



**City Commission Regular Meeting**  
**MINUTES**

**February 15, 2024, 10:00 a.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 Saco, Commissioner  
Willits

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**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m.

**B. INVOCATION**

Pastor Gerard Duncan, Prayers by Faith Ministries

**C. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**CONSENT AGENDA UPDATES:**

2024-161 – Approval of a Joint City-County Meeting (NB), Item Added,  
Explanation: Requested by the City Clerk

**REGULAR AGENDA UPDATES:**

2024-164 - Homelessness Update (B), Item Added, Explanation: Requested by  
the Mayor

2024-159 Steps, Stakeholders, and Activities Regarding Gun Violence  
Prevention (B), New Backup, Explanation: Requested by the City Manager

2024-157 - GRU Impact on General Government Financial Stability (B), New  
Backup, Explanation: Requested by the City Manager

2024-161 Approval of a Joint City-County Meeting (NB), pulled from Consent Agenda to the afternoon

2024-134 Ironwood Golf Course Budget-to-Actual Analysis for Fiscal Year 2024 (B), pulled from Consent Agenda to the evening

**Moved by** Commissioner Duncan-Walker

**Seconded by** Mayor Pro Tempore Chestnut

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

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

Approved (7 to 0)

**D. CONSENT AGENDA**

**Moved by** Commissioner Duncan-Walker

**Seconded by** Mayor Pro Tempore Chestnut

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

Approved On Consent

**1. Approval of Minutes from the January 22, January 25, February 1, and February 13, 2024 City Commission Meetings (B)**

**Moved by** Commissioner Duncan-Walker

**Seconded by** Mayor Pro Tempore Chestnut

**Recommendation:** The City Commission approve the minutes from the January 22, January 25, February 1, and February 13, 2024 City Commission meetings.

Approved On Consent

**2. 2024-102 Approval of the Regional Transit System (RTS) Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Program (B)**

**Moved by** Commissioner Duncan-Walker

**Seconded by** Mayor Pro Tempore Chestnut

**Recommendation:** The City Commission approve the Regional Transit System (RTS) Equal Employment Opportunity Program, 2024-2027.

Approved On Consent

**3. 2024-147 Changes to City Auditor's Activity at GRU (NB)**

**Moved by** Commissioner Duncan-Walker

**Seconded by** Mayor Pro Tempore Chestnut

Approved On Consent

**4. 2024-113 Fiscal Year 2023 City Investment Performance Summary Report (B)**

**Moved by** Commissioner Duncan-Walker

**Seconded by** Mayor Pro Tempore Chestnut

**Recommendation:** The City Commission approve the submitted Fiscal Year 2023 City Investment Performance Summary Report.

Approved On Consent

**5. 2024-158 General Government Budget Calendar Update (NB)**

**Moved by** Commissioner Duncan-Walker

**Seconded by** Mayor Pro Tempore Chestnut

**Recommendation:** The City Commission approve the updated Fiscal Year 2025 budget development calendar.

Approved On Consent

**E. EARLY PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

John Arana, Philip Arana, Carolyn Colson, Jamie Swick, Dillon Boatner, Citizen, Kali Blount, Dr. Kathryn Williams, Sonia White

**F. BUSINESS DISCUSSION ITEMS - MORNING**

**1. 2024-164 Homelessness Update (B)**

Cynthia Curry, City Manager, introduced the item.

Roberto Sutton, Assistant Chief, Gainesville Fire Rescue gave a presentation on managing risk in the community.

Cintya Ramos, Executive Chief of Staff, spoke to the funding for homeless support services provided by ARPA through the city.

John DeCarmine, Executive Director of Grace Marketplace, spoke to what brings people to Gainesville, mentioning that the reasons are the same for those with or without stable housing; the services Grace Marketplace has provided in the downtown corridor; and the 2005 10-Year Plan between the city and county.

Carl Smart, Deputy Alachua County Manager of Community & Strategic Initiatives, spoke to the support services provided by Alachua County.

Commissioner Saco requested this item be placed on the next Joint City/County meeting.

Joseph Hillhouse, Deputy Chief, Gainesville Fire Rescue, spoke to the arrest of an individual who was intentionally setting fires.

Dan Nee, City Attorney, spoke to the legal issues around clearing out homeless encampments.

Mayor Ward requested an update on Homeless Services be added to the February 22, 2024 General Policy Committee agenda.

Public Comment: Mrs. Regina Morse, Ms. Chanae Jackson, Eli Collins

**Recommendation:** The City Commission hear a staff presentation.

**Moved by** Commissioner Willits

**Seconded by** Commissioner Saco

**Motion: Reallocate \$660,000 in ARPA funds for the Creekside Common Development and \$40,000 in ARPA funds for city administrative services to homeless support services.**

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

Approved (7 to 0)

Recess: 12:17 p.m.

Reconvene: 12:27 p.m.

**2. 2024-159 Steps, Stakeholders, and Activities Regarding Gun Violence Prevention (B)**

Cynthia Curry, City Manager, introduced the item.

Brandace Stone, Community Health Director, gave a presentation on Steps, Stakeholders, and Activities Regarding Gun Violence Prevention. This presentation is attached to the minutes.

At 1:30 p.m. the City Commission called item 2024-101 as it was at a time certain, and then returned to this item at 1:40 p.m.

Public Comment: Ms. Chanae Jackson, Ms. Susan Browder, Kali Blount, Mr. Malu Brooks, Mrs. Amanda Goldsmith, Patricia Lee

**Recommendation:** The City Commission receive the report and provide guidance to staff on next steps.

**Moved by** Commissioner Willits

**Seconded by** Commissioner Saco

**Motion: Reallocate \$150,000 from city administrative services to stand alone gun violence prevention programing.**

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

Approved (7 to 0)

**G. RESOLUTIONS – MORNING (Roll Call Required)**

**H. BUSINESS DISCUSSION ITEM A - AFTERNOON**

**1. 2024-101 Years of Service Recognition for Community Builders (B)**

**Recommendation:** The City Commission recognize those employees with 15 years of service or more for the first quarter of FY24.

Heard

**I. GAINESVILLE HISTORY MOMENT**

The Gainesville History Moment was rescheduled due to the morning session running long.

**J. EARLY PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Ms. Chanae Jackson

**K. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Johnny Law, Patricia Lee, Jim Konish

Recess: 2:02 p.m.

**L. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 2:30 p.m.

**M. BUSINESS DISCUSSION ITEMS B - AFTERNOON**

**1. 2024-138 Appointments to the Pension Review Committee and the Public Recreation and Parks Board (B)**

**Recommendation:** The City Commission discuss the appointments to the Pension Review Committee and the Public Recreation and Parks Board and take necessary action.

**Moved by** Mayor Pro Tempore Chestnut

**Seconded by** Commissioner Eastman

**Motion 1: Appoint Charlotte Morse to the Public Recreation and Parks Board for a full term ending 6/1/2026.**

Aye (5): Commissioner Book, Mayor Pro Tempore Chestnut, Commissioner Eastman, Mayor Ward, and Commissioner Willits

Absent (2): Commissioner Duncan-Walker, and Commissioner Saco

Approved (5 to 0)

**Moved by** Commissioner Willits

**Seconded by** Mayor Pro Tempore Chestnut

**Motion 2: Appoint Jonathan Visscher to the Pension Review Committee for a full term ending 11/30/2028.**

Aye (5): Commissioner Book, Mayor Pro Tempore Chestnut, Commissioner Eastman, Mayor Ward, and Commissioner Willits

Absent (2): Commissioner Duncan-Walker, and Commissioner Saco

Approved (5 to 0)

**2. 2024-140 City's Climate Action Update: Transportation, Extreme Heat and Food Systems (B)**

Dan Zhu, Chief Climate Officer, gave a presentation on the City's Climate Action Update: Transportation, Extreme Heat and Food Systems.

Commissioner Saco joined the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

Commissioner Duncan-Walker joined the meeting at 2:52 p.m.

Jesus Gomez, Acting Director of Transportation, spoke to the item as to the Electrical Vehicle fleet, including buses and general government cars.

**Recommendation:** The City Commission hear a progress update on the Climate Action Plan and provide any feedback, input, or direction as appropriate.

Heard

**3. 2024-161 Approval of a Joint City County Meeting (NB)**

**Moved by** Commissioner Eastman

**Seconded by** Commissioner Saco

**Recommendation:** The City Commission review and approve the updated 2024 Joint City County meeting.

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

Approved (7 to 0)

Recess: 3:14 p.m.

**N. RESOLUTIONS - AFTERNOON (Roll Call Required)**

**O. ORDINANCES: ADOPTION READING - AFTERNOON (Roll Call Required)**

**P. ORDINANCES: SECOND READING - AFTERNOON (Roll Call Required)**

**Q. ORDINANCES: FIRST READING - AFTERNOON (Roll Call Required)**

**R. COMMISSION COMMENT**

**4:30 - 5:30 PM Dinner Break**

**S. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m.

**T. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Littlewood Elementary School Safety Patrol

**U. PROCLAMATIONS & SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS**

**V. EARLY PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

**W. RESOLUTIONS A - EVENING (Roll Call Required)**

**1. 2024-98 Regional Transit System (RTS) Program of Projects (POP), Federal and State FY2024 (B)**

Jesus Gomez, Acting Director of Transportation, spoke to the item.



**Moved by** Commissioner Eastman

**Seconded by** Commissioner Saco

**Recommendation:** The City Commission: 1) accept comments at a Public Hearing on the Regional Transit System Program of Projects for Federal and State FY 2024; and 2) adopt the Resolution authorizing the Regional Transit System to file grant applications with the Federal Transit Administration and Florida Department of Transportation as outlined in the Regional Transit System Program of Projects for Federal and State FY 2024.

**Motion: Approve as Recommended.**

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

Approved (7 to 0)

**X. BUSINESS DISCUSSION ITEMS - EVENING**

**1. 2024-157 GRU Impact on General Government Financial Stability (B)**

Cynthia Curry, City Manager, spoke to the item.

Andrew Persons, Chief Operating Officer, spoke to the item related to the ConnectFree Program being eliminated by the GRU Authority.

Phil Mann, Special Advisor to the City Manager, spoke to the item related to the payment of streetlights in the county.

**Recommendation:** The City Commission discuss and direct staff as necessary.

Heard

**Y. RESOLUTIONS B - EVENING (Roll Call Required)**

**1. 2024-133 First Budget Amendment to the FY 2024 General Government Financial and Operating Budget (B)**

Cynthia Curry, City Manager, spoke to the item.

Steve Varvel, Acting Director of the Office of Management and Budget, spoke to the item giving the highlights of the budget amendment.

A revised draft of Resolution 2024-133 was distributed during the meeting and is attached to the minutes.

Public Comment: Marnie Wiss

**Moved by** Commissioner Eastman

**Seconded by** Commissioner Saco

**Recommendation:** The City Commission adopt the proposed resolution.

**Motion: Approve the revised Resolution 2024-133 as recommended.**

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

Approved (7 to 0)

## **Z. BUSINESS DISCUSSION ITEMS B - EVENING**

### **1. 2024-134 Ironwood Golf Course Budget-to-Actual Analysis for Fiscal Year 2024 (B)**

Steve Varvel, Acting Director of the Office of Management and Budget, spoke to the item.

Roxana Gonzalez, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs, gave an overview of the fee changes at Ironwood Golf Course, tee times, sales, concessions, and rentals.

**Moved by** Commissioner Saco

**Seconded by** Commissioner Willits

**Recommendation:** The City Commission receive a budget-to-actual analysis for the Ironwood Golf Course for FY 2024 (period ended December 31, 2023).

**Motion: Approve as Recommended.**

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

Approved (7 to 0)

**AA. PUBLIC HEARINGS (Including Planning Petitions)**

**AB. ORDINANCES: ADOPTION READING - EVENING (Roll Call Required)**

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

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

**AE. COMMISSION COMMENT**

Mayor Ward - Invited Mr. Mhere to speak at his first meeting. Requested items from the Commission to put on the GRU Authority.

Commissioner Willits - Announced the event on February 24, Greater Invader Rally.

**AF. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

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Kristen J. Bryant, City Clerk