



City of
HAWTHORNE
Florida

Minutes
ALACHUA COUNTY & HAWTHORNE CITY COMMISSION
JOINT MEETING
Tuesday, April 16, 2019
6:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER- Chair Chestnut and Mayor Surrency

1. Invocation- Commissioner Bouie
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Vice Mayor Howard

WELCOME- Mayor Surrency welcomed everyone to the City of Hawthorne for the Board of County Commissioners Joint Meeting.

INTRODUCTION

1. Mayor Surrency introduced himself, the City of Hawthorne City Commissioners and City Staff.

2. County Chair Chestnut introduced himself, the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners and County Staff.

The City of Hawthorne did a Proclamation to NWFRPC and presented the proclamation to the City of Waldo Mayor Louie Davis, who is the Chair of NWFRPC.

County Commissioner Wheler arrived at this time.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved to adopt the agenda

Motion- County Commissioner Cornell

Second- County Commissioner Wheeler

County Commissioner Byerly	Not Present
County Commissioner Cornell	Yes
County Commissioner Hutchinson	Not Present
County Commissioner Wheeler	Yes
Chair Chestnut	Yes

Vote 3-0

Moved to adopt the agenda

Motion- Commissioner Roberts-Cheatham

Second- Commissioner Bouie

Commissioner Bouie	Yes
Commissioner Floyd	Yes
Commissioner Roberts-Cheatham	Yes

Vice Mayor Howard	Yes
Mayor Surrency	Yes

Vote 5-0

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

4. Gas Tax

City Manager Vause- The City of Hawthorne is asking ACBOCC to reconsider allocations for the Local Option Gas Tax distributions for Hawthorne, Waldo, Archer, Micanopy and LaCrosse. Those five municipalities have not lost population or road miles, now only revenues from LOFT. The current distribution leaves the five small municipalities severely underfunded with little option but to increase in Ad Valorem Rate of 1.2305 to meet LOFT deficit of \$58,877 in 2024. The time frame that was given the local municipalities in December of 2017 yielded no consensus or agreement on equitable distribution but the ACBOCC elected to choose a scenario that penalize those five communities with the current Interlocal Agreement. The City of Hawthorne is asking ACBOCC to make whole the five municipalities by reducing the County's percentage each until 2024. Will only be a reduction of \$262K for the County.

Mayor Surrency- applaud ACBOCC staff for getting these numbers for us and understand the ACBOCC was in a bad situation having to negotiate with the City of Gainesville. His suggestion was to leave it alone until everyone figured out how to move forward with it. He did some digging at the state level and the Department of Revenue sends all the fuel tax records to Alachua County and Alachua County dispense the money to the municipalities.

County Commissioner Cornell- Not in favor of Alachua County reducing their percentage because it was already reduced because the City of Gainesville. He is in favor of opening up the discussion for the remaining 8 municipalities.

Discussion continued

Moved to direct county staff to reach out to the City of Gainesville to reopen the gas tax negotiations. Under the reopening, it is understood the ratio between the City of Gainesville and Alachua County and the terms of that agreement will not change. (Part 2) The intent of this reopening is to allow Alachua County to work with the other 8 cities to come up with a fair and equitable distribution of the remaining gas tax percentage for the remaining 8 years.

Motion- County Commissioner Cornell Second- County Commissioner Wheeler

Discussion:

Mr. Jeff Hayes (County Staff) & County Manager Lieberman spoke on this issue as well.

Commissioner Byerly	Not Present
Commissioner Cornell	Yes
Commissioner Hutchinson	Not Present
Commissioner Wheeler	Yes
Chair Chestnut	Yes

Vote 3-0

5. Alachua County Agriculture and Equestrian Center Update

Ms. Gina Pebbles (County Staff) - on the request of the City of Hawthorne she is here to answer questions on the Alachua County Agriculture and Canterbury Equestrian Center.

Mayor Surrency- In Hawthorne agriculture is very important to us. Was not in favor of the fairgrounds moving from Gainesville because it was centrally located but if it did move would have like to see it come to Hawthorne for several reasons. We are asking the County to not overlook Hawthorne and if anything else comes available please seriously consider Hawthorne in the future.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor of Waldo Mr. Louie Davis- will support Hawthorne if the fairground comes to their city.

Ms. Sharon Surrency- Hawthorne Area Resource Center Coordinator. Question about the plastic bag ordinance. Is there an "opt out" clause if municipalities don't want to participate? County Manager Lieberman- she believes it is an "opt in" clause and it will not apply to Hawthorne if you don't "opt in". It impact retail establishments and should not affect nonprofit sectors.

Mr. Larry Tilbury- Question about the County animal ordinance. The county animal control picks up stray cats then release them back into the community and these cats are a nuisance. County Commissioner Cornell suggested he speak with Ms. Pebbles who is in charge of that. They have heard this issue before and the County is working towards fixing the problem.

7. COMMISSION GENERAL COMMENTS AND INFORMAL DISCUSSION

County Commission

County Commissioner Wheeler- Enjoyed being here. She is currently working with UF students who are interested in doing intern work at local municipalities if Hawthorne is interested.

County Commissioner Cornell- No further comments.

County Commissioner Byerly arrived at this time. He apologized for being late. He was determine to be here but ran into some vehicle trouble.

County Chair Chestnut- No further comments.

City of Hawthorne City Commission

City Commissioner Floyd- Thank you to ACBOCC for coming out.

City Commissioner Roberts-Cheatham- also thanked the County Commissioners and invited them to attend the Super Senior activities and gave them the days and times the Super Seniors meet.

City Commissioner Bouie- Thank you to ACBOCC for coming and please keep Hawthorne in mind when growth opportunities become available on the East side of the County.

Vice Mayor Howard- Thank you to ACBOCC for coming and he agrees with what the other City Commissioners have said.

Mayor Surrency- Thank you to ACBOCC for coming and look forward to working with them in the future.

Ms. Bonita Dewilliby Moore- Hawthorne Historical Society. Invited the County Commission to take some time to come and visit the Hawthorne Museum and invited them to hear a speaker on the Turpentine Education Center.

ADJOURN @ 7:40PM

These minutes are submitted for approval.

LaKesha H. McGruder, MMC
City Clerk

Matthew Surrency, Mayor