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**Town Commission**

**Minutes Special Meeting • Large Retail Store • *Via Virtual Conferencing***

**Thursday** **• June 18, 2020 • 6:00 pm**

1.Call to Order: 6:00pm

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to Flag

3. Roll Call

*Commissioners Attending:*

* Joseph Aufmuth, Mayor Present
* Timothy Parker, Mayor Pro Tem Present (joining after roll call)
* Virginia Mance Present
* Troy Blakely Absent
* Mike Roberts Present
* Debbie Gonano, Town Administrator Present
* Andrea Parker, Town Attorney Present

4. Agenda Approval

***Motion made and second (Roberts/Mance) to approve agenda.***

5. Alachua County Growth Management – CRS Micanopy 9,100 sq. ft. Retail Store (Parcel #16496-004-001)

At the suggestion of Commissioner Mance, Mayor Aufmuth read a proposed draft letter written by Town Administrator Gonano and including Commission input regarding opposition to development of Parcel #16496-004-001 by CRS Micanopy as a 9,100 sq. ft. (Dollar General) commercial retail store. A few minor corrections and additions were suggested to produce the final letter attached.

1) Commissioner Mance already had submitted input and liked the letter as is.

2) Commissioner Roberts thought the letter was fine.

3) Mayor Pro Tem Parker had no additions or comments.

4) Steven Eisenman *(105 NE Bay)* thought that the letter was a great letter, but wanted to change “nearby” to “adjacent.” Also, he wanted to speak about food insecurities, but Mayor Aufmuth answered that was a discussion for another meeting.

5) Aaron *(unidentified caller)* is opposed to a Dollar General.

6) Rainy Blakely & Sean *(unincorporated Alachua County)*: Rainy liked the letter and thought that it would be helpful in preventing the Dollar General. Sean would like to see the area preserved for the wildlife, cultural, historical, and heritage aspects. He also thought that the store would create litter.

7) Win Blazier *(201 NE Hunter)* recognized Paynes Prairie as a buffer for Gainesville sprawl and thought that we were lucky to have it. He is thrilled to have this issue addressed by the Commission.

8) Harriet Festing *(105 NE Bay)* offered support for the letter.

9) Linda O’Kroley *(302 NW Seminary)* likes the letter and thought that an alternative site might be offered.

10) Liz Boothman *(302 Eestaulkee)* would tolerate a Dollar General store, but not in that location.

11) Tom Kay *(unidentified address)* who was with the Alachua Conservation Trust appreciated the issue being taken up and doesn’t have a problem with Dollar General, but he preferred the location to be somewhere else.

12) Arlene Holmes *(502 NE Cholokka)* glad for the opposition to the Dollar General.

13) Gail Davis *(802 NE Cholokka)* the letter was very good.

14) Patty Krass *(unidentified address)* supported the letter and recommended another location for the Dollar General.

15) Robert Rosa *(Central Florida)* identified himself as a Native American and stated that the proposed location for the store is on the site of the Timucua village and the Town was one of the first inland Towns that was a trading post. It would hurt to lose the land for a dollar store that could go anywhere. Mr. Rosa recommended that shovel tests be performed prior to any development. The Mayor thought that the owners of the parcel had had tests done which we felt had been incomplete.

16) *(Unidentified Caller)* Proposed site is too vulnerable for a dollar store.

Attorney Scott Walker had no comments about the letter. The letter was revised for the few comments made and the finished product is attached.

***Motion made and second (Parker/Mance) to approve the letter; Passed 4-0***

6. Adjourn 6:36pm

**MINUTES APPROVED:**

**As submitted \_\_\_\_\_\_ as amended \_\_\_\_\_ at Town Commission Meeting \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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**Joseph L. Aufmuth, Mayor Debbie Gonano, Town Administrator/Clerk**



**PO Box 137 • 706 NE Cholokka Blvd**

**Micanopy, Florida 32667-0137**

 June 23, 2020

Ms. Missy Daniels

Growth Management Director

10 SW Second Avenue, Suite 3

Gainesville, FL 32601

RE: Parcel #16496-004-001

CRS Micanopy #2020060101

9,100 sq. ft. Commercial retail store with associated parking,

 stormwater management facility and utilities

Dear Ms. Daniels,

The Town of Micanopy Commission, after hearing project opposition from our citizens at our regular June meeting, voted to oppose the above referenced application being considered by the Alachua County Growth Management Development and Review Committee for development of a 9,100 sq. ft. commercial retail store at the corner of US Hwy. 441 and SE 165th Avenue. The parcel being considered for the large commercial retail store development is located at the southern entrance to the Historic Town of Micanopy. Development of this parcel will have adverse impact to adjacent roadway infrastructure, conservation, cultural, historical, and archaeological sites, as well as a direct impact to the *Old Florida Heritage Highway*. Please consider the following facts:

1) In 2001, Hwy. 441 bordering the parcel being considered for development, was designated as part of the *Old Florida Heritage Highway* and part of the Florida Scenic Highway system organized by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). The FDOT uses the scenic highway designations to promote resource preservation, tourism, economic tourism development, and as a means to educate travelers.

2) A joint effort of the Alachua County Board of County Commission, Florida Communities Trust, and the Town of Micanopy in 2004 secured the funding for the adjacent Micanopy Native American Heritage Preserve (MNAHP). The preserve is well documented as an important Mississippian archaeological site, part of the Timucua tribal territory dating to the 8th century, and as an 18th century Seminole site. The property being considered for development has been acknowledged as a part of the neighboring larger archaeological site and contributes to the contextual history of the MNAHP.

3) The adjacent Alachua Conservation Trust *Tuscawilla Preserve*, the Seminole name for the area since Chief Micanopy, was purchased with funding from multiple private and public agencies and consists of a hardwood hammock surrounding a prairie that is home to numerous birds, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals.

4) Recent evidence discovered by Gulf Archeological Research Institute and detailed in their Federal grant (GA2255-10-009) report, shows that the 1836 Battle of Micanopy, fought between the US Army commanded by Major J.F. Heileman and Native American Seminoles led by Chief Osceola, occurred on the proposed historical site being considered for development. The *SouthArc* site development archaeological report omits this finding.

Development of the proposed site by a large retail store will produce increased traffic, increased degradation of natural and historic resources, an increased risk of pedestrian and bicycle accidents, an increase in loss of wildlife habitat, negative impacts caused by the use of commercial lighting, and the loss of the rural aesthetic qualities valued by so many area residents and visitors.

Based upon the impacts to Micanopy natural, historical, and cultural resources, input from our citizens, as well as history and archaeology expert reports, the Micanopy Town Commission requests, on behalf of the residents of Micanopy, that Alachua County reject the application for development of the proposed site. Sincerely,

 Joseph L. Aufmuth, Mayor