



Regular City Commission Meeting Minutes
October 27, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Mayor Walter Welch
Vice Mayor Shirley Green Brown
Commissioner Jacob Fletcher
Commissioner Jennifer Ringersen
Commissioner Dayna Williams

City Manager Rodolfo Valladares
City Attorney Scott Walker

Meeting Location: James A. Lewis City Commission Chambers
15100 NW 142 Terrace
Alachua, FL 32615

CITIZENS PRESENT: Zoe King, Michael Miller, Dennis Pocard, Susan Sapp, Asia Eichmiller, Connie Meyer, Soorya Lindberg, Jackson Youmas, Phyllis Strickland, Mandy Bucci, Sunita Parke,

STAFF ATTENDING: Michael Carrillo, Jeanene Carrillo, Heather Carter, Kenyata Curtis, Lisa Freeman, Jack Hansen, Carlos Hunt, Janet Knapp, Brent Lanier, Tara Malone, Damon Messina, Jesse Sandusky, Donna Smith, Bryan Thomas, LeAnne Williams, Tyler Williams, Cap Wilson, David Wisener

City Commission Meeting

Notice given pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes. In order to appeal any decision made at this meeting, you will need a verbatim record of the proceedings. It will be your responsibility to ensure such a record is made.

CALL TO ORDER

Led by Mayor Walter Welch.

INVOCATION

Led by Pastor Michael Miller, Antioch Baptist Church.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Led by Mayor Welch.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Jacob Fletcher requested that Consent Agenda Item B be moved to Agenda Items as Item A.

Vice Mayor Shirley Green Brown moved to approve the amended agenda; seconded by Commissioner Fletcher.

Mayor Welch opened the floor for public comment.

Tamara Robbins asked for an update on the status of the alcohol ordinance and live-streaming item of the Commission meetings, and asked about the cost of the police vehicles.

Zoe King explained the cost of the police vehicles.

Passed by unanimous consent.

APPROVE READING OF PROPOSED ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS BY TITLE ONLY

Commissioner Fletcher moved to approve the reading of proposed ordinances and resolutions by title only; seconded by Commissioner Jennifer Ringersen.

Passed by unanimous consent.

I. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

II. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS ON SUBJECTS NOT ON THE AGENDA

(Please Limit to 3 Minutes. Any citizen who is unable to speak at this time will have an opportunity to speak at the end of the meeting)

Mayor Welch opened the floor for public comment.

Ms. Robbins requested clarification regarding the roles of City Attorney Scott Walker and David Theriaque.

Ms. King proposed designating U.S. 441 to NW County Road 235 to NW 173 St. as residential. She urged the City to attract businesses, such as grocery stores, to Alachua. She also asked why the city had only one fire station.

Asia Eichmiller requested that sewer service be extended to the Pilot Grove subdivision.

Soorya Lindberg asked the City to connect her neighborhood to the city's water system.

Dennis Pollard inquired about the possibility of constructing a Santa House behind the Chamber of Commerce.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS/COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS/CITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

A) APPOINTMENT TO THE CITIZEN ADVISORY TASK FORCE (CATF)

Deputy City Clerk LeAnne Williams presented the item regarding appointments to the Citizen Advisory Task Force.

Applicants Phyllis Strickland and Annie Welch addressed the Commission and shared their interest in serving on the board.

Deputy City Clerk Williams conducted the ballot process and announced the vote. Following the vote, Phyllis Strickland and Annie Welch received the majority of votes.

Commissioner Dayna Williams moved to appoint Phyllis Strickland and Annie Welch to the Citizen Advisory Task Force, each with a three-year term expiring September 30, 2028; seconded by Commissioner Fletcher.

Mayor Welch opened the floor for public comment.

There were no comments.

Passed 5-0 by roll call

Vice Mayor Brown commended Ms. Strickland and Ms. Welch on their commitment to the Community.

B) APPOINTMENT TO THE SENIOR RESOURCES ADVISORY BOARD (SRAB)

Deputy City Clerk Williams presented the item regarding Senior Resources Advisory Board appointments.

Applicants Asia Eichmiller and Susan Sapp addressed the Commission and shared their interest in serving on the board.

Deputy City Clerk Williams conducted the ballot process and announced the vote. Following the vote, Jim Curington and Asia Eichmiller received the majority of votes.

Commissioner Fletcher moved to appoint Jim Curington and Asia Eichmiller to the Senior Resources Advisory Board, each with a three-year term expiring October 02, 2028; seconded by Commissioner Ringersen.

Mayor Welch opened the floor for public comment.

There were no comments.

Passed 5-0 by roll call

Vice Mayor Brown commended Mr. Curington and Ms. Eichmiller for their dedication and thanked the applicants, and encouraged them to apply to other boards.

C) APPOINTMENT TO THE YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL (YAC)

Deputy City Clerk Williams presented the item regarding Youth Advisory Council appointments.

Deputy City Clerk Williams conducted the ballot process and announced the vote. Following the vote, Robert Hu received the majority of the votes.

Commissioner Williams moved to appoint Robert Hu to the Youth Advisory Council, with a two-year term expiring September 04, 2027; seconded by Commissioner Ringersen.

Mayor Welch opened the floor for public comment.

There were no comments.

Passed 5-0 by roll call

Vice Mayor Brown spoke of her interaction with Mr. Hu, and congratulated him.

D) MILL CREEK WETLAND PARK EDUCATIONAL PANELS

City Manager Rodolfo Valladares presented the Mill Creek Wetland Park Educational Panels.

Mayor Welch invited the commissioners to ask questions or offer comments.

Commissioner Fletcher inquired whether the University of Florida (UF) or Santa Fe College could come to conduct research at the park.

City Manager Valladares responded that UF had already conducted studies in the park.

Commissioner Fletcher then asked about the park's size, to which City Manager Valladares replied that it was approximately 5 acres.

Vice Mayor Brown expressed gratitude to City Manager Valladares for creating a beautiful space for citizens to enjoy and for students to learn.

IV. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ORDINANCES

(Presentations, other than the applicant, please limit to 3 Minutes)

V. AGENDA ITEMS

A. BS&A.Net Conversion to Cloud

Purchasing Specialist Donna Smith presented the BS&A.Net Conversion to Cloud, staff report, and made recommendations.

Mayor Welch invited the commissioners to ask questions or offer comments.

Commissioner Fletcher inquired about potential cost savings and the benefits of using cloud services. He also raised a question about the proposed fee increases.

City Manager Valladares provided the necessary information.

A discussion followed among the Commissioners, City Manager Valladares, and City Attorney Walker regarding the fees.

Commissioner Williams expressed her preference for the contract to specify that the increases would be "no greater than 5%."

Commissioner Williams moved to authorize the issuance of a Purchase Order to Belle Szure & Associates (BS&A) in the amount of \$147,910.00 and authorize the City Manager to execute any necessary documents to proceed with the BS&A.Net Conversion to Cloud, contingent on the yearly increase not exceeding 5% and based on the CPI index; seconded by Commissioner Ringersen.

Mayor Welch opened the floor for public comment.

Citizens voiced their concern:

Ms. King

Ms. Lindberg

Ms. Robbins

Commissioner Williams moved to amend the motion on the floor to continue this agenda item to allow staff to address the concerns regarding the business and bring it back to a Commission Meeting, date uncertain; seconded by Commissioner Ringersen.

Mayor Welch opened the floor for public comment.

Ms. Robbins asked for clarification regarding the business registration.

City Attorney Walker addressed the concerns raised.

Discussion ensued regarding the business's registration.

Ms. King explained the procurement procedures.

Ms. Lindberg offered suggestions about procurement and inquired whether this program had live-streaming capabilities.

Passed 5-0 by roll call.

VI. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS ON SUBJECTS NOT ON THE AGENDA

(Please Limit to 3 Minutes. Any citizen who did not speak during the Citizen Comments period at the beginning of the meeting may do so at this time.)

Mayor Welch opened the floor for public comment.

Bryan Buescher discussed a public records request he had received a few months prior.

Mandy Bucci provided an update on the Farmers' Market.

Phyllis Strickland expressed her enthusiasm, calling the Farmers' Market fantastic.

Sunita Parks also shared that she was pleased with the Farmers' Market.

Connie Meyers voiced her concerns regarding construction near her home.

VII. COMMENTS FROM CITY MANAGER AND CITY ATTORNEY

City Manager Valladares provided an update to the Commission on the alcohol ordinance and live-streaming. He addressed several concerns raised by citizens during the meeting.

APD Chief Jesse Sandusky clarified details regarding the purchase of vehicles.

City Manager Valladares praised Florida City Week, organized by Deputy City Clerk Williams, and highlighted the students' attentiveness and excitement at seeing the Public Services vehicles.

City Attorney Walker mentioned that the ethics training date would need to be rescheduled and that he would provide an update once a new date was set.

VIII. COMMISSION COMMENTS/DISCUSSION

Commissioner Fletcher expressed gratitude to the public for their comments and thanked the applicants who showed interest in volunteering for the city's boards.

Commissioner Ringersen also thanked the public for their input. She expressed her appreciation for Chief Sandusky's efforts in protecting the community. She requested that the ethics training be postponed until January, noting that the Commission had already received ethics training for the year.

City Attorney Walker indicated that they would consider this request for the 2026 training.

Commissioner Ringersen also asked everyone to keep Jamaica in their prayers as the

country was suffering from Hurricane Melissa.

Vice Mayor Brown thanked Pastor Miller for the invocation. She announced that Friends of the Library needed volunteers and informed the community about the African American Read-In scheduled for February 22, 2026. Additionally, she thanked the citizens for voicing their concerns. She announced a Town Hall Meeting at Eastside High School on October 29, 2025, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and at Santa Fe High School on October 30, 2025, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. She stated that these meetings aim to gather community input on reading and writing.

Commissioner Ringersen inquired whether a member of the Education Task Force could attend these meetings.

Economic Development Manager David Wisener responded that he would ensure a member would be present.

Mayor Welch concluded by thanking the citizens for their input and Pastor Miller for the invocation.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Ringersen moved to adjourn; seconded by Commissioner Fletcher.

Passed by unanimous consent.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items represent routine City operations and business. These items are approved at the beginning of the Regular City Commission meeting upon approval of the meeting agenda.

A) FY 2026 PURCHASE OF POLICE PATROL VEHICLES

B) BS&A.NET CONVERSION TO CLOUD

ATTEST:

**CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF
ALACHUA, FLORIDA:**

Rodolfo Valladares, City Manager/Clerk

Walter Welch, Mayor