

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
FULL COUNCIL
MINUTES

Tucker's Steak and Seafood Restaurant
Blanche Hotel
Lake City, Florida

March 22, 2007
7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Stephen Bailey, Columbia County
Ed Braddy, City of Gainesville
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
David Dodge, Bradford County
Jack Donovan, City of Gainesville
Roy Ellis, Madison County
Sandra Haas, Suwannee County
Donnie Hamlin, Lafayette County
Randy Hatch, Suwannee County
John Hersey, Bradford County
Emily Weed Ketring, City of Perry
Buddy Lamb, Dixie County
Eddie Martin, Alachua County
Charles Maultsby, Taylor County
Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak
Gerald O'Neil, Alachua County
Rudolph Parker, Taylor County
James Painter, Alachua County
Tracy Reeves, Madison County
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County
Myra Valentine, City of Madison
Ronald Williams, Columbia County
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

GUESTS PRESENT

Diana Davis
Harold Emrich, City of Madison
George "Buddy" Haas
Peggy Hersey
James Montgomery
John Rimes, Worthington Springs
Jon Wershow
Johnny Wooley, Suwannee County

MEMBERS ABSENT

Paul Alcantar, City of Archer
Rick Bryant, City of Gainesville
Martha Butler, Hamilton County
Mike Byerly, Alachua County
Cynthia Chestnut, Alachua County
Melaine Clyatt, Union County
Gib Coerper, City of Alachua
Paula DeLaney, Alachua County
Dixie Donovan, Columbia County
Kirk Eppenstein, City of High Springs
John Glanzer, City of Newberry
D. Ray Harrison, Gilchrist County
Matthew Hawkins, City of Jasper
Scherwin Henry, City of Gainesville
John Martin, City of Hawthorne
Jeanna Mastrodicasa, City of Gainesville
Heather Neill, Lafayette County
Lee Pinkoson, Alachua County
Andrew Smith, Union County
Carolyn Spooner, City of Starke
Frank Urban, Alachua County
Lewis Vaughn, Hamilton County

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

Bill Henderson, FL Dept. of Transportation

STAFF PRESENT

Steve Dopp
Scott Koons
Carol Laine

Board Members names are bolded

I. INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. with an invocation given by Eddie Martin, and a pledge of allegiance to the flag. Chair Thomas stated that there was a quorum of the Council and all Council members were able to vote.

Commissioner Valentine introduced and welcomed Harold Emrich, City Manager from the City of Madison. Commissioner Hatch introduced and welcomed Johnny Wooley, County Coordinator from Suwannee County. Peggy Hersey, wife of Commissioner John Hersey, Diana Davis, wife of Mayor Louie Davis, Buddy Haas, husband of Sandra Haas and James Montgomery, past chairman were also welcomed.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - January 25, 2007

Chair Thomas asked that the minutes of the January 25, 2007 meeting be approved as written.

ACTION: Mayor Davis made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Hersey, to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2007, meeting as written. The motion carried with one abstention.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Thomas stated that the Executive Committee requested that Item C. - Contract with Florida Department of Community Affairs for Technical Assistance Services - State Road 26 Regional Transportation Advisory Group, be removed from the agenda.

ACTION: Mr. Maultsby made the motion, with a second by Mayor Davis, to remove Item C. - Contract with Florida Department of Community Affairs for Technical Assistance Services - State Road 26 Regional Transportation Advisory Group, from the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

- A. Agreements with Counties to Conduct Hazardous Waste Monitoring
- B. Agreement with Florida Department of Environmental Protection for Hazardous Waste Monitoring - Taylor County

Chair Thomas asked if there were questions regarding the items on the Consent Agenda and requested that these items be approved.

ACTION: Commissioner Hersey made the motion, with a second by Mr. Martin, to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A. Introduction of New Members

Chair Thomas introduced and welcomed Commissioners Ronald Williams and Stephen Bailey, both representing Columbia County, as new members of the Council.

B. Transportation Disadvantaged Resolutions of Appreciation

1. Debra Lookabill
2. Elizabeth Porter

Chair Thomas asked that a Resolution of Appreciation for past services be approved for Ms. Debra Lookabill, who served as a member of Madison County's Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board and Commissioner Elizabeth Porter, who served as a member of Columbia County's Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.

ACTION: Mr. Dodge made the motion, with a second by Mr. Martin, to approve the Resolutions of Appreciation for Ms. Lookabill and Commissioner Porter. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Appointment to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee

Chair Thomas asked that appointments be made to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee as listed on the revised Item IV.C list of individuals handed out prior to the Council meeting be approved. She stated that the revised composition of the Committee complies with U. S. Economic Development Administration requirements. The revised list added Council member David Dodge as a member of the Committee. The proposed members are Rick Breer, Brent Christensen, Harvey Campbell, Dennis Cason, David Dodge, Paul Hutchins, Patricia Lee, Nancy Oliver, Angela Pate, Jim Poole and Sheryl Rehberg.

Commissioner Donovan discussed the possibility of the addition of an elected official to the membership list of the Committee. Chair Thomas stated that in order to keep the composition of the Committee with a majority representing the private sector, one additional member would also have to be added from the private sector in addition to the elected official.

ACTION: Commissioner Donovan made the motion, with a second by Mr. Maultsby, to add an elected official member and an additional private sector member to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee. The motion failed.

ACTION: Mr. Martin made the motion, with a second by Mayor Davis, to ratify the appointment of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee listed on the revised Item IV.C. as recommended by Chair Thomas to comply with U. S. Economic Development Administration requirements. The motion carried by a majority vote.

Chair Thomas introduced and welcomed John Rimes, President of the Worthington Springs Town Council who spoke briefly about economic development efforts in the Town. He thanked the Council for their assistance in the Town's economic development efforts and asked for their continued support in the future.

Chair Thomas thanked President Rimes for his comments.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

1. Capital Reserve Fund Encumbrance

Scott Koons, Executive Director, stated that at the present time, the Council does not have any funds reserved or set aside to pay for one-time capital expenditures for building improvements/repairs and equipment replacement/upgrades. He stated that as of September 30, 2006, the fund balance of the Council was \$949,590 and of this total \$100,000 of the fund balance is restricted as a Legal Defense Fund and \$30,000 is restricted as an Unemployment Compensation Fund. He added that the remaining \$819,589 are unrestricted funds of the Council.

Mr. Koons stated that the Executive Committee recommended that the Council establish a Capital Reserve Fund for accumulated depreciation of building and equipment costs, and encumber \$350,000 of the Council's unrestricted fund balance for this purpose.

ACTION: Mr. Martin made the motion, with a second by Ms. Haas, to establish a Capital Reserve Fund for accumulated depreciation of building and equipment costs, and encumber \$350,000 of the Council's unrestricted fund balance for this purpose. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Southeast Crescent Authority

Mr. Koons stated that on February 7, 2007, U. S. Senator Elizabeth Dole of North Carolina reintroduced the SouthEast Crescent Authority Act to assist economically distressed communities in the southeastern United States. He stated that U. S. Senators Mel Martinez and Bill Nelson have signed on as co-sponsors of this legislation. Mr. Koons stated that the Executive Committee recommended that the Chair be authorized to send letters to U. S. Senators Martinez and Nelson thanking them for co-sponsoring the SouthEast Crescent Authority authorization legislation.

ACTION: Commissioner Lamb made the motion, with a second by Mr. Martin, to authorize the Chair to send letters to U. S. Senators Martinez and Nelson thanking them for co-sponsoring the SouthEast Crescent Authority authorization legislation. The motion carried unanimously.

3. North Florida Economic Development Partnership, Inc. Appropriation

Mr. Koons stated that on April 23, 2003, the Governor issued Executive Order No. 03-74 designating the ten rural counties of the north central Florida region along with Baker, Jefferson, Levy and Putnam Counties as the third Area of Critical Economic Concern in the state. He added that the North Florida Economic Development Partnership, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation, was created last year to facilitate the retention and expansion of existing businesses in the area, as well as the recruitment of new businesses to the area.

Mr. Koons stated that the Partnership has requested financial contributions from both the public and private sectors to fund its operations and that the Council has been requested to provide \$15,000. He stated that these funds could come from member dues, fund balance or miscellaneous income and that Council staff recommended that the Council amend the Fiscal Year 2006-07 budget to appropriate \$15,000 to the Partnership to be funded from miscellaneous income. However, he further reported that the Executive Committee recommended that this item be tabled with no further action being taken until more detailed information is received from the Partnership concerning the specific use of the \$15,000.

ACTION: Commissioner Hatch made the motion, with a second by Mayor Davis to table the request from the North Florida Economic Development Partnership, Inc. for a \$15,000 contribution and take no further action until additional information is received from the Partnership concerning the specific use of the \$15,000. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Clearinghouse Committee

Clearinghouse Committee Chair Sandra Haas, reported that the Clearinghouse Committee members met earlier in the evening with a quorum and reviewed two Committee-level items which require Council action. The reviewed items were:

Local Government Comprehensive Plan Amendments

#40 - Suwannee County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments (DCA No. 06-1)

#42 - City of Jasper Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DCA No. 99-PS1)

Ms. Haas stated that, with regard to Item #40 - Suwannee County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments, the Committee finds the County Comprehensive Plan, as amended, remains consistent with the regional plan. Nevertheless, she reported that the Committee recommended forwarding one Objection and Recommendation regarding potential adverse impacts to segments of the regional road network to the County and the Florida Department of Community Affairs as regional comment.

ACTION: Ms. Haas made the motion, with a second by Mayor Witt, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendation concerning Item #40. The motion carried unanimously

Ms. Haas stated that, with regard to Item #42 - City of Jasper Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment, the Committee found the City Comprehensive Plan, as amended, remains consistent with the regional plan. She stated that the Committee recommended forwarding this finding to the City and the Florida Department of Community Affairs as regional comment.

ACTION: Ms. Haas made the motion, with a second by Mr. Martin, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendation concerning Item #42. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Legislative Update

Mr. Koons reported that there are several issues concerning regional planning councils that may be considered by the Legislature during the 2007 regular legislative session. He stated that the Governor's proposed budget includes an appropriation request of \$3.3 million from recurring revenue for all 11 eleven regional planning councils. This is the same level of funding as contained in the current fiscal year and based upon the distribution formula, the Council's share would be \$236,425. He added that the Florida Regional Planning Councils Association is requesting \$3.9 million in funding. The request for increased funding will be considered by the Senate and House Appropriations Committees during the legislative session.

Mr. Koons reported that Rep. Cannon of Winter Park is now taking the lead in introducing legislation concerning regionalism and that he is considering introducing legislation that would “restructure/reinvent” regional planning councils. He added that the delegation of authority from the Florida Department of Community Affairs to regional planning councils for binding letter determinations and appeal rights for developments of regional impact and compliance review of local government comprehensive plan amendments are two possible changes that have been discussed to date.

Mr. Koons stated that other matters previously reported concerning extending the review period from 30 days to 60 days for comprehensive plan amendments and the employer assisted affordable housing program have not yet been filed as proposed bills.

B. Financial Report for the Period Ending December 31, 2006

Mr. Koons reviewed the Financial Report for the period ending December 31, 2006. He noted that the overall expenditure pattern for the operation of the Council for the three months ending on December 31 is generally on target when compared to the budgeted figures. He stated that the fund balance of the Council was \$949,590 at the end of the last fiscal year. He reported that the financial condition of the Council is sound and that nothing in the current program year, of which the staff is aware, will change that situation.

C. U. S. Census Workshop

Mr. Koons reported that the U. S. Census Bureau has requested that the Council provide meeting room space to hold a training workshop to provide local governments in our region with hands-on experience using the Local Update of Census Addresses Program materials. The workshop will be held in the Charles F. Justice Conference Room at the Council Offices in Gainesville on May 3, 2007.

D. Rural Lands Development and the Future of North Florida Forum

Mr. Koons stated that the Florida Land Use Initiative will be holding a one-day forum to look at what is happening to north Florida rural lands as development pressures continue to increase. Mr. Koons reported that this workshop will be held on April 6, 2007 at the University Center of the University of North Florida in Jacksonville.

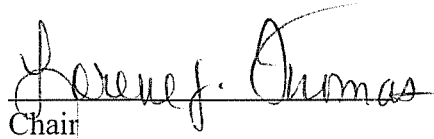
Mr. Koons reported that Ms. Sandra Joseph has accepted a position with the Council as a Senior Planner for Regional and Local Government Programs effective April 30th.


Mr. Koons further reported that the Council flagpole installation and illumination project is now complete and that the U. S. flag and State of Florida flag are now being flown at the Council offices.

Several members of the Council reported a concern over the inability to hear items being discussed at the present meeting location. Chair Thomas stated that staff advised her that meeting rooms were reserved at both Tucker's Steak and Seafood Restaurant and at the Holiday Inn & Conference Center in Lake City for the meeting in April 2007.

ACTION: Commissioner Ellis made the motion, with a second by Mayor Davis, to hold the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Council on April 26, 2007 at the Holiday Inn & Conference Center in Lake City. The motion carried unanimously

Chair Thomas stated that the next Council meeting would be held at the Holiday Inn & Conference Center in Lake City on April 26, 2007. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.


Chair


Date