

City of Gainesville

City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601



Minutes - Final

July 22, 2021

1:00 PM

Roberta Lisle Kline Conference Room

General Policy Committee

Mayor Lauren Poe (At Large)
Commissioner Reina Saco (At Large, Seat A)
Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Gail Johnson (At Large, Seat B)
Commissioner Desmon Duncan-Walker (District 1)
Commissioner Harvey Ward (District 2)
Commissioner David Arreola (District 3)
Commissioner Adrian Hayes-Santos (District 4)

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CALL TO ORDER - 1:02 PM**ROLL CALL**

Present 7 - Mayor Poe, Commissioner Hayes-Santos, Commissioner Saco, Commissioner Ward, Duncan-Walker, Commissioner Arreola, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Johnson

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

Aye: 5 - Mayor Poe, Commissioner Hayes-Santos, Commissioner Saco, Commissioner Ward, and Commissioner Arreola

Absent: 2 - Duncan-Walker, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Johnson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[210097.](#) **Approval of Minutes from the June 10, 2021 General Policy Committee Meeting (B)**

RECOMMENDATION *The General Policy Committee approve the minutes of June 10, 2021.*

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

Aye: 5 - Mayor Poe, Commissioner Hayes-Santos, Commissioner Saco, Commissioner Ward, and Commissioner Arreola

Absent: 2 - Duncan-Walker, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Johnson

DISCUSSION OF PENDING REFERRALS

[210163.](#) **Review of City's Election Districts (NB)**

Motion: Direct the City Attorney to bring an alternate timeline for redistricting for the 2022 election; 2) Request BEBR, Bureau of Economic and Business Research at the University of Florida, to assist with the redistricting process; 3) Invite Kim Barton, Alachua County Supervisor of Elections, to a future meeting to discuss the redistricting timeline; and 4) Replace the District Review Committee with publicly available software so all residents may participate in the process.

Nicolle Shalley, City Attorney introduced the item.

Commissioner Duncan-Walker arrived at 1:05 PM.

Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Johnson arrived at 1:11 PM.

Commissioners discussed proposed redistricting timeline. Ms. Shalley proposed inviting Kim Barton, Alachua County Supervisor of Elections, to an upcoming meeting to discuss the election process.

Dr. Michael McDonald, Professor of Political Science, University of Florida, gave a presentation demonstrating a redistricting software tool.

Commissioner Arreola requested opportunities be provided for public input. Mayor Poe commented on creating physical opportunities, including educational guidance, for neighbors to participate in the process, create district maps using available technology. Commissioner Hayes-Santos suggested providing time at a special meeting to allow the public to present proposed maps.

Public Comment: Debbie Martinez

RECOMMENDATION

The City Commission: 1) approve the proposed redistricting timeline; 2) authorize the City Attorney's Office to contract with U.F. BEBR to analyze the 2020 census data and recommend a redistricting plan; and 3) authorize the creation and selection of a Citizen Election District Review Committee to review the redistricting plan and submit reports and recommendations to the City Commission.

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

Aye: 6 - Mayor Poe, Commissioner Hayes-Santos, Commissioner Saco, Commissioner Ward, Duncan-Walker, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Johnson

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Arreola

210180.

Options for Enhanced Audit & Finance Committee Structure (B)

Motion: Approve staff recommendation to adopt proposed Option A, creating separate Audit Committee and Finance Committee.

City Auditor Ginger Bigbie introduced the item and reviewed the proposed options.

Public Comment: Nathan Skop

RECOMMENDATION *The City Commission discuss the two options for enhanced Audit & Finance Committee structures, provide direction to staff and take action as appropriate.*

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

Aye: 7 - Mayor Poe, Commissioner Hayes-Santos, Commissioner Saco, Commissioner Ward, Duncan-Walker, Commissioner Arreola, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Johnson

201093.

Annexation Policy (B)

This is a request for the General Policy Committee to hear a presentation from staff on past annexation efforts and discuss components of an annexation policy.

Motion: Direct the City Manager to bring to the Commission a survey gauging neighbor satisfaction with City services and interest in annexation to identify areas with higher likelihood of approving annexation.

Andrew Persons, Director of the Department of Sustainable Development, introduced the item.

Andrew Persons and Lila Stewart, Strategic Customer Experience Manager gave a presentation.

City Manager Lee Feldman spoke to the matter.

Public Comment: Nathan Skop, Debbie Martinez

RECOMMENDATION *The General Policy Committee 1) receive a presentation from staff and 2) discuss and take action deemed appropriate.*

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

Aye: 7 - Mayor Poe, Commissioner Hayes-Santos, Commissioner Saco, Commissioner Ward, Duncan-Walker, Commissioner Arreola, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Johnson

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nathan Skop and Kali Blount.

MEMBER COMMENT

Commissioner Saco commented on language during public comment.

Commissioner Arreola commented.

NEXT MEETING DATE - August 12, 2021

ADJOURNMENT - 3:17 PM