

City of Gainesville

*City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601*



Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 21, 2007

6:00 PM

City Commission Special Meeting

City Hall Auditorium

City Commission

*Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan (At Large)
Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Rick Bryant (At Large)
Commissioner Jeanna Mastrodicasa (At Large)
Commissioner Scherwin Henry (District 1)
Commissioner Ed Braddy (District 2)
Commissioner Jack Donovan (District 3)
Commissioner Craig Lowe (District 4)*

Persons with disabilities who require assistance to participate in this meeting are requested to notify the Office of Equal Opportunity at 334-5051 or call the TDD phone line at 334-2069 at least two business days in advance.

CALL TO ORDER - 6:19 PM

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Bryant moved and Commissioner Donovan seconded to adopt the agenda.

(VOTE: 5-0, Commissioner Lowe and Commissioner Braddy - Absent, MOTION CARRIED)

NOTE: Commissioner Lowe and Commissioner Braddy entered the meeting room shortly after the agenda was adopted.

ROLL CALL

Present: Edward Braddy, Pegeen Hanrahan, Rick Bryant, Craig Lowe, Jack Donovan, Jeanna Mastrodicasa and Scherwin Henry

CITY MANAGER

070078. Property Tax Reform (B)

The State of Florida Legislature will be in Special Session to devise legislation with the intent to reform the State of Florida's Property Tax System. The Special Session will convene June 12th and conclude no later than June 22, 2007. The City Commission will discuss the impacts of property tax reform and discuss policy options.

City Manager Russ Blackburn gave a presentation.

MOTION: Approve the City Manager's recommendations as follows:

- 1) Provide a summary of the reduction option for balancing the FY 08 budget by Representative Rubio, Senator Pruitt, Governor Crist, and the conferees for property tax reform.*
- 2) Urge City of Gainesville citizens to contact their legislative delegation, Senator Pruitt, Governor Crist and Representative Rubio with their concerns on service impacts resulting from property tax reform.*
- 3) Urge the Governor and Legislators to preserve the right of local elected representatives to set tax rates and fees, as appropriate, to the local community.*
- 4) Thank members of the Florida Senate for recognizing the value of services provided at the local level and proposing property tax reforms which do not drastically cut service.*
- 5) The City Manager draft the necessary letters for all of the members of the City*

Commission to sign.

Chair Hanrahan recognized IAFF President Jeff Lane and Walter Willard who spoke to the matter.

RECOMMENDATION

The City Commission, 1) discuss the impacts of property tax reform and discuss policy options; and 2) Draft a position statement to present to the Alachua County State Legislative Delegation, Governor Charlie Crist, Senate President Ken Pruitt, and House Speaker Marco Rubio. Staff suggests this position statement include providing the ability for local government governing bodies to increase the tax rate as needed with a simple-majority and the Legislature should not have the authority to place a cap on local government's ability to increase fees. In addition, the findings of the Property Tax Reform Committee should be utilized in the process.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Lowe, seconded by Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Bryant, that this matter be Approved as shown above (See Motion).
The motion carried by the following vote:**

Votes: Aye: Jack Donovan, Jeanna Mastrodicasa, Scherwin Henry, Craig Lowe, Edward Braddy, Rick Bryant and Peegen Hanrahan

ADJOURNMENT - 8:23 PM

Kurt M. Lannon, Clerk of the Commission