

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

Regular City Commission Meeting
Monday, August 26, 2024

The City Commission met in formal session Monday, August 26, 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
Amy Skinner, Director, Planning and Building
Jacob Fredriksson, Planning Manager, Planning and Building
Melissa Wissel, Director, Communications
Jennifer Michaux, Police Chief
Abigail Pedigo, Division Chief/Fire Marshall
Elyse Wiemann, Recording Secretary

MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Sikes-Kline requested a moment of silence and Commissioner Horvath led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

2.A. Modification and Approval of Regular Agenda

MOTION

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

3. Special Presentations, Recognitions and Proclamations

(None)

4. General Public Comments (3 minutes per individual)

The Commission heard from the following members of the public:

- Robin Thomas
- Gina Burrell
- Toni Kern
- Emily Bell
- Marta Hern
- Ann Soloman
- Bruce Cathcart
- Vicki Pepper
- Barbara Olson
- Maureen Long
- Chris Fullmer
- BJ Kalaidi

Mayor Sikes-Kline asked if the City Manager David Birchim could address the situation regarding the Anastasia State Park.

Mr. Birchim advised the park was inside the St. Augustine city limits and when the development proposal was presented to the City by the State, action may have to be taken by the Planning and Zoning Board (PZB) or by the City Commission to approve or deny the proposed project. He said it was not appropriate for the City to make a position on the project in advance of the public hearings. He said during the public hearings the State would outline its proposal and then elected and appointed officials could decide the City's position. He said if a position was taken in advance of that process, the process would be corrupted. He asked for the community to be patient as they went through the process.

Mayor Sikes- Kline said she was very grateful for the passion of the people and allowing their voices to be heard.

Commissioner Blonder stated public input was the best way for governments to make decisions. She thanked the public for coming and expressing their concerns regarding the state park.

Commissioner Springfield thanked everyone for coming to let their voices be heard. He said this was the way democracy worked and encouraged the community to express their concerns to all politicians who may have an opportunity to have a voice on the project.

Commissioner Garriss thanked everyone for commenting and emailing about the topic. She said they were advised not to respond in order to not corrupt the process. She said she appreciated everyone's passion.

Commissioner Horvath thanked everyone for coming and for providing education on

the wildlife in the area and encouraged the community to keep up the good work.

Mayor Sikes-Kline encouraged the community to stay involved, informed, and take the Department of Environmental Protection's survey. She said the survey could be found on their website.

Commissioner Blonder said the Commission was bound by the Sunshine Law and everything that was sent to a commissioner was public record. She asked if a citizen could find out more information about the project under the Sunshine Law.

Isabelle Lopez, the City Attorney replied that public record requests had been made from some groups to the DEP and various other agencies from what she was seeing on social media. She said the State was not required to follow the Sunshine Law, but they did have to follow the public records law.

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 DATE: NONE

CA.3. Reminder of Upcoming Meetings:

- SEPTEMBER 5, 2024, 5:05PM, Special City Commission Budget Meeting
- SEPTEMBER 9, 2024, 4:30PM, Order of La Florida Award presentation to William "Bill" Dudley.
- SEPTEMBER 9, 2024, 5:00PM, Regular City Commission Meeting
- SEPTEMBER 19, 2024, 5:05PM, Special City Commission Budget Meeting
- SEPTEMBER 23, 2024, 4:30PM, Order of La Florida Award presentation to Pastor Laverne March

- SEPTEMBER 23, 2024, 5:00PM,
Regular City Commission Meeting

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

- JULY 8, 2024-Special City
Commission Meeting (WCCRA Steering
Committee Interviews)

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

- 4461 Sartillo Road-Richard
Steinmeyer
- 56 Carrera Street-Bcs Acquisition
Group LLC

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

Certificate of Recognition: Recognizes the
Honorable Marivi Monteserin, Mayor of
Avilés, Spain, and her delegation for their
contributions to and participation in the
100th Anniversary Celebration of our sister
city relationship with Avilés, Spain. (N.
Sikes-Kline, Mayor)

Proclamation 2024-28: Proclaims the
month of September 2024 as National
Recovery Month-Discover and Recover
Community Organization. (N. Sikes-Kline,
Mayor)

Proclamation 2024-28: Proclaims the
month of September 2024 as National
Recovery Month-The Oxford House. (N.
Sikes-Kline, Mayor)

CA.7. NOTIFICATION OF
PROCLAMATIONS/CERTIFICATES OF
RECOGNITION ISSUED: NONE.

CA.8. Permission to use City Flag in
celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the
sister city relationship with Avilés Spain.
(M. Wissel, Communications Director)
End Consent Agenda

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

(None)

5.B. Approval of Consent Agenda

MOTION

**Mayor Sikes-Kline MOVED to approve
the Consent Agenda. The motion was
SECONDED by Commissioner Horvath
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. City of St. Augustine 2014 Vision
Plan Update. (A. Skinner, Director
Planning and Building)**

Amy Skinner, Planning and Building
Director, provided a brief introduction of the
North Florida Regional Council who would
be assisting with the update the City of St.
Augustine's 2014 Vision Plan. She said
this update would take place over the
upcoming months.

Monica Domingues, Program Manager and
Joe Cearley, Regional Planner from the
North Florida Regional Council provided a
brief overview of what would take place
with the Vision Plan update, and the
community meetings that would take place.
She said the first meeting would take place
on September 12, 2024, and would be the
only meeting to be between 5:00p.m.-
7:00p.m. to respect the library hours. She
said every other meeting would be from
6:00p.m.- 8:00p.m.

Mayor Sikes-Kline asked for clarification
regarding the format of the community
meetings.

Ms. Domingues replied there would be a short presentation and public input would be highly encouraged. She said there were several ways input from the community could be gathered from breakout sessions, interactive activities and using the public comment email. She said the report would be presented to the Commission in January 2025.

Commissioner Blonder thought the outline provided was great; however, felt more information should be provided. She asked what report would be presented in December and in January.

Ms. Domingues replied that there would be a vision narrative based on public input received, and the updated vision would be provided. She said a verbatim list of all the public comments would be distributed to the Commission for review. She said the draft of the vision would be reviewed by the three citizen boards in December.

Commissioner Horvath asked if their email for public comments would be on the City's website. She asked for this information to be distributed to the neighborhood committees and for the past visioning committee. She said she was excited for the North Florida Regional Council to be helping with this endeavor.

Ms. Skinner stated the email would be provided on the City's website.

Commissioner Springfield asked how the information being distributed. He said without the local paper it seemed to be very difficult.

Ms. Domingues said the Council would be posting the information on a variety of social media platforms, their newsletter, and website, along with assistance from the City.

Commissioner Springfield said the focus should not be on the downtown area alone but should include the entire City in totality.

Ms. Skinner said when the Regional Council and City Staff did the tour, they visited the four corners of the City. She said they wanted to be all inclusive. She reiterated that the Regional Council would distribute information through all their platforms and the City would provide information through the News and Notes newsletter and through the radio show, The Break Room.

Commissioner Springfield encouraged them to set very specific goals regarding the vision plan in order to achieve what was set forth.

Mayor Sikes-Kline said she felt the vision statement was great; however, felt it could be improved upon.

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

8.A.1. 8.A.1. Ordinance 2024-28: **Amends littering regulations related to balloon releases. (A. Owen, Assistant City Attorney**

Isabelle Lopez, City Attorney, presented Ordinance 2024-28.

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

Commissioner Horvath stated was she was pleased it had been adopted by the state.

MOTION

Commissioner Horvath MOVED to pass Ordinance 2024-28 on second reading.

The motion was **SECONDED** by
Commissioner Springfield.

Ms. Lopez read the title as follows:

ORDINANCE 2024-28

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY
COMMISSION OF ST. AUGUSTINE,
FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 22 OF
THE CITY CODE TO CONFORM TO
STATE LAW; 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 AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

VOTE ON MOTION:

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

NAYES: NONE

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

**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

(None)

12. ITEMS BY CITY CLERK

(None)

13. ITEMS BY CITY MANAGER

**13.A. Art Committee proposed art
installation at the San Marco
Avenue/May Street/San Carlos
intersection recommendation. (D.
Birchim, City Manager**

David Birchim City Manager provided a
brief overview of the proposed art
installation for the intersection of San
Marco Avenue, May Street, and San
Carlos Avenue. He introduced Christina
Parrish- Stone who was a Public Art
Committee member to present the
recommended proposal to the
Commission. He said if the Commission
chose to move forward with the
recommendation, then the Commission
would be approving the following items:
selecting the artist and the concept of the
artwork, authorizing him to enter into a
commissioned artwork agreement with the
artist, and select Commissioner Horvath as
the City liaison for the remainder of the
project.

Christina Parrish-Stone provided a
summary of the process the Public Art
Committee followed in selecting an artist
for the artwork at the San Marco, May
Street intersection. She said the Public Art
Committee selected three finalist and out
of the three, unanimously selected Ivan
Depena. She said the request was to
approve Mr. Depena as the artist for the
May Street round about. She said the
proposed design was to be made of cast
concrete to include coquina and
incorporated oculi to help drivers see
through to view oncoming traffic and the
area. She said the committee felt the artist
was very thoughtful with the design and felt
it represented the homes of the ingenious
people. She said the site was challenging

and the committee felt this design was the most harmonious, easy to maintain, and it was a monumental piece.

Mayor Sikes-Kline said there were several options to choose from.

Commissioner Horvath explained that Mr. Depena provided many different approaches to the same piece and the committee selected the wave form made of cast concrete with coquina. She said Mr. Depena took inspiration from the waves and under currents. She said the oculi would provide light to the plants.

Mayor Sikes-Kline clarified the Commission was being asked to approve the agreement signed by the City Manager. She asked if there were provisions in the contract that would allow for modifications.

Ms. Lopez advised that all the legal documents were provided to the artist in the Request for Qualifications (RFQ). She said when each artist submitted, they agreed to the terms. She said the contract was standard but if the Commission could add additional items that would cost extra and was not covered in the cost of the art piece.

Mayor Sikes-Kline asked for clarification regarding the responsibilities of the liaison.

Commissioner Horvath said she spoke with the City Manager to have someone in contact with the artist to help with the details of the project. She said her role would be to help in anyway the artist needed.

Mayor Sikes-Kline questioned the timeline of the project.

Mr. Birchim replied there was not a specific timeline but as soon as the contract was complete, they would be able to get more information from Mr. Depena.

Ms. Lopez advised that the piece would be reviewed by the Corridor Review Committee. She said there would be

another chance for the public to see a more finalized version.

Commissioner Blonder asked to include an addendum with the timeline agreed upon by both parties and a fee schedule.

Mr. Birchim said a tentative fee schedule was provided by the artist. He said Mr. Depena should be able to provide a more detailed fee schedule and staff could help him with the timeline if needed.

Commissioner Blonder asked if that would be contractual and legally binding.

Ms. Lopez said it would, but it should be flexible as this was in the Florida Department of Transportation right-of-way.

Mayor Sikes-Kline asked for those items to be provided at a future meeting.

Commissioner Horvath thanked the Public Art Committee for all the hours spent working on this project. She thanked Ms. Parrish-Stone for presenting the project to the Commission. She said she was excited about the art piece and felt everyone would be pleased once completed.

Commissioner Blonder asked about the aging of the material. She asked if it would age naturally or would it require cleaning.

Commissioner Horvath said it was a concrete surface and would need to be cleaned periodically; however, out of all the proposed artwork, it required less maintenance.

Commissioner Springfield appreciated the hard work and time from the committee members. He said he was not a fan of abstract art but respected the decision of the Art Committee.

Commissioner Garris said out of all the proposals she liked this one the best. She felt it would need more maintenance than expected from her experience.

Commissioner Horvath said she had confidence in Mr. Depena's work and thought he would bring a lot to the art piece.

Commissioner Blonder thanked the committee. She said she was impressed by the finalists and felt Mr. Depena piece was what she would have chosen.

Mayor Sikes-Kline thanked the Committee and was impressed with the art piece. She said she was excited about the piece and thought the form and oculi were clever. She said the reference to the Native Americans was important and thought the form would make people remember.

MOTION

Commissioner Horvath MOVED to APPROVE the artist, Ivan Depena and accept his concept, allow David Birchim, City Manager, to sign the contract, appoint herself as the liaison throughout the project, provide the updated contract details to include the timeline and fee schedule to the Commission, and sunset the Public Art Committee. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Blonder.

VOTE ON MOTION:

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

NAYES: NONE

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Birchim advised that it was time for annual evaluations. He said he would be providing his annual evaluation form to the Commission in the upcoming days. He understood some Commissioners wanted to do provide oral evaluations and others a written evaluation, and both were acceptable. He said if the form was completed, it should be returned to Ms. Lopez. He said in past years Ms. Lopez had complied the results and placed a memo on the consent agenda for the Commission to approve.

14. Items by Mayor and Commissioners

Commissioner Springfield announced a temporary goal for fundraising for a painting to be shipped to Avilés, Spain He said a showing of the painting would be September 6, 2024, at the Lightner Museum.

Commissioner Blonder thanked staff for their hard work and dedication in the time ahead in regard to the Great Outdoors Initiative. She thanked the mayor for her leadership.

Commissioner Garris was thankful to hear the public and their concerns. She said it was difficult to receive emails and not be able to respond. She was happy about the Art Committee approval and thought in future years it would be a statement especially during Nights of Lights. She thanked the staff for providing information regarding the State Park.

Commissioner Horvath said she had full confidence in the North Florida Regional Council and the updating of the vision plan for the City. She expressed her excitement for the approval of the art piece and thanked the Commissioners for their support.

Mayor Sikes-Kline felt the Commission was working hard to understand the concerns.

Commissioner Springfield asked if it would be helpful to have a statement to answer emails and still be respectful of the process.

Ms. Lopez said a statement was issued by the City Manager and it could be provided to help the Commission when replying.

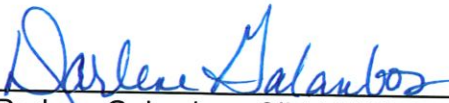
Mayor Sikes-Kline felt a statement from the City would be very helpful. She said individually they could share the link to the Florida Department of Protection (FDEP) for the public to voice their concerns.

15. Adjournment

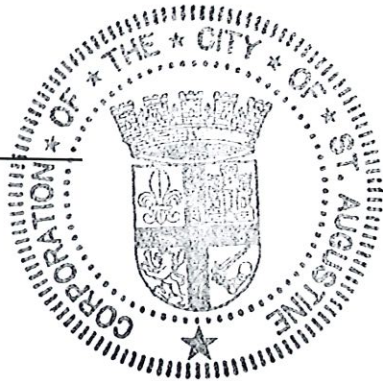
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:39 P.M.¹



Nancy Sikes-Kline, MAYOR



Darlene Galambos, CITY CLERK



¹ Transcribed by Elyse Wiemann