

City of Gainesville

City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601



Minutes - Final

September 23, 2021

1:00 PM

City Hall Auditorium

General Policy Committee

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

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CALL TO ORDER - 1:02 PM

ROLL CALL

Present 7 - Mayor Poe, Commissioner Hayes-Santos, Commissioner Saco, Commissioner Ward, Duncan-Walker, Commissioner Arreola, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Johnson

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Modifications: 1) Remove and reschedule Item 200743; and 2) Move Member Comment to front of the agenda.

Public Comment: Nathan Skop and Debbie Martinez.

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

Aye: 7 - Mayor Poe, Commissioner Hayes-Santos, Commissioner Saco, Commissioner Ward, Duncan-Walker, Commissioner Arreola, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Johnson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[210313.](#)

Approval of Minutes from the August 12, 2021 and September 9, 2021 General Policy Committee Meeting (B)

RECOMMENDATION *The General Policy Committee approve the August 12, 2021 and September 9, 2021 minutes.*

A motion was made by Commissioner Arreola, seconded by Commissioner Ward, that this Matter be Approved as Recommended. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Mayor Poe, Commissioner Hayes-Santos, Commissioner Saco, Commissioner Ward, Duncan-Walker, Commissioner Arreola, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Johnson

MEMBER COMMENT

Motion by Commissioner Arreola, seconded by Mayor-Commissioner Pro-Tem Johnson, requesting that the Commission reconsider its 8/5 action with direction on the City's vaccination policy; and direct the Charter Officers to engage with employee bargaining units to bring back an employee vaccination plan with alternatives mirroring President Biden's. Vote: 6 -1; Commissioner Hayes-Santos in dissent.

Mayor Poe asked the City Attorney to advise on whether the City qualifies under the President's directive.

Public Comment: Nathan Skop, Telford Cartwright, Tristan Grunder, Nancy Daren, Pastor Arnold, Robert Arnold, Nick Catarano, Ron Rawls and Nick Gonzalez.

DISCUSSION OF PENDING REFERRALS

200718. Advisory Board and Committee Annual Reports (B)

Elizabeth Hauck, Regional Transit System Advisory Board gave a presentation.

Walter Barry, Board of Trustees for the Consolidated Police Officers' and Firefighters' Retirement Plan gave a presentation.

Steve Varvel, Interim Human Resources Director spoke to the item.

Public Comment: Nathan Skop

RECOMMENDATION *The City Commission receive and review the advisory board and committee annual reports from the Regional Transit System Advisory Board and the Board of Trustees for the Consolidated Police Officers' and Firefighters' Retirement Plan.*

Heard

200743. Mayor's Charter Amendment (B)

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

Withdrawn and Rescheduled

180487. Commission Guidelines (B)

Ginger Bigbie, City Auditor, introduced the item. Ms. Bigbie requested that the Audit Committee be permitted to hold public comment at the end of its meetings rather than after every agenda item; could City Attorney review whether this is permissible when committees are considering items for referral to the Commission rather than taking action.

RECOMMENDATION *The City Commission hear a presentation and take action deemed necessary.*

Discussed

[210416.](#)

Commissioner Desmon Duncan-Walker - Interim City Attorney Discussion (NB)

Commissioner Duncan-Walker introduced the item.

City Attorney Nicolle Shalley spoke to the item.

Motion by Commissioner Arreola, second by Commissioner Saco, to appoint Sean McDermott as Interim City Attorney. Authorize Mayor to negotiate a contract with Mr. McDermott.

Motion amended by Commissioner Arreola, in agreement with Commissioner Saco, to consider appointing an Interim City Attorney at its upcoming meeting on Monday, September 27. Direction to Human Resources to send any internal applications received as of today to the Commissioners for review; and to the City Clerk to schedule at least 30 minutes for Commissioners to meet with eligible applicants before Monday.

Public Comment: Nathan Skop, Jo Beatty, Ron Rawls, Debbie Martinez, Darlene Pifalo and Tana Silva.

RECOMMENDATION

The General Policy Committee discuss and take action deemed necessary.

Discussed

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nathan Skop, Armando Grundy-Gomes, Ron Rawls, Debbie Martinez and Telford Cartwright.

NEXT MEETING DATE - October 14, 2021

ADJOURNMENT - 3:03 PM