

## City of Auburndale Commission Minutes June 16, 2025

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Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City Commission of the City of Auburndale held June 16, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Commission Room of City Hall, after having been properly advertised, with the following members present: Mayor Dorothea Taylor Bogert, Vice Mayor Alex Cam, Commissioners: Keith Cowie, and Jordan Helms. Commissioner Bill Sterling was absent. Also, present were: City Manager Jeffrey Tillman, City Attorney Frederick J. Murphy Jr., City Clerk Brandon Henry, and Police Chief Terry Storie.

Mayor Dorothea Taylor Bogert declared a quorum present, and the Meeting was opened with prayer by Parks and Recreation Director Cody McGhee, and a salute to the flag.

**Motion** by Vice Mayor Cam, seconded by Commissioner Cowie, to approve Minutes of the City Commission Meeting of June 2, 2025. Upon vote, all ayes.

City Manager Jeffrey Tillman presented Fire Chief Brian Bradway with his longevity plaque for 10 years of service.

Public Works Special Projects Director John Dickson presented Public Utilities Service Worker IV Manny Silva with his longevity plaque for 10 years of service. He presented Utility Billing Superintendent Pam Card with her longevity plaque for 35 years of service.

City Manager Tillman recognized Fire Lieutenant Ricky Romero (5 years), Fire Shift Commander Robert Barrington (20 years), and Wastewater Superintendent Brian Morse (20 years) for their years of service, but were unable to attend tonight.

Parks and Recreation Director Cody McGhee announced that Visit Central Florida was awarded the Sports Tourism Organization of the Year Award for a population over 500,000 from the Sports Events & Tourism Association. Neal Duncan of Visit Central Florida announced that Lake Myrtle Sports Complex was named the Sports Tourism Venue of the Year by the Florida Sports Foundation.

Mayor Taylor Bogert thanked City staff and Visit Central Florida.

Mayor Taylor Bogert asked if there was public comment on any item not on the agenda. There was no public comment.

Mayor Taylor Bogert presented a Proclamation recognizing Juneteenth. City Attorney Frederick J. Murphy Jr. read the proclamation.

Mayor Taylor Bogert closed the Regular Meeting and opened the Public Hearing.

## **1. PUBLIC HEARING FUTURE LAND USE AND ZONING MAP AMENDMENT – GAPWAY GROVE PROPERTY**

City Manager Tillman read the public notice.

Community Development Director Julie Womble said as a result of annexation, the City has received a request to amend the Future Land Use on +/- 0.42 acres from Polk County Future Land Use of Residential Suburban (RS) to City of Auburndale Future Land Use of Lakes District Mixed Use and establish a Zoning classification of Estate Residential (ER).

The Estate Residential (ER) Zoning classification allows for residential development with a gross density of one dwelling unit per one acre; recreation, and open space; public or private golf courses; and agriculture. The requested Future Land Use and Official Zoning Map Amendments are consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan and policies of the Lakes District Overlay of Chapter 15 of the Land Development Regulations.

She said these ordinances are to clean-up the property.

The Planning Commission recommended approval of the Future Land Use and Zoning of the Gapway Groves Property. (5-0, 06/03/2025)

City Manager Tillman said this was annexed into the City. Staff recommends approval of proposed Ordinance #1827 amending the Future Land Use Map and proposed Ordinance #1828 amending the Official Zoning Map for the Gapway Grove Property.

Mayor Taylor Bogert asked for public comment. There was no public comment.

Mayor Taylor Bogert closed the Public Hearing and reopened the Regular Commission Meeting.

## **2. ORDINANCE #1827 AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP - GAPWAY GROVE**

City Manager Tillman said staff recommends approval.

City Attorney Frederick J. Murphy Jr. read Ordinance No. 1827 entitled: **AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF AUBURNDALE, FLORIDA, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 752, THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF THE CITY OF AUBURNDALE, FLORIDA, BY AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP RECLASSIFYING A PARCEL OF LAND TOTALING +/- 0.42 ACRES FROM POLK COUNTY FUTURE LAND USE CLASSIFICATION RESIDENTIAL SUBURBAN (RS) TO CITY OF AUBURNDALE FUTURE LAND USE CLASSIFICATION LAKES DISTRICT MIXED USE (LDMU); AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE (General Location: Gapway Road)**, by title only.

**Motion** by Commissioner Cowie, seconded by Commissioner Helms, to approve Ordinance #1827 amending the Future Land Use Map – Gapway Grove, as read on first reading by title only. Upon vote, all ayes.

## **3. ORDINANCE #1828 AMENDING THE ZONING MAP – GAPWAY GROVE**

City Manager Tillman said staff recommends approval.

City Attorney Frederick J. Murphy Jr. read Ordinance No. 1828 entitled: **AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF AUBURNDALE, FLORIDA, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 764, THE LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS OF THE CITY OF AUBURNDALE, FLORIDA, BY AN AMENDMENT TO THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP BY ESTABLISHING AUBURNDALE ZONING MAP CLASSIFICATION OF ESTATE RESIDENTIAL (ER) ON A PARCEL OF LAND TOTALING +/- 0.42 ACRES; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE (General Location: Gapway Road)**, by title only.

**Motion** by Commissioner Helms, seconded by Commissioner Cowie, to approve Ordinance #1828 amending the Official Zoning Map – Gapway Grove, as read on first reading by title only. Upon vote, all ayes.

Mayor Taylor Bogert closed the Regular Meeting and opened the Public Hearing.

## **4. PUBLIC HEARING FUTURE LAND USE AND ZONING MAP AMENDMENT – GEORGE’S TIRE PROPERTY**

City Manager Tillman read the public notice.

Community Development Director Womble said the City has received a request to amend the Future Land Use on +/- 0.15 acres at 412 Pine St. from City of Auburndale Future Land Use of Medium Density Residential to City of Auburndale Future Land Use of Commercial Corridor. The property located at 413 Pine St. has +/- 0.22 acres of existing Commercial Corridor Future Land Use. The applicant is requesting at this time to amend the City of Auburndale Zoning classification of General Residential-1 (RG-1) on both parcels to Commercial Highway (CH). The applicant is interested in expanding George’s Tire & Automotive Center located adjacent to the subject properties. She further summarized the request.

The City's Commercial Corridor Future Land Use designation is characterized by all types of commercial, office, light fabrication and vehicular dealerships along a roadway. Commercial Highway Zoning allows automobile service stations, repair garages, medical offices, clinics, financial institutions, laboratories, sales, restaurants, hotels and general retail. She presented a graphic depicting the proposal.

The amendments are consistent with the existing commercial development on the surrounding properties to the east and west. The property has access to US Highway 92 off Pine St. The requested Future Land Use and Official Zoning Map Amendments are consistent with the City of Auburndale's Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Regulations.

The Planning Commission recommended approval of the Future Land Use and Zoning of the George's Tire Property. (5-0, 06/03/2025)

City Manager Tillman said the proposed Ordinances were prepared by the Community Development Department and reviewed by the City Manager and City Attorney. If approved on first reading, the proposed Ordinances will be presented for second and final reading on July 7, 2025. Staff recommends approval of proposed Ordinance #1829 amending the Future Land Use Map and proposed Ordinance #1830 amending the Official Zoning Map for the George's Tire property.

Mayor Taylor Bogert asked for public comment. There was no public comment.

Mayor Taylor Bogert closed the Public Hearing and reopened the Regular Commission Meeting.

#### **5. ORDINANCE #1829 AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP - GEORGE'S TIRE**

City Manager Tillman said staff recommends approval.

City Attorney Frederick J. Murphy Jr. read Ordinance No. 1829 entitled: **AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF AUBURNDALE, FLORIDA, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 752, THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF THE CITY OF AUBURNDALE, FLORIDA, BY AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP RECLASSIFYING A PARCEL OF LAND TOTALING +/- 0.15 ACRES FROM CITY OF AUBURNDALE FUTURE LAND USE CLASSIFICATION MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL TO CITY OF AUBURNDALE FUTURE LAND USE CLASSIFICATION COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR (CC); AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE (General Location: 412 Pine St. and US Hwy 92),** by title only.

**Motion** by Vice Mayor Cam, seconded by Commissioner Cowie, to approve Ordinance #1829 amending the Future Land Use Map – George's Tire Property, as read on first reading by title only. Upon vote, all ayes.

#### **6. ORDINANCE #1830 AMENDING THE ZONING MAP - GEORGE'S TIRE PROPERTY**

City Manager Tillman said staff recommends approval.

City Attorney Frederick J. Murphy Jr. read Ordinance No. 1830 entitled: **AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF AUBURNDALE, FLORIDA, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 764, THE LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS OF THE CITY OF AUBURNDALE, FLORIDA, BY AN AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING MAP RECLASSIFYING AN AUBURNDALE ZONING MAP CLASSIFICATION ON 2 PARCELS OF LAND TOTALING +/- 0.37 ACRES FROM CITY OF AUBURNDALE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF GENERAL RESIDENTIAL-1 TO COMMERCIAL HIGHWAY (CH); AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (General Locations: US Hwy. 92 W, and Pine St.),** by title only.

**Motion** by Commissioner Cowie, seconded by Commissioner Helms, to approve Ordinance #1830 amending the Official Zoning Map – George's Tire Property, as read on first reading by title only. Upon vote, all ayes.

Mayor Taylor Bogert closed the Regular Meeting and opened the Public Hearing.

## 7. PUBLIC HEARING – VACATING OF RIGHT-OF-WAY - 31 MORGAN STREET

City Manager Tillman read the public notice.

Community Development Director Womble said the City has received a petition from Carlos Valentin and Betty Cruz Hernandez, at 31 Morgan Street, Auburndale FL, 33823 to vacate, abandon, and discontinue a portion of an unimproved right-of-way west on Morgan Street. The applicant is requesting this right-of-way to be vacated to use as a driveway for the property at 31 Morgan Street. She further summarized the proposal and presented a graphic depicting the proposal.

The petition to vacate, abandon, discontinue and close a portion of an unimproved right-of-way, shown in Exhibit "A", is subject to the reservation of a utility easement within said vacated, abandoned and discontinued portion of unimproved right-of-way, for use of the City of Auburndale and its successors and assigns, which is consistent with the public interest within the City relating to the provision of utility and other municipal services. Staff recommends approval of Resolution #2025-01 Vacating Right of Way – 31 Morgan Street.

City Manager Tillman said the proposed Resolution was prepared by the Community Development Department and was reviewed by the City Manager and City Attorney. Staff recommends approval of Resolution #2025-01 Vacating Right of Way – 31 Morgan Street.

Mayor Taylor Bogert asked for public comment. There was no public comment.

Mayor Taylor Bogert closed the Public Hearing and reopened the Regular Commission Meeting.

## 8. RESOLUTION #2025-01 VACATING OF RIGHT-OF-WAY - 31 MORGAN STREET

City Manager Tillman said staff recommends approval.

City Attorney Frederick J. Murphy Jr. read Resolution No. 2025-01 entitled: **A RESOLUTION VACATING, ABANDONING AND DISCONTINUING PORTIONS OF A RIGHT-OF-WAY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE (General Location: Morgan Street and Jersey Road NW)**, by title only.

**Motion** by Commissioner Helms, seconded by Commissioner Cowie, to approve Resolution #2025-01 – Vacating of Right-of-Way – 31 Morgan Street. Upon vote, all ayes.

## 9. RESOLUTION #2025-02 SUPPORTING UTILITY EASEMENT ON TENOROC PROPERTY

City Manager Tillman said in May 2023, the City's consulting engineer completed the Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility Service Area Study that identified needed sewer collection system improvements to support new development. The Southern Force Main Re-Route project was one of the improvements identified in the Study. The project re-routes sewer flows away from the Regional Master Lift Station directly to the Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility. The Southern Force Main is primarily located on the west side of the Polk Parkway. Re-routing of the force main has required City staff to obtain several easements necessary to redirect flows to the Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility.

The proposed Resolution #2025-02 supports the expansion of an existing reclaim water line easement on the Tenoroc Fish Management Area property (Tenoroc) to allow for the installation of a 24-inch diameter wastewater force main for approximately 1,800 feet in a general north to south manner. Additionally, the City has acquired the Hickory Road Sprayfield property to the south of the Tenoroc property and the proposed easement would allow the City to extend the existing reclaimed line to the south an additional 100 feet to allow the City to develop the Hickory Road Sprayfield.

A support Resolution approved by the City Commission is required as part of the easement request to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). The proposed Resolution #2025-02 was prepared by the City

Attorney and reviewed by the Public Utilities Director and City Manager. Staff recommends approval of Resolution #2025-02 supporting a utility easement on Tenoroc property.

City Attorney Frederick J. Murphy Jr. read Resolution No. 2025-02 entitled: **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF AUBURNDALE, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING AN EXPANDED EASEMENT NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE CITY OF AUBURNDALE'S SOUTHERN FORCE MAIN PROJECT AND TO CONNECT THE CITY OF AUBURNDALE'S SPRAY-FIELD LOCATED AT HICKORY ROAD TO THE TENEROC FISH MANAGEMENT AREA ADJACENT TO THE NORTH OF THE SAID SPRAY-FIELD; MAKING FINDING; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ALL CONFLICTING RESOLUTIONS, SEVERABILITY AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE CORRECTION OF SCRIVENER'S ERRORS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE**, by title only.

Mayor Taylor Bogert asked for public comment. There was no public comment.

**Motion** by Commissioner Cowie, seconded by Vice Mayor Cam, to approve Resolution #2025-02 – Supporting Utility Easement on Tenoroc Property. Upon vote, all ayes.

### **10. INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH POLK COUNTY SHERIFF – POLICE/FIRE DISPATCH SERVICES**

City Manager Tillman said the City of Auburndale began outsourcing Police dispatch services to the Polk County Sheriff's Office in 2008 and Fire/Rescue dispatch services in 2010.

In 2013, the City Commission approved an Interlocal Agreement, which consolidated two separate agreements into one. In 2017 and 2021, the City Commission extended the current Interlocal Agreement for additional four (4) year terms. The current Interlocal Agreement for both departments dispatch services expires September 2025.

Due to significant cost increases to operate telecommunications, pricing in the contract has been adjusted to reflect a 20% increase for Police dispatching. Moving forward, the Sheriff's Office will begin offering one-year contracts to more accurately align with adjusting market conditions. The proposed Interlocal Agreement would extend contract services for Police and Fire/Rescue dispatching services through September 30, 2026. The proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Budget provides \$329,995 for Police related dispatching and provides \$44,069, an increase of 5%, for Fire/Rescue dispatching services based on the number of calls.

The Interlocal Agreement was prepared by the Office of Legal Affairs for the Sheriff's Office and reviewed by the Police Chief, Fire Chief, City Manager, and City Attorney. Staff recommends approval of the Interlocal Agreement for Police and Fire/Rescue dispatching services and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract on behalf of the City. He further summarized the proposal.

Mayor Taylor Bogert asked for public comment. There was no public comment.

**Motion** by Vice Mayor Cam, seconded by Commissioner Cowie, to approve the Interlocal Agreement for Police and Fire/Rescue dispatching services.

Mayor Taylor Bogert asked City Attorney Murphy if he agrees with everything?

City Attorney Murphy answered yes. There is artifact language in the agreement, but it is not bad.

Upon vote, all ayes.

### **11. APPOINT VOTING DELEGATE FOR AUGUST 14-16, 2025 FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES CONFERENCE – ORLANDO FLORIDA**

City Manager Tillman said the Florida League of Cities Annual Conference will be held August 14-16, 2025, at the Signia Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek in Orlando, Florida. The Florida League of Cities' By-Laws require that each Member City select one of their elected officials to cast their votes at the annual business session.

Mayor Dorothea Taylor Bogert has agreed to serve if this is the pleasure of the City Commission.

Staff recommends approving a Voting Delegate to the August Florida League of Cities Conference.

Mayor Taylor Bogert asked for public comment. There was no public comment.

**Motion** by Commissioner Cowie, seconded by Commissioner Helms, to appoint Mayor Taylor Bogert as the City's Voting Delegate to the August Florida League of Cities Conference. Upon vote, all ayes.

## **12. FISCAL YEAR 2024 EDWARD BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT**

City Manager Tillman said each year the Board of County Commissioners allocates federal Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant funds for various law enforcement projects within Polk County. These funds may be used by local units of government to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime and to improve the criminal justice system. The Fiscal Year 2024 allocation for the County is \$164,974.00 with Auburndale approved for \$18,104.00.

The Auburndale Police Department plans to utilize this grant for firearms. He presented a list of Polk County agencies and their proposed projects. Staff recommends approval of the distribution of the Fiscal Year 2024 Edward Byrne Grant and authorize the Mayor to execute the support letter.

Mayor Taylor Bogert asked for public comment. There was no public comment.

**Motion** by Commissioner Helms, seconded by Commissioner Cowie, to approve the distribution of the Fiscal Year 2024 Edward Byrne Grant and authorize the Mayor to execute the support letter. Upon vote, all ayes.

## **13. PRESENTATION OF EXPENDITURES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 & FISCAL YEAR 2027 ANNUAL BUDGETS**

City Manager Tillman said as part of the Budget preparation cycle, the City Commission gave tentative approval to the proposed Payroll Section on May 5, 2025 and the Capital Outlay Section on May 19, 2025. Minor changes have been made in the Payroll Section (new hires, position changes, etc.) and no additional projects or improvements have been made to the Capital Outlay Section. Both, Payroll and Capital Outlay have now been inserted into the proposed Expenditures Budget along with "Departmental Operating Expenses" and "Non-Departmental Expenses". He presented a graphic depicting the layout of the expenditure table.

"Departmental Operating Expenses" include line items found in every department and division such as electricity, telephone, general supplies, training and travel, vehicle maintenance and gas, oil, and diesel.

He presented the proposed Departmental Operating Expenses for the Mayor and Commission, Office of the City Manager, Legal Department, Information Technology, Finance, Library Division, Fire Department, Community Development Department, Police Department, Public Works Administration, Sanitation Division, Building Maintenance, Street Division, Fleet Maintenance, Parks and Recreation Administration, Parks Division, Cemetery Division, Civic Center, Senior Center, Tennis Pro Shop, Lake Ariana Park, Auburndale Softball Complex, Women's Club Building, Baynard House, Lake Myrtle Sports Complex, Depot Building, Community Gym, Municipal Services Building, Community Redevelopment Agency, Public Utilities Administration, Utilities Distribution, Utility Billing, Water Treatment Plants, Allred Wastewater Treatment Plant, and the Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant.

"Non-Departmental Expenses" include line items such as insurance, pension, debt service, reserve funding, and city contributions to other agencies.

He presented proposed Non-Departmental Expenses for Non-Department Insurance, Non-Department Pension, Non-Department All Other, Non-Department Personnel Improvement, Non-Department City Contribution, Community Development Block Grant Projects, Special Projects, Reserves, Debt Service, Impact Fees, Connection Fees, Administration & General, Utilities Debt Service, and Utility Reserves.

He summarized the expenditures.

Presentation of the proposed Revenue Section is scheduled for July 21, 2025. Delivery of the proposed two-year budget to the City Commission is scheduled for August 4, 2025. Formal adoption of the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget and conceptual approval of the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget will come after the scheduled Public Hearings in September. Staff recommends tentative approval of the Expenditures Section of the proposed Fiscal Year 2026 and Fiscal Year 2027 Budgets.

Mayor Taylor Bogert asked for public comment. There was no public comment.

City Attorney Murphy advised that we should have two motions on this item – one motion to tentatively approve the budget with exception to the line item regarding the Chamber of Commerce, and a second motion to tentatively approve the line item regarding the Chamber of Commerce with Commissioner Cowie abstaining.

**Motion** by Commissioner Helms, seconded by Vice Mayor Cam, to tentatively approve the Expenditures Section of the proposed Fiscal Year 2026 and Fiscal Year 2027 Budgets except for the Chamber of Commerce line item *001-6084-579-8100*.

Mayor Taylor Bogert asked for clarification regarding sanitation changes.

City Manager Tillman answered that we were projecting that without any changes to the landfill that we would not need to increase rates, but that it is a pretty substantial cost increase. We need to plan for the future. We are evaluating it. We do not think it will pay for itself, so we may suggest cost increases for the rate. It is a bigger discussion that we need to have at a future date. But he is projecting we probably need to increase rates. Not huge increases, but continuous small increases over the next five years, so we do not get behind and have sanitation funded by the General Fund.

Mayor Taylor Bogert said that we get a lot of compliments on our garbage pickup. She thanked Sanitation staff.

City Manager Tillman said that we look at other municipalities in our area and how they charge. We will have a discussion on it, probably at our next meeting.

Upon vote, all ayes.

**Motion** by Vice Mayor Cam, seconded by Commissioner Helms, to tentatively approve line item *001-6084-579-8100 Chamber of Commerce* of the Expenditures Section of the proposed Fiscal Year 2026 and Fiscal Year 2027 Budgets.

Upon vote, all ayes, with Commissioner Cowie abstaining and filing Form 8B Memorandum of Voting Conflict for County, Municipal, and Other Local Public Officers, which is attached to the Minutes.

Mayor Taylor Bogert expressed gratitude to staff.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:16:46 p.m.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Minutes are true and correct.



Brandon Henry, City Clerk