

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

City Commission Special Meeting
Monday, May 13, 2024

The City Commission met in formal session Monday, May 13, 2024 at 3:30 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
Stephen Slaughter, Director, Public Works and Utilities
Jessica Beach, Deputy Director, Public Works and Utilities
Jennifer Michaux, Police Chief
Carlos Aviles, Fire Chief Wiemann, Recording Secretary

2. General Public Comments

The Commissioners heard from the following members of the public:

(None)

3. STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

3.A. City of St. Augustine Strategic Plan. (David Birchim, City Manager)

Mr. Birchim reviewed the Strategic Plan with the Commission and noted if there were updates they could be made at this time. He said the plan was broken down into four categories which were as following:

- Livability
- Authenticity
- Character
- Vitality

Commissioner Springfield explained under 'Vitality' on the Vision plan one of the goals was to "promote attracting visitors who value the City's unique blend..." He asked how the monies from the Tourist Development Council (TDC) were spent to target visitors directly to St. Augustine or were they more focused on St. Johns County. He said he would like to promote both incentives to ensure a balance in the development of businesses, recreation, education and culture for residents and visitors and tourists who value the unique blend of history, arts, and culture.

Commissioner Horvath asked when an update from the Visitors Convention and Bureau (VCB) would be provided. She said she thought the advertisement was aimed more towards culture and history.

Mr. Birchim replied that he could reach out to the VCB for a presentation as they had

their own plans that focused not only on the City but also on St. Johns County.

Commissioner Garris noted she participated with the VCB and said they provided a great presentation which encouraged visitors to visit the City.

Mayor Sikes-Kline added she represented the City on the Tourist Development Council (TDC) and a tremendous amount of effort was put into attracting Heritage Tourist as those were the visitors who were interested in the City's history and they stayed longer to explore the City. She said the Cultural Council was intently focused on tourism; however, the monies spent by the VCB were more broadly focused. She said as far as development and community incentives were concerned the Commission was very mindful but did not feel they had created incentives.

Mr. Birchim said with A Planned Unit Development (PUD) rezoning was not the exact same but similar as they had to provide public benefit. He said developers were able to create their own entitlements and if the entitlements were equal to the public benefit, they would be allowed.

Mayor Sikes-Kline thought that could be explored further.

Mr. Birchim mentioned that Commissioner Springfield brought up the West City Community Redevelopment Area (WCCRA) that would create pockets of monies to help residents fix up their homes which would be an incentive to keep residents in their homes but would only be in the boundaries within the CRA.

Mr. Birchim noted the Plan had been updated last year in detail and most items were being addressed. He said he did not see an urgent need to go through the update process unless the Commission wished to, the same process could be followed in early summer.

Commissioner Blonder noted that the Vision and Mission statement said that natural assets were incorporated but thought the historic and archaeological value was missing and felt it should be added. She noted a typo in the blue banner on page twenty.

Mayor Sikes-Kline agreed and felt it should be added to the vision statement. She said Resiliency and Sustainability should include similar language.

Mr. Birchim asked for clarification on what the recommended changes were.

Mayor Sikes-Kline replied that the Historic Preservation and Archeology objective it should reflect the same language as the Resiliency and Sustainability.

Mayor Sikes-Kline said on the Vision Plan page seven under authenticity the last paragraph needed to be changed to "support" because the historic preservation plan had been completed.

4. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE

4.A. Capital Improvement Plan (S. Slaughter, Director Utilities & Public Works).

Stephen Slaughter Director Utilities and Public Works reviewed the Capital Improvement Plan. He discussed the following with the Commission:

- Project Schedule
- Status of each project
- Review of Proposed additional projects to the CIP

Reuben Franklin, Assistant City Manager, provided a brief update on the King Street San Sebastian Water Main Horizontal Directionally Drilled (HDD) project. He said once there was a specific timeline, it would be provided.

Commissioner Garris asked when the Lake Maria Sanchez Flood Mitigation and Drainage project would begin.

Mr. Slaughter replied that there were two phases. He said the first phase would be the installation of the stormwater infrastructure that would lead to Lake Maria Sanchez and the second phase was the stormwater pumping station. He said the reason was the hopes of starting construction prior to 2028.

Commissioner Blonder thanked Jessica Beach, Chief Resiliency Officer for the Vulnerable Asset graphic as it was very informative.

Mr. Slaughter identified two projects that needed to be addressed; however, he suggested moving forward with the Tolomato Parking Lot and postponing the Sevilla Street project. He said the Tolomato Parking lot would provide improvements to the commercial loading zones, solid waste, and traffic.

Mayor Sikes-Kline said this had been a plan for a long time and was disappointed that it had been postponed due to funding; however, in order to move delivery trucks off the road, it was important to move forward with Tolomato Lot.

Commissioner Blonder said she noticed the traffic delays due to the delivery trucks and was in support of moving forward with the Tolomato Lot.

Commissioner Springfield asked if Sevilla Street included the utilities underground. He asked what problems could arise by postponing Sevilla Street for another year.

Mr. Slaughter replied it was a complete street project and utilities were included. He said the community had a vested interest in the storm water as it would address those issues, but it was a funding matter.

Commissioner Springfield said Tolomato Lot was critical but would like to review other options that could be delayed so these two could be completed.

Mr. Slaughter said that perhaps another project could be postponed and both Sevilla Street and Tolomato Lot could be completed. He said he would review all the projects with staff to determine any options.

Commissioner Blonder noted there were \$80 million dollars in resiliency projects taking place. She said some of them maybe in the Back Bay plan but did not want anything done now be redone in that study.

Mr. Slaughter said that was the intent.

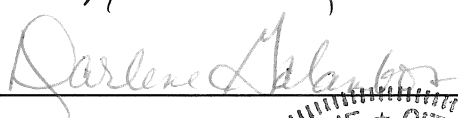
5. ITEMS BY MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS

6. Adjournment

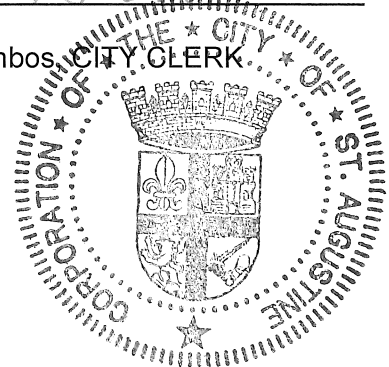
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:18 P.M.¹



Nancy Sikes-Kline, MAYOR



Darlene Galambos, CITY CLERK



¹ Transcribed by Elyse Wiemann