

Approved (6 to 0)

AC. ORDINANCES: FIRST READING - EVENING (Roll Call Required)

AD. COMMISSION COMMENT

Commissioner Book - Is interested in inviting UF to the March 9th GPC meeting to discuss options for expanded UF contributions to the community. Kudos to the Director of Housing, Corey Harris for an awesome Heirs Forum.

Commissioner Willits - As we go forward, I want to talk a little bit about the idea of this Commission and how it's always run, or our roles as Commissioners, and how we interact with staff, Charter Officers. As I was running for office, and since I've come into office, I had multiple community members tell me rather not to treat our Charters like the well-paid and qualified people they are, but instead to second-guess everything they say because they're going to lead you around by the nose. You're the newbie. They're going to tell you what they want. I'm not much of a cynic, I really am not. I'm skeptical, but not a cynic, and so that kind of – that thought competes with the thought - I think about that when there are suggestions that this a part-time role and we should just rely on our, you know, highly-qualified staff, highly-qualified Charters because there is still an amazing amount of – it's not just that we get the expert opinion of somebody and we accept it where there's discretion. We feel out the community, we listen to our neighbors, we answer e-mails, we read reports. We read reports from non-staff, stuff that comes to us from citizens. We go to meetings. We listen. When you step out of your front door, a neighbor greets you and takes up ten minutes of

your time while you're trying to head to this meeting, just this morning. I enjoy getting to learn what people's concerns are. So that's one little portion that I just wanted to put that out there. But I want to come back to something I said to make sure that it is clear amongst all my colleagues. I announced to run for this office in May of last year. I was nearly elected in August, but for less than one percentage point avoiding a runoff, I won in the first week of November. The previous Commission decided first to pass a pay raise, I believe the next week, in November, with a second reading in December. I arrived to this Commission on January 5th. I had my last day as my full-time position at University of Florida on February 3rd. And then on February 6th I started my part-time position. It is not my job to respond to every community member who speaks at these meetings, so I will try not to. But what was suggested tonight was nearly nefarious. This idea that I knew before I ran that the salaries were going to increase is a salacious accusation. So, I needed to say, no, but it was the wrong time. But I want to talk to you tonight— because that was a salacious accusation. I can't let it stand out there in the public because I did not clarify myself. When I arrived to this Commission on January 5th, I had expectations of what the next budget year salary would be. So, I wanted to say that because it was, in essence, if not fully articulated, any astute observer would have heard a very large accusation and I had to say something about it tonight, even though it is 9:30.

Commissioner Chestnut - Along that same line, Commissioner, something very disturbing occurred with the reporting by the Gainesville Sun in reporting our action plan regarding GRU. In the February 28th paper, the reporter stated that, referring to Chestnut, "if that doesn't work, she added, the City should entertain the idea of selling off GRU". That is total misinformation. At no time, did I make such a statement. I reviewed the recording, and at no time did I discuss selling GRU. On February 28th, I brought the misinformation to the attention of the reporter who printed a correction on March 1st that stated, "though Commissioner Chestnut brought up the idea, she did not express support for it". Well, that statement is false. Blatantly false, and at no time did I bring up the idea of selling GRU. I think the record needs to be corrected. I'd like this spread in the minutes, so that if I ever have to use this in the future, I will have the exact quotation. But that is just blatantly false information.

Commissioner Eastman - Would like to have a joint meeting with the City Commission and City Plan Board.

Moved by Commissioner Eastman

Motion: Direct staff to schedule a Joint Meeting with the City Commission and City Plan Board before April meeting.

Mayor Ward -

There are a few things I want to talk about. I'll try to be brief here. I've been here nearly 13 hours already. Earlier, I read a proclamation about News Literacy Day and we talked about the importance in that proclamation, the importance of fighting misinformation. We ride a very difficult line here of being less than civil sometimes, of feeling like we're being less than civil if we respond to misinformation sometimes, or -- in the case of the "Gainesville Sun" headline, of starting a fight with people who sell ink -- or buy ink by the barrel. As the saying goes, we don't want to do that. But it's important to set the record straight and when someone either writes something that is incorrect or says something incorrect, regardless of their intent. If you don't raise your hand and say wow, that's not accurate, then it becomes accurate eventually. I watched Mayor Poe consistently do the very Christian thing and turn the other cheek, a lot in cases where I know that it was really hard and hurt to do that. I will advise those of you who are new and tell everybody that you do have to stand up for yourself. We do and that I will support you in setting the record straight because it matters. No matter who is up here, we need to be represented accurately and if the story keeps getting told over and over and over that is wrong, it becomes the truth as far as the public is concerned. It is important to make sure that we do stand against misinformation. Usually, that starts with a simple hey, maybe you misunderstood me. Now I know that by doing this I am likely to hear back about it at some point in the not-too-distant future. I think we need to set a standard for what's okay and what's not. I'm not doing this in any kind of pushing match, but it's important for the truth to actually be the truth and to call it out when it is not. Having said that again, I know I've lit a fire for future meetings, but it matters and particularly in the wake of that proclamation that I read this evening.

I think it's important to point that out a procedural thing that is important to note this evening. I spoke with Ms. Anderson a couple of days ago. She is enjoying and looking forward to continuing to be our Interim Auditor but is not interested in being the permanent Auditor. We will need to engage the process to start a full-on search for that position. I just wanted to make you all aware of that at the first opportunity here. She and I talked early on about on this being a test phase to see this job is something she wanted to do. It's an interesting time to be going through that test. The other five of you are stuck with us. I want to thank you all for your efforts today. It has been a very long meeting, but we did get some work done. There are going to be a lot more days like this. We have a lot of work ahead of us and I trust that we will get things done.

AE. ADJOURNMENT - 9:40 PM

Omichele D. Nattiel-Williams, IIMC-CMC, City Clerk