

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
Lake City, Florida

July 27, 2017
7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Anthony Adams, Lafayette County
David Arreola, City of Gainesville
Patricia, Bouie, City of Hawthorne
LaBarfield Bryant, City of Jasper
Harvey Budd, City of Gainesville
Rick Coleman, City of Newberry
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
Rick Davis, Madison County
Mike Deming, City of Perry
Thomas Demps, Taylor County
Fletcher Hope, City of Archer
William Hunter, Hamilton County
Tim Murphy, Columbia County
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County
Robert Wilford, City of Alachua
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

NON-VOTING DELEGATE PRESENT

None

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES
PRESENT

Russell Simpson, Florida Department
of Environmental Protection
Hugh Thomas, Suwannee River
Water Management District
James Troiano, St Johns Water
Management District

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jonathon Wershaw

MEMBERS ABSENT

Beth Burnam, Hamilton County
James Catron, City of Madison
Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County
Ken Cornell, Alachua County
Jason Evans, City of High Springs
Jason Holifield, Dixie County
Robert Hutchinson, Alachua County
John Meeks, Levy County
James Montgomery, Columbia County
Janice Mortimer, City of Starke
Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak
Larry Sessions, Suwannee County
James Tallman, Union County
Helen Warren, City of Gainesville
Daniel Webb, Union County
Mike Williams, Madison County

OTHERS PRESENT

Sandra Buck-Camp
Jim Bush
Thomas Clemens
Sean Greene
Stew Lilker
Daniel Penniman
Susan Ramsey
Judy Rice
Ilene Silverman

STAFF PRESENT

Steven Dopp
Scott Koons
Jean Strong
Tara Tucker

Board Members names are bolded
Gubernatorial Members names are italicized

I. INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. with an invocation given by Commissioner Wilford and the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Chair Thomas stated that there was a quorum of the Council.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Thomas welcomed and introduced Hugh Thomas the new Executive Director for the Suwannee River Water Management District; Susan Ramsey, Executive Director for Hamilton County Development Authority and Chair of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee; Thomas Clemens, Vice-President for the Economic Development from Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce; Judy Rice, City Clerk from City of Newberry; Sandra Buck-Camp, member of the Columbia, Hamilton, Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board; Sean Greene, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for the North Central Region; Jim Bush, from Florida Power and Light; Ilene Silverman, wife of Council member Harvey Budd; Diana Davis, wife of Council member Louie Davis and Stew Lilker from the Columbia County Observer.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Thomas asked that the agenda be approved.

ACTION: Commissioner Wilford made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Budd, to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY PRESENTATION

Steven Dopp, Senior Planner, gave a presentation on the draft of the North Central Florida Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2018-2022. Chair Thomas thanked Mr. Dopp for his presentation.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - June 22, 2017

Chair Thomas asked that the minutes of the June 22, 2017 meeting be approved as written.

ACTION: Mayor Davis made the motion, with a second by Councilman Bryant, to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2017 meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA - Monthly Financial Report - June 2017

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

ACTION: Commissioner Arreola made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Budd, to approve the item on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT

A. Introduction of New Member

Chair Thomas stated that there were no new members in attendance.

B. Committee Appointment

Chair Thomas asked for ratification of the appointment of Thomas Clemens, Vice-President for Economic Development for the Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce, as Vice-Chair of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee.

ACTION: Commissioner Budd made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Demps, to ratify the appointment of Thomas Clemens, Vice-President for Economic Development for the Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce as Vice-Chair of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee as recommended by the Chair. The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

1. Resolution Recognizing the 125th Anniversary of the City of High Springs

Mr. Koons stated that the City of High Springs is celebrating its 125th Anniversary this year. He gave a brief history of the City.

ACTION: Councilman Bryant made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Budd to approve a resolution recognizing the 125th Anniversary of the City of High Springs. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Assigned Fund Balance - Capital Reserve

Mr. Koons stated that during Fiscal Year 2015-16, \$15,073 for depreciation of building and equipment was applied to the capital assets of the Council. He stated that after adding \$1,908 of purchased furniture fixtures and equipment, it resulted in a net total of \$554,543 accumulated depreciation of fixed assets. He also stated that the Capital Reserve Fund is maintained at an amount approximate to the accumulated depreciation of building and equipment to cover one-time capital expenditures for building improvements/repairs and equipment replacement/upgrades. Mr. Koons further stated that in order to maintain the Capital Reserve Fund at this level, it is recommended by the Executive Committee that \$15,000 from the Council's unassigned fund balance be encumbered as part of the Capital Reserve Fund assigned fund balance to increase the amount for accumulated depreciation of building and equipment costs from \$540,000 to \$555,000.

ACTION: Commissioner Budd made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Davis, to encumber \$15,000 of the Council's unassigned fund balance as part of the assigned fund balance to increase the Capital Reserve Fund balance for accumulated depreciation of building and equipment costs to \$555,000. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Employee Health Insurance Proposal

Mr. Koons stated that United Healthcare has offered to continue health insurance coverage for the Council with a decrease in premiums for the coming year beginning September 1, 2017. He also stated that the total decrease in cost to the Council for the coming year would be (\$117) per month, or a decrease of (1.4) percent. The resulting total monthly cost to the Council would be \$8,430.

Mr. Koons also stated that United Healthcare is proposing no change in life insurance premiums for the coming year. United Healthcare is proposing to increase the cost for dental insurance to employees for the coming year by \$3 per month or an increase of 5.0 percent. The resulting total monthly cost to employees would be \$67.

Mr. Koons stated that staff secured alternative proposals for health insurance from United Healthcare for consideration by the Executive Committee. He stated that the alternative proposals include reductions in benefits for employees. He also reported that the Executive Committee recommends that the Council select the renewal option from UnitedHealthcare for the year beginning September 1, 2017.

ACTION: Commissioner Budd made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Demps, to approve the proposal received from UnitedHealthcare for Plan 8W-1/RX311 for health insurance, Plan F5430 for dental insurance and life insurance for the year beginning September 1, 2017. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Clearinghouse Committee

Commissioner Adams, Clearinghouse Committee Vice-Chair, gave the Clearinghouse Committee report. He stated that the Clearinghouse Committee did not achieve a quorum for its meeting earlier in the evening and that the members present reviewed the following local government comprehensive plan amendments which were included on the Council agenda for consideration.

- #93 - Levy County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment
- #94 - Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment
- #95 - Dixie County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment
- #96 - City of Archer Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment
- #97 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment

Commissioner Adams stated that the Committee members in attendance find that local government comprehensive plans as amended are not anticipated to result in significant adverse impacts to regional facilities, Natural Resources of Significance or adjacent local governments. He stated that the Committee members in attendance recommend forwarding these findings to the respective local governments and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

ACTION: Commissioner Adams made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Demps, to approve the staff reports concerning Item #93 - Levy County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment; Item #94 - Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment; #95 - Dixie County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment; #96 - City of Archer Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment; and #97 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee -
Draft Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2018-2022

Susan Ramsey, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee Chair, reported that since 1978, the Council has been designated by the U.S. Economic Development Administration as an Economic Development District and as such, the Council is responsible for developing and adopting a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. She stated the purpose of the strategy is to analyze the regional economy and serve as a guide for establishing regional goals and objective, developing and implementing a regional plan of action and identifying investment priorities and funding sources. Ms. Ramsey stated that the Council has established a Comprehensive Economic Development Committee and is responsible for the development and maintenance of the Strategy and making recommendations concerning the Strategy to the Council for adoption. She stated this is based upon recommendation of the Committee, the Council adopted the current Strategy in September 2012.

Ms. Ramsey stated that the Committee has been working the past several months with staff to complete the required five-year update of the Strategy. She stated that the Committee completed a draft of the Strategy at its July 10, 2017 meeting and that the draft Executive Summary, Goals and Objectives and Priority Project Areas from the Strategy were included in the Council meeting packet. She further stated that the Committee recommends approval of the draft Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2018-2022 and to authorize that the draft Strategy be noticed for a 30-day public comment period.

ACTION: Commissioner Budd made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Arreola to approve the draft Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2018-2022 and authorize that it be noticed for a 30-day public comment period as recommended by the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

IX. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

Hugh Thomas, Suwannee River Water Management District, stated that a number of local governments are participating in the District's river grant program.

Russell Simpson, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, stated that the Northeast District is available to assist local governments and individuals concerning permit applications and Department regulatory compliance issues.

Daniel Penniman, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission stated the Commission is in the planning process for six strategic initiatives.

James Triano, St. Johns Water Management District, stated that the District recently awarded over \$21 million in cost-share grants to local governments in 18 counties. He stated the City of Gainesville was a recipient of some of the funding.

X. CITIZEN COMMENTS - None

XI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Florida Regional Councils Association Monthly Activity Report

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Regional Councils Association is the statewide organization of the ten regional planning councils. The Association strengthens Florida's regional planning councils, partners with government and the business community to enhance regional economic prosperity and improves the consistency and quality of regional planning councils programs to ensure they add value to state, regional and local initiatives. He stated that the Association strives to accomplish these goals by carrying out the activities listed in the June 2017 activities report included in the Council meeting packet.

B. Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board Report

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board met in West Palm Beach on June 30, 2017. He reported that the Policy Board heard presentations from Erin Deady, Esquire, American Institute of Certified Planners, concerning Resiliency Florida; Joe McKinney, Executive Director, National Association of Development Organizations, concerning a federal public policy update; Honorable Kristin Jacobs, State Representative, District 96, concerning state agency coordination for natural disasters; and John Kaliski, Principal, Cambridge Systematics, concerning the 2030 Florida Chamber Foundation Cornerstone Project Update.

Mr. Koons reported that the Policy Board also reviewed Assembled Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2015-16, a financial report and adopted a budget for Fiscal Year 2017-18, and received an Executive Director report concerning the 2017 Legislative Session. He finally stated that the Policy Board also reviewed the 2018 Legislative Agenda and elected officers for the 2017-18 Policy Board.

C. Florida Chamber Foundation Scorecard™

Mr. Koons stated that the Florida Chamber Foundation has developed the Florida Scorecard™ to provide Florida leaders the metrics needed to secure Florida's future. The Florida Chamber Foundation's objective to develop a 20-year, statewide strategic plan requires a commitment to measuring our current status and progress toward the stated goals of the Six Pillars 20-year Strategic Plan. He further stated that the Scorecard reports metrics related to each of the Six Pillars. The Six Pillars are Talent Supply and Education, Innovation and Economic Development, Infrastructure and Growth Leadership, Business Climate and Competitiveness,

Civic and Governance Systems and Quality of Life and Quality Places. He reviewed the July 2017 Scorecard™ included in the Council meeting packet.

D. Florida Job Growth Grant Fund

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Department Economic Opportunity recently released guidelines for the new Florida Job Growth Grant Fund. He further stated that Public Infrastructure Grant Eligibility must promote economic recovery in specific regions of the state, economic diversification in economic enhancement for a targeted industry sector, are not for exclusive benefit of a single company, corporation or business entity; and for infrastructure that is owned by the public and is for public use or predominately benefits the public. He also reported that Workforce Training Grant Eligibility must support programs and associated equipment at state colleges and state technical centers; provide participants with transferable and sustainable workforce skills applicable to more than a single employer; are offered to the public; are based on criteria established by the state colleges and state technical center; and prohibit the exclusion of applicants who are employed or underemployed.

E. 2016-17 Member Certificates of Outstanding Attendance

Mr. Koons reported that an essential component of the ability of the Council to conduct its business is the regular attendance of members at Council meetings, and a Council Member Attendance Recognition Program was established by the Council at the May 22, 2008 Council meeting to recognize the commitment of those Council members actively engaged in the organization by regularly attending Council meetings. Mr. Koons then presented a Certificate of Outstanding Attendance Award in recognition of his attendance at every scheduled Council meeting during Program Year 2016-17 to Robert Wilford, City of Alachua.

F. Executive Director's Cup

Mr. Koons stated that in furtherance of the Council Member Attendance Recognition Program and to encourage attendance at Council meetings, an Executive Director's Cup is awarded each year to recognize the perfect attendance by either county, city or gubernatorial members during a program year.

Mr. Koons presented the 2016-17 Executive Director's Cup to City member Robert Wilford, City of Alachua. Mr. Koons also stated that the Executive Director's Cup is prominently displayed at the Council office.

G. Annual City-County Managers Meeting - June 16, 2017

Mr. Koons reported that each year, Council staff meets with city and county managers and their staffs from throughout the region to discuss growth management legislation and review Council programs. He stated that the annual meeting for city and county managers this year was held on June 16, 2017, at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites located at 213 Southwest Commerce Boulevard in Lake City, Florida.

H. 2016 Annual Report

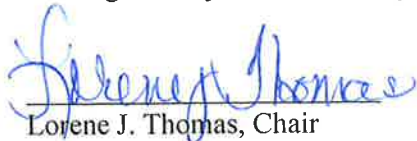
Mr. Koons reported that each year, the Council publishes an annual report to review programs and services of the Council in fulfilling its mission to improve the quality of life of the region's citizens by coordinating growth management, protecting regional resources, promoting economic development and providing technical services to local governments. He also stated that the annual report highlights accomplishments in the areas of regional activities, public safety and regulatory compliance, economic development, local government assistance and transportation as well as providing a summary of the financial status of the Council and a look at the year ahead. He stated that the 2016 Annual Report is currently being printed and will be mailed out in the next few weeks.

I. Public Records Complaint

Mr. Koons reported that a public records complaint has been filed against the Council concerning planning assistance that the Council is providing to Union County. Council Attorney Jonathon Wershow stated that the Council requested that the Council approve an attorney-client session to be attended only by Council members, the Executive Director, and Council Attorney to discuss the public records complaint. He also noted that a court reporter would be present to prepare a verbatim transcript of the session. Mr. Wershow requested that this meeting be held on August 24, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn and Suites located at 213 SW Commerce Drive, Lake City, Florida.

ACTION: Commissioner Budd made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Wilford to hold an attorney-client session to discuss the public records complaint filed against the Council concerning planning assistance that the Council is providing to Union County on August 24, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn and Suites located at 213 SW Commerce Drive, Lake City, Florida. The motion carried with 17 ayes and one nay.

Chair Thomas informed the Council that the next Council meeting will be held on August 24, 2017. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.


Lorene J. Thomas, Chair

8/24/17
Date