

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

Regular City Commission Meeting
Monday, March 13, 2023

The City Commission met in formal session Monday, March 13, 2023, at 5:02 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
David Birchim, Assistant City Manager
Reuben Franklin, Director, Public Works
Mark Simpson, Finance Director
Greg Johnson, Assistant Finance Director
Amy Skinner, Planning and Zoning Director
Melissa Wissel, Director, Communications
Jennifer Michaux, Police Chief
Carlos Aviles, Fire Chief
Colleen Kuhn, Recording Secretary

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chaplain Mark Sansom, of the St. Augustine Police Department, delivered the invocation, and Commissioner Garris led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

2.A. Modification and Approval of Regular Agenda

The Regular Agenda was APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

3. Special Presentations, Recognitions and Proclamations

3.A. Proclamation 2023-06: Proclaiming March 20-24, 2023, as GOVERNMENT

FINANCE PROFESSIONALS WEEK. (N. Sikes-Kline, Mayor)

Mayor Sikes-Kline presented Proclamation 2023-06 to the City of St. Augustine Finance staff.

3.B. Proclamation 2023-10: Proclaiming the month of March 2023 as ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH (N. Sikes-Kline, Mayor)

Mayor Sikes-Kline presented Proclamation 2023-10 to Archaeology staff members Andrea White and Kathryn Sims.

4. General Public Comments (3 minutes per individual)

The Commission heard from the following members of the public:

- Lauren Giber
- B.J. Kalaidi

Public comment was closed.

5. Consent Agenda

John Regan, City Manager, read the Consent Agenda.

CA.1. Preview of upcoming Commission meetings.

CA.2. THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES ARE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR SECOND READING ON MARCH 27, 2023:

NONE.

CA.3. Reminder of Upcoming Meetings:

- March 27, 2023 5:00p.m., Regular City Commission Meeting
- April 10, 2023 5:00p.m., Regular City Commission Meeting
- April 24, 2023 5:00p.m., Regular City Commission Meeting

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

- February 13, 2023, Regular City Commission Meeting

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

NONE.

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

- **Proclamation 2023-15:** Proclaiming April 2, 2023 as EDUCATION & SHARING DAY, ST. AUGUSTINE, FL. (N. Sikes-Kline, Mayor)

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

- **Proclamation 2023-14:** Declaring April 2023 designated as PARKINSON'S AWARENESS MONTH. (N. Sikes-Kline, Mayor)

CA.8. Request for Use of the City Seal - Society for Advancement of Management. (D. Galambos, City Clerk)

CA.9. Nomination of Dr. Leslee Keys for the 2023 Adelaide Sanchez award. (B. Blonder, Commissioner)

CA.10. Invoice in the amount of \$2,760.00 from Cavendish Partners, P.A. for legal services in the Smith v. City matter. (I. Lopez, City Attorney)

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

None.

5.B. Approval of Consent Agenda

MOTION

Commissioner Blonder. **MOVED** to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Springfield 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

7.B.1. Presentation by Michael L. Mohler, PE, Senior Project Manager Florida Department of Transportation regarding State Road 5A (King Street) Bridge Replacement Detour Plan (R. Franklin, Director, Public Works)

Rueben Franklin, Public Works Director, introduced Mr. Mohler.

Michael Mohler, Senior Project Manager for the King Street Project reviewed a PowerPoint presentation and noted the following phases and timing:

Phase 1

- Carrera Street would allow right-in and right-out only.
- Temporary signals at King and Malaga Streets and restriping on Malaga Street.

Phase 2

- Demolition and construction of the bridge.

Phase 3

- Malaga Street would be resurfaced and returned to preconstruction stripping.

Timing

- 12-14 months duration.
- Detour 8-11 months.
- Project goes to bid in March 2024 and was expected to start the summer of 2024.

The Commissioners and Mr. Mohler discussed concerns with students crossing streets, communication with Flagler College, messaging for the Project, and sidewalks and sharrows on the bridge.

Mayor Sikes-Kline noted her concern about the new Flagler College dormitory and the walking path that was planned. She suggested convening an awareness team of stakeholders like the process used with the Bridge of Lions Project.

Mr. Mohler said he would provide updates on the Project as requested by the Commission.

Mr. Regan asked about the possibility of building a temporary pedestrian bridge south of the construction area.

Mr. Mohler said there would be extra costs and funding considerations for a temporary pedestrian bridge and the idea would have to be researched further.

7.C. Other Items Requiring Public Hearing

None.

8. Ordinances and Resolutions – Public Hearing Required.

8.A. Ordinances – Second Reading

Isabelle Lopez, City Attorney, presented Ordinance 2023-08. She noted staff would work with the Fish and Wildlife Commission to identify appropriate methodologies to demonstrate the need for reduced speeds around Bird Island.

Public hearing was opened; however, there was no response.

MOTION

Commissioner Blonder MOVED to pass Ordinance 2023-08 on second reading and read by title only. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Springfield.

Ms. Lopez read the title as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-08

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA, AMENDING SECTION 7-4 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE REGULATING AND POSTING IDLE SPEED-NO WAKE ZONES; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES, PROVIDING FOR SEVERANCE OF

INVALID PROVISIONS; AND PROVIDING
FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

VOTE ON MOTION:

**AYES: Blonder, Springfield, Garris and
Sikes-Kline.**

NAYES: None.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Commissioner Springfield requested
adding fine amounts to signage.

**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

None.

10. Staff Reports and Presentations

None.

11. ITEMS BY CITY ATTORNEY

**11.A. Legislative update. (For
Information Purposes-no presentation)
(I. Lopez, City
Attorney)**

Ms. Lopez noted the spreadsheet was
updated with new filings. She shared
concerns about a proposed Bill that would
create a pre-emption of Historic
Preservation, and remove the City's ability
to regulate the height, size and design
criteria for replacement structures.

Mayor Sikes-Kline stated there was a
Monday morning call-in with the League of
Cities that anyone could join and that
minutes from the call would be available.

Commissioner Blonder noted her concerns
with the following Bills:

- Senate Bill (SB) 920 restricting the
City from incentivizing people to
increase flood resistance on their
homes.
- SB 1240 and House Bill (HB) 97
prohibiting municipalities from
improving water quality and water
use.

Commissioner Blonder noted that SB 102,
and 106, and HB 229, were potentially
positive for the City. She requested
clarification on HB 359, 111, and 41, and
SB 170.

Ms. Lopez reviewed the Live Local Act, the
Tax Incentive Bill, HB 359, 111, and 41,
and SB 170.

Mr. Regan said Legislative Action Days
typically occurred the first week in April and
invited Commissioners to participate.

12. ITEMS BY CITY CLERK

**12.A. Request for Two (2) appointments
for the Corridor Review Committee
(CRC) (D. Galambos, City Clerk)**

Darlene Galambos, City Clerk, requested
approval for two appointments to the
Corridor Review Committee (CRC). She
noted the opportunities were advertised
appropriately, and that three applications
had been received, including two from
current CRC members who were eligible
for reappointment.

MOTION

**Commissioner Springfield MOVED to
nominate Mr. Dixon and Mr. Cochran
to the Corridor Review Committee. The
motion was SECONDED by Mayor**

Sikes-Kline and APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

12.B. Request for One (1) appointment for the Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB) (D. Galambos, City Clerk)

Ms. Galambos requested one appointment to the Historical Architectural Review Board. She noted the opportunity was advertised appropriately, and that one application had been received from Mr. Paul Weaver, a current Board Member, and eligible for reappointment.

MOTION

Commissioner Blonder MOVED to approve the requested appointment to the Historical Architectural Review Board. The motion was SECONDED by Mayor Sikes-Kline and APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

13. ITEMS BY CITY MANAGER

13.A. Discussion regarding a multi-day Event on Francis Field in September 2023 for the Sing Out Loud Festival. (J. Regan, City Manager)

Mr. Regan shared the request from St. Johns County to reserve the Amphitheater on September 22nd and 23rd for the Sing Out Loud Festival. He indicated the Policy did not allow multi-day events and the request would require approval from the Commission. He said the Event focused on local performers and supported charities.

The Commission shared their experiences with the Event and expressed their support of the Request.

Mr. Regan said the Policy would remain the same and this would be an exception only.

MOTION

Commissioner Springfield MOVED to approve the exception to the Event

Policy and allow the two-day Sing Out Loud event. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Blonder and APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

14. Items by Mayor and Commissioners

Commissioners requested the task list be updated to include reviews of the procedures for nominating individuals for awards, and the City's Parking Ordinance.

Commissioners and staff discussed the process for scheduling workshops.

Commissioner Blonder said she recommended that Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (GTM Research Reserve) be a cooperating agency on the Back Bay Feasibility Study. She encouraged Commissioners to share community input they received regarding the Study.

Commissioner Springfield noted the City may want to consider hiring its own Lobbyist. He updated the Commission on the Sister Cities work.

15. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:36 P.M.¹



Nancy Sikes-Kline, MAYOR



Darlene Galambos, CITY CLERK



¹ Transcribed by Colleen Kuhn