

# CITY OF HAWTHORNE

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**COMMISSIONERS:**

Eleanor Randall, Mayor  
William Carlton, Vice Mayor  
DeLoris Roberts  
Harry Carter  
Matthew Surrency

**CITY MANAGER:**

Edward F. Smyth Jr.

**CITY CLERK:**

LaKesha H. McGruder

**INTERIM CITY ATTORNEY:**

Audrie Harris

ALACHUA COUNTY / CITY OF HAWTHORNE  
JOINT SPECIAL MEETING  
JANUARY 19, 2010

Mayor Randall called the Joint Meeting to order at 6:30PM. Mayor Randall gave the Invocation and Chair Chestnut led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Alachua County Commissioners Present: Chair Chestnut, Vice Chair Pinkoson, and Commissioner Delaney. Not Present: Commissioner Long, Commissioner Byerly

City of Hawthorne Commissioners Present: Mayor Randall, Vice Mayor Carlton, and Commissioners Carter and Surrency. Not Present: Commissioner Roberts

**Adoption of Agenda**

Moved to adopt the agenda with amendments removing item 3 Pleasant Gardens.

Motion- Commissioner Delaney

Second- Vice Chair Pinkoson

Vote- 3-0

Moved to adopt the agenda with amendments removing item 3 Pleasant Gardens.

Motion- Vice Mayor Carlton

Second- Commissioner Carter

Vote- 4-0

**Welcome**

Mayor Randall and Chair Chestnut welcomed everyone to the Alachua County / City of Hawthorne Joint Meeting.

**Item 1. Hawthorne Fire Station**

Vice Mayor Carlton- Wish the County and City could work out an agreement to move the Fire Department back into the City of Hawthorne and work out all deficiencies we may have at the building. The building is depreciating everyday.

County Commissioner Mike Byerly arrived at this time.

Chief Ed Bailey- There is a 5 mile travel distance, which is the ISO requirement from the current station in Grove Park and the City of Hawthorne is included in that 5 mile radius. He is recommending that the Fire Department remains where it is in Grove Park.

Chair Chestnut- Based on staff recommendations we will remain where we are at this point.

Commissioner Surrency- a lot of the area is not occupied by residential home dwellings. Most of the population served is in the City of Hawthorne and its adjacent areas.

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Commissioner Delaney- The final decision would be driving by the budget. Would the City of Hawthorne be willing to bring the building up to code?

Commissioner Surrency- The City of Hawthorne is paying our own engineer to do a personal inspection to make sure asbestos is not in the building.

Commissioner Carter- With the Grove Park unit running a 5 mile radius and the unit south of Gainesville running a 5 mile radius they should overlap. With the unit in the City of Hawthorne it would cover a greater area.

Commissioner Byerly- Prefer to have the fire department in Hawthorne because it will service more people. Believe there may be room for discussion if the City of Hawthorne does the appropriate things to bring the building up to code.

Mayor Randall- It is a great concern for the citizens of the City of Hawthorne to have the fire rescue back into the City of Hawthorne. Would like Alachua County to relook at the issue

Chair Chestnut- Right now the County can not afford to run two stations. If the City of Hawthorne bring it up to code and get back to us maybe, but we don't want anyone to leave here tonight with a false sense of hope. Right now we can't operate two stations.

**Item 2. Code Enforcement**

Mayor Randall- Would like to get the County Code Enforcement to get involved with making a piece of property that is in the county cleaned up. It is the first thing that people see when coming into the City of Hawthorne and that is not who we are. It's a continuing issue.

Vice Mayor Carlton- Ran into one of the family members today and she said she was informed the state now owns the property.

City Manager Reid- We are familiar with this property and will have someone look into this matter.

**Item 3. Eastside Business Development**

Commissioner Surrency- Have a theme we are working with, especially Commissioner Roberts called Lifetime Communities. We are trying to develop a place where someone can grow up, work and retire all in the same area. The City of Hawthorne has the main corridor of transportation with CSX running one of their busiest tracks through our small town. We are trying to work with the Community College to get a College branch in the City of Hawthorne. Wants the County and City to work together to get things centrally located in the City limits or just outside the city limits.

Commissioner Delaney- When she served as Chair of County Commissioners she went out and toured different towns with their City Manager. She was amazed that there were many residential lots with opportunity of development. If city's can count and identify the number of developmental sites that might help in the process. Wants to wish you luck while doing this.

Chair Chestnut- May want to work into partnership with East Gainesville Development.

**Commission General & Informal Discussion**

Mayor Randall- Item 3 Pleasant Gardens was removed from the agenda and she wanted to state her concern for the record in terms as to why she wanted it on the agenda. Upon speaking with Chair Chestnut she was given Mrs. Gail Monahan's contact information. While driving through Pleasant Gardens there are over 20 vacant homes and wanted to know why Hawthorne residents were leaving Hawthorne Alachua County Housing Development and moving to Waldo and Newberry.

Commissioner Surrency- Have worked on this issue and spoke with Mrs. Monahan. They did have money come in and she was going to see what they could bring up and have someone evaluate the area.

Chair Chestnut- Suggested the City of Hawthorne City Commissioners delegate someone to follow up with Mrs. Monahan and to really stay on top of the issue since she has received HUD money.

**Citizen Comments**

Richard Moore- As a tax payer money goes to Alachua County and the City of Hawthorne. He's an architect and he has looked at the building. It is a great building. CRA is looking into redoing the roof. As a taxpayer he would not want to pay for a new fire rescue when there is a good one in Hawthorne.

Heather Surrency- Great to see everyone out. Looking forward to all the growth that will be coming to the City of Hawthorne. She is the President of the Hawthorne Community Foundation and we have a group of volunteers to improve the quality of life of Hawthorne. Looking forward to our Environmental Learning Center and to share that with Alachua County. Hawthorne football team went to the state semi finals. Some amazing things are happening in Hawthorne.

Alachua County and City of Hawthorne Joint Special Meeting adjourned at 7:10PM.

These minutes are submitted for approval.

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LaKesha H. McGruder, City Clerk

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Eleanor Randall, Mayor