CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

Regular City Commission Meeting
Monday, February 27, 2023

The City Commission met in formal session Monday, February 27, 2023, at 5:00 P.M. in the Alcazar Room at City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Nancy Sikes-Kline, and the following were present:

1. Roll Call: Nancy Sikes-Kline, Mayor/City Commissioner
Barbara Blonder, City Commissioner
Cynthia Garris, City Commissioner
Jim Springfield, City Commissioner

Absent: Roxanne Horvath, Vice Mayor/City Commissioner (excused)

Also Present: John Regan, City Manager
Isabelle Lopez, City Attorney
Darlene Galambos, City Clerk
Meredith Breidenstein, Assistant City Manager
David Birchim, Assistant City Manager
Reuben Franklin, Director of Public Works
Melissa Wissel, Director of Communications
Jennifer Michaux, Police Chief
Colleen Kuhn, Recording Secretary

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pastor Dave Aucremann of Good News Church delivered the invocation, and Commissioner Springfield led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

John Regan, City Manager, requested an update on the Back Bay Study and a discussion regarding the Mobility Plan be added under Items of Great Importance, Item 7.B.

2.A. Modification and Approval of Regular Agenda

MOTION

Commissioner Springfield MOVED to approve the Regular Agenda as amended. The motion was SECONDED by Mayor Sikes-Kline and APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

3. Special Presentations, Recognitions and Proclamations

3.A. Proclamation 2023-08: Declares February 2023 as Black History Month. (C. Garris, Commissioner)

Commissioner Garris read Proclamation 2023-08 declaring February 2023 as Black History Month. She presented the Proclamation to Audrey Nell Edwards of the St. Augustine Four.

4. General Public Comments (3 minutes per individual)

The Commission heard from the following members of the public:

- Irene Arriola
- Robyn Mooney
- Ted Mooney

- Marta Hann
- Lauren Giber
- Charles Pappas
- Jessica Erke
- Tawny Lee Kern
- Charles Smith
- Chris Fulmer
- Dwight Miller
- Gina Burrell
- Nancy Bertogli
- B.J. Kalaidi

Public comment was closed.

5. Consent Agenda

Mr. Regan read the Consent Agenda.

CA.1. Preview of upcoming Commission meetings.

CA.2. THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES ARE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR SECOND READING ON MARCH 13, 2023:

None.

CA.3. Reminder of Upcoming Meetings:

• March 13, 2023, 5:00pm, Regular City Commission Meeting
• March 27, 2023, 1:00pm, Regular City Commission Meeting
• April 10, 2023, 5:00pm, Regular City Commission Meeting

CA.4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR COMMISSION MEETINGS:

• January 9, 2023, Regular City Commission Meeting
• January 23, 2023, Regular City Commission Meeting

CA.5. RELEASES OF LIEN FOR UNIT CONNECTION FEE MORTGAGE(S):

• 170 Duval Street - Carl Lewis

CA.6. PROPOSED PROCLAMATIONS, CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION/RECOGNITION. (COMMISSION APPROVAL REQUIRED). (TO BE READ AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING).

None.

• Proclamation 2023-06: Proclaiming March 20-24, 2023 as Government Finance Professionals Week. (N. Sikes-Kline, Mayor)

CA.7. NOTIFICATION OF PROCLAMATIONS/CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION ISSUED:

None.

CA.8. Revised request for the American Rescue Plan Act spending plan. (C. Sakryd, Deputy Director General Services)

CA.9. Confirmation of appointment to fill one term expiration on the St. Augustine Firefighters' Pension Trust Fund, Board of Trustees. (D. Galambos, City Clerk)

CA.10. Invoice from Cavendish Partners, P.A. for services in the Smith v. City matter for $930.00. (I. Lopez, City Attorney)

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

None.

5.B. Approval of Consent Agenda

MOTION

Commissioner Springfield MOVED to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Garris and APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

6. Appeals

None.

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

7.A. General Public Presentations

None.

7.B. Items of Great Public Importance[1]

Reuben Franklin, Public Works Director, shared information on activities surrounding the Back Bay Study. He provided the following details:

- Kickoff occurred over three days and included a Charrette.
- 50 agencies were represented.
- The Resilience Officer from Charleston, South Carolina presented on lessons learned.
- A Public meeting included 58 citizens.
- Walking tours of the City were provided.

Mr. Franklin said that in May of 2023, the Army Corp of Engineers would consider alternatives, community feedback, and provide recommendations regarding the Study. He noted the entire City would be evaluated and public engagement would continue throughout the process.

Mr. Franklin presented an idea for improved mobility through a 12-month Pilot Study on St. George Street. He shared a visual presentation with the Commission and outlined the following concepts to be considered:

- Ride share hubs.
- Multimodal paths.
- Mobility hubs.
- Tactical urbanism to include stripping, paint and signage.

Commissioner Blonder asked if electric scooters could be considered in the pilot. She recommended allowing only five miles per hour on the street.

Mayor Sikes-Kline confirmed that staff would come back with scoping to include a defined study area, timeframe, measurable objectives, and a Resolution.

Mr. Franklin confirmed the Project could start at five miles per hour and may include more bike share options, wayfinding and integration with the Circulator. He said Smart St. Augustine may be an option for future funding.

Mr. Regan stated there would be a presentation for the business community on March 7th.

7.C. Other Items Requiring Public Hearing

None.

8. Ordinances and Resolutions – Public Hearing Required.

8.A. Ordinances - Second Reading

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 2023-04: Easement State Road No. 5A (over San Sebastian River) granted to the State of Florida Department of Transportation for the San Sebastian Bridge Replacement

[1] Added to Regular Agenda at the request of John Regan, City Manager.

Project. (M. Breidenstein, Assistant City Manager)

Meredith Breidenstein, Assistant City Manager, presented Resolution 2023-04 requesting a perpetual easement for the San Sebastian Bridge Project. She shared a map of the area and reminded the Commission that King Street will eventually become the City's.

Isabelle Lopez, City Attorney, explained that a temporary easement was for construction purposes and everything else was considered a perpetual easement.

MOTION
Commissioner Mayor Sikes-Kline MOVED to pass Resolution 2023-04. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Blonder and APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

10. Staff Reports and Presentations

10.A. Discussion of the offer to purchase property at 0 Seminole Drive (Parcel Number 151330 0251) with the condition limiting the use of the property to open space and passive stormwater retention. (D. Birchim, Assistant City Manager)

David Birchim, Assistant City Manager, presented Item 10.A. He noted the following details:

- Lot was vacant.
- Property owner offered to sell the lot for storm water retention purposes.
- Movement of money from General Fund Reserves was being requested for the purchase.
- The City would hold the conservation easement.

The Commission expressed support for the purchase.

Commissioner Blonder suggested that the City's Comp Plan be updated to allow for similar conservation and resiliency opportunities and to add money to the annual budget to purchase properties. She noted this approach may allow for matching funds opportunities.

MOTION
Commissioner Blonder MOVED approve staff's recommendation to purchase the property, authorize the requested expenditures, and formalize the type of strategy she recommended. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Springfield and APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

VOTE ON MOTION:
AYES: Blonder, Springfield, Garris, Sikes-Kline
NAYES: None
MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

11. ITEMS BY CITY ATTORNEY

11.A. Legislative update. (For Informational Purposes - No Presentation) ***(I Lopez, City Attorney)***

Ms. Lopez encouraged the Commission to review the information provided in their packets and said that staff would update them on any new Bills. She specifically called out the Sovereign Immunity Limits and Business Damages and Financial Impact Statement Bills.

Mayor Sikes-Kline shared that she participated in a weekly call-in with the Florida League of Cities and that their Legislative Agenda was on their website.

12. ITEMS BY CITY CLERK

None.

13. ITEMS BY CITY MANAGER

None.

14. Items by Mayor and Commissioners

Commissioner Garris expressed her appreciation for support of Black History Month Proclamations. She requested that staff address the issue in the Fullerwood neighborhood quickly.

Commissioner Springfield requested an update on the Florida Avenue Development and supported addressing the Fullerwood neighborhood issue.

Mr. Franklin stated he had attended the Fullerwood Neighborhood meeting and painting curbs was discussed. He proposed identifying where fire hydrants were located, where maximum parking could occur, and proposing a solution to the Commission based on that information. He indicated Fire Rescue also provided input when they experience neighborhood safety issues.

Commissioner Blonder commented on emails she received about the homeless population on St. George Street and in the Plaza. She suggested implementing a Messaging Campaign to encourage visitors to donate to non-profits and homeless services, rather than give money directly individuals.

Mayor Sikes-Kline discussed a QR code option for donating, as well as handing out rack cards or flyers at the Parking Garage and Visitor Information Center.

Mr. Regan added that when visitors called the City, staff should encourage them to donate to shelters.
Commissioner Garris recalled past efforts to support the homeless population in earning money through street performances and suggested looking for another space in the community for that to happen.

Ms. Lopez indicated the market area in the Plaza and the overhang area of the Parking Garage were open to street artists.

Mayor Sikes-Kline agreed with the discussion around homelessness and stated the population had almost doubled since 2019. She encouraged adding a visible police presence on St. George Street.

Commissioner Garris noted there was a greater police presence in the past. She shared that she had met with staff at the St. Francis House to discuss the City's issues with homelessness.

15. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:32 P.M.[2]

Nancy Sikes-Kline, MAYOR

Darlene Galambos, CITY CLERK

CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

[2] Transcribed by Colleen Kuhn