



**City Commission Special Meeting
MINUTES**

**October 26, 2023, 1:00 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

B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

C. ORDINANCES: SECOND READING - (Roll Call Required)

1. 2023-622 Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances Relating to the Sale, Dispensing, Possession and Consumption of Alcohol (B)

Commissioner Saco joined the meeting at 1:03 p.m.

Commissioner Willits joined the meeting at 1:04 p.m.

Commissioner Duncan-Walker joined the meeting at 1:06 p.m.

Andrew Persons, Chief Operating Officer of Government Affairs, spoke to the item.

Cynthia Curry, City Manager, spoke to the item.

Daniel Nee, City Attorney, spoke to the item.

Lonnie Scott, Sr., Chief of Police, spoke to the item.

Public Comment: Carrie Parker-Warren, Maria Edwards, Robert Mounts

Moved by Commissioner Book
Seconded by Commissioner Chestnut

Recommendation: The City Commission adopt the proposed ordinance.

Motion: Approve as recommended, with the modification adding a provision on where establishments are able to sell alcohol in an outdoor environment, and referencing the ordinance with the filename "2023-622 draft ordinance 20231026."

Aye (4): Mayor Ward, Commissioner Book, Commissioner Chestnut, and Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker

Nay (3): Commissioner Eastman, Commissioner Saco, and Commissioner Willits

Approved (4 to 3)

2. 2023-855 Open Containers of Alcoholic Beverages – Downtown Entertainment District (B)

Andrew Persons, Chief Operating Officer of Government Affairs, spoke to the item.

Daniel Nee, City Attorney, spoke to the item.

Cynthia Curry, City Manager, spoke to the item.

Public Comment: Maria Huff Edwards, Robert Mounts, Kali Blount, Brian Kramer

Moved by Commissioner Eastman
Seconded by Commissioner Saco

Recommendation: The City Commission adopt the proposed ordinance.

Motion: Adopt the proposed ordinance with the following amendments:

- 1. Remove the U4 area of the Grove Street map from the boundaries of the Entertainment District.**
- 2. Add language excluding public parking lots and parking garages from the boundaries of the Entertainment District.**
- 3. Amend the noise ordinance curfew for the Entertainment District to 12:00 a.m.**

4. Remove language barring re-entry to establishments with previously purchased alcoholic beverages.

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)

Recess - 3:11 p.m.

Resume - 3:26 p.m.

D. BUSINESS DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. 2023-1017 8th and Waldo Sports Complex Feasibility, Pro Forma, and Traffic Study Final Report (B)

Roxana Gonzalez, Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, spoke to the item.

Brandon Dowling, Representative from C.H. Johnson Consulting, gave a feasibility study presentation.

Jerry Depkowski, Senior Traffic Engineer with C.H. Johnson Consulting, spoke to the traffic study.

Cynthia Curry, City Manager, spoke to the item.

Public Comment: Kali Blount, Carrie Parker Warren

Moved by Commissioner Chestnut

Seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker

Recommendation: 1) The City Commission hear a final report on the Sports Complex Feasibility, Pro Forma, and Traffic study from C.H. Johnson Consulting and review the potential next steps and, 2) Direct staff to move forward with implementing the next steps identified above.

Motion: Direct staff to 1) Engage an architectural firm, 2) Explore strategic planning opportunities, and 3) Devise an initial funding plan.

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

Approved (7 to 0)

2. 2023-1029 Commissioner Chestnut Discussion Item: City of Gainesville Holiday Parade Update (B)

Cynthia Curry, City Manager, spoke to the item.

Recommendation: The City Commission receive an update on the holiday parade.

Heard

E. MEMBER COMMENT

Commissioner Book praised the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs department for their recent accreditation award.

Mayor Ward spoke to the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs department's accreditation and mentioned the City's numerous other accreditations.

Commissioner Duncan-Walker inquired about the "Pink House" in Porters Quarters.

Daniel Nee, City Attorney, provided an update on the current lawsuit against the state regarding the Gainesville Regional Utilities takeover.

Commissioner Willits spoke to the Gainesville Regional Utilities lawsuit and spoke out against a continued effort to pursue litigation against the state.

F. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

Kristen J. Bryant, Interim City Clerk