CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

Regular City Commission Meeting
Monday, March 11, 2019

The City Commission met in formal session Monday, March 11, 2019 at 5:00 P.M. in the Alcazar Room at City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Tracy Upchurch, and the following were present:

1. Roll Call: Tracy W. Upchurch, Mayor/City Commissioner
Leanna S. A. Freeman, Vice Mayor/City Commissioner
Roxanne Horvath, City Commissioner
Nancy Sikes-Kline, City Commissioner
John Valdes, City Commissioner

John Regan, City Manager
Timothy A. Burchfield, Assistant City Manager
Isabelle Lopez, City Attorney
Darlene Galambos, City Clerk
David Birchim, Director, Planning and Building
Jim Piggott, Director, General Services
Mike Cullum, Director, Public Works
Mark Litzinger, Director, Financial Services
Meredith Breidenstein, Director, Budget & Performance Management
Paul K. Williamson, Director, Public Affairs
Reuben Franklin, Manager, Mobility Program
Barry Fox, Police Chief
Carlos Aviles, Fire Chief
Robin DiAngelis, Recording Secretary

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Reverend Mr. Tim Fleming, Deacon of Christ Church, Episcopal Missionary Church, delivered the invocation, and Commissioner Freeman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

2.A. Modification and Approval of Regular Agenda

MOTION

Commissioner Sikes-Kline MOVED to approve the Agenda. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Horvath and APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

(None)

3. Special Presentations, Recognitions and Proclamations

3.A. Proclamation 2019-02: Designates March 2019 as Archaeology Month.

Commissioner Sikes-Kline presented Proclamation 2019-02 to Andrea White, City Archaeologist.

4. General Public Comments (3 minutes per individual)

The Commission heard from the following members of the public:

Ed Slavin
Shannon Larsen
Shawn Mulford
Ron Rawls
Tom Reynolds
BJ Kalaidi[1]

5. Consent Agenda

5.A. Additions, deletions or modifications to Consent Agenda

(None)

5.B. Approval of Consent Agenda

MOTION

Commissioner Horvath MOVED to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Sikes-Kline and APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Regan read the Consent Agenda.

CA.1. PREVIEW OF UPCOMING COMMISSION MEETINGS.

a) THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES ARE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR 2ND READING ON MARCH 25, 2019:

b) REMINDER OF UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- March 25, 2019, 5:00 p.m., Regular Meeting

CA.2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR COMMISSION MEETINGS:

- January 28, 2019, Regular Meeting

CA.3. RELEASES OF LIEN FOR UNIT CONNECTION FEE MORTGAGE(S):

- Sarah Jordan, 350 North Brevard Street
- Craig Sanford, 11 Cincinnati Avenue
- Jerry McConnell Blount, Larry Eugene Blount, Dena Ann Blount and Arlis Ray Blount, Jr., 665 Julia Street
- Hiram Thompson, 76 Old Hickory Forest Road

CA.4. PROPOSED PROCLAMATIONS, CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION/RECOGNITION. (COMMISSION APPROVAL REQUIRED). (TO BE READ AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING).

- Proclamation 2019-03: Proclaims March 2019 as Women's History month. (L. Freeman, Vice-Mayor).

- Proclamation 2019-04: Acknowledges the 70th anniversary of the St. Augustine Community Chorus. (L. Freeman, Vice-Mayor).

CA.5. NOTIFICATION OF PROCLAMATIONS/CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION ISSUED: NONE.

CA.6. Invoice in the amount of $3,220.00 dated March 1, 2019 from Cavendish Partners, P.A. for legal services regarding the Seavin v. City of St. Augustine matter. (I. Lopez, City Attorney).

6. Appeals.

(None)

7. General Public Presentations, Items of Great Public Importance, and Other Items Requiring Public Hearings

7.A. General Public Presentations

[1] Written comments attached to original minutes.

7.A.1. Presentation by Dr. Chester B. DePratter, Senior Research Professor at the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, Columbia, regarding the possible location of the second settlement of St. Augustine (1566-1572).

Dr. DePratter gave a presentation discussing the similarities between St. Augustine and St. Elana, South Carolina, sister cities. He said the Second Settlement of St. Augustine was thought to be on the northern part of Anastasia Island and asked the Commission to allow archaeological testing on City properties in search of the location.

It was the consensus of the Commission to allow testing to proceed.

7.A.2. Presentation by Jim Bush, North Area Manager of Florida Power and Light Company regarding undergrounding utilities in the City.

Mr. Jim Bush with Florida Power and Light discussed underground utilities, the pros and cons, and cost analysis. He said there were two factors to review; reliability and general aesthetic considerations. He said that primary grid upgrades included strengthening. He also said that underground utilities had less exposure to weather and less frequent outages; however, when an event occurred the damage was more difficult to locate and repair. He noted there was a substantial cost to convert overhead power lines to underground.

Mr. Bush explained that as part of the existing Public Service Commission tariff to help encourage municipalities to underground for storm resiliency of infrastructure, there was a government adjustment factor of 25% off the base construction charge.

Commissioners spoke about where underground utilities would have the greatest benefit, sea level rise interference, soil conditions and areas with the most interruption history. It was determined that staff would conduct an analysis and provide to the Commission at a later date.

7.B. Items of Great Public Importance

(None)

7.C. Other Items Requiring Public Hearing

(None)

8. Ordinances and Resolutions – Public Hearing Required.

(None)

8.B. Ordinances – First Reading (only if required by law)

(None)

8.C. Resolutions – Public Hearing (only if required by law)

(None)

9. Ordinances and Resolutions - No Public Hearing Required

9.A. Ordinances – First Reading

(None)

9.B. Resolutions

9.B.1. Resolution 2019-04: Authorizes City Manager to apply for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Boating Improvement Program and administer the grant on behalf of the City.

Cory Sakryd, Grants Administration Coordinator, presented Resolution 2019-04.

MOTION

Commissioner Freeman MOVED to pass Resolution 2019-04. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Horvath and APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

10. Staff Reports and Presentations

10.A. Financial update for period ending February 28, 2019.

Mark Litzinger, Financial Services Director, gave the financial update.

10.B. Discussion regarding the regulation of alcohol sales and the City's noise ordinance.

Barry Fox, St. Augustine Police Chief, referenced a map of alcohol serving establishments in the downtown area.[2] He said the map represented an approximate seating capacity of 4,500.

Chief Fox also addressed the City's Noise Ordinance, which was complaint driven. He said that decibel ratings had different levels in different zones at different times. He noted that some bars played loud music and that sound levels fluctuated due to weather conditions. He said that Police Officers responded to over 400 noise complaints in 2018; however, no citations were issued.

10.C. St. Augustine Fire Department 2018 Annual Report.

Carlos Aviles, St. Augustine Fire Chief, reviewed the Fire Department's Annual Report.

Mayor Upchurch inquired about the fire station on Anastasia Island and whether improvements or updates were planned.

Mr. Regan responded that plans were a work in progress.

11. ITEMS BY CITY ATTORNEY

11.A. Sunshine, Public Records and Ethics Minute.

No presentation made, provided by the City Attorney's Office for information purposes.

12. ITEMS BY CITY CLERK

12.A. Citizen Board Vacancies.

12.A.1. Notification that applications are being accepted to fill two term expirations and one alternate position on the Historic Architectural Review Board.

Darlene Galambos, City Clerk, notified the Commission of vacancies on the Historic Architectural Review Board with a reminder that the deadline for applications was Wednesday, March 13, 2019.

12.B.2. Notification of three term expirations of the Lincolnville Community Redevelopment Area Steering committee and the indication from each member of their desire to continue serving.

Ms. Galambos notified the Commission of upcoming term expirations. She said that three current members, Carolyn Wright, Nathan Baer, and Rory Herman had indicated the desire to continue serving and submitted updated applications.

13. ITEMS BY CITY MANAGER

[2] Map included with agenda packet.

13.A. Updated task tracking list.

Mr. Regan gave a brief update of items on the tracking list.

Commissioner Horvath questioned the status of the plaques for the Confederate Monument.

Ms. Galambos responded that the plaques were in the manufacturing stage and when they were complete, City staff would make the bases for them to be placed upon.

Commissioner Sikes-Kline asked for an update on rental wheelchairs at the Visitor Information Center.

Mr. Regan said that the wheelchairs were placed into use on February 1, 2019 and there had been seventeen rentals to date. He said the Public Affairs Department was working toward letting the community and visitors know about the availability of the chairs.

14. Items by Mayor and Commissioners

14.A. Summary of Responsible Hospitality Institute's "Sociable City" Summit attended by Chief Fox and Commissioner Sikes-Kline.

Commissioner Sikes-Kline said she and Chief Fox attended the Responsible Hospitality Institute's "Sociable City" Summit in Philadelphia, PA February 24-26, 2019. She noted that the summit tied in to the City's new Strategic Plan Initiative that was adopted in February 2019 and gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting topics that were heard.

Commissioner Sikes-Kline was excited to learn what other cities were doing and felt that St. Augustine stakeholders were willing to work toward a safe and vibrant downtown character.

Commissioners discussed stakeholder self-compliance, workforce housing struggles, commercial encroachment on residential neighborhoods and commercial exploitation.

Mayor Upchurch felt he had Commission consensus to schedule a workshop meeting regarding vacation rentals.

Ms. Galambos would present a list of recommended meeting dates during the next meeting.

15. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:16 P.M.[3]

T. W. Upchurch

Tracy W. Upchurch, MAYOR

Darlene Galambos

Darlene Galambos, CITY CLERK

CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

[3] Transcribed by Robin DiAngelis