

LEGISLATIVE #

110202

City of Gainesville

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



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

5:15 PM

City Hall, Room 16

Community Development Committee

*Commissioner Thomas Hawkins, Chair
Commissioner Susan Bottcher, Member
Commissioner Scherwin Henry, Member*

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

CALL TO ORDER

The Community Development Committee was called to order at 5:20 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present: Scherwin Henry, Thomas Hawkins and Susan Bottcher

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Community Development Committee approved the agenda as circulated.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

110079. Community Development Committee Minutes of April 26, 2011 (B)

The Community Development Committee approved the Minutes of April 26, 2011 as circulated.

RECOMMENDATION *The Community Development Committee approve the April 26, 2011 Minutes as circulated.*

Approved as Recommended

110079_Apr 26 2011 Minutes_20110615.pdf

110080. Community Development Committee Minutes of May 24, 2011 (B)

The Community Development Committee approved the Minutes of May 24, 2011 as circulated.

RECOMMENDATION *The Community Development Committee approve the May 24, 2011 Minutes as circulated.*

Approved as Recommended

110080_May 24 2011 Minutes_20110615.pdf

DISCUSSION ITEMS

These minutes are a summary of the meeting and is not verbatim discussion. A copy of the meeting recording will be provided upon request.

100922. Review of Pending Referrals (B)

The Committee heard briefly from Bill Sheppard of GRU who stated that item #050761 - Energy Efficiency Standards, was discussed at the recent City Commission retreat and it was recommended that this item be referred to the RUC committee. The Committee members agreed to refer this item back to the City Commission with the recommendation that it be referred to the RUC Committee. Chair Hawkins stated that after speaking with staff it was determined that item #100668 - Vehicle Parking in Multi-Family Residential Zoning Districts was not ready to be discussed in June, but will be heard in July.

RECOMMENDATION *The Community Development Committee review and approve the pending referral list and proposed action schedule prepared by staff.*

Approved as Recommended

- 100922A_Memo_20110426.pdf
- 100922B_Pending Referrals_20110426.pdf
- 100922_Pending Referrals_20110524.pdf
- 100922_Pending Referrals_20110615.pdf

090310. Sidewalk and Road Improvement Plan (B)

The Community Development Committee received a brief history on this item from Planning & Development Director Erik Bredfeldt, and an update from Ms. Debbie Leistner.

Note: Commissioner Henry entered the meeting at approximately 5:25 PM.

Ms. Leistner noted that the City Commission has adopted a Strategic Initiative regarding Sidewalk and Road Improvements that is currently in the Public Works Committee. The Community Development Committee heard from Ms. Leistner on the feasibility study staff has conducted and prioritization of projects. The Committee also discussed the funding received from CDBG for infrastructure projects and the budget cuts to the CDBG funds that the City receives.

The Committee discussed that as this item is covered in a Strategic Initiative on the Public Works Committee referral list, it may not be necessary to keep it on the CDC referral list. Commissioner Henry made the following motion.

MOTION: The Community Development Committee request that the City Commission remove this item from the Community Development Committee referral list as there is an almost identical referral on the Public Works Committee referral list. The motion passed unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION *The Community Development Committee receive an update from staff on this item.*

Approved as shown above (See Motion)

090310a_Letter_20090914.pdf
 090310b_Comm Approval_20090914.pdf
 090310_Map for CDC Mtg_20100405.pdf
 090310_Sidewalk & Road Map_20110615.pdf

090795. Nuisance Abatement (NB)

The City Commission referred aspects of the City of Port St. Lucie, Florida's nuisance abatement program to the Community Development Committee for further review. This item is a follow up to that discussion.

The Community Development Committee received a brief history and update on this item from Interim Code Enforcement Manager Chris Cooper. The Committee previously heard this item in February of 2010, and directed staff to broaden the discussion of abatement and look specifically at properties in the community that have previously been dealt with by the Code Enforcement Board, but continue to not be taken care of or maintained. The Committee was presented with an idea for a possible pilot program to assist with these properties and reduce blight in neighborhoods. Staff proposed exploring the options to foreclose on these properties and rehab them in cooperation with non-profit organizations that specialize in rehab and/or construction of homes for low income families. Mr. Murry added that after speaking with Ms. Shalley that the staff recommendation may need to be changed slightly to include further review and input from the City Attorney's office before implementation of a pilot program.

The Committee discussed the concept of a pilot program and various issues. Ms. Shalley explained that the City has never foreclosed on properties with Code Enforcement liens and there may be a host of problems that staff still needs to explore.

Chair Hawkins supported the concept, and asked staff to identify properties that may be a losing proposition for the City, and consider doing it anyway to make the properties productive and remove these "anchors" that are dragging neighborhoods down.

Commissioner Henry noted that taking a person's land is a very sensitive issue, how low-income families would be prepared to handle having a new home, and asked if the Code Enforcement issues on properties that are vacant or in disrepair being handled in a timely manner to keep the liens down. Additionally, he asked staff to determine how successful they have been at clearing up existing liens.

Commissioner Bottcher supported exploring the concerns brought up in discussion by the Committee, staff and the citizens prior to starting the pilot program, even if it is on a small scale. The Committee also heard comments from Ms. Darlene Pifalo and Mr. Jason Straw. Commissioner Bottcher made the following motion.

MOTION: Direct staff to work with the City Attorney's office to determine if the City can legally implement a program, flesh out how the pilot program would work, how much the program would cost, explore the other options that have been presented and discussed, and bring it back to the Committee in 90 days.

Motion passed unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION

The Community Development Committee: 1) discuss the pilot Nuisance Abatement Program presented by staff; 2) determine if it is in the interest of the Community Development Committee to direct staff to implement the pilot Nuisance Abatement Program; and 3) remove this item from the Community Development Committee's referral list.

Approved as shown above (See Motion)

MEMBER COMMENT

Commissioner Bottcher was contacted by Julia Reisken about an ongoing problem with an unsecured tower. Mr. Cooper informed the Committee that the fence should be back up by now, staff has been working to remedy the problem and he would follow up on this to make sure it has been resolved.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Ms. Pifalo brought up a concern about an item that was recently brought before the Code Enforcement Board about a man that had to buy a Landlord Permit for letting a homeless person live in one of his homes. She asked that the City consider making a provision for someone just trying to help someone out in need.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 PM.