

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
FULL COUNCIL
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
Lake City, Florida

May 24, 2007
7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Stephen Bailey, Columbia County
Ed Braddy, City of Gainesville
Rick Bryant, City of Gainesville
Gib Coerper, City of Alachua
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
Paula DeLaney, Alachua County
Roy Ellis, Madison County
John Glanzer, City of Newberry
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
Heather Neill, Lafayette County
Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak
James Painter, Alachua County
Rudolph Parker, Taylor County
Lee Pinkoson, Alachua County
Tracy Reeves, Madison County
Carolyn Spooner, City of Starke
Myra Valentine, City of Madison
Lewis Vaughn, Hamilton County
Ronald Williams, Columbia County

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jon Wershow

MEMBERS ABSENT

Paul Alcantar, City of Archer
Martha Butler, Hamilton County
Mike Byerly, Alachua County
Cynthia Chestnut, Alachua County
Melaine Clyatt, Union County
Jack Donovan, City of Gainesville
Dixie Donovan, Columbia County
Kirk Eppenstein, City of High Springs
D. Ray Harrison, Jr., Gilchrist County
Matthew Hawkins, City of Jasper
Scherwin Henry, City of Gainesville
John Martin, City of Hawthorne
Jeanna Mastrodicasa, City of Gainesville
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

GUESTS PRESENT

Jennifer Auger, FL Dept. of Environmental
Protection
Jodi Conway, FL Dept. of Environmental
Protection
David Dodge, Bradford County
Bill Henderson, FL Dept. of Transportation
Charles Maultsby, Taylor County
Gerald O'Neil, Alachua County
John Rimes, Town of Worthington Springs
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County

STAFF PRESENT

Steve Dopp
Scott Koons
Carol Laine
Rachel Smith

Board Members names are bolded

I. INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INTRODUCTIONS

Due to a vacancy in the chair position, Vice-Chair Ellis called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with an invocation given by Mayor Davis, and a pledge of allegiance to the flag. Acting Chair Ellis stated that there was a quorum of the Council and all Council members were able to vote.

Acting Chair Ellis introduced and welcomed John Rimes, Town Council President of the Town of Worthington Springs.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - April 26, 2007

Acting Chair Ellis asked that the minutes of the April 26, 2007 meeting be approved as written.

ACTION: Commissioner Hersey made the motion, with a second by Mayor Ketring, to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2007 meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously with one abstention.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Meeting Schedule 2007-2008
- B. Transportation Disadvantaged Board Membership Certification - Lafayette County
- C. Research Agreement - University of Florida

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

ACTION: Commissioner DeLaney made the motion, with a second by Ms. Haas, to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- B. Transportation Disadvantaged Resolution of Appreciation - Bob Poor

Acting Chair Ellis asked that a Resolution of Appreciation for past services be approved for Mr. Bob Poor, who served as a member of the Hamilton County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.

ACTION: Commissioner Pinkoson made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Vaughn, to approve the Resolution of Appreciation for Mr. Poor. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Certificate of Service for Council Employee - Scott Koons - 30 Years

Acting Chair Ellis presented Scott Koons, Executive Director a 30-year Certificate of Service and a 30-year service pin in appreciation of his many years of service to the Council. Mr. Koons joined the Planning Council on April 1, 1976. During his years of service, Mr. Koons has worked as a regional planner, local government assistance planner, director of local planning assistance, director of economic development, director of regional and local government programs, and most recently as assistant executive director.

Ms. Lorene Thomas then made a special presentation to Mr. Koons, thanking him for all of his assistance during her year as chair of the Council.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

1. 2007-2008 Contract with the Florida Department of Community Affairs - Growth Management

Scott Koons, Executive Director, stated that the contract with the Florida Department of Community Affairs is entered into yearly to cover the costs of the Council's growth management activities. Mr. Koons stated that the Executive Committee recommended that the Council authorize the Chair to executive an agreement with the Florida Department of Community Affairs to provide funds to support the Council's general review activities for an anticipated amount not to exceed \$265,000.

ACTION: Commissioner DeLaney made the motion, with a second by Ms. Haas, to authorize the Chair to execute an agreement with the Florida Department of Community Affairs to provide funds to support the Council's general review activities for an anticipated amount not to exceed \$265,000. The motion carried unanimously.

2. 2007-2008 Contract with the Florida Department of Community Affairs - Division of Emergency Management

Mr. Koons stated that the contract with the Florida Department of Community Affairs, Division of Emergency Management is entered into to cover the Council's costs in providing staff support to the Local Emergency Planning Committee. He stated that the contract contains a scope of work which provides for assistance by staff to the Local Emergency Planning Committee for meetings, plan updates and exercises. Mr. Koons stated that the Executive Committee recommended that the Council authorize the Chair to execute an agreement with the Florida Department of Community Affairs, Division of Emergency Management to provide staff support to the Local Emergency Planning Committee for an anticipated amount not to exceed \$40,900.

ACTION: Commissioner DeLaney made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Bryant, to authorize the Chair to execute an agreement with the Florida Department of Community Affairs, Division of Emergency Management, to provide staff support to the Local Emergency Planning Committee for an anticipated amount not to exceed \$40,900. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Authorization to Begin Auditor Selection Process

Mr. Koons stated that the Council goes through an auditor selection process every three years with the intent of selecting a firm to perform audits on the Council's financial activity for each of the succeeding three years. A new contract for the auditor services is executed each year, but it is expected that the same firm will be used unless some specific reason is found that causes the Council to terminate its services. He reported that the current firm, Powell and Jones Certified Public Accountants, has just completed its third year as auditor and it is time to begin the process to select a firm for the next three years.

Mr. Koons reported that the Executive Committee recommended that the Executive Committee, along with a representative from the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area, be designated to serve as the Audit Committee, authorize the Audit Committee to establish selection criteria, begin the auditor selection process, negotiate a contract for audit services and bring a recommendation for auditing services to the Council for approval. He stated that the Executive Committee further recommended that Commissioner Bryant be designated as the member from the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization.

ACTION: Commissioner DeLaney made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Parker to designate the Executive Committee, along with Commissioner Bryant from the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area, to serve as the Audit Committee, and authorize the Audit Committee to establish selection criteria, begin the auditor selection process, negotiate a contract for audit services and bring a recommendation for auditing services to the Council for approval. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Postponement of Election of Officers and Board of Directors

Mr. Koons reported that the Nominating Committee met on May 10, 2007 to make recommendations for the Council's consideration regarding all officer positions, including the additional Executive Committee member, and other members of the Board of Directors.

Mr. Koons stated that subsequent to the meeting, staff was informed by the Governor's office that several Council members' terms expired at the close of the 2007 Legislative Session. He added that since four of these individuals were recommended by the Nominating Committee for positions on the Executive Committee and Board of Directors, the Executive Committee recommended that the election of officers and Board of Directors for 2007-2008 be postponed until the August 23, 2007 Council meeting or until the Governor makes appointments to the Council, whichever occurs first.

ACTION: Mayor Ketring made the motion, with a second by Commissioner DeLaney to postpone the election of officers and Board of Directors for 2007-2008 until the August 23, 2007 Council meeting or until the Governor makes appointments to the Council, whichever occurs first. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Authorization to Pay Travel and Meal Expenses for Former Gubernatorial Members

Mr. Koons reported that the gubernatorial representatives reappointed by Governor Bush in November 2006 were withdrawn by Governor Crist in January 2007. Those individuals are David Dodge, Charles Maulsby, Gerald O'Neil, Andrew Smith and Lorene Thomas. Mr. Koons stated that staff has been advised by the Governor's office that these individuals remain under consideration for reappointment to the Council. Mr. Koons stated that the Executive Committee recommended that the Council pay travel and meal expenses for these former gubernatorial members to attend Council meetings until they are reappointed or their successors are appointed by the Governor.

ACTION: Ms. Haas made the motion, with a second by Commissioner DeLaney to authorize the Council to pay travel and meal expenses for former gubernatorial members, David Dodge, Charles Maulsby, Gerald O'Neil, Andrew Smith and Lorene Thomas, to attend Council meetings until they are reappointed or their successors are appointed by the Governor. 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 one Committee-level item which requires Council action. The reviewed item was:

Local Government Comprehensive Plan Amendments

#58 - City of Starke Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments (DCA No. 07-1)

Ms. Haas stated that, with regard to Item #58 - City of Starke Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments, the Committee found the City Comprehensive Plan, as amended by City item R060606A, remained consistent with the regional plan. However, the Committee found that City item R0606023A was inconsistent with Regional Goal 5.1 and Regional Policy 5.1.9 due to adverse impacts to a segment of the regional road network. Nevertheless, this insufficiency was not enough to find the City Comprehensive Plan, as amended by the item, inconsistent with the regional plan. Therefore, the Committee found that the City Comprehensive Plan remained consistent with the regional plan. Ms. Haas stated that the Committee recommended forwarding the same Objection and Recommendation on City item R0606023A which was made by the Council on the draft version of the amendment. Ms. Haas stated that the Committee recommended forwarding these findings to the City and the Florida Department of Community Affairs as regional comment.

ACTION: Ms. Haas made the motion, with a second by Commissioner DeLaney, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendation concerning Item #58. The motion carried unanimously

C. Program Committee - Overall Program Design FY 2007-2008

Acting Chair Roy Ellis, Program Committee Chair, stated that the Program Committee met on March 22, 2007, to develop an Overall Program Design for the Council's consideration for Fiscal Year 2007-2008. He reported that subsequent to the March 22, 2007 meeting, the Council approved a staff services contract with

the North Florida Economic Development Partnership to assist the Partnership in furthering its economic development goals and objectives. He reported that in accordance with this action, staff recommended adding a program for regional economic development to the Overall Program Design. Acting Chair Ellis stated that there are no changes proposed in the Overall Program Design which include new programs not previously discussed and/or approved by the Council. He stated that the only significant program change is the deletion of the Citizens Advisory Committee on Gainesville Urbanized Area Transportation. He added that the document is essentially the same as the current year edition.

Acting Chair Ellis reported that the Program Committee members recommended approval of the Overall Program Design for Fiscal Year 2007-2008.

ACTION: Commissioner DeLaney made the motion, with a second by Mr. Martin, to approve the Overall Program Design for Fiscal Year 2007-2008 as recommended by the Program Committee members, including the addition of a program for regional economic development as recommended by staff and previously approved by the Council. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Finance Committee - Proposed Budget FY 2007-2008

Commissioner Randy Hatch, Finance Committee Chairman, stated that the Finance Committee met on May 16, 2007, to review the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2007-2008. He stated that the anticipated expenditures for next year will be \$2,519,539, which is \$286,540 more than the current year budget. It was reported that members pay dues, which are proposed to remain at \$.30 per capita for the 26th year, producing \$115,337, or approximately \$500 less than last year. The Council also has unencumbered funds which may be appropriated, and it is requested that \$40,000 of this reserve be made available to increase services to members.

Commissioner Hatch reviewed the most significant policy decisions to be made with respect to the budget which are personnel items. In the line item descriptions in the budget, there is a provision for a total of 22 full-time staff positions, plus limited funds for part-time positions, which is an increase of three positions over that budgeted for the current year. The budget includes a three percent salary increase across the board for all employees, and one percent for merit increases.

Commissioner Hatch stated that this budget provides for significant service to be rendered to member cities and counties. This is to be done by effectively using all available resources, and at the same time, ensuring that the Council remains in a sound financial condition.

Commissioner Hatch reported that the Finance Committee recommends approval of the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2007-2008.

ACTION: Commissioner Hatch made the motion, with a second by Commissioner DeLaney, to approve the Committee recommendation to approve the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 budget. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Nominating Committee

1. 2007-2008 Election of Officers
2. 2007-2008 Election of Board of Directors

Mayor Davis, Acting Chairman of the Nominating Committee, reported that the Nominating Committee met on May 10, 2007 and selected a slate of officers and Board of Directors for Council consideration. He stated that, in accordance with Council action taken earlier in the evening, the Nominating Committee will postpone recommendations for a slate of officers and Board of Directors until the August 23, 2007 Council meeting or until the Governor makes appointments to the Council, whichever occurs first.

No action was required on this item.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Legislative Update

Mr. Koons reported that there are several issues concerning regional planning councils that were considered by the Legislature during the 2007 regular legislative session. He stated that the budget adopted by the Legislature included \$3.7 million from recurring revenue for all eleven regional planning councils or a 12.1 percent increase in funding. He added that the Council's share is anticipated to be approximately \$265,000.

Mr. Koons reported that the growth management bill, House Bill 7203, passed the Legislature. He stated that this bill clarifies and revises requirements for financial feasibility, capital improvement schedules, future land use map amendments, transportation concurrency requirements for airports, transportation concurrency exception areas, transportation concurrency backlog areas, development of regional impact proportionate share, and development proportionate fair-share. He added that the bill extends the deadline for adoption and submission of annual updates to Capital Improvement Schedules by local governments to December 1, 2008.

Mr. Koons stated that the second component to the bill establishes a pilot program for comprehensive plan amendment review in densely populated areas consisting of Broward and Pinellas Counties and the municipalities of Hialeah, Jacksonville, Miami, Tallahassee and Tampa.

Mr. Koons stated that a special session of the Legislature will be held during June 12-22, 2007 to address the property tax reform issue.

B. Quarterly Financial Report - Quarter Ending March 31, 2007

Mr. Koons reported that the overall expenditure pattern for the operation of the Council for the past six months is generally on target when compared to the budgeted figures. He stated that at the end of 50 percent of the year, only one program area "Program Development" is over expended due to annual computer purchases made during the first quarter of the fiscal year. He stated that this is not of particular concern at this point and the year should end with revenues exceeding expenditures.

C. SpringHills Development of Regional Impact

Mr. Koons reported that the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners held the SpringHills Development of Regional Impact Substantial Deviation and related comprehensive plan amendments public hearing on May 1, 2007 with a continuation to May 3, 2007. He stated that Council staff participated in the public hearing and presented the Council's report and recommendation concerning the development of regional impact. He added that the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners unanimously voted to deny the comprehensive plan amendments and the Substantial Deviation to a Previously Approved Development of Regional Impact. He reported that the SpringHills development still has a conditionally approved development of regional impact development order for a less intense development than was denied by Alachua County on May 3rd.

D. I-75 Highway Beautification Concept Plan Project

Mr. Koons reported that, pursuant to Council action at its April 26, 2007 meeting, staff invited Juanice Hagan of the Florida Department of Transportation to discuss the beautification project along I-75 from the Georgia state line to the intersection with Florida's Turnpike at Wildwood and to advise the Council as to how local governments would be able to participate in the development of the concept plan. Mr. Koons stated that Ms. Hagan has informed staff that she would prefer attending a Council meeting along with the Department's consultant for the project at a later date.

Council members discussed the progress of the installation of the Florida state line sign on I-75 at the Georgia border. Mr. Bill Henderson, Florida Department of Transportation, stated that he would report back to the Council on the progress of the construction of the sign at a future meeting.

E. Annual City-County Manager Growth Management Meeting - June 8, 2007

Mr. Koons advised Council members that the annual city-county manager growth management meeting hosted by the Council would be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, 213 S.W. Commerce Drive in Lake City on June 8, 2007.

F. Financial Disclosures

Mr. Koons reminded all gubernatorial appointees to the Council to file their financial disclosure forms with the supervisor of elections in their respective counties by July 1, 2007.

Mr. Koons reported that Secretary Tom Pelham, Florida Department of Community Affairs will meet with regional planning council executive directors and senior staff members to discuss ways to improve the growth management process in Orlando on May 30, 2007.

Mr. Koons reported that staff will be meeting with representatives from Butler Plaza concerning expansion of Butler Plaza in City of Gainesville to begin the process for a development of regional impact. He further reported that staff will be meeting with representatives from the Norfleet property to begin initial discussions for a development of regional impact in the City of Newberry and Gilchrist County.

Mr. Koons stated that Jayne Moraski, Economic Development Director of the Council staff prepared Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program applications for Bradford County in the amount of \$199,000 and the Town of Worthington Springs in the amount of \$167,000. Both local governments were approved for funding for these projects.

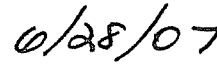
Mr. Koons reported that a house fire destroyed the home of Tony Marshall, the Council's Finance Director. He stated that both Tony and his wife were not harmed and they have temporarily relocated to an apartment. He added that a collection was taken and clothing and household goods were donated by Council staff.

Acting Chair Ellis presented Lorene Thomas, the Council's chair for the past year, with a framed print, and thanked her for her leadership over the past year.

Acting Chair Ellis announced that the next meeting of the Council will be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites in Lake City on June 28, 2007. The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.



Chair



Date