



City Commission Workshop Minutes November 19, 2018

Mayor Gib Coerper
Vice Mayor Gary Hardacre
Commissioner Shirley Green Brown
Commissioner Dayna Miller
Commissioner Robert Wilford

City Manager Adam Boukari
City Attorney Marian Rush

The City Commission will conduct a
City Commission Workshop
At 4:30 PM
to address the item(s) below.

Meeting Date: November 19, 2018

Meeting Location: James A. Lewis Commission Chambers

CITIZENS PRESENT: Tom Black, Eric Thoreson, Richard Matthews, Jim Yakubsin, Bud Calderwood, Douglas Hancock, Lee Hanes, Rudy Rothseiden, Bob Bieniek, Kelly Harris. **STAFF ATTENDING:** Cap Wilson, LeAnne Williams, Rodolfo Valladares, Kathy Winburn, Chelsea Bakaitis, Rob Bonetti.

WORKSHOP 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.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Led by Mayor Gib Coerper.

II. AGENDA ITEM

A. Discussion of Former City Warehouse on Main Street

City Manager Adam Boukari introduced the item and made recommendations.

Bob Bieniek of Alachua Properties spoke of the options the City had for the property.

Rudy Rothseiden spoke of the benefits of selling the property to allow for private use of the building.

Tom Black of the North Central Florida Model Railroad Club suggested the building be used as a public attraction focusing on the influence the railroad had on the development of the city.

Stuart Amara stated his concerns regarding parking and the access from the road.

Douglas Hancock spoke of his concerns regarding the financial responsibility the City would have with retaining the building and suggested the building be sold.

City Manager Boukari reminded the public the conceptual drawing was just that: a concept.

Commissioner Robert Wilford stated no matter what was decided, he would like to see a monument to the railroad placed at the site.

Commissioner Shirley Green Brown stated she wanted to make sure that it was a safe building. She stated she would like to see something for children. She spoke of inviting the neighbors of the property to any other workshops regarding this building.

Commissioner Dayna Miller asked for more information regarding the railroad clubs in other cities. She stated she would like to see another workshop to be able to consider all of the options.

Vice Mayor Gary Hardacre stated he would like to see more ideas come forward. He stated it sounded like the best option might be to sell the building. He said he liked the concept drawing, but there was much to consider.

Mayor Coerper stated parking had always been a problem for Main Street. He stated the historical society looked into the building to use it, and had a structural engineer look at the building, who stated the building wasn't safe in its current condition and it would be financially problematic to bring it up to standards.

Mr. Bieniek stated it might be beneficial for the commissioners to get proposals from the public.

Mr. Rothseiden stated he felt that it would be more cost effective for the City to sell the property. He spoke of community activities that could happen in the building.

Kelly Harris suggested the City have an electric car charging station placed in this area.

Commissioner Wilford thanked Ms. Harris for the suggestion.

City Manager Boukari informed the Commission that the CRA budget didn't have this in the plan. He also stated there was no rush to come up with a plan.

Commissioner Wilford asked what are the next steps for this project.

City Manager Boukari stated ideas that have been presented would be looked into by staff as well as the public, and then another workshop could be planned.

Mayor Coerper stated he would like to have a drawing of the current building structures and the

ownership of each building. He stated he felt this would help to understand the downtown area.

Commissioner Brown stated she would like to have a diverse sampling of citizens to come and help with the decision making process.

III. ADJOURN

Mayor Coerper adjourned the meeting.

ATTEST:

CITY COMMISSION OF THE
CITY OF ALACHUA, FLORIDA

Adam Boukari, City Manager/Clerk

Gib Coerper, Mayor