

City of Gainesville

City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601



Minutes - Final

August 8, 2019

1:00 PM

Gainesville Regional Utilities 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)
Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Harvey Ward (District 2)
Commissioner David Arreola (District 3)
Commissioner Adrian Hayes-Santos (District 4)

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CALL TO ORDER - 1:04 PM**ROLL CALL**

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

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Hayes-Santos, seconded by Commissioner Simmons, that this Matter be Adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Commissioner Arreola, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Simmons, Mayor Poe, and Commissioner Hayes-Santos

Absent: 2 - Commissioner Warren, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Ward

APPROVAL OF MINUTES[190183.](#)**Approval of Minutes (B)****RECOMMENDATION**

The General Policy Committee approve the minutes of July 25, 2019.

A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Hayes-Santos, that this Matter be Approved as Recommended. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Commissioner Arreola, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Simmons, Mayor Poe, and Commissioner Hayes-Santos

Absent: 2 - Commissioner Warren, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Ward

DISCUSSION OF PENDING REFERRALS[181042.](#)**Street Outreach Team - Concerning the Closing of Dignity Village (B)**

Motion: 1) Ask staff for an analysis on the three options presented to be considered at a future meeting; 2) Mayor Poe and Commissioner Simmons to begin meeting with potential community partners; and 3) City participates in developing partnerships with stakeholders, sharing financial responsibility.

Note: Terry Fleming submitted two additional back-up items to the Committee at the beginning of the meeting: 1) Project Overview: Continuum of Care (CoC) Outreach Team; and 2) The Role of Outreach and Engagement in Ending Homelessness.

Mayor Poe introduced the item.

Terry Fleming introduced a presentation on the Street Outreach Team. Kimber Tough

and Mark Watson, Three Rivers Legal Services, gave the presentation.

Commissioner Ward arrived at 1:10 pm.

Commissioner Warren arrived at 1:13 pm.

Mayor Poe thanked the presenters.

Terry Fleming spoke, directed attention to the Project Overview handout provided (see additional back-up noted above).

Commissioner Simmons asked question about the role of religious organizations in the street outreach work; are services being duplicated in the community.

Terry Fleming described the structure of the CoC; how they cooperate with local churches, governmental agencies, and other services provided by religious groups in the community.

Commissioner Simmons asked about the churches partnering with the CoC, commented about outreach to engage new partner churches to reach homeless population. Terry Fleming responded.

Commissioner Hayes-Santos thanked Street Outreach efforts. Commented in support of adding funding for homeless services in FY20-21 budget.

Commissioner Warren thanked Mr. Fleming. Commented in support of increased outreach support and partnerships with community stakeholders.

Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Ward thanked Mr. Fleming and his colleagues for their work. Supports additional funding directly for homeless services only; does not want City or funding to direct churches or non-profits.

Mayor Poe thanked Mr. Fleming. Supports City helping to coordinate agencies/providers (funding sources) and identifying gaps, the role that the City can play to find funding. Mayor Poe willing to sit with CoC and Assistant City Manager Fred Murry to meet with groups and ask for resources. Proposed setting goal to contact and speak with as many entities as possible, resources that each could contribute. Sees the need to expand resources.

Mr. Fleming thanked Mayor Poe and the City's support and involvement to attract other funders.

Member Warren commented about proposed outreach plan. Asked clarifying question about the scope of the CoC's outreach area. Mr. Fleming responded. Commissioner Warren asked about outreach workers needed for five-county area. Mr. Fleming and Mark Watson responded that outreach team works in all counties. Commissioner Warren spoke to the matter. Mr. Fleming responded about the need for comprehensive street outreach.

Mayor Poe spoke in support of funding more now to address homelessness to eliminate future needs. Kimber Tough and Mark Watson responded.

Commissioner Arreola thanked the presenters. Supports having the right people for Street Outreach, supports the City's commitment to these programs. Requested staff

analysis of the options presented to be able to measure metrics, learn community partners' interest in participating.

Commissioner Warren asked for consideration that identified funding, City participates in developing partnerships with stakeholders, sharing financial responsibility. Commissioner Arreola agreed. Mayor Poe clarified that the staff analysis would include recommendations on the City's potential role. Commissioner Simmons asked to join Mayor Poe in meeting with partners before the analysis is provided; Mayor Poe agreed.

Gabe Kaimowitz, Mona Gil de Gibaja Jon DeCarmine spoke to the matter.

RECOMMENDATION *The General Policy Committee hear a presentation and take appropriate action.*

A motion was made by Commissioner Arreola, seconded by Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Ward, that this Matter be Approved, as shown above. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

[190058.](#)

City Commission Emails Posting Policy (B)

RECOMMENDATION *The General Policy Committee hear a presentation from the Clerk's Office with the results of their research and take any action deemed necessary.*

Heard

[180943.](#)

City Commission Rules (B)

Omichele Gainey, Clerk of the Commission introduced the item and policy research staff.

Lindsay Hoffman, Policy Oversight Administrator, and Lisa Bennett, City Attorney's Office, gave a presentation on "Improving Communication at Public Meetings and Beyond". Ms. Hoffman introduced the presentation and presented on City Commission emails and general public comment at Commission meetings.

Ms. Bennett directed the body's attention to a memo from the City Attorney's office included in the back-up. Ms. Bennett commented about 1st Amendment issues and general public comment.

Ms. Hoffman and Ms. Bennett presented on public comment on agenda items, sign-up/registration for comment during public meetings, and civility and decorum.

Mayor Poe thanked staff for the presentation.

Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Ward thanked staff for their work and public for reaching out to the Commission. Spoke against preventing public from expressing comments to the Commission, but concerned about public not knowing that Commission emails are public. In favor of eliminating "CCOM" email, having comments to the whole Commission to go to a public portal. Provide notice to public, allow Clerk's Office to redact as needed.

Commissioner Hayes-Santos thanked staff and public for comments. Spoke in favor of meetings being more productive and efficient. Spoke to the matter of Commission emails.

Commissioner Arreola thanked staff. Commented in support of early public comment and comment cards at public meetings. Spoke in favor of additional procedures to protect public privacy when sending emails to the Commission. Supports an online contact form in addition to CCOM email. Spoke to civility and public comment, in favor of guidelines for disruptive behavior.

Commissioner Warren commented about notifying individuals that emails to Commission will be made public. Spoke to meeting rules, thanked staff for research. Supports allowing one opportunity for non-agenda items; taking public comment after agenda items are introduced; adjusting public comment time to manage meetings.

Commissioner Simmons thanked staff for research. Supports removing "CCOM" email address, have the portal for public to submit comments (with a disclaimer that comments will be public). Supports comment cards, district town halls, time certain agenda items, exception for applause for awards/recognitions.

Commissioner Johnson thanked staff. Supports incorporating written public comment into the record; acknowledgement of email messages, allowing 72 hours or longer to review/respond to emails; keeping 3 opportunities for public comment; early public comment; speaker registration; different civility/decorum standards; online contact form; time certain agenda items; town halls.

Mayor Poe commented in support of incorporating written public comment into the record, adding comments to the agenda. Favors transitioning "CCOM" email to the online form to allow staff to assist tracking and follow-up on responses. Supports continuing to publish emails but to allow adequate time and discretion to review and notify the sender as needed. Supports adjustment to allow one opportunity for public comment per individual per meeting; speaker registration system (with minimal identifying information). Mayor Poe needs to enforce the current civility and decorum standards. Supports online contact form; judicious use of time certain; district town halls.

Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Ward supports written public comment in the record; auto-response for email messages; modify publishing of Commission emails; 3 open public comments, including early public comment, with one opportunity to speak; speaker registration system with optional types of contact information; online portal for Commission emails; time certain agenda items; town halls; update agenda language; supports the idea of visual voting.

Commissioner Hayes-Santos supports letters being incorporated into the record; auto-response to emails; one opportunity for public comment, not televising; speaker registration/sign-up system; early comment period; modifying public comment if needed; only having public comment on action items; turn microphone off after time; announce if representing a group. Supports clarifying civility/decorum standards, not allowing campaign speech; contact form; town halls, time certain, updated agenda language. Concerned about individual emails going public; even 72 hours not enough time. Supports online contact form with disclaimer on publishing.

Ms. Gainey stated that emails received are public records; do not have discretion to determine (unless exempted). Spoke to the matter of publishing emails, original

intention was for emails to be screened. Reviewing all emails would require additional staff.

Commissioner Johnson supports agenda flexibility, clarifying "outbursts" for civility/decorum; suggested Commission receive training for chairing meetings. Supports not responding during public comment, finding other ways to address questions.

Commissioner Simmons supports taking comments on cards to respond later; three public comment periods, individuals may speak once. Have representatives from group speak on their behalf. Agrees with colleagues on discussion points 1, 2, 5, 6, civility/decorum.

Motion by Commissioner Arreola, seconded by Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Ward: 1) authorize the Clerk's office to incorporate written public comment into the record; 2) Authorize the Clerk's office to create a system to acknowledge incoming email messages; 3) Authorize the Clerk's office to continue publishing constituent and Commission emails, suggestions for delays and publications be brought back for later deliberation; 4) Maintain the same rules for general public comment; 5) Authorize the Clerk's office to create an early public comment period (during general public comment); 6) Authorize the Clerk's office to create speaker registration system (that does not require addresses, Clerk would call people in order, but Mayor would still recognize people to speak; 7) Clerk's Office create an online contact form; 8) Clerk's office come back with a framework for potential town hall rules and institutionalizing them; and 9) Authorize the Clerk's Office to update agenda language. Motion passed 5-2. Commissioner Hayes-Santos and Commissioner Johnson in dissent.

Nathan Skop, Gabe Kaimowitz, Sharon Bauer, Kristen Young, Susan Bottcher, Warren Nielsen, Robert Mounts, Darlene Pifalo, Reina Saco, Kim Tanzer and Jennifer Cabrera spoke to the matter.

Commissioner Hayes-Santos commented that he did not support the motion. Suggested electronic voting. Does not support public comment on procedural motions. Supports asking Clerk and City Attorney to bring back civility and decorum standards. Supports three public comments, but only one opportunity to speak. Concerned about publishing email stifling communication with the Commission; supports online contact form.

Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Ward supports the motion but agrees that email publishing stifles communication. Supports public comment after agenda items before Commission comment.

Commissioner Arreola responded to the previous comments.

Motion by Commissioner Hayes-Santos, seconded by Commissioner Johnson: 1) Ask staff to look at electronic voting system. Motion passed 6-1. Commissioner Arreola in dissent; 2) Look at no public comment on procedural votes. Motion passed 4-3. Commissioner Arreola, Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Ward and Commissioner Simmons in dissent; 3) City Clerk and City Attorney to come back with options for clarifying civility and decorum standards. Motion passed 6-0. Commissioner Arreola absent; 4) Adopt a policy that individuals can only speak during one public comment period. Motion passed 4-2. Commissioner Simmons and Commissioner Johnson in dissent. Commissioner Arreola absent; 5) No longer publishing individual City Commission emails, but to create an individual on-line contact form to allow to be

published if the public wants. Motion failed 1-5. Commissioner Hayes-Santos in Favor. Commissioner Arreola absent.

RECOMMENDATION *The General Policy Committee hear a presentation from the Clerk's Office with the results of their research and take any action deemed necessary.*

This Matter was Approved, as shown above

190182. **Referral List (B)**

RECOMMENDATION *The General Policy Committee discuss and take appropriate action.*

No Action Taken

PUBLIC COMMENT

MEMBER COMMENT

Commissioner Hayes-Santos asked staff for timeline to return. Clerk responded that staff will get back to the Commission with a timeline.

Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Ward thanked staff, colleagues, and the public for participating.

Mayor Poe thanked everyone for a civil meeting.

Commissioner Arreola noted a point of order on potential conflicts of different elements of two motions passed. Mayor Poe responded.

NEXT MEETING DATE

ADJOURNMENT - 4:36 PM