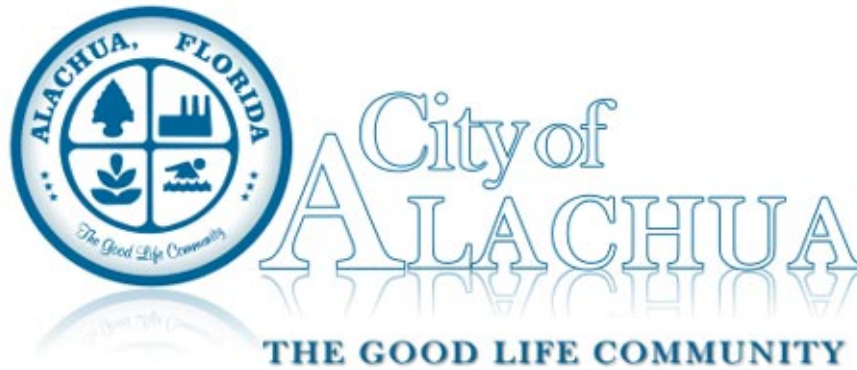




Planning and Zoning Board Agenda May 11, 2021

Chair James Sajczuk
Vice Chair Sandy Burgess
Member Virginia Johns
Member Edward Potts
Member Gary Thomas
School Board Member Tina Certain

City Manager Adam Boukari

Planning and Zoning Board At 6:00 PM

Meeting Date: May 11, 2021

Meeting Location: James A. Lewis Commission Chambers

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.
--

PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD MEETING AGENDA
--

CALL TO ORDER

INVOCATION

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

I. OLD BUSINESS

II. NEW BUSINESS

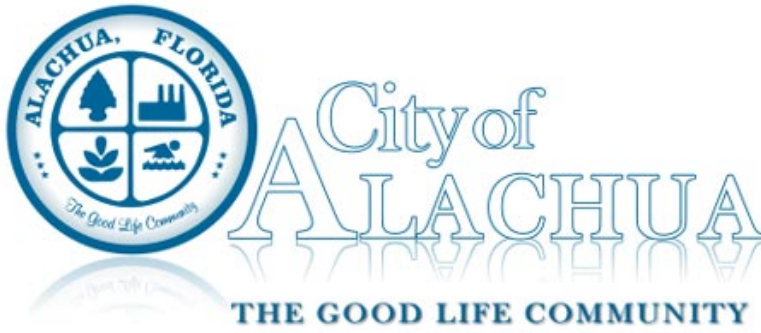
- A. Approval of the Minutes of the April 20, 2021 PZB Minutes
- B. A request by the City of Alachua to amend the City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan by updating

the Vision Statement and the Goals of the Vision Element

III. BOARD COMMENTS/DISCUSSION

IV. CITIZENS COMMENTS

ADJOURN



Board/Committee Agenda Item

MEETING DATE: 5/11/2021

SUBJECT: Approval of the Minutes of the April 20, 2021 PZB Minutes

PREPARED BY: Kenyata Curtis, Planning Assistant

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve the Minutes of the April 20, 2021 PZB Minutes

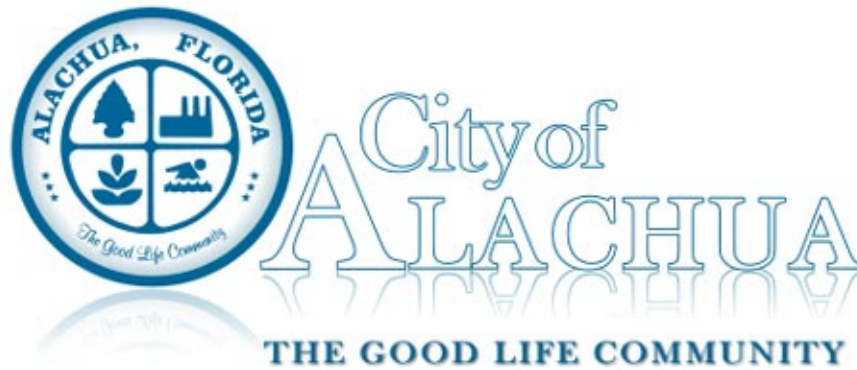
Summary

Approval of the Minutes of the April, 2021 PZB Minutes

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

- ▣ April 20, 2021 PZB Minutes



Planning and Zoning Board Minutes April 20, 2021

Chair James Sajczuk

City Manager Adam Boukari

Vice Chair Sandy Burgess

Member Virginia Johns

Member Edward Potts

Member Gary Thomas

School Board Member Tina Certain

**Planning and Zoning Board
At 6:00 PM**
to address the item(s) below.

Meeting Date: April 20, 2021

Meeting Location: James A. Lewis Commission Chambers

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.
--

PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chair James Sacjzuk called the meeting to order. School Board Member Tina Certain was absent.

INVOCATION

Member Virginia Johns led the invocation.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Led by the Board.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Member Johns moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Member Sandy Burgess.

Passed by unanimous consent.

I. OLD BUSINESS

None.

II. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the March 9, 2021 PZB Minutes

Member Johns moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Member Burgess.

Passed by unanimous consent.

- B. Election of Vice Chair

Member Johns moved to appoint Member Burgess as Vice Chair; seconded by Member Edward Potts.

Motion Passed 5-0 in a roll call vote.

- C. Certificate of Appropriateness: A request by Raghu Consbruck and Govinda Cordua, applicants and property owners, for construction of a new single-family residence on a vacant parcel, located at the northeast corner of NW 146th Ave and NW 144th Street Tax Parcel No. 03679-001-000 (Quasi-Judicial Hearing)

Planning Assistant Kenyata Curtis swore in all parties entering testimony.

Principal Planner Adam Hall, AICP, presented the Staff Report.

Member Gary Thomas asked if all new homes within the Historic Overlay District require a Certificate of Appropriateness.

Principal Planner Hall responded.

Member Burgess moved that based upon the competent substantial evidence presented at this hearing, the presentation before this Board, and Staff's recommendation, this Board finds the application to be consistent with the City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan and in compliance with the Land Development Regulations and approves the application for a Certificate of Appropriateness; seconded by Member Johns.

Motion Passed 5-0 in a roll call vote.

- D. Site Plan – KFC : A request by Daniel Young, P.E., of CHW, Inc., applicant and agent, for T&H Property Group, LLC, and Sarcav, LLC, property owners, for consideration of a Site Plan to construct a ±1,904 square foot quick service restaurant with associated parking, stormwater, landscaping, and site improvements on a ±1.06 acre subject property. Tax Parcel Number 03053-002-001 and a portion of 03053-002-000 (Quasi-Judicial Hearing).

Planning Assistant Curtis swore in all parties entering testimony.

Principal Planner Hall presented the Staff Report.

Daniel Young, P.E., of CHW, Inc., availed himself for questions and clarified Staff's conditions.

City Attorney Marian Rush responded.

Mr. Young accepted the Staff's conditions.

Member Burgess inquired about and commented about the potential for a connection to NW 162nd Lane.

Mr. Young responded.

Member Johns inquired about the ownership of each parcel.

Mr. Young responded.

Member Potts inquired about drive-through vehicular stacking.

Mr. Young responded.

Member Thomas moved that based upon the competent substantial evidence presented at this hearing, the presentation before this Board, and Staff's recommendation, this Board finds the application to be consistent with the City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan and in compliance with the Land Development Regulations and approves the Site Plan for a restaurant with drive-through service on Tax Parcel Number 03053-002-001 and a portion of 03053-002-000, subject to the four (4) conditions provided in Exhibit "A" and located on page 20 of the April 20, 2021 Staff Report; seconded by Member Johns.

Passed 5-0 in a roll call vote.

- E. Site Plan – Alchem Building 4: A request by Claudia Vega, P.E., of EDA Consultants, Inc., applicant and agent for Alchem Laboratories Corporation, property owner, for consideration of a Site Plan to construct a ±3,788 square foot building and associated site improvements on a ±0.76 acre property; Tax Parcel Numbers 03231-003-000 and 03231-004-001 (Quasi-Judicial Hearing).

Planning Assistant Curtis swore in all parties entering testimony.

Principal Planner Justin Tabor, AICP, presented the Staff Report.

Sergio Reyes, P.E., of EDA Consultants, Inc., availed himself for questions and accepted Staff's conditions.

Member Johns moved that based upon the competent substantial evidence presented at this hearing, the presentation before this Board, and Staff's recommendation, this Board finds the application to be consistent with the City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan and in compliance with the Land Development Regulations and approves the Site Plan for Alchem Building 4, subject to three (3) conditions provided in Exhibit "A" and located on page 19 of the April 20, 2021 Staff Report; seconded by Member Burgess.

Motion Passed 5-0 in a roll call vote.

- F. Site-Specific Amendment to the Official Zoning Atlas: A request by Christopher Potts, P.E. of JBrown Professional Group, LLC, applicant and agent for Shakti Management, LLC, property

owner, to amend the Official Zoning Atlas from Central Business District (CBD) to Commercial Intensive (CI) on a ±1.09 acre subject property. Tax Parcel Number 03869-004-000 (Quasi-Judicial Hearing).

Planning Assistant Curtis swore in all parties entering testimony.

Principal Planner Hall presented the Staff Report.

Member Burgess inquired about the difference between this parcel and the Taco Bell property.

Principal Planner Hall responded.

Member Johns moved that based upon the competent substantial evidence presented at this hearing, the presentation before this Board, and Staff's recommendation, this Board finds the application for a Site-Specific Amendment to the Official Zoning Atlas submitted by JBrown Professional Group, Inc. on behalf of Shaki Management, LLC to be consistent with the City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan and in compliance with the Land Development Regulations and transmits the application to the City Commission, with a recommendation to approve; seconded by Member Thomas.

Motion Passed 5-0 in a roll call vote.

- G. Land Development Regulations Text Amendment : A request by Christopher Potts P.E., of JBrown Professional Group, LLC to amend the City of Alachua Land Development Regulations (LDRs) as follows: amending Section 4.3.2 (I)(4), relating to the use-specific standards for minor utilities; amending Section 2.4.4 (D) (7), relating to standards for special exception permits (Legislative Hearing)

Principal Planner Hall presented the Staff Report.

Member Burgess moved that based upon the presentation to this Board and Staff's recommendation, this Board finds the proposed text amendments to the City's Land Development Regulations to be consistent with the City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan and in compliance with the City's Land Development Regulations and transmits such finding to the City Commission with a recommendation to approve; seconded by Member Johns.

Member Johns inquired about master stormwater basins.

Principal Planner Hall responded.

City Attorney Rush responded.

Motion Passed 5-0 in a roll call vote.

III. BOARD COMMENTS/DISCUSSION

Department Director Kathy Winburn stated the next meeting will be on May 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

IV. CITIZENS COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURN

Member Burgess moved to adjourn; seconded by Member Johns.

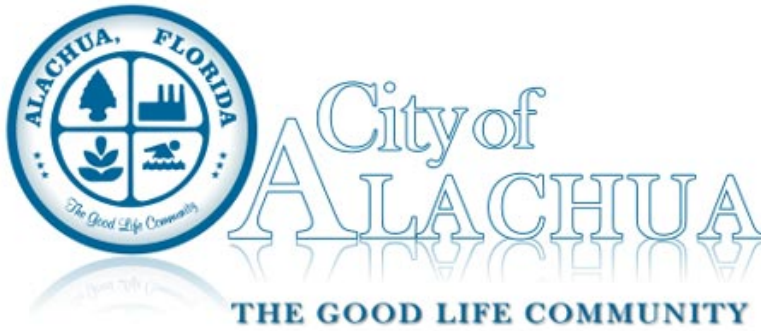
Passed by unanimous consent.

ATTEST:

PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD OF THE
CITY OF ALACHUA, FLORIDA

Presiding Officer

Staff Liaison



Board/Committee Agenda Item

MEETING DATE: 5/11/2021

SUBJECT: A request by the City of Alachua to amend the City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan by updating the Vision Statement and the Goals of the Vision Element

PREPARED BY: Kathy Winburn, AICP

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Based upon the presentation to this Board and Staff's recommendation, this Board finds the proposed Comprehensive Plan Text Amendment to amend the Vision Element by updating the Vision Statement and Goals, to be consistent with the City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan and transmits such finding to the City Commission with a recommendation to approve.

Summary

This proposed Comprehensive Plan Text Amendment is a request by the City of Alachua to amend the City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan by updating the Vision Statement and Goals of the Vision Element.

The Vision Element of the City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan was last amended in 2012, and is titled "Vision 2020." The Vision Element is an optional element, and as such is not required to be part of a Comprehensive Plan per Florida Statute. The City amended its Comprehensive Plan in 2020 through the State-mandated Evaluation and Appraisal Process (adopted by the City Commission on July 27, 2020). The purpose of this update was to update the Comprehensive Plan to reflect any changes in Florida Statute since the last update in 2012. The recent update did not propose any changes to the Vision Element, so that the element could be reviewed and specifically focused upon.

The Vision Element, which includes a Vision Statement and four (4) goals to implement the Vision Statement, is important to the City and has provided a framework for the initiatives established in the City's Strategic Plan since 2015. The Vision Statement describes the future state of the City and the long term goals to provide direction for reaching the desired outcome. The current four (4) goals included in the Vision element are related to:

- 1.) Economic Development
- 2.) Community, Cultural and Recreational Development
- 3.) Transportation Mobility
- 4.) Housing

Staff has presented the Vision Element to all of the City's advisory boards in order to receive input regarding the update. The advisory boards are: Planning & Zoning Board, Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Board, Youth Advisory Board, Senior Resources Advisory Board and Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. All of the boards suggested that the four current goals are still relevant, and each board made recommendations for revising the goals, which were taken into account by staff in the proposed update.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

- ☐ Staff Report
- ☐ Advisory Board Comments
- ☐ Draft Ordinance
- ☐ Public Notice Materials for PZB 05-11-2021 AC Today
- ☐ Public Notice Materials for PZR 05-11-2021 Guille Sun



City of Alachua

Planning & Community Development Department Staff Report

Planning & Zoning Board Hearing Date: Legislative Hearing

May 11, 2021

SUBJECT: A request to amend the City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan by updating the Vision Statement and the Goals of the Vision Element.

APPLICANT/AGENT: City of Alachua

PROJECT PLANNER: Kathy Winburn, AICP

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the Planning & Zoning Board find the proposed Comprehensive Plan Text Amendment to amend the Vision Element by updating the Vision Statement and Goals to be consistent with the City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan and transmit such finding to the City Commission with a recommendation to approve.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: *Based upon the presentation to this Board and Staff's recommendation, this Board finds the proposed Comprehensive Plan Text Amendment to amend the Vision Element by updating the Vision Statement and Goals to be consistent with the City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan and transmits such finding to the City Commission with a recommendation to approve.*

SUMMARY

The proposed Comprehensive Plan Text Amendment is a request by the City of Alachua to amend the City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan by updating the Vision Statement and Goals within the Vision Element.

The Vision Element of the City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan was last amended in 2012, and is titled "Vision 2020." The Vision Element is an optional element, and as such is not required to be part of a Comprehensive Plan per Florida Statute. The City amended its Comprehensive Plan in 2020 through the State-mandated Evaluation and Appraisal Process (adopted by the City Commission on July 27, 2020). The purpose of this update was to update the Comprehensive Plan to reflect any changes in Florida Statute since the last update in 2012. The recent update did not propose any changes to the Vision Element, so that the element could be reviewed and specifically focused upon.

The Vision Element, which includes a Vision Statement and four (4) goals to implement the Vision Statement, is important to the City and has provided a framework for the initiatives established in the City's Strategic Plan since 2015. The Vision Statement describes the future state of the City and the long term goals to provide direction for reaching the desired outcome.

The current four (4) goals included in the Vision Element are related to:

- 1.) Economic Development
- 2.) Community, Cultural and Recreational Development
- 3.) Transportation Mobility
- 4.) Housing

Staff has presented the Vision Element to all of the City's advisory boards in order to receive input regarding the update. The advisory boards are: Planning & Zoning Board, Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Board, Youth Advisory Board, Senior Resources Advisory Board and Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. All of the boards suggested that the four current goals are still relevant, and each board made recommendations for reviewing those goals, which were taken into account by Staff in the update.

PROPOSED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TEXT AMENDMENTS

Amending the Vision Element as follows:

VISION ~~2020~~ **2030**

I. INTRODUCTION

The City of Alachua has adopted a vision statement and goals to achieve the vision. ~~The City of Alachua held a Visioning Charrette on May 14, 2011 in order to update the Vision Element.~~ The goals, objectives and policies of the Comprehensive Plan are constructed in an effort to help achieve the long-term vision of the City.

II. VISION STATEMENT

~~The City of Alachua will be a vibrant, growing, economically and culturally diverse community, which takes great pride in the fact that it has maintained its strong sense of community, its small town~~

atmosphere, a strong recreation program, the charm of its downtown, and has preserved and protected its heritage and environment. It is proud of the state of the art educational facilities, which work hand in hand with Alachua's employers to make certain that its young people have challenging career opportunities at home. Alachua will become a leader in innovative techniques to ensure quality, well planned growth and provide for a safe and convenient transportation environment. Alachua will be a place where housing choices are available to meet the needs of all citizens. Alachua will strive to be continually recognized by its peers as an example of what can happen when citizens, business communities, schools and government work together for the common good. The City has a strong image as the "Good Life Community." The image is woven throughout the work of the City with a commitment to premium service delivery and a high quality of life. The City will be a business friendly community, encouraging economic development and the establishment and expansion of major job centers in the industries of logistics, manufacturing, high-tech and bio-tech. The City will continue to invest in providing high quality recreational and cultural arts facilities and programs that create a sense of community. Alachua will be a place where housing choices are available to meet the needs of all citizens. Alachua will be a leader in fostering quality well-planned growth and redevelopment. Alachua will be a community where citizens can safely choose one of several multi-modal transportation options, including cycling, walking, and innovative options such as ride shares. Alachua will strive to be continually known for its collaboration between citizens, business communities, schools and government and will continue working together for the common good.

III. GOALS TO IMPLEMENT THE VISION

Goal 1: Economic Development

The City of Alachua has a unique business climate. The City is home to corporations, technology incubators, local businesses and start-up companies. The City will maintain its focus on a welcoming business environment and encourage business development in the downtown area and along the US 441 corridor. The City supports a sustainable, thriving Main Street with a variety of businesses and a downtown area that attracts shoppers and patrons through cutting edge marketing strategies. The City will continue to support the redevelopment and revitalization of the historic center of the community. Alachua desires to continue to be a home to innovative businesses and an employment center where jobs are available to citizens of all educational and skill levels and ages, provided at every level. The City will continue to encourage the growth and development of established industries, such as the life sciences, technologies and emerging industries biotechnology and encourage the diversification and expansion of commercial businesses which provide integral services to the City's residents. The City will encourage a sustainable use of natural resources to ensure that economic growth and development will responsibly continue within the community. The City will build strong relationships with local, regional and state-wide economic development organizations in order to work together to retain existing businesses and attract future businesses. The City will pursue business incentives that encourage additional private investment from new or existing businesses that will enhance employment opportunities and the quality of life of residents.

GOAL 2: Community, Educational, Cultural and Recreational Development

The City of Alachua has a very strong sense of community involvement, as evidenced by community events and festivals which promote cultural arts and recreational activities, such as the Springs Arts Festival, fall Harvest Festival, 4th of July Celebration, Christmas Tree Lighting and Santa on Main, as well as ballets, musical performances, art lessons and community gatherings at locations such as the Legacy Park Multi-Purpose Center and amphitheater the Girl's Babe Ruth World Series of Softball Tournament. The City will foster the cultural growth, outreach and cultural tourism and enhancement of the

community by supporting cultural arts programs ~~and outreach~~. The City will maintain its strong recreation program and encourage a diversity of recreational programs to meet the needs of citizens. The City will strengthen partnerships to make educational opportunities in Alachua of the highest quality in order to attract families and produce graduates who positively contribute to the community and the world.

Goal 3 Transportation Mobility

The City of Alachua transportation system includes a heavily traveled US 441 corridor and a walkable downtown Main Street. ~~The City will promote a safe, convenient and aesthetically pleasing transportation environment that provides for various modes of transportation.~~ The City will provide efficient traffic circulation that is safe and convenient, while maintaining or improving the level of service on roadways. The City will encourage multi-modal enhancement and trail systems, ~~and provide for an aesthetically pleasing gateway between the I-75 interchange and downtown.~~ The City will further a safe and connected pedestrian network that helps ensure a high quality of life for residents and visitors of all ages and abilities. New roadway construction and significant reconstruction projects will incorporate the principles embodied by the Complete Streets approach whenever possible. ~~The expansion of sidewalks and sidewalk continuity will be directed to areas where pedestrian walkability is desirable with particular focus upon providing greater pedestrian connectivity within and between the downtown commercial and residential areas.~~ The City will explore opportunities for public transportation for Alachua residents, including innovative options such as ride shares and other emerging and technology-based options. The City will continue to pursue the interconnectivity of development in order to limit access points onto roadways thereby reducing negative impacts upon ~~the transportation infrastructure network.~~ The City will strengthen connections between major hubs within the community, such as those between the historic core and Progress Park and Legacy Park.

Goal 4: Housing

The City of Alachua recognizes that residential development is tied to growth and employment opportunities and supports a diversity of housing types in order to enhance the City's physical and social fabric. The City will encourage the provision of housing types to serve a wide range of people, from those moving to Alachua to work and/or to raise families to those seeking senior housing and assisted living options ~~has a variety of housing options, from historic downtown neighborhoods to large lot agrarian developments.~~ The City supports the provision of safe, affordable housing for all income levels. The City will encourage the construction of housing types including single-family conventional dwelling units, duplexes and quadraplexes, apartments and town homes, traditional mixed use neighborhood planned development, live/work units, conservation subdivisions, and other innovative housing options that respond to societal changes and needs and are appropriate for the character of the City ~~mixed-use development with affordable housing, workforce housing, senior housing, housing for disabled and.~~ The City supports enhancements ~~s~~ that strengthen and upgrade improve existing neighborhoods, thereby maintaining a livable community for all ~~age groups~~ demographics.

URBAN SPRAWL ANALYSIS

Chapter 163.3177(6)(a)9., Florida Statutes, requires any amendment to the Future Land Use Element to discourage the proliferation of urban sprawl. Chapter 163.3177(6)(a)9.b., Florida Statutes, states that a plan amendment shall be determined to discourage the proliferation of urban sprawl if it incorporates a development pattern or urban form that achieves four or more of the following strategies. An evaluation of the applicability of each strategy to the proposed text amendment to the Vision Element has been provided below.

- (I) Directs or locates economic growth and associated land development to geographic areas of the community in a manner that does not have an adverse impact on and protects natural resources and ecosystems.

Evaluation & Findings: The proposed Comprehensive Plan Text includes amendments to Goal 1 of the Vision Element related to economic development, and encourages a sustainable use of natural resources.

- (II) Promotes the efficient and cost effective provision or extension of public infrastructure and services.

Evaluation & Findings: The proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment includes amendments to Goal 2 related to transportation mobility, and states that the City will further a safe and connected pedestrian network (sidewalk infrastructure) and that new roadway construction and significant reconstruction will embody the principles of Complete Streets whenever possible.

- (III) Promotes walkable and connected communities and provides for compact development and a mix of uses at densities and intensities that support a range of housing choices and a multimodal transportation system, including pedestrian, bicycle, and transit, if available.

Evaluation & Findings: The proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment includes amendments to Goal 2 related to transportation mobility, and states that the City will further a safe and connected pedestrian network and that new roadway construction and significant reconstruction will embody the principles of Complete Streets (pedestrian, bicycle and transit provisions) whenever possible.

- (IV) Promotes conservation of water and energy.

Evaluation & Findings: The proposed Comprehensive Plan Text Amendment does not impact the City's current provisions for the conservation of water and energy, which are provided for in other elements of the Comprehensive Plan.

- (V) Preserves agricultural areas and activities, including silviculture, and dormant, unique, and prime farmlands and soils.

Evaluation & Findings: The proposed Comprehensive Plan Text Amendment would have no direct impact to the preservation of agricultural areas and activities.

- (VI) Preserves open space and natural lands and provides for public open space and recreation needs.

Evaluation & Findings: The proposed Comprehensive Plan Text Amendment includes amendments to Goal 2 of the Vision Element, which provides a framework for the City's recreational and cultural needs.

- (VII) Creates a balance of land uses based upon demands of residential population for the nonresidential needs of an area.

Evaluation & Findings: The proposed Comprehensive Plan Text Amendment would have no direct impact upon land uses demanded by the residential population for nonresidential needs of the area.

- (VIII) Provides uses, densities and intensities of use and urban form that would remediate an existing or planned sprawl development pattern in the vicinity that constitutes sprawl or if it provides for an innovative development pattern such as transit oriented developments or new towns as defined in s. 163.3164.

Evaluation & Findings: The proposed Comprehensive Plan Text Amendment would not result in any affect upon existing or planned sprawl development patterns or innovative development patterns such as transit oriented developments or new towns.

CONSISTENCY WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Goals, Objectives, and Policies (GOPs) identified below are provided to establish a basis of the application's consistency with the Comprehensive Plan. There may be additional GOPs which the application is consistent with that are not identified within this report.

ADMINISTRATION AND IMPLEMENTATION ELEMENT

Objective 1.2 Updating of Plan

The City shall provide for annual updating of the Plan, as necessary, through 2035.

TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT

Objective 1.4 Bicycle and Pedestrian Standards

The City shall work to develop a network of bicycle, pedestrian, and other multi-modal (non- vehicular) facilities which connect all areas of the City.

HOUSING ELEMENT

Objective 1.1: Provision of Safe, Affordable, Quality Housing

The City shall facilitate the provision of safe, sanitary, healthy and affordable, quality housing, to accommodate all present and future residents at all income and age levels, including those with special needs, through a variety of housing types, preferably within mixed-income neighborhoods.

RECREATION ELEMENT

Objective 1.5: The City shall develop and improve park facilities that allow appropriate public access and use to recreational, cultural, historic and natural resources.

ECONOMIC ELEMENT

Policy 1.7.c: Through innovative design, encourage pedestrian friendly and culturally oriented events in the historic district.

City Advisory Board Comments Related to the Update of the Comprehensive Plan Vision Element

Comments from PZB members: September 8, 2020 meeting

1. Good to see we are tracking so much of the current Vision Element goals. It is still viable.
2. Looks good, it is very comprehensive. Would like to see something added about public transportation, particularly to distribution centers and Progress Park.
3. Would like to see something about the education/school component, though we do not have 100% control of this.
4. Making good progress on housing, could wordsmith a bit.

Otherwise, no major changes are recommended.

Comments from Senior Resources Advisory Board (SRAB): December 9, 2020 meeting

1. Plaques should be provided in front of historic buildings
2. Sidewalk connections and continuity, access for seniors

Comments from the Youth Advisory Board (YAB) December 17, 2020

1. Economic stability is the most important aspect of the community.

2. 441 safety/ too many accidents/ caution lights needed/operational safety for roadways.
3. 112th Avenue, sidewalks needed to connect to the San Felasco Parkway.
4. Youth to have safe access points.
5. Sidewalks needed 2 miles south of Irby Elementary so that children can walk bike to school along 241.
6. SFHS, stop sign needed for exiting the school.
7. The festivals are great and should continue, maybe a New Year's festival?
8. The YAB should be involved in the Christmas Parade next year.

**Comments from the Community Redevelopment Agency
Advisory Board (CRAAB) 01/11/21**

1. Goal 2: Emphasize new facilities: Multi-purpose center, amphitheater. Goal 3: aesthetics between downtown and I-75- curb & gutter maintenance by FDOT, litter.
2. Transportation connections between Legacy Park/Downtown when events/concerts are occurring
3. Sustainability/Green Technology- possible new goal
4. Connections between downtown and Progress park- attract employee to downtown. Encourage more volunteer opportunities.
5. Business participation/involvement

Comments from Parks & Recreation Board 03/29/2021

1. Economic development efforts to keep our youth in the community. More small businesses that provide jobs that cater to young people.
2. Look at fees that small businesses are charged.
3. To Goal 2, add: “foster cultural growth, outreach and cultural tourism”.

DRAFT

ORDINANCE 21-[Click here to enter text.](#)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALACHUA, FLORIDA, RELATING TO THE AMENDMENT OF THE CITY'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; AMENDING THE VISION STATEMENT AND THE GOALS TO IMPLEMENT THE VISION IN THE VISION ELEMENT; PROVIDING A REPEALING CLAUSE; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the Community Planning Act (Section 163.3161 et. seq), Florida Statutes, requires each local government to maintain a comprehensive plan; and,

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Alachua adopted its Comprehensive Plan on January 22, 1992, by Ordinance No. 0-91-23 and last updated its Comprehensive Plan on July 31, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, a duly advertised public hearing was conducted on the proposed amendment on _____ 2021, by the Planning and Zoning Board, sitting as the Local Planning Agency (LPA) and the LPA reviewed and considered comments received during the public hearing concerning the application and made its recommendation to the City Commission; and,

WHEREAS, the City Commission considered the recommendation of the LPA at a duly advertised public hearing on _____, 2021, provided for and received public participation, and approved the amendment for transmittal to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) and reviewing agencies; and

WHEREAS, the DEO has reviewed the proposed amendment and issued its comment letter on _____, 2021; and,

WHEREAS, the City Commission considered the comments received from the DEO and reviewing agencies; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission held a duly advertised public hearing on adoption of the proposed amendment and provided for and received public participation, and approved the amendment on _____ 2021 with no changes since the transmittal hearing; and

WHEREAS, for reasons set forth in this ordinance that is hereby adopted and incorporated as findings of fact, that the Alachua City Commission finds and declares that the enactment of this Amendment is in the furtherance of the public health, safety, morals, order, comfort, convenience, appearance, prosperity, or general welfare;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ALACHUA, FLORIDA:

Section 1. Interpretation of Recitals

The above recitals are true and correct and incorporated in this ordinance.

Section 2. Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law

The authority for the enactment of this ordinance is Chapter 163, Part I, Florida Statutes; Sections 166.021 and 166.041; and the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Section 3. Comprehensive plan Amendment to the Vision Element

The Vision Element of the Comprehensive Plan is hereby amended as follows (text that is ~~underlined~~ is to be added and text that is shown as ~~strikethrough~~ is to be removed):

VISION ~~2020~~ **2030**

I. INTRODUCTION

The City of Alachua has adopted a vision statement and goals to achieve the vision. ~~The City of Alachua held a Visioning Charrette on May 14, 2011 in order to update the Vision Element.~~ The goals, objectives and policies of the Comprehensive Plan are constructed in an effort to help achieve the long-term vision of the City.

II. VISION STATEMENT

~~The City of Alachua will be a vibrant, growing, economically and culturally diverse community, which takes great pride in the fact that it has maintained its strong sense of community, its small town atmosphere, a strong recreation program, the charm of its downtown, and has preserved and protected its heritage and environment. It is proud of the state of the art educational facilities, which work hand in hand with Alachua's employers to make certain that its young people have challenging career opportunities at home. Alachua will become a leader in innovative techniques to ensure quality, well planned growth and provide for a safe and convenient transportation environment. Alachua will be a place where housing choices are available to meet the needs of all citizens. Alachua will strive to be continually recognized by its peers as an example of what can happen when citizens, business communities, schools and government work together for the common good.~~ The City has a strong image as the "Good Life Community." The image is woven throughout the work of the City with a commitment to premium service delivery and a high quality of life. The City will be a business friendly community, encouraging economic development and the establishment and expansion of major job centers in the industries of logistics, manufacturing, high-tech and bio-tech. The City will continue to invest in providing high quality recreational and cultural arts facilities and programs that create a sense of community. Alachua will be a place where housing choices are available to meet the needs of all citizens. Alachua will be a leader in fostering quality well-planned growth and redevelopment. Alachua will be a community where citizens can safely choose one of several multi-modal transportation options, including cycling, walking, and innovative options such as ride shares. Alachua will strive to be continually known for its collaboration between citizens, business communities, schools and government and will continue working together for the common good.

III. GOALS TO IMPLEMENT THE VISION

Goal 1: Economic Development

The City of Alachua has a unique business climate. The City is home to corporations, technology incubators, local businesses and start-up companies. The City will maintain its focus on a welcoming business environment and encourage business development in the downtown area and along the US 441 corridor. The City supports a sustainable, thriving Main Street with a variety of businesses and a downtown area that attracts shoppers and patrons through cutting edge marketing strategies. The City will continue to support the redevelopment and revitalization of the historic center of the community. Alachua desires to continue to be a home to innovative businesses and an employment center where jobs are available to citizens of all educational and skill levels and ages. ~~provided at every level.~~ The City will continue to encourage the growth and development of established industries,

such as the life sciences, technologies and emerging industries ~~biotechnology~~ and encourage the diversification and expansion of commercial businesses which provide integral services to the City's residents. The City will encourage a sustainable use of natural resources to ensure that economic growth and development will responsibly continue within the community. The City will build strong relationships with local, regional and state-wide economic development organizations in order to work together to retain existing businesses and attract future businesses. The City will pursue business incentives that encourage additional private investment from new or existing businesses that will enhance employment opportunities and the quality of life of residents.

GOAL 2: Community, Educational, Cultural and Recreational Development

The City of Alachua has a very strong sense of community involvement, as evidenced by community events and festivals which promote cultural arts and recreational activities, such as the Springs Arts Festival, fall Harvest Festival, 4th of July Celebration, Christmas Tree Lighting and Santa on Main, as well as ballets, musical performances, art lessons and community gatherings at locations such as the Legacy Park Multi-Purpose Center and amphitheater ~~the Girl's Babe Ruth World Series of Softball Tournament.~~ The City will foster the cultural growth, outreach and cultural tourism and enhancement of the community by supporting cultural arts programs and outreach. The City will maintain its strong recreation program and encourage a diversity of recreational programs to meet the needs of citizens. The City will strengthen partnerships to make educational opportunities in Alachua of the highest quality in order to attract families and produce graduates who positively contribute to the community and the world.

Goal 3 Transportation Mobility

The City of Alachua transportation system includes a heavily traveled US 441 corridor and a walkable downtown Main Street. ~~The City will promote a safe, convenient and aesthetically pleasing transportation environment that provides for various modes of transportation.~~ The City will provide efficient traffic circulation that is safe and convenient, while maintaining or improving the level of service on roadways. The City will encourage multi-modal enhancement and trail systems, and provide for an aesthetically pleasing gateway between the I-75 interchange and downtown. The City will further a safe and connected pedestrian network that helps ensure a high quality of life for residents and visitors of all ages and abilities. New roadway construction and significant reconstruction projects will incorporate the principles embodied by the Complete Streets approach whenever possible. ~~The expansion of sidewalks and sidewalk continuity will be directed to areas where pedestrian walkability is desirable with particular focus upon providing greater pedestrian connectivity within and between the downtown commercial and residential areas.~~ The City will explore opportunities for public transportation for Alachua residents, including innovative options such as ride shares and other emerging and technology-based options. The City will continue to pursue the interconnectivity of development in order to limit access points onto roadways thereby reducing negative impacts upon the transportation infrastructure network. The City will strengthen connections between major hubs within the community, such as those between the historic core and Progress Park and Legacy Park.

Goal 4: Housing

The City of Alachua recognizes that residential development is tied to growth and employment opportunities and supports a diversity of housing types in order to enhance the City's physical and social fabric. The City will encourage the provision of housing types to serve a wide range of people, from those moving to Alachua to work and/or to raise families to those seeking senior housing and assisted living options. ~~has a variety of housing options, from historic downtown neighborhoods to large lot agrarian developments.~~ The City supports the provision of safe, affordable housing for all income levels. The City will encourage the construction of housing types including single-family conventional dwelling units, duplexes and quadraplexes, apartments and town homes, traditional mixed use neighborhood planned development, live/work units, conservation subdivisions, and other innovative housing

options that respond to societal changes and needs and are appropriate for the character of the City mixed-use development with affordable housing, workforce housing, senior housing, housing for disabled and. The City supports enhancements that strengthen and upgrade improve existing neighborhoods, thereby maintaining a livable community for all age groups demographics.

Section 4. Codification of and Correction of Scrivener's Errors

The City Manager or designee, without public hearing, is authorized to correct any typographical errors which do not affect the intent of this ordinance. A corrected copy shall be posted in the public record.

Section 5. Ordinance to be Construed Liberally

This ordinance shall be liberally construed in order to effectively carry out the purposes hereof which are deemed to be in the best interest of the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens and residents of the City of Alachua, Florida.

Section 6. Repealing Clause

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are, to the extent of the conflict, hereby repealed.

Section 7. Severability

It is the declared intent of the City Commission of the City of Alachua that, if any section, sentence, clause, phrase, or provision of this ordinance is for any reason held or declared to be unconstitutional, void, or inoperative by any court or agency of competent jurisdiction, such holding of invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the remaining provisions of this ordinance, and the remainder of the ordinance after the exclusions of such part or parts shall be deemed to be valid.

Section 7. Effective Date

This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon passage and adoption. The effective date of these plan amendments shall be at the time the state land planning agency issues its Notice of Intent, if the plan amendment is found to be in compliance and no challenge has been filed by an effective party at the time that the Notice of Intent is posted to the state land planning agency's website. If timely challenged, this plan amendment shall become effective on the date the state land planning agency or Administrative Commission enters a final order determining this adopted amendment to be in compliance in accordance with Chapter 163.3184, Florida Statutes. No development orders, development permit, or land uses dependent on this amendment may be issued or commenced before this plan amendment has become effective.

Passed on First Reading the ____ day of ____ 2021.

PASSED and ADOPTED, in regular session, with a quorum present and voting, by the City Commission, upon second and final reading this ____ day of ____ 2021.

CITY COMMISSION OF THE
CITY OF ALACHUA, FLORIDA

Gib Coerper, Mayor
SEAL

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Adam Boukari, City Manager/Clerk

Marian B. Rush, City Attorney

Letters MUST be signed.

STORY: Do you have a story or news event that interest to the community? Our assignment editor at er@alachuatoday.com (386) 462-3355.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR, BIRTH & WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS: to editor@alachuatoday.com call (386) 462-3355 or (386) 462-4569 your information. Please include phone number and name of individual submitting the announcement. Comments and opinions in the Opinions page are necessary for those of the community/ownership of the Alachua County Today.

INSIDE ALACHUA COUNTY TODAY...

ARCH
FACTORY...A3
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INESS & VICES
FACTORY...A5



*se says,
'Never
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ith both
feet.'*

with children of their own. We used to all get together for a family reunion, which was usually guided by the generation before me. The last time someone in the family tried to plan a reunion it fell through. My husband and I realized that we are the older generation now.

We are not the oldest of the cousins, but we are the ones that if anything is going to happen with the family it will fall to our group. We have run into each when shopping, but we have had no connection. One of us needs to plan to get together. Even if it is a Saturday afternoon lunch or dinner. What I am saying folks is, see your family.

Do not make the only time you get together is at a funeral or worse yet, at your funeral. I'm not from here, so my family is spread out over the whole country. My husband's family are mostly local. Family, if you read my column, let us know what day of the week works for you. And, we are not above adopting whoever wants to be family.

This Saturday, The Legacy Park Concert Series will be held at Legacy Park from 4 p.m. - 9 p.m. This

Thursday, June 3.

Our motivational speaker uses NLP (Neuro-Linguistic Programming) to anchor the power of the subconscious, eliminating self-doubt and judgement, and programming future possibilities. I cannot wait to hear her speak to us. I

and the pizza was amazing. Our group packed the place. The meeting was probably longer than normal but it was great to hear what the ABL has been doing and their plans for the future.

I stayed and spoke with Mark and Adela. We are some of those friends that



City of ALACHUA

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD OF THE CITY OF ALACHUA, FLORIDA

Notice is hereby given that the Planning and Zoning Board of the City of Alachua will hold a public hearing on May 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. The hearing will be held in the James A. Lewis Commission Chambers in City Hall, located at 15100 NW 142nd Terrace, Alachua, Florida, to consider the following: a request by the City of Alachua to amend the City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan by updating the Vision Statement and the Goals of the Vision Element.

At the public hearing, all interested parties may appear and be heard with respect to the application. Copies of the application are available for public inspection at the Planning and Community Development Department, 15100 NW 142nd Terrace, Alachua, Florida, on any regular business day between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Written comments on the application may be sent to the following address: City of Alachua, Planning and Community Development, P.O. Box 9, Alachua, FL 32616. Notice is given pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, that, in order to appeal any decision made at the public hearing, you will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, you may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any persons with a disability requiring reasonable accommodation in order to participate in this meeting should call the City Clerk at (386) 418-6100 x 101 at least 48 hours prior to the public hearing.

(Published: Alachua County Today - April 29, 2021)



City of ALACHUA

PUBLIC NOTICE OF ENACTMENT OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALACHUA, FLORIDA

Notice is hereby given that the City Commission of the City of Alachua will hold a public hearing on a proposed ordinance. The hearing will be held on May 10, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., in the James A. Lewis Commission Chambers in City Hall, located at 15100 NW 142nd Terrace, Alachua, Florida.

The ordinance title is as follows:

ORDINANCE 21-07

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALACHUA, FLORIDA, RELATING TO THE AMENDMENT OF THE CITY'S LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS ("LDRS"); AMENDING SUBPART B OF THE CITY OF ALACHUA CODE OF ORDINANCES, LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS; AMENDING SECTION 4.3.2 (1) (4), RELATING TO USE-SPECIFIC STANDARDS FOR MINOR UTILITIES; AMENDING SECTION 2.4.4 (D)(7) RELATING TO STANDARDS FOR SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS PROVIDING A REPEALING CLAUSE; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

At the public hearing, all interested parties may appear and be heard with respect to the application. Copies of the application are available for public inspection at the Planning and Community Development Department, 15100 NW 142nd Terrace, Alachua, Florida, on any regular business day between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Written comments on the application may be sent to the following address: City of Alachua, Planning and Community Development, P.O. Box 9, Alachua, FL 32616. Notice is given pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, that, in order to appeal any decision made at the public hearing, you will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, you may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any persons with a disability requiring reasonable accommodation in order to participate in this meeting should call the City Clerk at (386) 418-6100 x 101 at least 48 hours prior to the public hearing.

(Published: Alachua County Today - April 29, 2021)

Obituaries



Francisco (Frank) J. Diaz Jr.

STARKE - Francisco (Frank) J. Diaz Jr. of Starke, FL, formerly a resident of Garrison, New York was born October 5, 1961 and after a brief illness passed away suddenly on April 24, 2021 at 12:45 p.m. He is survived by his wife, Debora Diaz, his 2 children Sade Diaz-Law and John Diaz, his son-in-law Jasen Law, grandson Dartanian Law, his mother Gloria Collazzo and his sisters Evelyn Centano and Roxanne Diaz, as well as numerous nieces and nephews, and grand nieces and nephews. Francisco was a selfless and caring man that was loved by everyone he met. He will be truly missed. phillipwiley.com 352-475-2000



Addie Lee Henry Dardy

WILLISTON - Mrs. Addie Lee Henry Dardy, 84 of Williston, FL was employed for many years by the Levy County School System and also a faithful member of Greater Rockhill Missionary Baptist Church. She accepted the masters call on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 and entered her heavenly rest. Celebration of Life service will be held Saturday, May 1, 2021 at 11:00am from Unity Temple International Fellowship, 2351 NE 200th Avenue Williston, FL Pastor Ronnie Jackson, Sr. eulogist. Earthy bed of rest will follow at New Hope Cemetery. Public visitation will be held FRIDAY at Greater Rockhill Baptist Church, 48 NE 10th Street Williston, FL from 4:00 - 7:00pm. Special memories will continue to strive within her loving children: Julia Ross, Emma Jean Miller, Debra Crayton, Thames Dempsey, Sheryl Dempsey, Michael Dempsey; Her stepchildren, Christine Dardy, Mark Dardy, Katina Lee and Sebrina Black and a host of grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins and sorrowing friends. Family and friends are asked to assemble at 924 SE 9th Terrace Williston, FL at 10:00am to form the cortège. phillipwiley.com 352-475-2000



Maliyah Jalissea Godwin

GAINESVILLE - Passed away on April 23, 2021. Maliyah is survived by her Father, Maurice D. Godwin; mother, Terra M. Cordell; 4 siblings, Marquise D. Godwin, Maleaka M. Godwin, Madeline J. Godwin, and Juliana I. Wein-Stein; Grandmother, Vernie Deen Godwin; Grandfather, KC Godwin; great Grandmother, Martha Harris; Grandfather, Ricky Lee Schnyder and other loving Family as well friends. Maliyah's viewing will be held on Saturday, May 1, 2021 at Forest Meadows Cemetery -Central (Chapel) 4100 NW 39th Ave. Gainesville, Fl. from 9:00am -9:30am (Cell phone or any photographing are prohibited)- Family Requested, following a service at 10am and interment. Carnegie Funeral Home (217 SE 4th Ave.) Chiefland, Florida. (352) 493-1857 "Providing Everlasting Memories and Love"

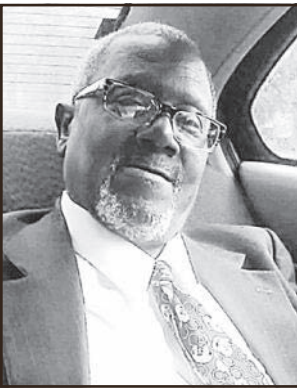
Jimmie Lee Guyton

OKEECHOBEE - Jimmie Lee Guyton, 56, was a resident of Okeechobee FL, but a native of Chiefland FL. He passed away on April 18, 2021. He is survived by his wife: Lasheena Guyton. Children: Sherrena,, Tikeem, and Viveca Guyton, Darkevious Moreland, Duan Chastine and Steviya Fitzpatrick. Four grandchildren, Four Siblings. Service will be held Saturday May 1st, 2021, 11:00am at Chiefland Community Cemetery. Viewing will be held one hour prior to service on Saturday at Chiefland Community Cemetery, Chiefland, Florida. Family is requesting that if you are attending service please wear facial covering, practice social distancing and bring your own lawn chair. Please order all floral arrangements from our website and may be delivered on Friday April 30,2021, 10 am-5 pm. Service of Excellence are under the direction of D Williams Mortuary Services (6120 SW 13th Street Gainesville FL). "Serving with a spirit of Excellence" Dwilliamsmortuaryservices.com 352-204-2381



Levi White

Levi White, 71 of Bronson, FL, transitioned from this life April 17, 2021. He's a retired Foreman with CROM Corp. and Chef for several restaurants. He leaves to cherish his memories: a daughter, Shirley Lee Johnson (Jimmy); grandchildren, Jenay C. Luckey, Jenny L. Sercey (Fred), Shiray B. Johnson, Shirley J. Johnson, Jimmy L. Johnson IV; step grandchildren, Tamika and Jimmy Johnson; great grandchildren, Frederick B. Sercey III, Farrah B. Sercey, Te'Arri R. Avriett, Teylor R. Avriett, Ja'Liyah M.A. Johnson; brothers, Willie P. White, Erskin White (Vergie), Keith White (Kim); sisters, Bonnie G. Johnson (Orrian) and Selena Fountain; and other relatives and friends. Celebration of Life Service will be held 12 noon on Saturday, May 1, 2021 at Gilgal Cemetery, 111 Gilgal Road, Hawthorne, FL, Dr. Clarence Woods is officiating. Viewing on Friday April 30, 2021 at PINKNEY-SMITH FUNERAL HOME, 21400 SE HAWTHORNE RD, HAWTHORNE, FL, 2 p.m. - 7 p.m. and Saturday at the cemetery 11:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Family will meet at the cemetery 11:30 a.m. PINKNEY-SMITH FUNERAL HOME OF HAWTHORNE.



April Nicole Hadley

GAINESVILLE - Ms. April Nicole Hadley of Gainesville, Florida entered into thy masters Joy Friday, April 23, 2021. April was a graduate of Eastside High School class of 1997 with Honors. She also attended Santa Fe Nursing Program Graduating 2002 as a L.P.N. Celebration of Life Graveside service for Ms. Hadley will be held Saturday, May 1, 2021 at 10:00am from the St. Paul Cemetery, Windsor, FL, Pastor Willie King officiating. Public visitation will take place FRIDAY at Phillip & Wiley Mortuary, 310 State Road 26 Melrose, FL from 12:00- 7:00pm. April leaves to cherish her loving memories Sisters: Merrill Mavin; Tonya Flowers; Brother: Vernon Hadley Jr.; Aunts: Evang. Bertha Markham; Pastor Carolyn Willingham; Silvery King; Rhunette Walters ; Vernita Brown ; Kathy Jackson; Uncles: Apostle Jesse Brown, Minister Kenneth Brown, Rudolph McNeil and a host of other family and friends. Family and friends are asked to assemble at the Showers of Blessings Harvest Center, 2615 SE 15th St, Gainesville, FL at 9:00am to form the cortège. phillipwiley.com 352-475-2000



Marijuana

Continued from Page 3A

“I don’t know that I ever would have tried medical marijuana had I realized this was the consequence.” Legislation to protect Florida public employees like Enright has stalled this session, leaving a disconnect between restrictive federal laws and permissive local laws. Democratic representatives proposed House Bill 335 to prohibit employers from taking action against qualified medical marijuana patients, was referred to four subcommittees in February and hasn’t been heard since. Under current laws, agencies that receive federal funding, such as school systems, default to national laws that don’t allow medical marijuana use. Enright isn’t alone in her termination. In March, the city of West Palm Beach fired its deputy chief of information technology after testing positive for marijuana during a spot test. In September 2020, a high school administrator in Marion County was fired after a failed drug test after being placed on leave. Both used marijuana for medical purposes. Neither said they were high on the job. Employees taking a drug test have 24-48 hours to provide a valid explanation for why opioids are in their system. This is not the case for marijuana because it is nationally considered a Schedule 1 drug, defined as having “no currently accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse.” Other Schedule 1 drugs include heroin, LSD, ecstasy and peyote. Rep. Nicholas Duran, D-Miami, proposed the bill to protect patients who he described as within their constitutional right to ingest medical cannabis, as decided by 71% of Florida voters in a 2016 constitutional amendment. “This bill really just provides the kind of protections that show and recognize that we do have medical marijuana laws in the state of Florida,” Duran said. “We treat it as medicine, and we need to recognize that.” The first bill that Gov. Ron DeSantis’ signed into law in 2019 allowed smokable medical marijuana, but the Legislature has not followed with further expansions. Sen. Tina Polsky, D-Palm Beach, sponsored similar legislation in the 2020 session. She narrowed the scope from all employees to public employees when proposing Senate Bill 692 this year, hoping to provide better guidelines for both employees and employers. The bill died in its first committee. “There is a terrible history of trying to pass bills like this which is why medical marijuana is only allowed because of the citizens initiative,” she said. THC, the chemical in marijuana responsible for the high feeling, was a highly contested topic during this legislative session. Rep. Spencer Roach, R-North Fort Myers, filed a bill to cap the amount of THC found in each marijuana flower. “I’m not trying to take people’s medicine away,” he said. The bill has since died following DeSantis’ statement that he was not endorsing such limits, but it is one of the few focused on the drug that gained traction. Florida’s medical marijuana law says that the use by a qualifying patient “is not subject to criminal or civil liabilities or sanctions.” However, Michael Minardi, a Tampa attorney who specializes in cannabis crimes, sees job loss as a sanction. “If they’re going to treat this like a prescription, then it should be treated like a prescription in all aspects of it,” he said. Minardi cited a recent case in Connecticut as an example of this challenge. The Connecticut employee, a city firefighter, tested positive for marijuana – for which he had a permit – on a random drug test. He challenged it on the grounds of the Americans with Disabilities Act and state medical marijuana laws, but the courts defaulted to federal regulations. This story was produced by Fresh Take Florida, a news service of the University of Florida College of Journalism and Communications.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD OF THE CITY OF ALACHUA, FLORIDA

Notice is hereby given that the Planning and Zoning Board of the City of Alachua will hold a public hearing on May 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. The hearing will be held in the James A. Lewis Commission Chambers in City Hall, located at 15100 NW 142nd Terrace, Alachua, Florida, to consider the following: a request by the City of Alachua to amend the City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan by updating the Vision Statement and the Goals of the Vision Element. At the public hearing, all interested parties may appear and be heard with respect to the application. Copies of the application are available for public inspection at the Planning and Community Development Department, 15100 NW 142nd Terrace, Alachua, Florida, on any regular business day between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Written comments on the application may be sent to the following address: City of Alachua, Planning and Community Development, P.O. Box 9, Alachua, FL 32616. Notice is given pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, that, in order to appeal any decision made at the public hearing, you will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, you may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any persons with a disability requiring reasonable accommodation in order to participate in this meeting should call the City Clerk at (386) 418-6100 x 101 at least 48 hours prior to the public hearing.