



# City of Gainesville

Edward B. Braddy, Mayor

1400 26  
6/5/14

## Mayor's Recommendations to the City Commission on Rule Changes to Expand Opportunities for Citizen Comment

Colleagues,

To ensure we 1) provide ample opportunity for citizen's to address the commission during our regular meetings and 2) address the scheduled items on the agenda in a timely manner, I am recommending the following changes to the rules of the City Commission that govern our meetings.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Proposed Rule Change

*Expand the opportunity for citizen comment by allowing for the first half-hour of the regular city commission meeting to be a period of Citizen Comment where members of the public can discuss any items that are not on the day's agenda.*

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Proposed Rule Change

*Provide a time-certain closure to public comment at 6:30pm at regular city commission meetings so that the evenings scheduled items may be addressed in a timely manner.*

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Proposed Rule Change

*Insert language into the rules to state that citizens already addressing the city commission during one period of citizen comment will be recognized by the presiding officer to speak after other citizens who had not spoken earlier are given the opportunity to address the commission, time permitting.*

Please note that we already have another citizen comment period at the end of the agenda, so these three changes would increase to three the places on the agenda where citizens can address the commission on matters important to them.

These new rules do not interfere or change existing rules that allow citizens to comment on scheduled items under discussion. Further, it remains a prerogative of the commission to waive the rules to change the order of the agenda or to adjust time certain items following a motion and majority vote.

Therefore, I am requesting a motion to direct the City Clerk and City Attorney to draft these proposed changes into our rules and bring back to the City Commission for approval on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Braddy  
Mayor