



**City Commission Workshop
MINUTES**

**August 21, 2023, 3:00 p.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

Meeting called to order at 3:00 pm.

B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Commissioner Willits

Seconded by Commissioner Chestnut

Motion: The City Commission adopt the regular and consent agenda.

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

Approved (7 to 0)

C. BUSINESS DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. 2023-797 FY24 General Government Budget (B)

Cynthia Curry, City Manager, introduced the item. Code enforcement officers with the rental housing inspection program have largely been absorbed into vacancies in the Public Works Department.

Steven Varvel, Acting Director of the Office of Management and Budget, gave a presentation on the Fiscal Year 2024 General Government Budget.

The Gainesville Community Reinvestment Area (GCRA) county funding is tied to the Interlocal Agreement.

Corey Harris, Housing and Community Development Director, spoke to the item.

Brian Singleton, Acting Public Works Director, explained the increase to the bad debt increase, which is due to under-budgeting in previous years.

Forrest Eddleton, Acting Director of Sustainable Development, moving rental housing and permit expeditors into Public Works was an opportunity for the building fund and investment in the training for this staff. The coordination of effort to accomplish this represented a herculean cooperation across multiple departments.

Rick Smith, Director of Gainesville Community Reinvestment Area, spoke regarding the Eastside food mobility hub and that it is contingent on the utility infrastructure. The Invite to Negotiate should be sent at the beginning of 2024. The county funding for GCRA will continue to decrease each year by \$100,000 until the county funding level equals that of the city.

Andrew Persons, Special Advisor to the City Manager, still have Transit Operator vacancies in addition to the ones that are being eliminated. Reduction of service is related to a variety of factors, including staff reductions, cost increases, among other factors.

Phil Mann, Special Advisor to the City Manager, the statute limits the affordable housing set aside for the purchase of the property. Explained the difference between the Infrastructure Surtax and the Streets, Stations and Strong Foundations boards.

Betsy Waite, Director of Wild Spaces Public Places, discussed the various Wild Spaces Public Spaces projects in 2024, and those upcoming in 2025.

Laura Graetz, Director of Human Resources, spoke to the positions planned to be eliminated and the status of displaced employees.

North Florida Regional Planning Council - remain active, request that the city pays the dues in installments, move the meetings around the region, and that they meet with city officials and administrative staff quarterly.

Recommendation: The City Commission hear budget presentations from staff.

D. MEMBER COMMENT

Mayor Ward - Ribbon cutting at the airport today at 7:30 pm for Silver Airways.

E. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm.

Kristen J. Bryant, Interim City Clerk