



Town Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 11, 2026 at 7:00 PM

706 NE Cholakka BLVD

TOWN COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 11, 2026 at 7:00 PM

706 NE Cholakka Boulevard
Micanopy, Florida

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jiana Williams called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were observed.

ROLL CALL

Town Commissioners Present:

Mayor Jiana Williams

Mayor Pro Tem Kevin Putansu

Commissioner Judy Galloway

Commissioner David Massey

Commissioner Ken Wessberg

Town Staff Present:

Attorney A. Derek Folds

Administrator Sara Samario

Deputy Town Clerk Patty Polk

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made and seconded (Wessberg/Galloway) to accept the consent agenda as submitted. The motion was withdrawn.

A motion was made and seconded (Wessberg/Galloway) to approve the agenda, tabling Item 15 (Proposed Personnel Policy for FY27), and to amend the July 14, 2026, regularly scheduled Town Commission meeting minutes under Citizens' Forum to reflect that the Commission consensus was not to discuss the reflectors on Seminary Avenue. Motion passed 5-0.

1. Agenda Approval

2. Regular Commission Meeting Minutes of July 14, 2026, and Budget Workshop of July 14, 2026

GUESTS

3. Micanopy Branch Library Update

Micanopy Librarian Wendy Schneider provided a verbal report.

4. Willie Mae Stokes Community Center

The grand opening of New Beginnings Church was reported as a great success.

CITIZENS' FORUM

Public Comment (public comments limited to two minutes per speaker, please)

Patty Crass stated that she was happy to be present and appreciative of the community government.

Kat Crass asked about a neighbor, Larry Latson, and his family selling the house next to him. She stated that the house is for sale and has received an offer, but it is unknown whether the offer has been accepted.

Bud DesForges requested additional lighting in the Town Hall parking area.

Sandi Newman invited everyone to a community garden workshop on August 15, 2026.

TOWN COMMISSION LIAISON REPORTS

5. Alachua County League of Cities

Mayor Williams informed the Commission and citizens that the League of Cities conference is this week and is a valuable learning opportunity for the Commission. She expressed enthusiasm about learning how to manage growth and how neighboring communities are influenced by it.

Commissioner Massey discussed the grants program he learned about at last year's conference, describing it as a valuable tool, and shared grant options.

Commissioner Wessberg stated that the conference is an action-packed few days.

Commissioner Galloway stated that the conference is useful and helpful, and that networking is ideal. She expressed that she is looking forward to this year's conference.

Administrator Samario expressed that she was thrilled the Commissioners are attending. She noted that citizens may underestimate the role of local government and emphasized the importance of community involvement.

6. Alachua County Children's Trust

Mayor Williams explained that the Children's Trust budget will be reduced this year. She emphasized the importance of education for parents and children and stated that "one in seven pills kills." She noted that starting education at a young age is vital and that the Trust is using billboards, radio, and social media to educate the community.

7. Thrasher Warehouse Board

Commissioner Wessberg provided a verbal report. The Fall Festival will soon take place in October. The Board is revisiting the museum's front shingles, and a tree in the courtyard needs attention.

CITIZEN BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

8. Planning and Historic Preservation Board

Administrator Samario provided a verbal report. A Certificate of Appropriateness was approved to add two signs to the Brisky building and to remove the wrought-iron bars from the building's windows and doors.

9. Tree Committee

Report unavailable.

TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT

10. Proposed Lease Agreement – Letter of intent for Lease of 704 NE 1st Street (Former Fire Station)

Tim McBride provided handouts regarding the proposed fire station changes and the plan to open a fitness center. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made and seconded (Galloway/Wessberg) to approve the Letter of Intent for the lease of the former fire station located at 704 NE 1st Street and authorize the Town Attorney and Town Administrator to work with the Town's realtor and prospective tenant to prepare and execute a lease agreement consistent with the approved terms. Motion passed 5-0.

REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS AND REPORTS

11. Financial Reporting for the Period Ending July 31, 2026

Administrator Samario presented the financial reports dated July 31, 2026. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made and seconded (Putansu/Galloway) to accept the financial reports dated July 31, 2026, as presented. Motion passed 5-0.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

12. Town Administrator Report

Administrator Samario provided an informational report.

The Community Resource Center is progressing nicely. The Town's grant administrator met with Commerce, and a completion extension is expected to be granted. The Town is not eligible for advance pay statewide because it is not fiscally constrained.

Administrator Samario asked whether the Commission was open to a special called meeting to approve legislative appropriations request, project #2405A, for comprehensive planning, and the Commission indicated that it was.

The tentative budget hearing is scheduled for September 7, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

13. Proposed Appointee to the Tree Committee

Administrator Samario introduced Christine Hadad, who applied to join the Tree Committee, and thanked her for applying.

A motion was made and seconded (Galloway/Massey) to accept Ms. Hadad's application to the Tree Committee. Motion passed 5-0.

14. Proposed Master Services Agreement for Tree Trimming, Canopy Maintenance, Tree Removal, and Debris Removal Services

Discussion ensued.

A motion was made and seconded (Putansu/Galloway) to accept the tree-trimming agreement as submitted. Motion passed 5-0.

15. Proposed Personnel Policy for FY27

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

16. Proclamation – Pollinator Census

Mayor Williams read the proclamation in full as submitted. Applause followed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

TOWN COMMISSIONER REPORTS

17. Commissioner (Seat 1) Judy Galloway

Commissioner Galloway, after missing the previous meeting, thanked everyone involved in the July 4th festivities. She shared that she has had a difficult year following the passing of a friend and thanked everyone for their prayers. She stated that it is an honor to serve as a commissioner.

18. Commissioner (Seat 3) David Massey

Commissioner Massey thanked everyone for attending. He expressed excitement about the future of the firehouse and the progress being made. He stated that the New Beginnings Church opening was an amazing event and that he is looking forward to the conference.

19. Commissioner (Seat 4) Kevin Putansu

Mayor Pro Tem Putansu thanked everyone for attending. He said he will not attend the conference but looks forward to hearing about it. He noted that the next potluck will be scheduled soon.

20. Commissioner (Seat 5) Ken Wessberg

Commissioner Wessberg stated that Micanopy is moving forward for the better. He attended the New Beginnings Church opening and described it as amazing, with more than 250 people in attendance.

MAYOR (SEAT 2) JIANA WILLIAMS REPORT

Mayor Jiana Williams said that she loves a good quote: *Be kind to others, but also and always be compassionate to yourself*. She congratulated the Town's new restaurant owner, Cheyenne at Old Florida Cafe, and new store owners Lynn at Monica's former location and Jamie with JEM's Originals, who has purchased the Stage Coach Stop.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

NOTICE

PLEASE NOTE: PURSUANT TO SECTION 286.015, FLORIDA STATUTES, IF A PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THE COMMISSION WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED DURING THIS MEETING, HE OR SHE WILL NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT, A PERSON WITH DISABILITIES NEEDING ANY SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN TOWN MEETINGS SHOULD CONTACT THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, 706 NE CHOLOKKA BLVD., MICANOPY, FLORIDA 32667-0137, TELEPHONE (352) 466-3121.