

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

Regular City Commission Meeting
Monday, January 22, 2024

The City Commission met in formal session Monday, January 22, 2024, 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
Roxanne Horvath, Vice Mayor/City Commissioner
Barbara Blonder, City Commissioner
Cynthia Garris, City Commissioner
Jim Springfield, City Commissioner

Also Present: David Birchim, City Manager
Isabelle Lopez, City Attorney
Darlene Galambos, City Clerk
Meredith Breidenstein, Assistant City Manager
Reuben Franklin, Assistant City Manager
Julie Courtney, Historic Preservation Officer
Corey Sakryd, Director, General Services
Amy Skinner, Director, Planning and Building
Melissa Wissel, Director, Communications
Jennifer Michaux, Police Chief
Elyse Wiemann, Recording Secretary

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Minster Stephen Corp of Creekside Christian Church delivered the invocation, and Commissioner Horvath led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

2.A. Modification and Approval of Regular Agenda

MOTION

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

3. Special Presentations, Recognitions and Proclamations

3.A. Certificate of Recognition 2024-02CR: Recognizing the 150th anniversary of the St. Augustine Yacht Club. (C. Garris, Commissioner)

4. General Public Comments (3 minutes per individual)

The Commission heard from the following members of the public:

- Meredith Stroud
- Scott York
- Marta Hahn
- Barbara Olson
- Maureen Long
- Nancy Murphy
- Chris Fulmer
- Jon Hodgins
- Susan Hill
- Marcia Daniels
- Lisa McGlynn
- BJ Kalaidi

5. Consent Agenda

David Birchim, 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 FEBRUARY 12, 2024: NONE.

CA.3. Reminder of Upcoming Meetings:

- February 12, 2024, 4:30pm, presentation of the deAviles Award
- February 12, 2024, 5:00pm, Regular City Commission Meeting
- February 26, 2024, 5:00pm, Regular City Commission Meeting
- March 11, 2024, 5:00pm, Regular City Commission Meeting

CA.4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR COMMISSION MEETINGS: NONE.

CA.5. RELEASES OF LIEN FOR UNIT CONNECTION FEE MORTGAGE(S): NONE.

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

- Proclamation 2024-03: Proclaiming February 16-19, 2024, as Great Backyard Bird Count Week
- Certificate of Recognition to James Hill for helping to secure Robert B. Hayling Freedom Park as a site on the Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail

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

- Proclamation 2024-02: Proclaiming January 19, 2024, as Arbor Day in the City of St. Augustine. (N. Sikes-Kline, Mayor)

- Certificate of Recognition to Gina Burrell for over 19 years of volunteer service on the City's Street Tree Advisory Committee

CA.8. Approval for the St. Augustine Police Department to donate eight ballistic helmets, five communications headsets and two ballistic shields to the Welaka Police Department. (J. Michaux, Chief of Police)

CA.9. Final subdivision plat approval of Phase 2A Unit 2 Madeira at St. Augustine. (A. Skinner, Director Planning and Building)

CA.10. Legal department quarterly report. (I. Lopez, City Attorney)

End 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 Mayor Sikes-Kline 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

7.A.1. Presentation by J. W. Brinkley requesting approval of his offer to purchase, construct and operate a carousel at Davenport Park. (C. Sakryd, Director General Services)

J. W. Brinkley and Chris Reinheimer provided a brief presentation to the Commission about the proposed carousel at Davenport Park.

Commissioner Horvath asked if the carousel shown was the one that had been purchased. She said more information regarding the carousel should be provided before she could be in favor.

Mr. Reinheimer replied the carousel size was the same; however, the coloring would be slightly different to be more in line with St. Augustine.

Commissioner Springfield asked for a site plan to understand the exact location of the carousel.

Mr. Brinkley stated the carousel would be in the same location as the previous one and the ticket booth was shown to be larger than the actual size. He said they were not encroaching one foot into the park. He said the lights on the carousel were able to be adjusted and the sound would be controlled. He said the area would be enhanced with pavers and plants upon approval. He said Christina Parrish-Stone at the Cultural Center would be managing the carousel. He noted it would arrive in the next two weeks and he did not want to have to pay for storage until this was approved. He said he wanted to provide a first-class merry-go-round.

Commissioner Springfield advised at the last meeting the Commission had questions about the original site plan and asked for an update.

Commissioner Blonder agreed she wanted the carousel back; however, more details were needed to understand exactly what would be approved. She asked for the implementation of a safety plan to be added. She also requested details regarding the agreement with Christina Parrish-Stone.

Ms. Lopez advised any provisions could be added. She informed the applicant this was under the Entry Corridor rules for San Marco Avenue and the design guidelines had to be followed.

Commissioner Garris felt it would be best if Ms. Parrish-Stone was able to speak regarding her involvement instead of just hearsay. She suggested having a bathroom onsite instead of having to depend on the other businesses in the area. She said the ticket booth was too large and thought the pictures did not provide enough details.

Mr. Brinkley replied that the bathrooms had never been an issue as their hours mirrored the library. He said they would have a contract with Ms. Parrish-Stone and an attendant would be in the ticket booth. He noted they would have an insurance policy naming the City of St. Augustine.

Commissioner Springfield asked for clarification regarding the hours as the contract stated differently.

Commissioner Blonder suggested adding an annual safety check.

Mayor Sikes-Kline reiterated the concerns were the lack of a site plan to scale, image of the exact product and the dimensions, clearly stated hours of operations, and the addition of an annual safety inspection.

7.B. Items of Great Public Importance

(None)

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)

8.C.1. Resolution 2024-02: Review of the recommendation by the Historic Architectural Review Board and Resolution granting an ad valorem tax exemption for a historic property located at 30 Sanford Street. (J. Courtney, Historic Preservation Officer)

Julie Courtney, Historic Preservation Officer reviewed the Resolution.

Mayor Sikes-Kline thanked the applicant and Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB) for taking the time to encourage him to move forward with restoring the historic property.

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

MOTION

Mayor Sikes-Kline MOVED to pass Resolution 2024-02. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Horvath.

VOTE ON MOTION:

AYES: Sikes-Kline, Horvath, Garris, Springfield, Blonder

NAYES: NONE

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

9. Ordinances and Resolutions - No Public Hearing Required

9.A. Ordinances – First Reading

(None)

9.B. Resolutions

9.B.1. Resolution 2024-03: Amends the Order of Business for City Commission meetings. (I. Lopez, City Attorney)

Isabelle Lopez, City Attorney reviewed the Resolution.

MOTION

Commissioner Horvath MOVED to pass Resolution 2024-03. The motion was SECONDED by Mayor Sikes-Kline.

VOTE ON MOTION:

AYES: Horvath, Sikes-Kline, Garris, Springfield, Blonder

NAYES: NONE

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

9.B.2. Resolution 2024-04: Modifies the policy for the presentation of certain awards by the City Commission. (M. Wissel, Director Communications)

Melissa Wissel, Communications Director reviewed the Resolution.

Commissioner Springfield asked the history behind the citizenship awards. He questioned why it was not kept within the City and to include the middle and elementary schools. He said there were six schools where City residents attended.

Commissioner Horvath agreed it would be good to keep it within the City due to the rapid growth in the County.

Mayor Sikes-Kline asked if that would limit it to two high schools.

Ms. Wissel replied there was one high school within the City which was the Florida School of the Deaf and Blind (FSDB).

Commissioner Springfield clarified that it should be the school zones.

Mr. Birchim advised St. Joseph Academy Catholic High School would be annexed in the City soon.

Ms. Wissel felt it would be a tremendous burden to require the schools to nominate a City resident for the award. She said that

it was the schools that chose recipients from all over the County. She said requiring the student to be a City resident would be even more cumbersome. She said currently they had eleven awards but felt this could be explored more.

Commissioner Springfield noted the recipient did not have to be a resident of the City but felt it should be limited to the schools that were zoned for the City.

Commissioner Garris questioned why the Citizenship award was limited to students. She felt it could be expanded to citizens in the community doing exceptional things.

Mayor Sikes-Kline replied the spirit of the program was geared toward students, and the schools select their own students. She said the City provided Certificates of Recognition to adults in the community who did outstanding work.

Ms. Wissel commented that was also what the Order of La Florida, de Aviles Award, and Adelaide Sanchez Award were used for.

Commissioner Blonder asked if the staff could provide a recommendation regarding the Citizenship awards. She said keeping the award geared towards students was a wonderful tradition but felt the County was becoming more populous and would be difficult to include.

Mayor Sikes-Kline welcomed the eleven award recipients as it was a joyous occasion and felt more was always welcomed; however, understood the concern and asked Ms. Wissel to provide more information outside of this Resolution.

Ms. Wissel asked if the Citizenship award could be taken out of this Resolution and write a separate one for the Citizenship awards only.

Ms. Lopez advised that could be done. She said this Resolution was to be in line with

what had taken place with the awards. She said in the future if there was a new concept and a Resolution was needed, that could be done.

MOTION

Commissioner Springfield MOVED to pass Resolution 2024-04. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Horvath and approved by UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

10. Staff Reports and Presentations

10.A. Discussion regarding selecting, acquiring and managing properties in the Conservation Acquisition Program. (R. Franklin, Assistant City Manager)

Reuben Franklin, Assistant City Manager reviewed the topic with the Commission. He reviewed the following:

- Proposed Mission Statement and Goals
- Conservation Program Selection Matrix
- Next Steps in the Program

Mayor Sikes-Kline questioned the goal to encourage a community land ethic, and asked if there was an education component. She said she agreed with the goal; however, felt it was not fully explained. She suggested perhaps it should be to encourage community land ethics and stewardship. She said the main goal was to foster the future.

Mr. Franklin confirmed there was an educational component about why these lands were important. He said that would include the interpretive signage. He said the longer the program the more the goals and matrix would be revised.

Commissioner Blonder agreed that promoting good stewardship should be included.

Mayor Sikes-Kline suggested changing it to 'encourage a community land ethic and promote good stewardship'.

Mr. Franklin noted the matrix was simplified and higher level. He said the properties would be ranked according to the different categories and the Commission would determine which properties to acquire.

Mayor Sikes-Kline asked if each category ranking would be valued up to five points. She thought Cultural Resources was too broad and felt that needed to be expanded.

Mr. Franklin stated they could add additional criteria for archeological resources and if there was a historic structure on the property, points could be added. He said additional points could be assessed if the land was within a National Register District. He said that could be added under Cultural Resources as additional criteria.

Mayor Sikes-Kline suggested bringing several case studies to fully understand how the matrix would work.

Mr. Franklin said there had been several people reach out about different properties and once those were assessed with the matrix those could be presented to the Commission. He stated once the goals and mission statement were solidified, a website would be created with the pertinent information, a committee with qualified City staff would be developed and establish a launch date. He said afterwards, they would do community outreach to make the citizens aware of the program. He said they would need about a month after approval to get everything in working condition.

Commissioner Springfield said water access or recreation were not the primary reasons to acquire land, but it was mainly for conservation. He thought the matrix could be manipulated easily.

Mayor Sikes-Kline agreed and felt the different categories and rankings needed explanations.

Mr. Franklin said there would be a draft management plan provided for each property; however, the Commission would be able to prioritize the properties.

Commissioner Blonder thought the criteria 'provides water access' was redundant to the 'protection of hydrological resources' and felt it could be eliminated.

Commissioner Blonder said the overall goal should be kept in the forefront, as many people value open space, the ecosystem and enjoy nature. She pointed out the overall goal was conservation and resiliency. She said connectivity between protected areas, agriculture, and open space was vital to conservation. She thought connectivity and inholding should be added and could be under the 'special value' category.

At the request of Mayor Sikes-Kline, Commissioner Blonder explained an inholding was a piece of property within an existing natural area that could be developed but would impair the natural area.

Mr. Franklin advised he would make the changes and provide several examples of properties scoring with the matrix.

10.B. Presentation of a proposed 90-day pedestrian pilot project for Spanish Street. (R. Franklin, Assistant City Manager)

Reuben Franklin, Assistant City Manager reviewed the pilot program on Spanish Street. He noted the existing conditions, and then provided suggestions on how to address the issues. He said they have tried to reach out to everyone the pilot program would impact and once the construction was over, the program would commence.

Commission Horvath asked if the southern drive on the Tolomato lot would be named. She said it would be difficult to give someone directions.

Mr. Franklin said during the pilot program, they were not planning to; however, they would be assessing that during the program and thought some signage may be necessary if made permanent.

Commissioner Springfield was concerned with the businesses and landowners being informed as they received deliveries and should be notified. He thought many were familiar with Cuna Street being a one-way east. He said at this point, they could be surveyed to see if there were any issues. He agreed that option three was best. He said Tolomato Lane south would need to be maintained especially during the pilot period as there would be more delivery traffic. He noted directional signage would be needed as it was confusing exiting the Tolomato parking lot.

Mr. Franklin acknowledged that option three would fit best with the future project plans. He advised the improvements to the Tolomato Lot were supposed to be included with the Spanish Street Project but it had to split due to construction cost. He said the intent was to create loading zones in the parking lot and eliminate the loading zone on Spanish Street and the trash compactor. He said it would all be accessed through Cordova Street.

Commissioner Springfield noted if that happened, Spanish Street could be walkable from Cuna Street down to Orange Street.

Commissioner Garris commended Mr. Franklin on the designs and agreed option three was best. She felt the area should be walkable and this could provide another amount of safety.

Commissioner Blonder agreed the third option was best and thought this would be a great model to learn from as there were

other streets that had issues with vehicular traffic and pedestrians.

Mayor Sikes-Kline agreed with option three and thought this would be a good way to work through issues.

MOTION

Mayor Sikes-Kline MOVED to pass the agreement to move forward with the pilot program for 90 days and bring reports back to the Commission on a regular basis. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Springfield and APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

Commissioner Springfield noted a real estate office was on the corner and thought it might be advantageous to offer them two parking spaces while this was taking place.

10.C. Discussion of the results of the 2023 Citizen Survey. (M. Wissel, Director Communications)

Melissa Wissel, Communications Director provided a brief overview of the 2023 Citizen Survey. She reviewed the key findings and areas for improvement. She requested the approval of the Commission to conduct a communications outreach survey to understand how people received information and what they could do to improve.

Mayor Sikes-Kline felt there was a void of local journalism concerning the issues although some of the information provided was misinformation as there was not a local news source. She encouraged the Communications department to provide the facts and get out the correct information. She encouraged more solutions regarding mobility as the survey was focused on automobile travel; however, there were other alternatives.

Commissioner Garris agreed a survey needed to be conducted and thought it could be sent with people's water bill. She

said since the St. Augustine Record was lost; the people felt a disconnect with local news. She said people wanted to know what was taking place in their community. She said there was an opportunity with the water bill as they were provided each month.

Commissioner Horvath thanked Ms. Wissel for her work and agreed another survey would be beneficial.

Commissioner Springfield thought it would be important to explain different positions in City government. He felt more information was key. He said the newsletters produced by the Communications department and the City website provided a lot of information.

10.D. Presentation to review and discuss updating the City's parking code including recommendations by the Planning and Zoning Board. (A. Skinner, Director Planning and Building)

Amy Skinner, Planning and Building Director introduced the topic and noted the Planning and Zoning Board made final recommendations regarding the parking code to be consistent with the mobility plan.

Jacob Fredriksson, Planning and Building Planning Manager reviewed the update to the proposed parking code and the recommendations from the Planning and Zoning Board.

Commissioner Blonder asked if the update would discourage or eliminate surface parking lots within the City core.

Mr. Fredriksson said economically it made sense to develop a surface parking lot in an area where there was limited parking. He said allowing infill development and reducing the requirements might be a more attractive use of the property.

Commissioner Horvath said if there was a property that wanted to have solid asphalt,

and perhaps a requirement could be to have underground water storage to help combat flooding.

Mr. Fredriksson replied that a review of the landscaping code in relation to parking lots would be conducted because open space and landscaping were more desirable.

Mayor Sikes-Kline appreciated the payments in lieu of and thought it would be beneficial moving forward and felt the shared parking provision was overdue. She asked how the 1,320 feet distance was determined as off-site parking of 400 feet was able to be administratively approved. Mr. Fredriksson said it was a walkable length between five to fifteen minutes.

Commissioner Horvath was concerned about the off-site parking leases ending when a property owner wanted to build.

Mr. Fredriksson said they were looking into a new software program that could help track the share parking leases.

10.E. Petition for Voluntary Annexation and Pre-Annexation Agreement - for three parcels of land: Fish Island Marina and adjacent marsh pieces north of West Marina Cove Drive (PID1622010000, PID1622000000, PID1622050000). (A. Skinner, Director Planning and Building)

Amy Skinner Director Planning and Building Department reviewed the Voluntary Annexation and Pre-Annexation Agreement for three parcels of land at Fish Island Marina and adjacent marsh pieces north of West Marian Cove Drive.

Mayor Sikes-Kline noted she received many emails from concerned citizens. She questioned why the two parcels on the north were being included.

Ms. Skinner noted those were included to avoid creating an enclave, which was illegal. She advised the petitioner to ask for multi-family development.

Commissioner Springfield asked if the man-made lagoon would be filled in. He questioned if the trees would have to be removed.

Gary Davenport, representative for the petitioners, replied that a portion of the lagoon would be filled and was in bad condition. He said if they were developing multi-family housing, a lot of the trees would be removed; however, his client was exploring the option of developing a lower single-family density which would preserve more of the trees. He added out of the twenty acres, only three and half would be developed.

Mayor Sikes-Kline felt a marina was more of a need and was not interested in developing the land for residential housing.

Commissioner Blonder said there was a lack of information and for that reason she was unable to support the petition. She said even if the marina was impaired it was helping the wildlife habitat and filling it would reduce the ecosystem services of resilience and flood control.

Commissioner Springfield agreed there was a lack of information and thought more details should be provided.

Commissioner Horvath asked the reason for the annexation. She agreed that more information should be provided. She said taking down habitat was against what the Commission was trying to achieve. She said currently they were trying to obtain properties to help mitigate flooding.

Mr. Davenport said the property could not be residential in the county. He asked if they could postpone and come back with a conceptual plan for residential with a private marina if that was a consideration.

Mayor Sikes-Kline asked if the Commission was willing to entertain residential with a private marina. She said they should be clear about what they would entertain.

Commissioner Blonder said the misinformation was due to the lack of information. She was not in favor as it did not service the City's best interest or its citizens to have a more intensive use.

Commissioner Springfield and Commissioner Garris agreed this should not be developed as a residential area.

There was consensus to not move forward with the Petition for Voluntary Annexation and Pre-Annexation Agreement - for three parcels of land: Fish Island Marina and adjacent marsh pieces north of West Marina Cove Drive.

Mr. Davenport requested that the Commission allow the applicant to possibly work with the City Manager.

MOTION

Mayor Sikes-Kline MOVED to CONTINUE The Application to give the applicant the opportunity to withdraw voluntarily. The motion was Seconded by Commissioner Springfield.

VOTE ON MOTION:

AYES: Sikes-Kline, Springfield, Garris, Blonder, Horvath

NAYES: NONE

11. ITEMS BY CITY ATTORNEY

Ms. Lopez advised she provided information from a law firm that was seeking to represent individuals or City entities in litigation for the new state requirement requiring all elected state officers to file a Form 6 instead of the Form 1. She said as of July 1, 2024, the Commissioners would have to file a more extensive financial disclosure form. She asked if any of the Commissioners wished to join individually or if they would want to join as a City entity. She said the flat fee was \$10,000 for the entity or individually the fee was \$2,000. She said this was the same requirement that county and state officials were required to file. She asked for

direction on how the Commission wanted to proceed.

Commissioner Horvath said she had not had time to review the documentation.

Commissioner Springfield said there was a webinar which was extremely helpful. He said individual items were not listed but anything over \$1,000 was included and you had to provide your net worth. He spoke in favor of the lawsuit and understood the value as it was more of a political statement and government intrusion.

Mayor Sikes-Kline said no matter if they joined the lawsuit or not, it was a requirement by law and the forms had to be filed.

Commissioner Blonder pointed out the Form 1 was to be transparent and identify any areas of conflict. She said by requiring this type of information, more people would be discouraged from running for office. She was in support of the City participating in the lawsuit.

Commissioner Horvath agreed and was in favor of joining the lawsuit.

Commissioner Garris was in support of the lawsuit as it felt like an intrusion. She thought this was a way to make a stand for what was not correct.

Mayor Sikes-Kline agreed and wanted to send a message about it; however, it did not resolve them from filing the form and they would be transparent. She reiterated she would do what was required by law.

Ms. Lopez confirmed the Commissioners did not want to join the lawsuit as individuals but would join as a City entity. She stated she would follow up with the law firm to see if a Resolution was needed and if it was required, it would be on the following agenda.

MOTION

Commissioner Springfield MOVED to join the lawsuit regarding Form 6 in a negative way as it was an intrusion on their personal life to be of service. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Horvath and was APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

12. ITEMS BY CITY CLERK

Notification of one vacancy and two term expirations on the Code Enforcement, Adjustment and Appeals Board. (D. Galambos, City Clerk)

Darlene Galambos, City Clerk notified the Commission of a resignation from the Code Enforcement Adjustments and Appeals Board, by Irvin Rubin, which made a total of three vacancies. She advised that the positions had been advertised since the end of October and no applications had been received.

Mr. Birchim stated under state law the City had the ability to transition to a special magistrate process. He said the City had a special magistrate under a continuing services contract and would perform the same duties. He said the special magistrate would have to be compensated and would be a law firm under contract with the City and be either a retired judge or attorney. He said this would provide consistent judication for cases and take pressure off the volunteer citizens to make hard decisions about their neighbors. He said they were having a difficult time filling these positions as it was not an easy board to sit on.

Commissioner Blonder noted being on the Board could also result in retaliation.

Commissioner Springfield pointed out many counties and cities in Northeast Florida used special magistrates, which allowed for a better response as it was

more of a formal process. He was in support of the special magistrate.

Commissioner Horvath stated she served on the Code Enforcement Board, and it was very stressful. She was in favor of the special magistrate.

Commissioner Garris noted there needed to be someone to enforce the rules.

Mayor Sikes-Kline agreed it was difficult as she had served as Vice-Chairman of the St. Augustine Beach Code Enforcement. Mr. Birchim said there was a local hearing process and would be heard by the special magistrate. He said it would be the same process and publicly advertised just no longer a citizen board.

MOTION

Commissioner Springfield MOVED to request the City Manager to move from a citizen committee to a special magistrate for the Code Enforcement Board. The motion was SECONDED by Mayor Sikes-Kline and APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Birchim said more details would be provided. He said the Code Enforcement Board was also the Adjustment and Appeals Board that reviewed Building Code Variances. He said those who were on the Code Enforcement Board, if eligible, could transition to that role. He expressed the service of the Board members was greatly appreciated.

13. ITEMS BY CITY MANAGER

(None)

14. Items by Mayor and Commissioners

Commissioner Garris invited the Commission to the naming of Kelly's Alley which would take place on Thursday, at 1:30p.m.

Commissioner Horvath provided an update on the Public Art Committee. She said the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) would be sent out in February. She thanked David Bagnall for his service on the board but advised that he had resigned. She said Randal Roark, if approved by the Commission, was willing to volunteer. She asked if Mr. Roark could be accepted on the five-person panel. She said the art piece would be located in a spot where pedestrians could not touch it and asked for extra monies to have an interpretive panel, which would be located near the Waterworks building. She said she did not feel the interpretive panel would be terribly expensive but wanted it to be a separate line item.

Ms. Galambos noted the recent panel that was done had been under \$1,500; however, the pillar had been done by City staff. She stated she could obtain cost estimates if needed.

Ms. Lopez asked if the interpretive panel would be available in the future but not part of the \$250,000 budget.

There was consensus that the interpretive panel would be an extra part of the project and not included in the \$250,000 budget for the main art piece.

MOTION

Commissioner Horvath MOVED to add Randal Roark to the Public Art Committee. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Springfield and APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

Commissioner Blonder clarified her vote regarding the Night Life Ordinance. She said she voted 'no' as a good faith effort with the St. Augustine Business Coalition to police their own; however, felt that was not being done. She said she was told that was their intent. She expressed her disappointment when there were incidents taking place and the noise that was

generated and the quality of life was being affected. She expected better and felt the quality of life and safety of the citizens should be a top priority.

Mayor Sikes-Kline agreed, and she had been deeply disappointed with what had taken place. She said the main concern was keeping the community safe.

Commissioner Springfield said he had spoken with the City Manager about the noise, but progress was being made even though it was slow. He reminded the African American Museum for the State of Florida could potentially be in St. Johns County and he felt it was important to send letters to Tallahassee in support of the museum. He considered the moment of silence that was enacted to be part of being a compassionate city. He complimented Commissioner Blonder on Arbor Day Ceremony and congratulated Gina Burrell again on her service.

Mayor Sikes-Kline stated the sound ordinance was problematic and thought it would take strong political will; however, it should be addressed. She asked if the Commission agreed to hiring a consultant to begin the process.

There was consensus to move forward to begin the process to addressing the noise ordinance.

Mayor Sikes-Kline proposed creating a formal statement for funds being directed from the parking garage revenue into historic preservation efforts. She said since those dollars had been being spent, she asked to formalize it and within that group of dollars it should be allocated to historic preservation projects each year. She wanted to do both the historic preservation and land conservation efforts in parallel. She said she would work with staff to provide more information.

Commissioner Horvath asked if a letter would be sent on behalf of the African American Museum.

Mayor Sikes-Kline agreed to write a letter in support of the museum and if time permits, a resolution could be drafted.

15. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 P.M.¹


Nancy Sikes-Kline, MAYOR


Darlene Galambos, CITY CLERK



¹ Transcribed by Elyse Wiemann