

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
MINUTES

Virtual Meeting  
Via Communications Media Technology

October 22, 2020  
7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

**Anthony Adams, Lafayette County**  
Robert Brown, Hamilton County  
LaBarfield Bryant, City of Jasper  
**Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County**  
Frank Davis, City of Live Oak  
Louie Davis, City of Waldo  
Rick Davis, Madison County  
**Thomas Demps, Taylor County**  
Don Hale, Suwannee County  
Shirlie Hampton, City of Perry  
Fletcher Hope, City of Archer  
Patricia Bouie Hutchinson, City of Hawthorne  
John Meeks, Levy County  
**Janice Mortimer, City of Starke**  
Tim Murphy, Columbia County  
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County  
Reina Saco, City of Gainesville  
James Tallman, Union County  
Marihelen Wheeler, Alachua County  
**Robert Wilford, City of Alachua**  
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

NON-VOTING DELEGATE PRESENT

Kristyn Adkins, City of High Springs

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES

Tom Mirti, Suwannee River Water  
Management District  
Dan Penniman, Florida Fish and Wildlife  
Conservation Commission  
David Tyler, Florida Department  
of Transportation

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jonathan Wershow

MEMBERS ABSENT

David Arreola, City of Gainesville  
James Catron, City of Madison  
Mark Clark, City of Newberry  
Ken Cornell, Alachua County  
Gene Higginbotham, Dixie County  
Linda Jones, City of High Springs  
Gigi Simmons, City of Gainesville  
David Stegall, City of Lake Butler  
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County  
*Lorene Thomas, Dixie County*

OTHERS PRESENT

Stacie-Ann Betrand  
Diana Davis  
Stew Lilker

STAFF PRESENT

Scott Koons  
Lynn Franson-Godfrey  
Tara Tucker  
Lauren Yeatter

**Executive Committee Members names are bold**  
*Gubernatorial Members names are italiciz*

I. INVOCATION

Noting a quorum of the Council being present, Chair Charles Chestnut IV called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and gave the invocation.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Council and guests pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

III. INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Chestnut welcomed and introduced Diana Davis, Executive Director, Alachua County League of Cities and wife of Council Member Louie Davis; and Stew Lilker, Columbia County Observer.

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes - September 24, 2020

B. Florida Transportation Disadvantaged Program Community Transportation Coordinator Selections for Dixie, Gilchrist and Union Counties

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

**ACTION: Vice-Mayor Wilford made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Meeks to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.**

V. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

**ACTION: Mayor Bryant made the motion, with a second by Mayor Louie Davis to approve the regular agenda. The motion carried unanimously.**

VI. PRESENTATION - NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA  
STRATEGIC REGIONAL POLICY PLAN

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Lauren Yeatter, AICP, Senior Planner. Ms. Yeatter gave a presentation to the Council concerning the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan. Chair Chestnut thanked Ms. Yeatter for her presentation.

VII. CHAIR REPORT

A. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolution of Appreciation -  
LJ Two Spirits Johnson

**ACTION: Vice-Mayor Wilford made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Meeks to approve the Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolution of Appreciation for LJ Two Spirits Johnson. The motion carried unanimously.**

B. Certificate of Service for Council Employee - Lynn Franson-Godfrey - 30 Years

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Lynn Franson-Godfrey, who joined the Council staff on August 20, 1990. Ms. Franson-Godfrey currently serves as a Senior Planner in the Transportation Program and is responsible for staffing the Transportation Disadvantaged Program. Mr. Koons presented a 30-year service Certificate of Service and a 30-year service pin to Ms. Franson-Godfrey. Mr. Koons thanked her for her dedicated service to the Council.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee - Appointment of North Central Florida  
Areawide Development Co., Inc. Members

**ACTION:** Mayor Louie Davis made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Bouie Hutchinson, to appoint Anthony Adams, Lafayette County; David Arreola, Alachua County; Robert Brown, Hamilton County; LaBarfield Bryant, Hamilton County; Jim Catron, Madison County; Charles Chestnut, IV, Alachua County; Ken Cornell, Alachua County; Frank Davis, Suwannee County; Louie Davis, Alachua County; Rick Davis, Madison County; Thomas Demps, Taylor County; Don Hale, Suwannee County; Patricia Bouie Hutchinson, Alachua County; John Meeks, Levy County; Janice Mortimer, Bradford County; David Pieklik, Levy County; Daniel Riddick, Bradford County; Reina Saco, Alachua County; Kevin Sheilley, Marion County; Gigi Simmons, Alachua County; James Tallman, Union County; Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County; Lorene Thomas, Dixie County; Robert Wilford, Alachua County; and Stephen Witt, Columbia County as members to two-year terms to the North Central Florida Areawide Development Co., Inc. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Clearinghouse Committee

Commissioner Hope, Chair of the Clearinghouse Committee, reported that the Clearinghouse Committee met virtually via communications media technology earlier in the evening and reviewed the following local government comprehensive plan amendments which were included on the Council agenda for consideration.

- #1 - City of Archer Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 20-2ESR)
- #2 - City of Lake City Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 20-1ESR)
- #3 - Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 20-3ESR)
- #4 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 20-1ESR)
- #5 - Suwannee County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 20-1ER)

Commissioner Hope stated with regards to these items, the Committee found that the local government comprehensive plans as amended were not anticipated to result in significant adverse impacts to regional facilities, Natural Resources of Regional Significance or adjacent local governments. He stated that the Committee recommends forwarding these findings to the respective local governments and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Hope made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Bouie Hutchinson to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendations Concerning Item #1 - City of Archer Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 20-2ESR); Item #2 - City of Lake City Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 20-1ESR); Item #3 - Alachua County Comprehensive Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 20-3ESR); Item #4 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DEO No. 20-1ESR); and Item #5 - Suwannee County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DEO No. 20-1ER) The motion carried unanimously.

C. Finance Committee - Fiscal Year 2019-20 Amended Budget

Commissioner Adams, Secretary-Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair, reported that the Finance Committee had agreed upon a budget amendment for Fiscal Year 2019-20. He stated this budget amendment takes into account action taken by the Council during the past year to accept work under contracts and additional grants which were not anticipated when the original budget was prepared as well as changes in anticipated revenues. Commissioner Adams reported the proposed changes in the current year budget reflect an overall net decrease of (\$559,200), which represents (26.6) percent decrease. He also stated this includes both increases and decreases in various program areas with associated changes in Direct and Indirect expenses. Commissioner Adams reported the Finance Committee finds that the Council remains in sound financial condition. Finally, he stated that the Committee recommends approval of the Fiscal Year 2019-20 amended budget.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Adams made the motion, with a second by Demps to approve the Fiscal Year 2019-20 Amended Budget as recommended by the Finance Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee

Ms. Staci Betrand, Vice-President for Economic Development for the Greater Gainesville Chamber of Commerce and Chair of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee, stated the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee appointed by the Council includes representatives of the private sector, public officials and workforce development boards. She stated that the Committee is responsible for the development of the strategy and recommendation of the strategy to the Council for adoption. Ms. Betrand stated the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee met virtually via communications media technology on September 16, 2020 to review activities conducted during the past year to support the goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

She also stated the Committee reviewed a proposed amendment to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy to add a section concerning federally designated Opportunity Zones and recommended that the Council adopt the proposed amendment. Finally, Ms. Betrand stated the proposed amendment had been noticed for public comment and no public comments were received concerning the proposed amendment.

**ACTION:** Vice-Mayor Wilford made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Demps to adopt Resolution No. 2020-12 adopting an amendment, dated October 22, 2020, to the North Central Florida Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2018-2022 adding a section concerning Opportunity Zones and authorize that it be submitted to the U.S. Economic Development Administration. The motion carried unanimously.

IX. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

David Tyler, Planning and Environmental Office, Florida Department of Transportation District 2, stated that the District is currently soliciting Safe Routes to School grant applications for bicycle and pedestrian projects, Transportation Alternatives grant applications for bicycle and pedestrian projects, Small County Road Assistance Program grant applications, Small County Outreach Program grant applications and County Incentive Grant Program grant applications. He noted that the Florida Department of Transportation will not be accepting SUNTrails grant applications for bicycle and pedestrian projects this year.

Tom Mirti, Deputy Executive Director, Suwannee River Water Management District, stated the District is currently soliciting local government cost share springs grant applications and local government cost share water supply grant applications. He also stated that the District is currently collecting data for updating the District Water Supply Plan that will be updated by January 2022. Finally, he noted that the proposed minimum flows and levels for the Lower Suwannee River are currently in the peer review phase.

X. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Stew Lilker, Columbia County Observer, discussed the Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance.

XI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 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. He stated that 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. Mr. Koons stated that the Association strives to accomplish these goals by carrying out the activities listed in the September 2020 activity report included in the Council meeting packet. He reviewed the activities listed in the September 2020 report.

B. Florida Chamber Foundation Scorecard™

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Chamber Foundation has developed the Florida Scorecard™ to provide Florida leaders the metrics needed to secure Florida's future. He stated that the Florida Chamber Foundation's objective to developing 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. Mr. Koons noted that the Scorecard reports metrics for each of the following Six Pillars: Talent and Supply 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 October 2020 Scorecard™ that was included in the Council meeting packet.

C. 2020 Census

Mr. Koons reported the Decennial Census began on April 1, 2020 and will be used to determine political representation to the United States House of Representatives, state legislatures and local governments. He stated the data from the Census provides the basis for distributing more than \$675 billion in federal funds annually to communities across the country to support programs impacting the amount of funding that will be provided by the state and federal government for a number of programs, including housing, education, transportation, employment and healthcare. Finally, Mr. Koons reported the Census Bureau concluded field data collection and self-response collection on October 11, 2020 for north central Florida counties and the State of Florida.

D. Partnering with the Florida Department of Transportation:  
A Resource Guide for Local Governments

Mr. Koons stated the Florida Department of Transportation recently published a guidebook entitled Partnering with the Florida Department of Transportation: A Resource Guide for Local Governments. He stated the Resource Guide provides information for local governments to effectively partner with the Department to plan, design and construct safe and efficient transportation facilities. Finally, Mr. Koons noted that a copy of the Resource Guide was included in the Council meeting packet.

E. Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance

Mr. Koons stated due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, the Suncoast Task Force met virtually via communications media technology on October 20, 2020 and the Florida Turnpike Northern Extension Task Force also met virtually via communications media technology on October 21, 2020. He stated both Task Forces reviewed and revised their respective final reports. Finally, Mr. Koons noted that a copy of the draft reports were included in the Council meeting packet.

F. Annual Report

Mr. Koons stated 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 enhancing public safety, protecting regional resources, promoting economic development and providing technical services to local governments. He stated the annual report highlights accomplishments in the areas of regional activities, public safety and regulatory compliance, economic development, local government assistance and transportation. Mr. Koons stated the annual report also provides a summary of the financial status of the Council and looks at the year ahead. Finally, he noted that a copy of the 2019 Annual Report was included in the Council meeting packet.

XII. COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice-Mayor Wilford announced that the Majesty of Rock Outdoor concert will be held at the City of Alachua at Legacy Park Amphitheater on October 24, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. He also stated that Mayor Eugene Wright of Malone, Florida and President of Northwest Florida League of Cities will be resigning due to health reasons.

Mayor Louie Davis stated he will be re-elected for another two-year term without opposition in December 2020.

XIII. NEXT MEETING

Chair Chestnut informed the Council that the next Council meeting is scheduled to be held on December 10, 2020.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.



Charles S. Chestnut IV, Chair

12/10/20

Date