

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
FULL COUNCIL
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Restaurant
Lake City, Florida

March 25, 2004
7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ed Braddy, City of Gainesville
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
Dixie Donovan, Columbia County
John Driggers, Dixie County
Roy Ellis, Madison County
Steve Futch, City of Starke
Gail Garrard, Lafayette County
Sandra Haas, Suwannee County
John Hersey, Bradford County
Ray Kirkland, City of Lake City
Craig Lowe, City of Gainesville
Eddie Martin, City of Hawthorne
James Montgomery, Columbia County
Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak
Edd Sadler, Taylor County
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County
Myra Valentine, City of Madison

STAFF PRESENT

Robin Barnes
Steve Dopp
Charles Justice
Scott Koons
Carol Laine

MEMBERS ABSENT

William Alexander, City of Perry
Rick Bryant, City of Gainesville
John Carlson, Alachua County
Minnie Crevasse, Alachua County
David Dodge, Bradford County
Mitchell Gentry, Gilchrist County
Grady Hartzog, City of Newberry
Matthew Hawkins, City of Jasper
Ricky Jenkins, Union County
James King, Madison County
Rodney Long, Alachua County
Charles Maultsby, Taylor County
L. B. Nelson, City of Archer
Emory Philman, Gilchrist County
Lee Pinkoson, Alachua County
Tamara Robbins, City of Alachua
Paul L. Remzey Samarrai, Town of Micanopy
Douglas Udell, Suwannee County
Lewis Vaughn, Hamilton County
Penny Wheat, Alachua County

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

Bill Henderson, DOT
Russell Simpson, DEP

GUESTS PRESENT

Diana Davis
Jon Wershow

Board Members names are bolded

Chairman Davis called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m., noting that there was not a quorum of the Council. Chairman Davis stated that there was a quorum of the Board and he announced that, due to the changes made to the organization policy, all Council members were able to vote.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - January 22, 2004

Chairman Davis asked that the minutes of the January 22, 2004, meeting be approved as written.

ACTION: Mayor Kirkland made the motion, with a second by Ms. Donovan, to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2004, meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.

II. CONSENT AGENDA - None

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - Resolution of Appreciation

Chairman Davis asked that a Resolution of Appreciation for past services as a member of the Planning Council be approved for Alan "Bo" Hammock from Union County.

ACTION: Commissioner Martin made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Futch, to approve the Resolution of Appreciation for Alan "Bo" Hammock. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

1. Tri-State Hazardous Materials Exercise Grant

Mr. Justice reported that Hazmat teams from Gainesville, FL, Tallahassee, FL, Dothan, AL and Valdosta, GA have been discussing issues related to hazmat response across state lines for some time. He stated that these four teams have response areas where the nearest team is in the next state. He stated that the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) is offering the Council \$7,500 in funding to conduct a tri-state hazmat exercise by September 2004. He added that the Apalachee Regional Planning Council has been offered \$7,500 to help plan and conduct the tri-state exercise. Mr. Justice stated that the Executive Committee recommended that the Council authorize the Chairman to execute an agreement to accept \$7,500 from FDEM to conduct the tri-state exercise.

ACTION: Commissioner Montgomery made the motion, with a second by

Ms. Donovan, to authorize the Chairman to execute an agreement to accept \$7,500 from FDEM to conduct a tri-state hazardous materials exercise by September 2004. The motion carried unanimously.

2. School District Disaster Plan Review

Mr. Justice reported that the Florida Department of Education has expressed concerns over the content of the school district disaster plans and that the Office of School Safety has received grant money from the Division of Emergency Management to review the prototype emergency plan for each school district. Mr. Justice stated that the Executive Committee recommended that the Council authorize the Chairman to execute an agreement with the Florida Department of Education to accept \$5,000 to review school district disaster plans in the district.

ACTION: Mayor Kirkland made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Futch, to authorize the Chairman to execute an agreement with the Florida Department of Education to accept \$5,000 to review school district disaster plans in the district. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Amendment to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

Mr. Justice stated that it was recently announced that the University of Florida will build a Center of Excellence for Regenerative Health Biotechnology in the City of Alachua. He stated that this center will cost approximately \$15 million and would provide some 200 high-paying and high quality jobs. He added that the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) has agreed to provide a \$2 million grant to support this project if the project is included in the CEDS report for the economic development district in which it is located. Mr. Justice stated that the Executive Committee recommended that the Council amend the current CEDS document to reflect the addition of a Center for Excellence for Regenerative Health Biotechnology to the rest of the projects authorized by the City of Alachua.

ACTION: Commissioner Montgomery made the motion, with a second by Ms. Donovan, to amend the current CEDS document to reflect the addition of a Center for Excellence for Regenerative Health Biotechnology to the rest of the projects authorized by the City of Alachua. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Hometown Democracy Constitutional Amendment Petition

Mr. Justice reported on the Hometown Democracy Constitutional Amendment which is being proposed to place all comprehensive plans and comprehensive plan amendments before the voters in the form of a referendum for approval. He added that the Florida Regional Councils Association, at its last meeting, took a position in opposition to the amendment. Mr. Justice reported that the Executive Committee recommended that the Council prepare a resolution in opposition to the Hometown Democracy Constitutional Amendment for the April meeting.

ACTION: Commissioner Montgomery made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Futch, to prepare a resolution in opposition to the Hometown Democracy Constitutional Amendment for the April meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Clearinghouse Committee

Local Government Comprehensive Plan Amendments

Mayor Kirkland reported that the Clearinghouse Committee met and reviewed one Committee-level item which requires Council action.

#33 - Gilchrist County Comprehensive Plan Evaluation and Appraisal Report-based Adopted Amendments (DCA No. 03-1ER)

Mayor Kirkland stated that, concerning the Gilchrist County Comprehensive Plan Evaluation and Appraisal Report-based Adopted Amendments, the Clearinghouse Committee concluded that the proposed amendments would not adversely affect natural resources of regional significance, regional facilities or adjacent local governments. He stated that the Committee further finds that the Plan, as amended, remains consistent with the Regional Plan and recommended forwarding this finding to Gilchrist County and the Florida Department of Community Affairs as regional comment.

ACTION: Mayor Kirkland made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Martin, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Kirkland stated that the Clearinghouse Committee met with a quorum on March 11, 2004 and reviewed one Committee-level item on behalf of the Council.

#35 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments (DCA No. 04-1)

Mayor Kirkland stated that a copy of the Committee report for the City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments was handed out before the meeting and that no action was required by the Council.

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Accounts Receivable from the Town of White Springs

Mr. Justice stated that the Town of White Springs owes the Council \$5,104.93 for work that was done nearly two years ago. He stated that the Town has been sent invoices for this work and have been contacted on numerous occasions requesting that these funds be paid. Mr. Justice requested that the Council authorize the Council Attorney, Jon Wershow, to communicate with the Town of White Springs in an effort to secure payment of the outstanding invoices and if that is unsuccessful, authorize Mr. Wershow to take necessary legal action to collect the funds.

ACTION: Ms. Donovan made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Futch to authorize the Council Attorney to communicate with the Town of White Springs in an effort to secure payment of the outstanding invoices and if that is unsuccessful, authorize Mr. Wershow to take necessary legal action to collect the funds. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Financial Report for the Period Ending December 31, 2003

Mr. Justice reviewed the Financial Report for the period ending December 31, 2003. He answered questions and noted that the financial condition of the Council is sound. Mr. Justice reported that, because of the inability to use revenues received from Florida First Capital Finance Corporation until receivables owed by ADCO are paid, the fund balance may be reduced by \$40,000 by the end of the year. He added that staff will make every effort to preserve Council funds during the remainder of the year. Mr. Justice reported that the overall expenditure level for the quarter is 25 percent of the budgeted amount and that there should be no problem in maintaining the appropriate budget to expenditure ratio for the year.

C. Legislative Report

Mr. Justice reported that the governor recommended in his budget that regional planning councils be appropriated \$2 million. He added that the Florida House budget for regional planning councils is \$2.6 million and the Senate budget is \$4 million.

Mr. Justice reported on the proposal to amend the Developments of Regional Impact (DRI) legislation. He stated that if the current proposal passes, the legislation would be a detriment to the cities and counties in the region. He reported on the recommendations proposed by the Florida Regional Councils Associations and stated he would keep the Council informed of the status of the legislation.

D. Regional Domestic Security Task Force Exercise

Mr. Justice reported on the regional and domestic security task force exercise the Council and the Apalachee Regional Planning Council is conducting. He stated that the exercise will be held on April 27, 2004 at the Goldkist Poultry plant located in Suwannee County. He added that the hazmat teams involved in the exercise are from Gainesville, Lake City and Live Oak.

E. Status of Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern

Mr. Justice reviewed the status of the Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern designation and stated that ten counties in our area along with Jefferson, Baker, Putnam and Levy Counties have been designated as one of the three Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern.

Mr. Justice stated that the Economic Development Director, W. D. Higginbotham, has resigned effective April 23, 2004 after eight years of employment with the Council.

Mr. Justice reported on the progress of the work being done at the interchanges along I-75 by the Florida Department of Transportation.

Mr. Justice reported on the status of the Springhill DRI. He stated that the developer has not submitted a request to amend Alachua County's Comprehensive Plan and this will delay the DRI review until this fall.

Chairman Davis stated that the next meeting of the Council will be held on April 22, 2004. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Chairman

Date