



Alachua County BoCC / City of Newberry Joint Special Meeting Minutes

May 12, 2025
7:00 PM

UF / IFAS Extension Office, 22712 West Newberry Road
Newberry, FL 32669

QUORUM CHECK

Newberry

Mayor

Tim Marden

Commissioners

Mark Clark
Rick Coleman
Donald Long

Interim City Manager

Dallas Lee

City Clerk

Judy Rice

City Attorney

Scott Walker

Managerial Consultant

Jordan Marlowe

Staff:

Assistant City Manager for Public Works and Utilities

Jamie Jones

Director of Community Development

Stacey Hectus

Fire Chief

Jason Lyman

Assistant Director of Utilities & Public Works

Rance Green

Deputy Fire Chief

Kevin Farr

Community Redevelopment Coordinator

Uma Sarmistha

Community Redevelopment Agency Specialist

Chelsea Bakaitis

Executive Assistant

Randa Paul

Records & Administrative Coordinator

Jeannene Mironack

Absent:

Commissioners

Monty Farnsworth
Tony Mazon

Alachua County BOCC

Chair

Charles S. Chestnut IV

Vice Chair

Ken Cornell

Commissioner

Anna Prizzia

Commissioner

Marihelen Wheeler

Commissioner

Mary Alford

Deputy Clerk

Casey Miller

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Marden called the Joint Alachua County Board Of County Commissioners / City Of Newberry Commission meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda as printed was made by Commissioner Wheeler, Seconded by Commissioner Alford.

Voting Yea: Vice Chair Cornell, Commissioner Alford, Commissioner Prizzia, Commissioner Wheeler.

COUNTY MOTION PASSED 4-0 with Chair Chestnut not present.

Motion to approve the agenda as published was made by Commissioner Clark, Seconded by Commissioner Long.

Mayor Marden asked for public comments. There were none.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Coleman, Commissioner Clark, Commissioner Long

CITY MOTION PASSED 3-0

INVOCATION

Pastor Ian Campbell provided the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Newberry City Commissioner Clark led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Newberry CRA Update

Newberry Community Redevelopment Agency Coordinator Sarmistha presented the item with a PowerPoint.

Discussion ensued.

Mayor Marden asked for public comments. There were none.

2. Proposed County Use of City Buildings

Interim Newberry City Manager Lee presented the item with a PowerPoint.

Discussion ensued.

County Commission Vice Chair Cornell asked what County services are requested by Newberry's residents? City Commissioner Clark responded listing veterans, driver's license, and tag services.

Discussion ensued.

Interim City Manager Lee responded that there was a discussion with the Tax Collector's Office indicating space for 17 staff would be needed, which is larger than the spaces the City is vacating.

Mayor Marden asked for public comments. There were none.

3. SW 15th Avenue Road Improvement Proposal

Assistant Newberry City Manager for Public Works and Utilities Jones presented the item with a PowerPoint.

Motion to direct county staff to look into the SW 15th Roadway proposal, including land acquisition costs, was made by County Commissioner Alford, Seconded by County Commissioner Wheeler.

Voting Yea: Vice Chair Cornell, Commissioner Alford, Commissioner Prizzia, Commissioner Wheeler.

COUNTY MOTION PASSED 4-0 with Chair Chestnut not present.

Discussion ensued.

County Commission Vice Chair Cornell asked for public comments. Jessica Carey spoke regarding CR235.

Mayor Marden asked what the County is seeking that the City can help with regarding this proposal?

County Engineer / Public Works Director Gavarrete responded.

Alachua County Commission Chair Chestnut entered and joined the dais at 7:35 PM.

4. Presentation of the Phoenix Award for Life-Saving Excellence

Newberry Fire Chief Lyman presented the item with a PowerPoint.

Discussion ensued.

Mayor Marden and County Commission Chair Chestnut distributed the Phoenix Awards to the following individuals:

911 Telecommunicator Cherie Muse;
911 Communications Supervisor Jennifer Frohberg;
Deputy Adam Gargulak, Alachua County Sheriff's Office;
Deputy Christopher Drake, Alachua County Sheriff's Office;
Firefighter/EMT Nicholas Alfieri, Alachua County Fire Rescue;
Rescue Lieutenant Michael Reddig, Alachua County Fire Rescue;
Firefighter/Paramedic Kristy Langston, Newberry Fire Department;
Firefighter/Paramedic Louis Derousie, Newberry Fire Department;
Driver/Operator Amby Cason, Newberry Fire Department; and
Lieutenant Justin Asbell, Newberry Fire Department.

COMMENTS

Janeice Smith spoke requesting the County provide Health Services in Newberry. County Commissioner Prizzia requested Mrs. Smith contact her to discuss this request.

Tina Certain spoke regarding the road conditions in front of the Walmart Distribution Center in unincorporated Alachua County. County Commissioner Prizzia asked Alachua County Economic Development Manager McLendon to respond. Mr. McLendon stated a \$13.7M Community Development Block Grant application should be approved by the BOCC on May 13th for CR235A enhancements.

County Commissioners Alford, Wheeler, Vice Chair Cornell, and Chair Chestnut commented.

Interim City Manager Lee, Managerial Consultant Marlowe commented.

City Attorney Walker, City Clerk Rice, City Commissioner Long, City Commissioner Clark, City Commissioner Coleman, and Mayor Marden made comments.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 PM.

Signed and approved on this 9th day of June 2025.

Timothy R. Marden, Mayor

Judy S. Rice, City Clerk