

City of Gainesville

City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601



Minutes - Final

March 28, 2019

1:00 PM

GRU Multi-Purpose Room

General Policy Committee

Mayor Lauren Poe (At Large)

Commissioner Helen Warren (At Large)

Commissioner Gail Johnson (At Large)

Commissioner Gigi Simmons (District 1)

Commissioner Harvey Ward (District 2)

Commissioner David Arreola (District 3)

Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Adrian Hayes-Santos (District 4)

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CALL TO ORDER - 1:06 PM**ROLL CALL**

Present 7 - Mayor Poe, Commissioner Warren, Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Arreola, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Simmons, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Hayes-Santos

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Amendment: Item No. 180816 "Discussion of Non-English Speaking Victims & Witnesses be continued until April 11, 2019.

Nathan Skop spoke to the matter.

A motion was made by Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Hayes-Santos, seconded by Commissioner Ward, that this Matter be Adopted with Amendments. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Mayor Poe, Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Arreola, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Simmons, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Hayes-Santos

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Warren

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[180857.](#)

General Policy Committee Minutes (B)**RECOMMENDATION**

The General Policy Committee approve the minutes of March 14, 2019.

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

Aye: 6 - Mayor Poe, Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Arreola, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Simmons, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Hayes-Santos

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Warren

DISCUSSION OF PENDING REFERRALS

[180043](#)

Gainesville Fire Rescue Community Resource Paramedic Program Update (B)

Assistant City Manager, Dan Hoffman gave opening remarks and stated that the University of Florida is continuing to partnership in the Community Resources Paramedic Program, as well as continuing to seek other partners (including the National Fire Foundation and Metro Lab Network). Chief Lane spoke to the matter.

CRP Program Coordinator, Ariella Bak gave a presentation on updates and future plans for the Gainesville Fire Rescue Community Resources Paramedic program.

Commissioner Warren arrived at 1:19 PM.

Mayor Poe asked GFR staff to define the term "single role responder". Chief Lane spoke to the matter.

Commissioner Warren asked a question about the single role responder; and the effect of the program on participants' repeat visits to the emergency room. Ariella Bak spoke to the matter.

Mayor Poe spoke to the matter of program funding and data to demonstrate support for resources for the program. Chief Lane responded to the issue of emergency room costs.

Chief Lane spoke about infrastructure and staff needs, potential funding, and desired funding for continuing program delivery.

Dan Hoffman spoke to the matter of funding for the program. He stated that the City Manager's office intends to submit an increment request in the forthcoming budget cycle to support scaling up the system.

Commissioner Ward thanked the presenters, spoke in support of the program. He mentioned potential grant opportunities through the Department of Transportation.

Chief Lane spoke to the issue of Medicaid/Medicare funding for paramedic medical care services and the potential to reduce future long-term costs by reducing single service medical care responses and increasing in-home health care services.

Commissioner Ward spoke to the matter and supports in-home health services. He requested a copy of estimated costs for scaling up that was shown in the presentation (not included in the agenda back-up). Chief Lane responded that the estimates can be provided to the Commission, but that refined estimates will be included in the upcoming budget increment. Dan Hoffman responded that the projected costs are intended to provide the Commissioners with general information. Ariella Bak responded regarding insurance payments.

Commissioner Simmons commented that staff should include a list of partners in future presentations on this program. Dan Hoffman responded that this program does not intend to replace primary care or social services. Chief Lane responded.

Commissioner Arreola thanked the presenters. He commented about the next steps for moving forward and the estimated cost of scaling up. He spoke in support of matching potential funds from UF Health. Would like to get a clearer idea of potential costs for the City.

Dan Hoffman spoke about a possible timeline for moving toward community resource centers in fire stations. Chief Lane spoke to the matter.

Commissioner Ward left the meeting at 2:14pm.

Commissioner Arreola asked a follow-up question about paramedics. Chief Lane spoke to the matter.

Commissioner Arreola spoke in support of the program and that the program can be a model for other cities.

Commissioner Simmons asked whether the University of Florida has offered any resources for the program, in addition to funding. Chief Lane responded about funding and resources that UF has provided.

Commissioner Simmons asked about program internships. Ariella Bak spoke to the matter.

Commissioner Johnson thanked the presenters and spoke in support of the program. She asked about how the program would grow if more resources were available. Dan Hoffman responded that staff can return with ideas and projected estimates.

Commissioner Johnson spoke about sustaining the program with partnerships and outside funding, and minimal City funding.

Commissioner Warren spoke to the City's role in the sustainability of the program and the need to rely on partners to provide health care due to budget constraints. Dan Hoffman responded about investing in the program to avoid costs in the long-term. Chief Lane responded about the need for the City to avoid future costs by changing the current healthcare delivery system. Ariella Bak spoke to the matter.

Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Hayes-Santos supports the program with the possibility of reducing future 911 calls.

Mayor Poe spoke to the role of partnerships in developing this and similar programs and the understanding of how to scale up new ideas. He encouraged the Commission to consider planning for future program development.

Debbie Martinez and Nathan Skop spoke to the matter.

RECOMMENDATION *The General Policy committee hear an update from Gainesville Fire Rescue on the Community Resource Paramedic Program.*

Heard

[180816.](#)

Discussion of Non-English Speaking Victims & Witnesses (B)

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

Continued

[180809.](#)

Plastic Ban Ordinance Hardship Presentation (B)

Dan Hoffman, Assistant City Manager introduced.

Steve Joplin, Solid Waste Manager gave a presentation on the purpose of clarifying issues related to the ordinance, including: 1) What determines whether a bag is "single use"; 2) How "durable" should be defined; 3) Definition of "single use" versus "reusable bags"; and 4) Whether the type of handle affects whether a bag is deemed to be "reusable".

Commissioner Arreola spoke to clarification of definitions included in the ordinance. Dan Hoffman spoke to the matter of clarifying language.

Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Hayes-Santos spoke to the definition of “durable” related to plastic bags. He is concerned about using the thickness of the bag material as a measure. Staff provided a demonstration of sample plastic bags. Steve Joplin spoke to the question of reusability.

Commissioner Simmons requested clarification about types of bags being discussed. Steve Joplin discussed bag thickness and handles. She expressed a desire to have further conversation about plastic bags.

Commissioner Ward commented about the desire to reduce the use of a certain type of single use bag (gestured toward the grey, then disposable variety). Models from other states, countries to look to for example language.

Commissioner Warren spoke about the need to identify a standard minimum, adopt an example from another community as a starting point. Would like to set a target for now, change as needed in the future. Steve Joplin spoke to the language used in the example statement from Surfside, South Carolina.

Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Hayes-Santos asked a question about interpretation of an aspect of the definition of a single-use plastic bag. Spoke in support of requiring language that bags must be sold to avoid giving out bags.

Mayor Poe spoke in support of language from Surfside, South Carolina ordinance. The City’s intent matches this, but this language would provide clarification for enforcement.

Steve Joplin continued the presentation, enforcement issues needing clarification: 1) How often should noncompliant businesses be cited until they come into compliance; 2) Who should be cited? Manager, corporation, property owner, who is on duty at the time; 3) Will these citations go through the Special Magistrate or the court system; and 4) How much leeway can we allow for compliance after August 1, 2019.

Mayor Poe spoke about allowing time to achieve compliance after citation. Special Magistrate to handle citations. Determine who to cite based on who makes decision for each business.

Commissioner Ward spoke about leeway with compliance after August 1, 2019. Suggested choosing a date after which bulk purchases for non-compliance bags will be cited.

Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Hayes-Santos responded about the difficulty of enforcing purchase dates. Supports citing business owners, issuing warnings and trying to avoid fines.

Commissioner Arreola agreed with citing business owners, supports setting a date to begin enforcement. Supports issuing warnings, but also a citation per bag for repeat offenders.

Commissioner Simmons commented about the possibility of business owners paying a fine rather than shifting from styrofoam to plastic. What will the cost of the fine be.

Will it increase. Asked to hear from a representative from the Chamber of Commerce for an update on small businesses and the ordinance. Agrees with January 1 implementation. Mayor Poe responded that code violations can increase.

Public Works Director Phil Mann spoke to the matter.

Commissioner Warren supports citing the party locally involved who originates bag orders. Citations should include increasing incentives to reach compliance with the ban. Does not support daily citation, but supporting businesses to comply. Supports a compliance date sooner than January 1. Asked staff if there is enough time to notify businesses about an August 1, 2019 deadline.

Steve Joplin responded about the public education timeline. Staff has not provided much public information yet without clarification.

Commissioner Ward spoke to the issue of bag material/thickness, intent to reduce the certain type of frequently used single use bag.

Commissioner Johnson spoke to the hardship waiver and the impact on businesses. Concerned about public education, if there is enough time before August 1 deadline. Steve Joplin responded about education efforts and assisting businesses. Focus on customer education and compliance education for businesses.

Director of Communications, Shelby Taylor spoke about public education for residents; staff needs clarification on ordinance language in order to implement effective education and public relations campaign. Estimates on cost for possible education campaign activities in backup. Staff can begin educational activities once language clarified, but more time would be helpful.

Commissioner Johnson more in favor of January 1 for compliance.

Steve Joplin spoke about communication from local suppliers, waiting for information to provide to customers.

Commissioner Warren spoke in favor of August 1 deadline, providing adequate support for businesses. Supports conversation about hardship waiver.

Commissioner Ward spoke about providing bags for local food banks.

Steve Joplin spoke about the hardship exemption.

Commissioner Ward does not support a waiver based on finances, would support exempting business that are only carry-out.

Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Hayes-Santos spoke about fines, supports following established fine scaled laid out by other City departments. Supports August 1 deadline, informing businesses. Does not support a hardship waiver.

Commissioner Simmons asked to hear from the Chamber of Commerce. Supports the ban but concerned about the Aug. 1 deadline and public education.

Vice President of Public Policy, Alyssa Brown spoke to the matter. Shared feedback from local businesses. Chamber's position is supporting the ordinance, but supports hardship waiver. Most businesses they have heard from support the ordinance except

for a few at risk of not surviving. Asked Commission to consider options for assisting very small businesses.

Commissioner Warren spoke to the hardship waiver, supports a waiver that expires. Asked Chamber representative about businesses in need of waiver.

Dan Hoffman spoke about the deadline. Staff acting under the guidance of a January 1 deadline, but staff will work to meet any deadline.

Commissioner Johnson requested options from staff on potential hardship waivers. Supports a time-limited exemption.

Mayor Poe summarized points of clarification: Commission in agreement on using language from Surfside, South Carolina to guide staff. If deadline is January 1, supports no grace period. Business owners should receive the citations. Concurrence on Special Magistrate and fine scale for violations. It seems that a majority of the Commission supports a January 1 date. Willing to consider a hardship waiver, but has not found a good way to define hardship. Suggests continuing discussion on hardship waivers in the next month. Need to decide August vs. January deadlines.

Mayor Poe asked for clarification that the ordinance include exemptions to ensure ADA compliance.

Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Hayes-Santos spoke about hardship waiver examples from other cities.

Commissioner Arreola spoke to hardship waiver. Will only support if it allows businesses to charge for the bags.

Mayor Poe clarified range of costs for a public education campaign.

Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Hayes-Santos will not support the motion, prefers August 1 deadline.

Commissioner Arreola spoke to the issue of biodegradable bags.

Commissioner Ward spoke to the matter, supports August 1 deadline.

Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Hayes-Santos clarified language to be changed in the ordinance – don't need to change language for Special Magistrate, fine scale, etc.

Motion by Commissioner Arreola, seconded by Commissioner Ward: 1) Staff to amend the ordinance to include the Surfside, South Carolina language (change to - bags would have to indicate millage thickness of bags, and add - only if sold, not given out as a bag; and 2) Effective enforcement date of January 1, 2020 that will include ADA compliance language. Motion passed 7-0.

Debbie Martinez, Brian O'Brien and Nathan Scott Spoke to the matter.

Motion by Commissioner Arreola, seconded by Commissioner Ward: Effective date to begin January 2, 2020. Motion passed 5-2. Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Hayes-Santos and Commissioner Warren in dissent.

Commissioner Simmons left the meeting at 4:26 PM.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee 1)Hear a presentation from staff regarding the Plastic Ban Ordinance Hardship component, 2)Discuss and take action deemed necessary and 3) Direct staff on the Ordinance implementation.

Approved, as shown above

180750.**Mobile Food Vending Vehicles (NB)**

Dan Hoffman introduced. Spoke to potential legal challenges to ordinance regarding food trucks.

Interim Planning & Development Director, Andrew Persons spoke to requests that the City has received related to food trucks and other forms of food service that do not fit the City's current ordinances in the Land Development Code and other related ordinances. Some of these issues cannot be addressed without code changes. Encourages the Commission to review the collection of related ordinances at the same time, rather than solely addressing food truck vehicles in order to address the whole range of food service and retail opportunities. Asking for direction from the Commission.

Andrew Persons stated that staff can bring back recommendations for potential updates to the Land Development Code.

Commissioner Johnson spoke in support of facilitating food truck businesses in Gainesville. Would like to know about changes as soon as possible along with a longer-term plan.

Mayor Poe suggested discussing a timeline at the meeting on April 4, 2019 about general and more specific code change recommendations.

Dan Hoffman spoke about code changes.

Commissioner Warren spoke in support of code changes that support food-related businesses in addition to food trucks. Andrew Persons responded. Would like direction to know about ways to support other local food vendors.

Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Hayes-Santos spoke in support of opening up the possibility of codes to support food trucks and other food retail businesses.

Andrew Persons confirmed that staff will come to the April 4, 2019 meeting with options for short-term code changes related to food trucks; and discussion of other future code changes. Asked Commission to think about potential community outreach needed related to ordinance changes.

Debbie Martinez, Nathan Scott and Kali Blount spoke to the matter.

RECOMMENDATION

The General Policy Committee discuss and take action deemed necessary.

Discussed

180779.**Peace Pole (NB)**

Commissioner Warren asked the Commission to discuss the possibility of having a

peace poll as a piece of art on the grounds of the City Hall complex.

Mayor Poe spoke to the matter, directed that the peace poll fulfill the public art requirement.

Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Hayes-Santos requested more information. Commissioner Warren responded.

Commissioner Arreola spoke in support of the matter.

Debbie Martinez and Nathan Scott spoke to the matter.

Commissioner Ward left the meeting at 4:48 PM

Commissioner Johnson left the meeting at 4:50 PM.

No quorum present.

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

Discussed

[180498.](#)

General Policy Committee Referral List (B)

RECOMMENDATION *The General Policy Committee discuss the referral list.*

MEMBER COMMENT

PUBLIC COMMENT

NEXT MEETING DATE

ADJOURNMENT - 4:51 PM