

RESOLUTION NO. 170512

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA, IN OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED PHOSPHATE MINE IN BRADFORD AND UNION COUNTIES; REQUESTING THE BRADFORD COUNTY COMMISSION TAKE CERTAIN ACTIONS; PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City prides itself on the beauty of our region's natural springs, lakes, and rivers, including the Santa Fe River system (designated an Outstanding Florida Water by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection) and recognizes those natural elements are essential to our way of life and that our City is dependent on the well being of surrounding areas;

WHEREAS, HPS Enterprises II, LLC, a Florida limited liability company, has submitted a permit application to Bradford County seeking approval for phosphate mining on approximately 5,352 acres of land currently zoned agricultural, and seeks to mine thousands more acres in Union County, on lands that straddle the New River;

WHEREAS, Alachua County shares a border with Bradford County, divided by our shared Santa Fe River, which is fed by and dependent on the New River;

WHEREAS, phosphate mining operations are expected to extract millions of gallons of water per day that will affect the groundwater, water table, and quality of water that our City-owned utility, Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU), relies on to serve over 190,000 people;

WHEREAS, the City is concerned that the proposed phosphate mining operations may cause contamination of our water source;

WHEREAS, Alachua County worked closely with Union County and the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council to update the Union County land development regulations in keeping with the future vision for Union County and Union County has enacted a Moratorium on Mining;

WHEREAS, Alachua County has offered its resources to assist Bradford County with its decision on the mining permit, with updating the Bradford County land development regulations, and with future planning for alternatives that would bring long-term jobs and economic and environmental well-being to Bradford County;

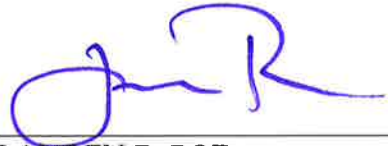
WHEREAS, the City has received considerable opposition to the proposed mine from our residents and the City is concerned with the public harm that may result from mining operations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA:

Section 1. That the City opposes the proposed phosphate mine and urges the Bradford County Commission to enact a moratorium to provide more time for study, due diligence and consideration of revisions, including prohibiting mining, to the Bradford County land development regulations in order to address the regional concerns for our environment, including significantly, our drinking water supply and the health, safety and welfare of the residents of our respective communities.

Section 2. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 2nd day of November, 2017.



LAUREN B. POE
MAYOR

Attest:



KURT M. LANNON
CLERK OF THE COMMISSION

Approved as to form and legality:



NICOLLE M. SHALLEY
CITY ATTORNEY