

City of Gainesville

City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601



Minutes - Final

October 28, 2021

1:00 PM

City Hall Auditorium

General Policy Committee

Mayor Lauren Poe (At Large)
Commissioner Reina Saco (At Large, Seat A)
Commissioner Desmon Duncan-Walker (District 1)
Commissioner Harvey Ward (District 2)
Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem David Arreola (District 3)
Commissioner Adrian Hayes-Santos (District 4)

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CALL TO ORDER - 1:03 PM

ROLL CALL

Present 6 - Mayor Poe, Commissioner Hayes-Santos, Commissioner Saco, Commissioner Ward, Duncan-Walker, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Arreola

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Modifications: Adopt the agenda and remove items #210395 and #210600.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hayes-Santos, seconded by Commissioner Saco, that this Matter be Adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Mayor Poe, Commissioner Hayes-Santos, Commissioner Saco, Commissioner Ward, Duncan-Walker, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Arreola

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

DISCUSSION OF PENDING REFERRALS

[210506.](#)

Appointments to the Gainesville Community Reinvestment Area Advisory Board and Discussion of the Number of Board Members (B)

Motion: Request the City Attorney to amend the ordinance to reduce the number of members from fifteen to nine, including language indicating that the board member representation should reflect the diversity of the community; and to re-advertise the positions for two weeks and extend the application period with the new requirements with appointments at the 11/18 City Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Hayes-Santos introduced the item.

Dan Nee, Interim City Attorney spoke to the item.

Sara Vidal-Finn, GCRA Director spoke to the item.

Marie Kessler, Deputy Clerk, spoke to the Item.

Public Comment: Evelyn Foxx, Armando Grundy Gomes, Tana Silva, Nathan Skop, Frederick William and Kali Blount.

RECOMMENDATION

The City Commission discuss the appointments to the Gainesville Community Reinvestment Area Advisory Board and take appropriate action.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hayes-Santos, seconded by Commissioner Ward, that this Matter be Approved, as shown above. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Mayor Poe, Commissioner Hayes-Santos, Commissioner Saco, and Commissioner Ward

Nay: 2 - Duncan-Walker, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Arreola

210356.**Boards, Commissions and Committees Review (B)**

Motion: Move staff recommendation and request that staff return with a transition plan and recommendations on how to facilitate discussions with student neighbors on City issues.

Commissioner Saco requests to finish out members terms before consolidating boards.

Marie Kessler, Deputy Clerk, spoke to the item.

Public Comment: Kali Blount, Nathan Skop

RECOMMENDATION

The General Policy Committee discuss and take action on the consolidation/elimination of boards, commissions and committee as deemed necessary.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hayes-Santos, seconded by Commissioner Ward, that this Matter be Approved, as shown above. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Mayor Poe, Commissioner Hayes-Santos, Commissioner Saco, Commissioner Ward, Duncan-Walker, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Arreola

210548.**City Commission Rules (B)**

Motion: Adopt the following:

- 1) Combine the adoption of the consent and regular agenda into one item on the agenda.*
- 2) Clarify that public comment only needs to be taken once during an item. Not on every motion during an item. The presiding officer may amend as appropriate.*
- 3) Public comment does not need to be taken during procedural and administrative votes. For example, direction to staff or anything else that may come back to the commission, setting meetings, administrative votes to run the meeting, and other similar votes that*

- there is not a final action being considered are not mandated to have public comment. The presiding officer may amend as appropriate.*
- 4) *Public comment cannot be used to advocate for a candidate running for office. Advocating for referendums or amendments is ok.*
 - 5) *Start the regular meetings at 10:00 am. Mornings have staff reports, policy discussions and business discussions. This should help meetings to not go so late. Also helps staff morale. Mayor may set later start time if warranted.*
 - (a) *Have ordinances and resolutions in the afternoon like the county and many other municipalities. Still have some ordinances and resolutions in evening if mandated by state statute or discussion of item would be better heard in the evening.*
 - 6) *Public comment on item must be focused on the item being heard. The presiding officer may amend as appropriate.*
 - 7) *Meeting may continue if less than 4 commissioners are present at the meeting but no votes may be taken until quorum is met again.*
 - 8) *For all public comments (agenda items and public comment) the clerk or designee collects speaker cards before each agenda item from members of the public who want to speak on that agenda item or at public comment. The card has space for speaker name, pro or con, and address. Clerk gives the cards to the mayor, and the mayor announces who speaks next. Clerk may collect speaker cards up till the end of public comment on that item and give them to the mayor. Before public comment starts, the mayor announces how many people are set to talk.*
 - 9) *Offer language translation services if you register in advance.*
 - 10) *Since special meetings and workshops are designed to be dedicated to certain topics, public comment may be taken only on specific agenda items and no general public comment at those meetings. Commission may allow general public comment being added at adoption of agenda.*
 - 11) *Decorum for city commission comments and public comments*
 - 1) *Add language like this in the rules for decorum: 2) no vulgar language or gestures, no discourteous, disrespectful, or disparaging conduct.*
 - 12) *Discussion of Ex Parte Communications. Request that the City Attorney's Office return with discussion on ex parte communications, including research on what must be heard in the evening.*
 - 13) *To give direction to move board/committee appointments to GPC meetings.*
 - 14) *To direct that agendas items removed by Mayor prior to the meeting do not appear on the agenda at publication.*
 - 15) *Request staff to provide a memo with analysis of telephone public comment participation.*

Commissioner Hayes-Santos introduced the item, presented proposed modifications to the City Commission meeting rules.

Marie Kessler, Deputy City Clerk spoke to the item.

Dan Nee, Interim City Attorney spoke to the item. Mr. Nee will bring back information on ex parte communications and the timing of ordinances and resolutions to be heard at City Commission meetings.

Public Comment: Kali Blount, Tana Silva, Darlene Pifalo, Debbie Martinez, Armando Grundy-Gomes, Jo Beaty.

RECOMMENDATION *The General Policy Committee discuss and take action deemed necessary.*

A motion was made by Commissioner Hayes-Santos, seconded by Commissioner Saco, that this Matter be Approved, as shown above. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Mayor Poe, Commissioner Hayes-Santos, Commissioner Saco, Commissioner Ward, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Arreola

Nay: 1 - Duncan-Walker

[210542.](#)

General Policy Administrative Session (B)

Motion: Adopt following recess schedule:

Winter: December 12, 2021 - January 2, 2022

Spring: March 21 - March 25, 2022

Summer: June 21, 2022 - July 10, 2022

Election Recess: August 13, 2022 - August 28, 2022

Runoff Election Recess: October 29, 2022 - November 13, 2022

Winter: December 17, 2022 - January 1, 2023

Zeriah Folston, Interim Director of the Office of Equity and Inclusion, presented the item.

Dan Nee, Interim City Attorney, spoke to the item.

Lee Feldman, City Manager, spoke to the item.

Public Comment: Nathan Skop, Armando Grundy-Gomes; Tana Silva

Commissioner Duncan-Walker left at 4:25 PM.

RECOMMENDATION

The General Policy Committee will set their agendas for the 1st quarter of FY22.

A motion was made by Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Arreola, seconded by Commissioner Hayes-Santos, that this Matter be Approved, as shown above. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Mayor Poe, Commissioner Hayes-Santos, Commissioner Saco, Commissioner Ward, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Arreola

Absent: 1 - Duncan-Walker

[210395.](#)

The City of Gainesville Housing Action Plan (Finalized Draft) (B)

RECOMMENDATION

The City Commission approve the scheduling of a special meeting to hear the Housing Action Plan.

Withdrawn

[210600.](#)

Commissioner Adrian Hayes-Santos: Request to Schedule a One Gainesville Meeting (NB)

RECOMMENDATION

General Manager and City Manager bring back information for a discussion of all duplicated services and their corresponding budgets, areas of potential consolidation of duplicated services or other areas of cooperation with a goal of the Gainesville government working and communicating as one City. The meeting would be scheduled at a GPC in January.

Withdrawn

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kali Blount, Nathan Skop, Debbie Martinez

MEMBER COMMENT

Mayor and Commissioners recognized and thanked City Attorney Nicolle Shalley for her service.

NEXT MEETING DATE

December 9, 2021

ADJOURNMENT - 4:38 PM