

CC CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

Regular City Commission Meeting
Monday, April 14, 2025

The City Commission met in a formal session on Monday, April 14, 2025, 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, Vice Mayor/City Commissioner
Cynthia Garris, City Commissioner
Jon DePreter, City Commissioner

Absent: 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 & Utilities
Amy Skinner, Director, Planning and Building
Melissa Wissel, Director, Communications
Jennifer Michaux, Police Chief
Elyse Wiemann, Recording Secretary

MOMENT OF SILENCE and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Nancy Sikes-Kline offered her condolences to the family of Michael Dixon, a historic preservation architect and served as the Chairperson of the Corridor Review Committee.

Mayor Sikes-Kline requested a moment of silence and Vice-Mayor Barbara Blonder led the pledge of allegiance.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

2.A. Modification and Approval of Regular Agenda

MOTION

Commissioner Jon DePreter **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 Proclamation 2025-07: Proclaims April 2025 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. (B. Blonder, Vice-Mayor)

3.B Proclamation 2025-12: Proclaims Saturday, April 26, 2025, as World T'ai Chi & Qigong Day. (N. Sikes-Kline, Mayor)

3.C Proclamation 2025-13: Proclaims April 2025 as Water Conservation Month. (B. Blonder, Vice Mayor)

3.D Proclamation 2025-18: Proclaims April 2025 as National Poetry Month. (N. Sikes-Kline, Mayor)

Dr. Ann Masters Browning, City Poet Laureat, read a poem in honor of National Poetry Month.

4. General Public Comments (3 minutes per individual)

The Commission heard from the following members of the public:

- Scott York
- Chris Fulmer
- Nancy Murphy
- Robin Thomas
- 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: NONE.

CA.3. Reminder of Upcoming Meetings:

- April 28, 2025, 3:00PM–Community Redevelopment Agency Meeting
- April 28, 2025, 4:30PM–Adelaide Sanchez Award Presentation to the Sisters of St. Joseph
- April 28, 2025, 5:00PM–Regular City Commission Meeting

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

- February 24, 2025, Regular City Commission Meeting
- March 10, 2025, Regular City Commission Meeting

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

- 946 Pearl Street–Anthony and Patricia Dailey

CA.6. PROPOSED PROCLAMATIONS, CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION/RECOGNITION.

(COMMISSION APPROVAL REQUIRED). (TO BE READ AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING).

Proclamation 2025-21: Proclaims April 2025 as National Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month. (J. Springfield, Commissioner)

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

- a. Proclamation 2025-17: Proclaims April 9, 2025, as Education & Sharing Day, St. Augustine, FL. (N. Sikes-Kline, Mayor)
- b. Certificate of Recognition 2025-01CR: Celebrates the retirement of Charlie Robles as General Manager of the Collector, Luxury Inn & Gardens. (N. Sikes-Kline, Mayor)

CA.8. Approves a Maintenance and Hold Harmless Agreement for installation and maintenance of a pedestrian crosswalk at the intersection of West King Street and South Whitney Street. (R. Franklin, Assistant City Manager)

CA.9. Approves the use of the City Crest in celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America. (M. Wissel, Communications Director)

CA.10. Approves the 2025 Schedule of Budget Meetings and Workshops for Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Preparation. (M. Burns, Director of Financial Services)

CA.11. Marlowe V. City of St. Augustine-Invoice for Professional Services. (I. Lopez, City Attorney)

CA.12. Approval of recommendations for the 2025 City Commission Citizenship Awards. (C. Niles, Events & Venue Coordinator)

CA.13. Order releasing the Code Enforcement lien levied against 125 Spoonbill Point Court as paid in full. (A. Owen, Assistant City Attorney)

CA.14. Approves the use of the City Crest for the ribbon-cutting celebration to commemorate the completion of the newly reconstructed Fort Mosé. (M. Wissel, Communications Director)

End Consent Agenda

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

(None)

5.B. Approval of Consent Agenda

MOTION

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

(None)

7.C. Other Items Requiring Public Hearing

(None)

8. Ordinances and Resolutions – Public Hearing Required.

8.A. Ordinances – Second Reading

8.A.1. Ordinance 2025-05: Amends the Zoning Designation of 0.34 acres of property from City of St. Augustine

Residential Single family-one (RS-1) to City Planned Unit Development (PUD) at 10 Carrera Street. (A. Skinner, Director Planning and Building)

Amy Skinner, Planning and Building Director, presented Ordinance 2025-05.

James Whitehouse Esq., representative of the trustees, provided a brief overview of the Planned Unit Development (PUD) for 10 Carrera Street and identified the changes made as requested by the Commission.

Commissioner Blonder said she was inclined to support the PUD; however, asked what could trigger something contrary to the current use.

Isabelle Lopez, City Attorney, replied that the intent was, if the property were sold, and the new owner wanted to use property that was not stipulated in the PUD, the property would revert to the RS-1 zoning.

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

MOTION

Commissioner DePreter MOVED to pass Ordinance 2025-05 on second reading by title only. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Cynthia Garris.

Isabelle Lopez, City Attorney, read the title as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-05

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA AMENDING THE ZONING FOR APPROXIMATELY 0.34 ACRES OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 10 CARRERA STREET (PID# 205300-0000), AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED HEREINAFTER, TO CHANGE ITS CURRENT ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF RESIDENTIAL SINGLE FAMILY-ONE (RS-1) TO PLANNED UNIT

DEVELOPMENT (PUD); PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERANCE OF INVALID PROVISIONS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

VOTE ON MOTION:

AYES: DePreter, 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

9.A.1. Ordinance 2025-06: Imposes restrictions on mobile vendors during Nights of Lights and July 4th Celebrations. (I. Lopez, City Attorney)

Isabelle Lopez, City Attorney, reviewed Ordinance 2025-06.

Commissioner Blonder clarified that the proposed ordinance was strictly for mobile vendors.

Ms. Lopez replied that this was strictly for mobile vendors on the sidewalks, not brick and mortar shops. She noted the streets belonged to the City; therefore, those could be regulated as long as the areas identified had the density or usage with a logical explanation for a regulation that would prohibit or restrict mobile vendors commercial speech rights on these public forums or sidewalks. She identified the streets where vending was prohibited year-round as follows:

- St. George Street and those streets that intersected with it directly
- The Plaza

Ms. Lopez advised that this amendment would restrict the western sidewalk of Avenida Menendez Street/A1A, from Orange Street to King Street, and the entirety of the northern sidewalk on Cathedral Place would be prohibited during the 4th of July and Nights of Lights! (NOL). She said in addition and only on the 4th of July, the eastern sidewalk closest to the Castillo de San Marco, would be included as a prohibited zone. She said this was based on the presentation provided by City Manager David Birchim at the February 10, 2025, meeting and additional information provided by staff.

Commissioner Cythina Garris asked for clarification regarding the map provided¹.

Ms. Lopez replied the map showed the current regulations. She said the red cross hatches identified the areas that were prohibited year-round. She said with this amendment along Avenida Menendez Street from Orange Street to King Street on the western sidewalk and the entire length of Cathedral Place the northern sidewalk would be prohibited during NOL and during the 4th of July, those same streets would be prohibited, plus the eastern sidewalk of Avenida Menendez would also be prohibited. She said the evidence showed that both sides of the street were congested during the 4th of July because of fireworks attendees.

Commissioner Blonder said in her own personal experience during NOL, the east side of Avenida Menendez Street was just as congested as the western side. She felt the western side should be included during NOL, as it was a safety issue. She said having mobile vendors on the east side of Avenida Menendez Street could cause trouble.

¹ Map attached to original packet.

Ms. Lopez replied that it was up to the findings that the Commission made. She said if they felt there was sufficient data to support adding no vendors on both sides of Avienda Menendez Street during NOLs, then it could be added or if they felt more evidence was needed, she could do more research.

Mayor Sikes-Kline asked if the Commission decided to include the east side of Avienda Menendez Street, was there sufficient evidence to do that now.

Ms. Lopez explained that in the packet before them, there was not enough evidence because the focus was on the areas that were identified as densely pedestrian, and the bulk of the pedestrian traffic was on the western sidewalk of Avienda Menendez Street and during NOLs, there was less of an impact on the eastern sidewalk. She said she could do more research, but it was not in the packet before them.

Commissioner DePreter said he supported looking into that; however, he thought there could be a conflict near Orange Street with the ride-share hub and did not want there to be an issue with having vendors in the same area. He said the justification provided was solid as there was plenty of documentation.

Commissioner Garris agreed with Commissioner Blonder, and said if one side was closed then vendors would likely move to the other side. She said if they were able to eliminate vendors from both sides then there would not be an issue. She was in support of collecting more data.

Mayor Sikes-Kline said she was in support of adding the east side. She said there were vendors on the east side, which complicated matters. She felt if it were to be expanded now, it could be beneficial. She asked if the ordinance was passed on first reading, could the modifications be made.

Ms. Lopez replied the short title was general enough that it could be modified if there was enough data to support the addition of the eastern side of Avienda Menendez Street.

Commissioner Blonder explained that the items being sold by mobile vendors could be bought at brick-and-mortar shops downtown. She said as mentioned during public comments, the items were not of the best quality. She said the main concern was public safety.

Ms. Lopez replied that the ariel video was being included as part of the support for the ordinance and the business impact statement was included as required. She explained there was no impact on City businesses, as indicated by John Augustus, City Customer Service Supervisor², as there were no mobile vendors that had a business in the City limits.

MOTION

Mayor Sikes-Kline MOVED to pass Ordinance 2025-06 on first reading.

Commissioner DePreter said he would second the motion with the condition that the public safety information on the east side be reviewed.

Mayor Sikes-Kline accepted the amendment.

MOTION

Mayor Sikes-Kline MOVED to AMEND the motion to include the review of public safety impacts to the east side of Avienda Menendez. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner DePreter.

Isabelle Lopez, City Attorney, read the Ordinance.

² Email from John Augustus, City Customer Service Supervisor, attached to original packet.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-06

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA, CREATING SECTION 27-512 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE PROVIDING FOR RESTRICTIONS FOR MOBILE VENDORS IN HIGH CONGESTION AREAS; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

VOTE ON MOTION:

AYES: Sikes-Kline, DePreter, Garris, Blonder

NAYES: NONE

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

9.B. Resolutions

9.B.1. Resolution 2025-13: Authorizes the City Manager to execute a grant agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation to receive financial assistance for the STAR Circulator. (R. Franklin, Assistant City Manager)

Reuben Franklin, Assistant City Manager, reviewed Resolution 2025-13.

Mayor Sikes-Kline thought there may be a need for flexibility to the routes when King Street was closed for construction and for future routes.

Mr. Franklin replied that the future routes that had been considered were having one from the Broudy's lot after the garage was constructed but alternative routes had not been considered during the closure of King Street; however, for that to take place, additional approval would be needed from Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and it could be updated in the grant agreement. He said they had looked into connecting the City with St. Augustine Beach and pick up residents and those in the hotels.

Mayor Sikes-Kline noted there was a lot of support from the TDC for beach access.

She said with the construction taking place on King Street, was there anything that could be done to help mitigate that issue.

Mr. Franklin replied that the City Manager, David Birchim, requested that a traffic circulation staff group review and come up with ideas to help mitigate cut throw traffic and other options.

Commissioner Garris said she had been contacted regarding the circulator and asked if a platform could be added to help when people enter and exit, if needed.

MOTION

Commissioner Garris MOVED to pass Resolution 2025-13. The motion was SECONDED by Mayor Sikes-Kline.

VOTE ON MOTION:

AYES: Garris, Sikes-Kline, DePreter³

NAYES: NONE

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

10. Staff Reports and Presentations

10.A. Vehicles for Hire (Ch27) and Franchises (Sightseeing Motor Vehicles Franchise, Ch14) Ordinance Update. (R. Franklin, Assistant City Manager)

Reuben Franklin, Assistant City manager, provided a brief overview of the Vehicles for Hire and the Franchise ordinance. He requested feedback and added that horse carriages were not included in this ordinance and would be addressed at a later date. He noted there was a professional consultant that provided an initial analysis and reviewed the key takeaways from the analysis and the stakeholder engagement group. He stated that staff had been working on ordinance revisions and provided recommendations for consideration.

Mayor Sikes-Kline said it was great work and wanted to see it on a faster track than

³ Commissioner Blonder was not present for vote.

recommended but understood the reasoning for the first reading of the ordinance to take place in July 2025. She said she thought the feedback received was fascinating as it confirmed everything they already knew, and action needed to be taken. She said ride-share hubs, geofencing and designating areas for hubs would help drive people to certain places, which could be an important tool for the City.

Commissioner DePreter said he was pleased with the ride-share hub development and thought if the geofencing was activated, it could help solve some of the issues. He said that the passenger bus size limitation was great as it should not be a change for public transportation. He asked what was taking place with the pedicabs.

Mr. Franklin replied that the pedicabs were included in the stakeholder engagement. He said the pedicabs were not expected to change. He said feedback was provided by the St. Augustine Police Department (SAPD) and Jabari White, Night Life Supervisor, who were on the streets during NOLs. He said they had considered regulations for the pedicabs with designated pick-up and drop-off locations; however, during the stakeholder meeting, pedicab operators were adamant about needing flexibility as they were different and smaller. He said they were not in support of that idea; however, it could be done.

Commissioner DePreter said this was not only for NOLs but for other large events and daily activities in the City. He questioned how this would be enforced.

Mr. Franklin said Mr. White's role was to be downtown for a variety of things such as the noise ordinance complaints, and he had been monitoring the vehicles for hire. He said the compliance and enforcement factors were important and tickets would be issued, and also franchise licenses could be lost if not abiding by the rules.

Commissioner Blonder said she supported the summary and recommendations, especially the requirements for franchising for tour operators and sightseeing. She emphasized her worry about safety and wanted to make sure there was an appropriate level of insurance coverage required for the tour operators, as minor accidents had taken place in the past. She felt the proposed recommendations draft provided a lot of great insight and ideas. She said the signage was budgetary implication and was unsure where the funding source would come from, but thought it was much needed. She suggested trying to obtain partnerships to help with funding. She asked if there had been discussions regarding the funding source.

Mr. Franklin replied that the SMART St. Augustine grant would have the St. Augustine Rider (STAR) circulator signage, and it had been approved by the Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB) for the downtown area, which would be built upon.

Commissioner Blonder said the geofencing locations needed to be clearly identified for people to know where to go. She said all the information provided was wonderful and much needed. She said this would enhance the visitors experience when they visited the City.

Mr. Franklin explained that the geofencing and ride-share hubs for Uber could be launched in June 2025 instead of July. He said a map would be provided and noted it would be flexible as it was a pilot program, so any changes could be made.

10.B. Review of Public Art Installation. **(D. Birchim, City Manager)**

David Birchim, City Manager, reviewed the Public Art Installation project. He said a suggestion had been made to move the art installation from the current location at May Street and San Marco Avenue roundabout, to the newly City acquired property at the end of May Street on the vacant lot. He

said the project was broken down into five milestones and the artist had completed the first two. He said the project would cost a total of \$250,000, with \$87,500 already paid to the artist. He said the options that the Commission could choose from were:

- Continue with the project as planned and install the artwork at May Street/San Marco Avenue
- Install the artwork on the City owned vacant land on the east side of May Steet
- Install the public artwork in another city owned park; or
- Cancel the contract for the public artwork

Commissioner DePreter asked if the art project was included in the current budget. He said a committee was formed and they selected the art piece. He asked if the project was funded by taxpayers or private partnerships.

Mr. Birchim replied that the project had been included in the current budget, and it was being funded by the taxpayers. He confirmed the artwork was selected by the committee that was formed.

Commissioner Garris felt the artwork was too large for the May Street/San Marco Avenue roundabout. She said navigating the roundabout was difficult and for new people in the area, the art piece could be distracting. She felt art should be interactive instead of a drive-by. She said with the amount of money being spent on the artwork, it should be accessible, or the funds could be spent elsewhere. She said she had not been in support of the artwork but wanted to provide another perspective location.

Commissioner Blonder said she was not an artist but thought the committee had done an extensive amount of work reviewing the artist applicants and selecting the art piece. She said the May Street/San Marco Avenue intersection had no character, was an underrated entry way

to the City, and had never been highlighted. She said the intersection had the Water Works building, which was the center for Cultural and Artistic community gatherings, along with the library and Davenport Park. She said there were sidewalks with safety crossings that could be used to view the art piece. She said the newly acquired property on May Street had poor sightlines and felt the art piece would be out of context and unseen. She supported moving forward and not losing the investment the City had already made.

Mayor Sikes-Kline said this location was more of an oddity and not a roundabout even though it felt like one. She said the selected artwork was not what she expected as this was more of a contemporary art piece, which could be placed anywhere. She said she was open to other locations for the art piece if the commission wanted to move forward with it. She said she was also in support of not moving forward and using the remaining funds for a more critical need, which was conservation. She said she did not want the public art program to derail but hoped that it would not as the county was moving forward with their public art program. She said the remaining dollars at this point could be reallocated to purchase conservation land or look at the other City owned parks as she was not in favor of the current location and thought there were better uses for that property.

Commissioner DePreter said not everyone would be pleased with the outcome and he was unsure what the main issue was; the cost for the artwork or the artwork itself. He said it was a stated goal of the City but thought the funding could be part of the problem. He suggested moving forward with the piece or use the rest of the money to landscape and develop the Van Dyke property. He felt the issue should be delayed until Commissioner Springfield was available. He said with Commissioner Blonder and Springfield living in north city, he felt they would be able to provide more

insight as he thought it was a neighborhood thing.

Commissioner Garris explained the only reason she suggested for the art piece to be relocated was there had been discussions regarding May Street property and what would be done on the property. She said using the rest of the money for conservation could be a better alternative. She said she was not against the current location but just wanted to provide other options.

Commissioner Blonder pointed out that in the City's Vision Plan, there was an emphasis on the arts, identity, and authenticity. She did not think it would be possible to purchase a lot for conservation with the rest of the money. She did not want a project dedicated to the arts to disappear as she highly valued the arts.

Mayor Sikes-Kline suggested tabling the discussion about the project until a future date.

11. ITEMS BY CITY ATTORNEY

Isabelle Lopez, City Attorney, asked if there was a consensus to move forward with a recommendation to withdrawal the City from the Alvogen, Public, Tris, and Winn-Dixie portion of the opioid lawsuit as the deadline was April 15, 2025.

There was consensus to withdrawal from that portion of the lawsuit.

12. ITEMS BY CITY CLERK

12.A. Request for One (1) appointment–St. Augustine Police Officers' Retirement Board. (D. Galambos, City Clerk)

Darlene Galambos, City Clerk, requested one appointment for the St. Augustine Police Officers' Retirement Board. She advised one applicant, Stephen Petty, who was a City resident and qualified to serve.

There was consensus to appoint Stephen Petty to the St. Augustine Police Officers' Retirement Board.

12.B. Request for appointment to fill three (3) Term Expirations-Lincolnvillle Redevelopment Area Steering Committee (LCRA). (D. Galambos, City Clerk)

Darlene Galambos, City Clerk, requested three appointments to the Lincolnvillle Redevelopment Area (LCRA) Steering Committee. She advised there were four applicants who had applied; however, Gloria Lelaidier had withdrawn her application.

Commissioner DePreter suggested extending the deadline for more people to apply.

Ms. Galambos replied that the appointments to the LCRA could be delayed and readvertised. She said this item would be brought back before the Commission at the first meeting in June.

12.C. Notification of Board Term Vacancy-Corridor Review Committee. (D. Galambos, City Clerk)

Darlene Galambos, City Clerk, said this was official notification that there was an open position on the Corridor Review Committee due to Michael Dixon's passing. She said the position was being advertised as required.

12.D. Reminder: Open Positions on Boards and Committees. (D. Galambos, City Clerk)

Darlene Galambos, City Clerk, said this was notification of the open position and term expirations for the different Boards.

13. ITEMS BY CITY MANAGER

David Birchim, City Manager, said the City had begun pursuing the easements on Marine Street properties for the Lakes

Maria Sanchez Improvement project. He said there were three property owners that were withstanding, and the eminent domain process had begun to acquire those easements. He explained, during that process, one of the property owners made an offer to sell their property to the City. He said it was the center piece of the three properties in a row at 160 Marine Street. He felt there was value in purchasing the property as the City would use it as a staging area and once the floodwall was constructed, it could add value to the property and then be sold. He said this would save money on attorney's fees as this would not need litigation. He said the property was being offered to the City at \$1.4 million and the City had an old appraisal for the property. He said if this was to be pursued, an updated appraisal could be done and presented with a draft resolution for consideration.

Commissioner DePreter felt this was a good idea and the property would increase in value with the construction of the seawall and supported pursuing this option.

There was consensus to obtain a new appraisal on the property and move forward.

Mr. Birchim provided an update on the NOLs planning efforts taking place. He said there had been considerable progress made by staff and he would be providing a presentation to the Tourist Development Council next Monday. He said there had been a change in the level of consultant service needed and thought that a technical consultant/transportation planner could review specific traffic patterns and parking areas that would come from a study at staff level. He said there would be resident and business stakeholder meetings and staff would facilitate those meetings.

Mayor Sikes-Kline said she was very supportive of the new direction and was encouraged that it was moving forward.

Commissioner DePreter agreed and thought staff could handle it. He asked if Jonathan Paul, New Urban Concepts, would be used as the technical consultant/transportation planner.

Mr. Birchim replied in the affirmative and noted Mr. Paul had assisted with the City's Mobility Plan.

Commissioner Blonder agreed and felt it would be in good hands with the mobility consultant.

Commissioner Garriss said she was looking forward to the outcome and operation.

Mayor Sikes-Kline requested monthly reports on the progress as this was a very important initiative.

14. Items by Mayor and Commissioners

Mayor Sikes-Kline said the noise ordinance was mentioned during public comments, and she suggested that the plainly audible method be implemented as there were not enough trained officers available for the decibel readings to take place. She said Mr. White, Night Life Supervisor, was not trained to conduct the decibel readings.

Commissioner Garriss said she had received an email from a resident expressing disappointment about an officer not being able to conduct a decibel reading due to lack of training and Mr. White having the night off. She said this was confusing as the Commission had been told these types of situations were being handled, but now they were hearing there was no authority to do the readings.

Mr. Birchim replied they had the authority to conduct readings, and there was a training program available to teach officers how to use the decibel meter. He said the plainly audible standard would be added and both techniques would be used. He said the City's consultant had to start a data collection phase to create a plainly audible standard. He said they were in the

process of training more officers and Mr. White on the decibel meter equipment.

Commissioner Garris asked if there was an anticipated time frame for when this would take place.

Mr. Birchim replied that an update would be provided at the next Commission meeting.

Commissioner Blonder agreed this had been going on for a long time. She asked if there was a way to get this under control quickly as there were repeat offenders.

Mr. Birchim explained the noise ordinance did not prevent noise but would punish those who created nuisance noise. He said the outcome would be to fine or penalize them.

Commissioner Blonder said the problem was repeat offenders and asked what resources could be used to address the issues.

Mr. Birchim said he would have to meet with St. Augustine Police Chief to see what could be done.

Mayor Sikes-Kline said she received a letter from Ms. Taylor asking for her mother to be commemorated, as she was the owner of the 100 Acre Marsh which was just purchased by the City. She requested a marker or sign be established in her honor. She asked, with consensus from the Commission, for the City Manager to reach out to her regarding what could be done. She brought attention to the police emergency cards Ms. Kalaidi spoke about during public comments and felt those should be put on social media as it could make a big difference with the elderly and more vulnerable residents. She said there were two bills in the legislature, House Bill (HB)991 and Senate Bill (SB)1242, which noted that the Community Redevelopment Areas (CRAs) would be prohibited to initiate any new projects or issue new debt(s) after October 1, 2025, and would

prohibit the ability to create any new CRAs. She requested a letter be sent in opposition of both bills.

Commissioner Garris asked City Manager, David Birchim, if Jaime Perkins, Neighborhood Services & CRA Manager, could speak in Tallahassee regarding the issue.

Mayor Sikes-Kline said the City had a lobbyist that could attend the meetings in order for the City to be represented.

Commissioner DePreter said over the past year, the Planning staff and Planning and Zoning Board (PZB) had conducted workshops related to resilient building techniques, and a joint meeting was held with the Historic Architecture Review Board (HARB). He said there was a very successful meeting held regarding the same issues with local contractors, City Building staff, City Flood Plain Manager, and the City Building Official and one of the topics that unfolded was the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) which had a shared goal of increasing the rating. He said there were many things the City could do as discussed, and currently, the City was at a category five (5), which provided residents with a 25% discount on flood insurance. He said if the City could be a category four (4), residents would have a 30% discount on flood insurance and good practices could be developed. He requested that staff bring back ways for the City to become a category four.

15. Adjournment

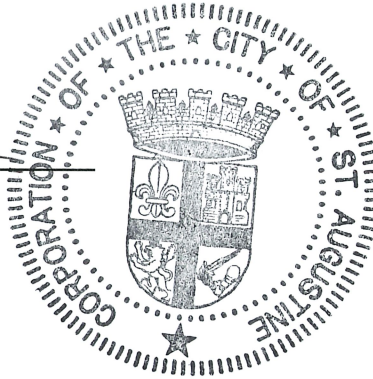
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 P.M.⁴



Nancy Sikes-Kline, MAYOR



Darlene Galambos, CITY CLERK



⁴ Transcribed by Elyse Wiemann