

# RESOLUTION 2023-6

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF OCALA, FLORIDA, RELATING TO BROWNFIELDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE; REDUCING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP FROM ELEVEN TO NINE COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE BROWNFIELDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE; PROVIDING FOR MEMBERSHIP; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**Whereas,**

- A. The Brownfields Act of 1997 as amended (Chapter 376.77 - 376.86, Florida Statutes) provides for local governments to designate either areas or individual sites as Brownfields; and
- B. On February 3, 1998, City Council adopted a resolution creating a Brownfields Advisory Committee for the purpose of addressing redevelopment opportunities and pursuing funding for certain brownfield sites in the North Magnolia, Downtown and West Ocala Community Redevelopment CRA Sub-Areas; and
- C. The City received funding starting in the late 1990's to clean-up a number of contaminated sites throughout the City; and
- D. The City is currently implementing a US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Assessment Grant to address certain sites identified within the designated Brownfields map area, the North Magnolia and Downtown CRA Sub-areas as well as the East and West Ocala CRA Sub-areas; and
- E. On November 15, 2016, City Council adopted a resolution establishing the Brownfields Advisory Committee to promote and receive public comment on the identification, rehabilitation, and redevelopment of identified Brownfield sites and serve as an advisory committee to the Ocala City Council; and
- F. The Brownfields Advisory Committee is required to meet at least two times a year and adopt by-laws governing voting, officers, and procedures. Such by-laws shall be approved by City Council; and
- G. Brownfields Advisory Committee members are required to serve four-year terms and may be reappointed. Any vacancy occurring during any term shall be filled by the Agency for the duration of the unexpired term.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OCALA, FLORIDA,** in regular session duly assembled as follows:

- 1. The Brownfields Advisory Committee shall consist of nine members appointed by the Ocala City Council from boards, committees, and organizations located in Ocala.

This resolution adopted this 18 day of October, 2022.

ATTEST:

CITY OF OCALA

By: Angel B. Jacobs  
Angel B. Jacobs  
City Clerk

By: Ire Bethea Sr.  
Ire Bethea Sr.  
President, Ocala City Council

Approved as to form and legality:

By: Robert W. Batsel, Jr.  
Robert W. Batsel, Jr.  
City Attorney

Submitted By: Roberto Ellis

Presentation By: Aubrey Hale

Department: Growth Management

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION** (Motion Ready):

Adopt Resolution 2023-6 to reduce the membership of the Brownfields Advisory Committee from eleven members to nine members.

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**OCALA'S RELEVANT STRATEGIC GOALS:**

Operational Excellence, Quality of Place

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**PROOF OF PUBLICATION:**

N/A

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**BACKGROUND:** The Brownfield Advisory Committee (BAC) was established in 2016 to promote and receive public comment on the identification, rehabilitation, and redevelopment of potential brownfield sites. The Committee also provides guidance in areas such as land use, employment opportunities, development proposals, and environmental justice.

Since 2018 the Committee has served to advise City Council on the feasibility of projects undertaken using EPA funds awarded to the City of Ocala. The Committee reviews project applications for environmental assessments and planning activities and acts as a champion of the program within members' respective communities.

**FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:**

The Brownfields Advisory Committee currently consists of eleven member positions, eight out of the eleven positions are filled and three remain vacant. Three positions have been difficult to fill, thus they have been vacant for a prolonged period. Staff recommends reducing membership from eleven to nine. The Committee continues to be effective and responsive to the needs of Ocala.

This change will improve operational excellence by improving the Committee's ability to convene and vote on key actions with a readily available quorum. The upcoming activities for the Brownfields Assessment grant project will require the full involvement of the Committee. There will be only one vacant membership position remaining following the adoption of the proposed resolution. Brownfields Advisory Committee members are required to serve four-year terms and may be reappointed.

On September 15, 2022, at a regular meeting of the Brownfields Advisory Committee, members voted to reduce the required number of members on the Brownfields Advisory Committee.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** N/A

**PROCUREMENT REVIEW:** N/A

**LEGAL REVIEW:** This Resolution will be reviewed and approved for form and legality by the City Attorney.

**ALTERNATIVE:**

- Approve with changes
- Deny
- Table