

## MEETING NOTES (UNOFFICIAL)

December 12, 2019

ROBERT W. WILFORD, COMMISSIONER  
(ALACHUA CITY COMMISSION DELEGATE TO NCFRPC)

### ALACHUA CITY COMMISSION MEETING January 27, 2020

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**NOTE:** The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council (NCFRPC) is comprised of the following twelve counties, Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor and Union; and, thirteen member municipalities, Alachua, Archer, Gainesville, Hawthorne, High Springs, Jasper, Lake City, Live Oak, Madison, Newberry, Perry, Starke and Waldo.

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**Call to Order.** *Commissioner Wilford, City of Alachua, Chair*, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Quorum.** A quorum was met in accordance with the Council's bylaws.

**Invocation.** *Chair Wilford* delivered the invocation. Following the invocation, *Chair Wilford* asked *Scott Koons, NCFRPC Executive Director*, to brief the Council on the passing of *Mr. James Montgomery, Council Member*, and *Mr. Dwayne Mundy, NCFRPC Staff Member*.

**Pledge of Allegiance.** Members and guests recited the pledge to the flag in honor of the United States of America.

**Introduction of Guests.** Prior to introducing guests in attendance, *Chair Wilford* made the following comments: "I want to take this opportunity to thank **Commissioners Arreola and Simmons** for attending the recent Veterans Day celebration where I was one of the keynote speakers at Evergreen Cemetery in Gainesville where approximately **1,100** veterans are buried from every American War dating back to 1835. I also want to thank any of the Council members who participated in other veterans' day events around the area. Your commitment in honoring our brave men and women in uniform is greatly appreciated. *Chair Wilford* then recognized the guests in attendance including his spouse, **Diane**, of **49 years**, and commended **Mayor Davis** and his spouse, **Diana**, of **54 years**. Both couples will celebrate anniversaries on December 31st.

**Procedural Clarification Regarding Public Comments.** *Chair Wilford* read the following statement:

*"Citizens desiring to make public comments on any action item on the agenda, or during the public comment section on the agenda, are reminded to complete the citizen comment form(s) in order to be recognized during the meeting. In addition, citizens desiring to comment on any action item shall only be recognized after a motion has been made, seconded, and approved for discussion and Council members have been afforded the opportunity to make their comments. Citizen comments are limited to three minutes for each agenda item requiring action and also for citizen comments on items not on the agenda. In the spirit of civility, please maintain proper decorum and refrain from making personal attacks in your comments during the meeting. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Thank you!"*

**Approval of Consent Agenda.** The following consent agenda items were **approved unanimously**.

**Minutes of the October 24, 2019, Meeting**

## Monthly Financial Report for October 2019

### Agreement with the Florida Division of Emergency Management for Hazardous Materials Management for FY 19/20

### U.S. Economic Development Administration Economic Adjustment Assistance Program Grant Amendment

### Florida Transportation Disadvantaged Program Community Transportation Coordinator Designation for Levy County

### Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Appointments for Cindy LeCurtis as the Voting Regional Workforce Board Representative on the Levy County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board and Dale French as the Alternate Regional Workforce Board Representative on the Levy County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board

**Approval of Regular Agenda.** Following an amendment to the regular agenda re adding “Item VIII.B.6: #9, City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment,” the regular agenda was **approved unanimously**.

**Guest Speaker.** *Christian Doolin, Legislative Consultant, Florida Small County Coalition.* **Mr. Doolin** highlighted several of the governor’s and those of the Senate and House legislative priorities for the upcoming session which begins on January 14th to include proposed toll roads (M-CORES), the environment, and education.

**Chair Wilford** thanked **Mr. Doolin** for his very informative presentation and stated: “*This Council wholeheartedly appreciates the excellent legislative work you do every session in Tallahassee in representing Florida’s small county coalition.*”

### Chair Wilford Report

**Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolution of Appreciation for Ralph Kitchens.** **Mr. Kitchens** served on the Columbia County and the Columbia, Hamilton, and Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards for over **14 years**. A motion to approve this resolution was **approved unanimously**.

**South Florida Climate Change Compact and Tampa Bay Resilience Coalition.** A presentation concerning this topic will be scheduled for a future Council meeting.

### Executive Committee Report by Chair Wilford

**NCFRPC Land, Warehouse, and Office Building.** **Chair Wilford** asked **Mr. Koons** to brief the Council regarding this item. A commercial real estate broker recently contacted Council staff expressing an interest in purchasing the land, warehouse, and office building owned by the Council. The intent of the party interested in purchasing said land, warehouse, and office building is to construct a parking lot for approximately **160** vehicles. Council staff evaluated four options for consideration. They were:

**Option (1).** Declare the land, warehouse, and office building as surplus property, authorize the Executive Director to sign a site access agreement, authorize the Executive Director to have an appraisal of the land, warehouse and office building completed, authorize the Executive Director to set a minimum bid sale price to advertise for bid the land, warehouse, and office building, and authorize the Executive Director to review the bids and make a recommendation to the Council for consideration.

**Option (2).** Declare the land and warehouse building as surplus property, authorize the Executive Director to have an appraisal of the land and warehouse completed, authorize the Executive Director to set a minimum bid sale price equal to the value as specified in the appraisal, authorize the Executive Director to advertise for bid the sale of the land and warehouse, and authorize the Executive Director to review the bids and make a recommendation to the Council for consideration.

**Option (3).** Do not declare the land, warehouse, and office building to be surplus property and retain ownership of the land, warehouse, and office building.

**Option (4).** Authorize the Executive Director to declare “**Lot 8**” as surplus property, authorize the Executive Director to sign a site access agreement, authorize the Executive Director to have an appraisal of said lot completed, authorize the Executive Director to set a minimum bid sale price equal to the value specified in the appraisal, authorize the Executive Director to review the bids and make a recommendation to the Council for consideration.

**After** discussing each option in detail, the Council **approved unanimously** to authorize the Executive Director to sign a site access agreement, authorize the Executive Director to have an appraisal of the land, warehouse, and office building completed, and authorize the Executive Director to research warehouse and office building relocation options.

**Clearinghouse Committee Report.** **Commissioner Janice Mortimer, City of Starke, Chair**, presented the report and stated the Committee recommends the following “Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments” be approved for Alachua County, Bradford County (**2 Amendments**), and the Town of Micanopy. The Committee also recommends the following “Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments” be approved for Columbia County and the City of Gainesville. This motion was **approved unanimously**.

**Program Committee Report.** No report.

**Regional Planning Committee Report.** No report.

**Finance Committee Report.** No report.

**Nominating Committee Report.** No report.

**Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee Report.** No report.

**Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force Report.** **Commissioner Don Hale, Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners, Member**, asked **Mr. Koons** make the report. **Mr. Koons** reported a spill of **7.5 gallons** of raw sewage from a lift station occurred on December 9th. He stated the raw sewage discharged into Sugar Creek which is a tributary of the Withlacoochee River. **Mr. Koons** noted the City used the notification system established by the Task Force earlier this year. He indicated this recent early notification allowed local, regional, and state officials to take immediate action concerning this spill.

**Mr. Koons** also reported the Hamilton, Madison, and Suwannee County Health Departments issued health advisories for residents and visitors near the river to avoid contact with river water. He stated further the Florida Department of Health Florida and Florida Department of Environmental Protection are conducting water sampling exercises at three locations along the river. Finally, **Mr. Koons** noted Task Force members will meet with representatives of the City for a joint workshop on January 8th in Valdosta to discuss the issue of raw sewage spills by the City and how we can work together to resolve this ongoing issue.

**As** a reminder, the Task Force, which is comprised of one county commissioner from each of the twelve counties in the NCFRPC region, was founded on October 25, 2018. **Commissioner Ken Cornell, Alachua County Board of County Commissioners**, represents Alachua County on the Task Force. Following are excerpts from task force actions/discussions since its inception:

- **Commissioner Rick Davis, Madison County (Chair), Commissioner Cornell, Mr. Koons**, and others attended a legislative committee hearing in Tallahassee during this past session and presented the Council’s concerns regarding the ongoing Valdosta spills.
- The Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and his staff continue to be very cooperative in collaborating with the Task Force and Council.

- Several meetings of the Task Force with the Valdosta City Council have been held to discuss critical issues regarding the ongoing spills which are most often the result of major rain events.
- The City of Valdosta has **6,000** manholes which routinely overflow as a result of heavy rainfall.
- Measures to improve and expedite “immediate notification requirements” to various State of Florida agencies have been implemented by the City of Valdosta.
- A holding area, which will capture **10 million gallons** of overflow, is scheduled to be developed and should alleviate some of the problems with spills.
- *A joint workshop was held on July 10, 2019, which was attended by several Task Force members and the City of Valdosta City Council, for the purpose of discussing the issue of raw sewage spills by the City and determining a process to resolve this serious problem. The City Council indicated they are still awaiting a permit from the State of Georgia to construct a ten million gallon equalization basin at the Withlacoochee Wastewater Treatment Plant later this year.*
- *Task Force members met on October 9, 2019, at the Madison County Agricultural Extension Office in the City of Madison with representatives from the City of Valdosta for a joint workshop to discuss the issue of raw sewage spills by Valdosta and how the Task Force and the City can work together to resolve this ongoing issue. Task Force members received an update concerning ongoing projects being taken by Valdosta to address storm water infiltration into the sanitary sewer collection system. Progress remains slow but is proceeding in a very positive direction.*

**Chair Wilford** stated: “Thank you **Commissioner Hale** and members of the Task Force for the time and effort you are putting into addressing this serious water quality issue which are affecting Florida’s rivers and streams. We look forward to hearing a report on the joint workshop the Task Force and the City of Valdosta will conduct on January 8th. The Council also looks forward to a final resolution in solving this problem.”

**Ex-Officio Member Reports.** Reports were made, as indicated, by representatives from ex-officio members in attendance:

**Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (FDEO).** Not in attendance.

**Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).** Not in attendance.

**Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).** **David Tyler** presented the report and indicated applications for the Small County Road Assistance Program and Small County Outreach Program must be submitted to the Department by January 31st.

**Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC).** Not in attendance.

**St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD).** Not in attendance.

**Southwest Florida Water Management District (SFWMD).** Not in attendance.

**Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD).** **Tom Mirti** indicated the springs grant project applications from local governments must be submitted to the District by December 18th. He reiterated the aforementioned raw sewage Sugar Creek spill which was attributed to mechanical failure and was significant as reported by **Mr. Koons** earlier in the meeting.

**CareerSource North Central Florida (CSNCF).** Not in attendance.

**Citizen Comments.** *Chair Wilford* reminded potential speakers: “This agenda item provides citizens an opportunity to address the Council on any matter not included on the agenda. The comment period for each individual is limited to three minutes. As a further reminder, proper decorum is expected of each speaker and adherence to civility when mentioning anyone by name would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your cooperation.” **Stu Lilker, Publisher, Columbia County Observer,** made comments regarding the Council’s Bylaws, rural transportation, and the City of Alachua infrastructure projects including the its impressive expansion of recreation facilities.

**Executive Director Report.** **Mr. Koons** briefed the Council on the following items:

**Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Monthly Activity Reports.** **Mr. Koons** indicated FRCA is the statewide organization which is comprised of **10 Regional Planning Councils (RPC’s)**. The mission of FRCA is to strengthen Florida’s RPC’s and its partners with government and the business community to enhance regional economic prosperity and improve the consistency and quality of regional planning councils to ensure they add value to state, regional, and local initiatives. **Denise Imbler, FRCA Statewide Coordinator,** advises and supports NCFRPC in fulfilling its mission. **Mr. Koons** summarized FRCA activity reports for October and November 2019.

**Florida Chamber Foundation Scorecard.** **Mr. Koons** reminded council members the Florida Chamber Foundation developed the Florida Scorecard to provide objective criteria to develop a **20-year statewide strategic plan** which requires an ongoing commitment to measuring the state’s current status toward accomplishing the stated goals of the “Six Pillars” which were established to measure trends and progress. The “Six Pillars” incorporate the strategic thinking of a diverse range of stakeholders including the Century Commission and others. The “Six Pillars” are: (1) Talent Supply and Education, (2) Innovation and Economic Development, (3) Infrastructure and Growth Leadership, (4) Business Climate and Competitiveness, (5) Civic and Government Systems, and (6) Quality of Life and Places. **Mr. Koons** referred to the report contained in the “State of Florida Metrics” information for December 2019 which was included in the Council packets.

**Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance (M-CORES).** **Mr. Koons** indicated the Northern Turnpike M-CORES Task Force met on October 22nd in Lecanto and the Suncoast M-CORES Task Force also met in Lecanto on October 23rd. He noted both Task Forces initiated discussions concerning avoidance and minimization guiding principles. **Mr. Koons** reported the Suncoast M-CORES Task Force will meet on December 17th in Perry and the Northern M-CORES Task Force will meet on December 18th in Ocala. Finally, he stated both Task Forces will review draft avoidance and minimization guiding principles and initiate discussion of mitigation and enhancement guiding principles at future meetings.

**Greater Gainesville Chamber of Commerce United States Chamber of Commerce Five-Star Accreditation.** **Mr. Koons** stated the United States Chamber once again awarded the Greater Gainesville Chamber of Commerce “Five-Star” accreditation for its sound policies, effective organizational procedures, and positive impact on the community. He noted the “Five-Star” accreditation is an honor bestowed on only **one percent** of the approximately **7,000** Chambers of Commerce nationwide.

**National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Aliceann Wohlbruck Impact Award.** **Mr. Koons** reported the Council, in conjunction with the Original Florida Tourism Task Force, received this award from NADO for its “Travel Show Program.” He stated this Task Force is a multi-county destination marketing organization which promotes nature-, heritage-, and cultural-based tourism in the North Central Florida region. **Mr. Koons** noted the region consists of **14 counties** and encompasses approximately **10,000 square miles**. The Task Force brands and Markets its efforts as “Visit Natural North Florida.” Finally, he indicated the Task Force exhibited at **14 travel shows** which were attended by over **640,000** consumers and distributed over **31,000** pieces of collateral material describing the many natural resource-based tourism destinations of the North Central Florida region.

**Mr. Koons** asked Council members and guests to observe a moment of silence in memory of **Messrs. James Montgomery** and **Dwayne Mundy**.

**Chair Wilford** stated: *“Congratulations to the Greater Gainesville Chamber of Commerce for receiving such a prestigious award, Mr. Eric Gaudet, Chamber President and CEO, is an exemplary leader. He is future-driven type of leader in making the business community vibrant and is passionate about creating public/private partnerships as a “best practice” in growing the community.”*

**Chair Wilford** also stated: *“Under Scott’s unparalleled leadership, and dedicated staff support, the Council is justifiably proud of receiving the prestigious ‘Impact’ award which was presented at the recent annual NADO conference.”*

**Chair Wilford** stated further: *“As always, thank you Scott and your dynamic staff for the excellent job you do on behalf of the residents who call North Central Florida home. Your efforts are greatly appreciated by the members of the Council and all of the fine folks who call North Central Florida home.”*

**Council Member Announcements.** **Chair Wilford** stated: *“He was proud to announce the City of Alachua recently held a ribbon cutting ceremony for a newly constructed amphitheater which will host many outdoor arts and music events. In fact, the internationally acclaimed ‘Dance Alive Ballet’ is performing the ‘Nut Cracker’ at this very moment. Also, Thermofisher Scientific, which is a global \$20 billion bio-system industry with 65,000 employees worldwide, recently held a ceremony announcing they will remain in Alachua and will do a \$6 million capital expansion at its Alachua site which has over 250 employees.”*

**Chair Wilford** thanked everyone for attending tonight’s Council meeting, to be safe on the drive home, and wished everyone a Merry Christmas, and a safe and Happy New Year.

**Next Meeting.** **Chair Wilford** stated: *“The next meeting of the Council will be held on January 23, 2020, at the Holiday Inn and Suites in Lake City beginning at 7:00 p.m.*

**Adjournment.** **Chair Wilford** adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

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**North Central Florida Regional Planning Council (NCFRPC) Mission Statement.** *To improve the quality of life of the Region’s citizens by enhancing public safety, protecting regional resources, promoting economic development, and providing technical services to local governments.*

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#### **NCFRPC Mailing Address**

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#### **NCFRPC Telephone, Facsimile, and Website Information**

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#### **NCFRPC Staff Telephone Extension and Email Contact Information**

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Lauren Yeatter, AICP, Senior Planner, Geographic Information Systems, Community Development, Economic Development, and Regional Planning, and Original Planning Florida (Extension 113 - yeatter@ncfrpc)

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#### **Alachua County Representation on NCFRPC Contact Information**

David Arreola, Commissioner, City of Gainesville (arreoladi@cityofgainesville.org)

Patricia Bouie, Commissioner, City of Hawthorne (pbouie@cityofhawthorne.net)

Charles Chestnut, IV, Commissioner, Alachua County Board of County Commissioners (cschestnut@alachuacounty.us)

Ken Cornell, Commissioner, Alachua County Board of County Commissioners (KCornell@alachuacounty.us)

Louie Davis, Mayor, City of Waldo (louie45@gmail.com)

Matt Hersom, Commissioner, City of Newberry (matthersom@city.newberry.fl.us)

Fletcher Hope, Commissioner, City of Archer (fhope@cityofarcher.com)

Linda Jones, Vice Mayor, City of High Springs (ljones@highsprings.us)

Gigi Simmons, Commissioner, City of Gainesville (simmionsgg@cityofgainesville.org)

Helen Warren, Commissioner, City of Gainesville (warrenhk@cityofgainesville.org)

Marihelen Wheeler, Commissioner, Alachua County Board of County Commissioners (mwheeler@alachuacounty.us)

Robert Wilford, Commissioner, City of Alachua (rwwexd1@cox.net)

Kristina Wright, Non-Voting Delegate, City of High Springs (386.454.1416)

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**Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Mission Statement.** *Fosters regional strategies, solutions, and partnerships to support economic growth and improve quality of life; promotes a standard of excellence in the delivery of regional planning council programs and technical professional assistance and expertise; and, advocates for the role of regional planning councils as the state's primary organizations to address problems that are of greater-than-local concern.*

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***There are ten (10) regional planning councils*** in Florida which serve the state's sixty-seven (67) counties. They are:

<b><u>Council</u></b>	<b><u>Number of Counties Served</u></b>	<b><u>Region</u></b>	<b><u>Headquarters</u></b>
Emerald Coast Regional Council (ECRC)*	7	1	Pensacola
Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC)	9	2	Tallahassee
North Central Florida Regional Planning Council (NCFRPC)	12	3	Gainesville
Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council (NEFRPC)	7	4	Jacksonville
East Central Florida Regional Planning Council (ECFRPC)	8	5	Altamonte Springs
Central Florida Regional Planning Council (CFRPC)	5	6	Bartow
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC)	6	7	Pinellas Park
Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SWFRPC)	6	8	Fort Myers
Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC)	4	9	Stuart
South Florida Regional Planning Council (SFRPC)	3	10	Hollywood

\*Also referred to as "West Florida Regional Council (WFRC).

***Membership*** on regional planning councils consists of one-third of the total representatives being gubernatorial appointees with the remainder being member local government appointees. Two-thirds of council representatives must be locally-elected officials. Regional councils provide a large variety of services to benefit its local governments in addition to coordinating regional planning and review activities. Services include: technical planning assistance, grant and loan planning assistance, transportation planning assistance, hazardous waste monitoring, emergency response planning assistance, and economic development activities.

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#### **COMMISSIONER WILFORD NCFRPC APPOINTMENTS (CURRENT AND PAST)**

Chair (NCFRPC - Current)

Executive Committee (Chair - Current, Vice Chair - Past, Secretary/Treasurer - Past, and Member - Past)

Finance Committee (Chair - Past)

Program Committee (Chair - Past)

Regional Planning Committee (Past)

Audit Committee (Chair - Past)

Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA - NCFRPC Delegate - Current)

President (Current) and Vice President (Past) - (North Central Florida Areawide Development Company {ADCO} - NCFRPC Delegate)

