

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

Regular City Commission Meeting
Monday, June 9, 2025

The City Commission met in formal session Monday, June 9, 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
Jim Springfield, City Commissioner
Jon DePreter, 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
Jaime Perkins, Neighborhood Services & CRA Manager
Corey Sakryd, Director, General Services
Jacob Webber, Grants Coordinator
Xavier Pellicer, Mobility Manager
Jennifer Michaux, Police Chief
Anthony Cuthbert, Assistant Police Chief
Elyse Wiemann, Recording Secretary

MOMENT OF SILENCE and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Nancy 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 Commissioner Jim Springfield and

APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

3. Special Presentations, Recognitions and Proclamations

3.A. Proclamation 2025-16: Proclaims June 26, 2025, as Greek Landing Day. (N. Sikes- Kline, Mayor)

3.B Proclamation 2025-24: Proclaims June 2025 as Pride Month. (B. Blonder, Vice- Mayor)

3.C Certificate of Recognition: Polaxeni Maouris Hillier in celebration of her retirement as the Executive Director of the Saint Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine. (N. Sikes-Kline, Mayor)

4. General Public Comments (3 minutes per individual)

The Commission heard from the following members of the public:

- Leslee Keys
- Lauren Giber
- Jen Hand
- Simone DeMarco
- Doug Russo
- Chris Fullmer
- Sean Morrison
- Dillion Russo
- Arthur Culbert
- Sara Bloomberg
- Matt Rodregious
- Melinda Rakoncay
- Kelsey May
- Tira Kindler
- Vicki Pepper
- Hunter Miller
- James St. George
- Scott York
- 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 JUNE 23, 2025:

- Ordinance 2025-07: Adoption of the City's West City Community Redevelopment Area plan
- Ordinance 2025-08: Amendment to Noise Control Regulations

CA.3. Reminder of Upcoming Meetings:

- June 23, 2025, 5:00PM–Regular City Commission Meeting
- July 14, 2025, 3:00PM–Special City Commission Meeting (Budget Assumptions)
- July 14, 2025, 5:00PM–Regular City Commission Meeting

- July 28, 2025, 3:00PM–Community Redevelopment Agency Meeting
- July 28, 2025, 5:00PM–Regular City Commission Meeting

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

- April 14, 2025, Regular City Commission Meeting
- April 28, 2025, Regular City Commission Meeting
- May 12, 2025, Regular City Commission Meeting

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

- 308 Venetian Boulevard (partial release-Lot 6)

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

(COMMISSION APPROVAL REQUIRED). (TO BE READ AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING). NONE.

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

CA.8. Approval of Old Town Trolley Tours 4th of July Shuttle Services Agreement. (R. Franklin, Assistant City Manager)

CA.9. Eminent Domain: Lake Maria Sanchez-Invoice for professional services. (I. Lopez, City Attorney)

CA.10. Marlowe V. City of St. Augustine-Invoice for Professional Services. (I. Lopez, City Attorney)

CA.11. Request for confirmation of appointment to fill one (1) vacancy to the St. Augustine Firefighters' Pension Trust Fund, Board of Trustees. (D. Galambos, City Clerk)

CA.12. Approval of License for Use of City Right-of-Way at 4 Locust Street. (S. Slaughter, Utilities & Public Works 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 Springfield and APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

6. Appeals

(None)

7. General Public Presentations, Items of Great Public Importance, and Other Items Requiring Public Hearings

7.A. General Public Presentations

(None)

7.B. Items of Great Public Importance

(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 2025-02: Amendment to the Firefighters' Pension Trust Fund share plan. (I. Lopez, City Attorney)

Isabelle Lopez, City Attorney, presented Ordinance 2025-02.

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

Commissioner Springfield explained the 60/40 split of the share plan would not result in a lot of money per individual firefighter; however, it showed that the Commission supported them in their retirement and future retirement.

MOTION

Mayor Sikes-Kline MOVED to pass Ordinance 2025-02 on second reading. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner DePreter.

Ms. Lopez read the title as follows:

ORDINANCE 2025-02

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 20, ARTICLE V, SECTION 20-219 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE TO MODIFY THE TERMS OF THE Firefighters' Pension Trust Fund SHARE PLAN; 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, Springfield, Blonder

NAYES: NONE

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

8.B. Ordinances – First Reading (only if required by law)

8.B.1. Ordinance 2025-07: Adoption of the City of St. Augustine West City Community Redevelopment Area (WCCRA) plan. (J. Perkins, Neighborhood Services & CRA Manager)

Jaime D. Perkins reviewed Ordinance 2025-07.

Public hearing was opened, and Commissioners heard comments from the following member of the public:

- BJ Kalaidi

Mayor Sikes-Kline asked if the Archeology Center shown was included in the budget for the CRA or just shown on the map.

David Birchim, City Manager, replied that there was not a budget currently established for the CRA since it was not approved; however, the intent was to have a potential funding source. He said there was an endowment for future improvements the Middleton House Archeology Center in place and design was underway.

Commissioner Springfield clarified that the WCCRA funds could be used but were not guaranteed to be used to provide extra Police in the area unless agreed upon by the Agency.

Commissioner Blonder pointed out that creating the WCCRA was a big deal for the community and the Commission. She thanked staff and the steering committee for their hard work.

Mayor Sikes-Kline agreed and said establishment of a CRA was a wonderful tool for redevelopment, and she hoped the City could continue to be a good example to legislators. She thanked the steering committee and community for hours of dedication and input. She said it was a true reflection of what the community wanted, and it was ultimately their document. She said this would stand on the shoulders of the success of the other CRA's within the City. She thanked Ms. Perkins for working diligently and her professionalism.

Commissioner DePreter said during his campaign he attended a community meeting regarding the WCCRA. He said there was a lot of excitement in the neighborhood, not only to bring forth change but that they would be able to contribute to the change.

Commissioner Cynthia Garris felt it was great that the West City was being noticed. She thanked Ms. Perkin's for her diligence on all the City CRA's and was very proud of the way she looked out for communities. She said the focus was to look out for the residents and to continue to make the City a better place.

MOTION

Commissioner Garris MOVED to pass Ordinance 2025-07 on second reading. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Blonder.

Ms. Lopez read the title as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-07

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, PERTAINING TO THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY, ADOPTING THE WEST CITY COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT PLAN; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

VOTE ON MOTION:

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

NAYES: NONE

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

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 2025-08: Amendment to Noise Control Regulations. (I. Lopez, City Attorney)

Isabelle Lopez, City Attorney, introduced the Ordinance.

Anthony Cuthbert, Assistance Police Chief, and Eric Zwerling, City Noise Consultant, provided a brief overview of the amendments and updates to the Noise Control Regulation ordinance.

Commissioner DePreter said it was his understanding, due to state law, that any complaint received for a noise violation was no longer allowed to remain anonymous.

Isabelle Lopez, City Attorney, replied that was correct if Code Enforcement was utilized.

Commissioner DePreter asked for clarification on how it would work in relation to this ordinance.

Ms. Lopez explained there were two different types of enforcement. She said one was a civil county court citation, or the alternative was a complaint that could be made to City Code Enforcement. She said Code Enforcement complaints were not anonymous.

Commissioner DePreter asked if this was a change or if that was the way it had been.

Ms. Lopez replied that the City Code Enforcement process was not included previously and was added to the ordinance.

Commissioner DePreter asked if a complaint was made to the Police, would the complainant be required to provide their name and could their name be provided to the violator.

Ms. Lopez clarified that the complainants name would only be required by statute if it were through Code Enforcement.

Commissioner Garris asked if Mr. Zwerling, would be the one training the City of St. Augustine Police Officers. She asked if once they were trained, would the ordinance be enforceable.

Mr. Zwerling replied that he was the one conducting training. He said the ordinance had been able to be enforced for the past thirty years.

Commissioner Garris noted it was said that a person working on their vehicle could potentially receive a noise violation. She felt it should apply more to a construction company operating after hours than someone working on their vehicle.

Mr. Zwerling said if someone was conducting work late at night on a vehicle and a noise complaint was received, it could be a reason for a noise disturbance; however, he did not have the list of exceptions.

Ms. Lopez stated there were three points that needed a decision, which were as follows:

- If hotels, Airbnb's, Short-Term Rentals (STRs), and Bed and Breakfast would be considered residential
- If the windows and doors should be shut or as it was written, the window and doors could be opened or closed when the noise reading was taken
- If Thursday night should end at 11:00 p.m.

Mayor Sikes-Kline said she preferred the windows and doors to be closed and thought that hotel, Airbnb's and bed and breakfast could be considered residential, and did not feel Thursday night should end at 11:00 p.m. She asked if it did not end at 11:00 p.m. what time it could end.

Mr. Zwerling replied that Thursday could be included as a weekday and end at 10:00 p.m.

Ms. Lopez asked, regarding the windows and doors, if the officer was supposed to ask the complainant to shut their window and doors.

Mayor Sikes-Kline said she felt that would be the best scenario; however, though there needed to be a consensus. She said she received a letter asking to include trolleys and trains but had a brief discussion with Ms. Lopez and asked her to provide a brief explanation for everyone.

Ms. Lopez explained that the state law was modified approximately three years ago and now conformed to twenty-five feet clearly audible sound from any vehicle for a person to be cited. She said the city code conformed to the state statute.

Commissioner Springfield agreed with Mayor Sikes-Kline; however, felt Thursday could end at 11:00 p.m.

Commissioner Blonder said she was glad this noise ordinance was moving forward and expressed her appreciation. She said depending on the type of structure a person was in would make a difference if the windows and doors were left open; however, she enjoyed the windows being left open even though that could be a noise factor. She agreed that 11:00 p.m. for Thursday night was too late and supported an earlier time frame.

Commissioner DePreter agreed that Thursday should be earlier and the hotels etc. could be considered residential. He asked if a complaint was made at a residential location, would the measurement be taken from inside or outside.

Mr. Zwerling replied that there were several ways to be found in violation of the plainly audible provision. He said the reading would be taken from the site where the noise was causing an impact. He continued to review other violations in the ordinance.

Commissioner DePreter said during different times of the year, the weather was nice enough to leave windows open which he did. He asked, as it was written, would he be required to close the windows prior to conducting the noise test.

Ms. Lopez explained that the ordinance currently did not specify open or closed it stated, "inside the house", meaning the windows could be open or closed.

Commissioner Garris felt residents should have the ability to leave their windows and doors open. She said it was tricky making a hotel residential as it was a business as it was making income and not a residential home.

Ms. Lopez clarified using the plainly audible, the reading would be taken from inside the hotel room just as it would be from inside a residential home; however, if it were treated as a commercial entity that would not be done.

Commissioner Garris said if a person was staying at a hotel, most of the time, the person would complain to the hotel. She said an Airbnb and a hotel were different as the hotel was a business and an Airbnb was residential as it was in a residential neighborhood.

Mayor Sikes-Kline disagreed, and said an Airbnb and a hotel were very similar as they were both businesses even though a hotel was most likely oriented differently. She said most bed and breakfast were in historic areas and in residential neighborhoods. She explained that for the purpose of this ordinance she wanted to consider hotels, bed and breakfast, STR's, and Airbnb's as residential in order to help enforce the ordinance.

Commissioner Springfield said no matter where he was staying in the City, he would want to sleep as it would have the same effect on people.

Mayor Sikes-Kline said overall she agreed, but in the context of this ordinance she felt these different structures should be considered residential.

Commissioner DePreter said the commonality was sleeping, the difference was if there was a complaint from within the building rather than outside the building. He said that was a completely different issue.

Mayor Sikes-Kline said as this moved forward, she hoped there would be more feedback from the community and business community.

Commissioner Blonder asked how the emergency alerts conducted at the Florida School of the Deaf and Blind would be handled since the school was located in a residential neighborhood. She understood in the event of an emergency, but the testing happened all the time and it was extremely disruptive. She asked if there was anything that could be done to help the neighbors gain a better quality of life.

Ms. Lopez said if it was a true emergency alert or sound, it would be exempt under the City ordinance.

Mr. Zwerling asked when the test was conducted and whether it was for an extended period of time.

Commissioner Blonder replied that it could last up to forty-five minutes or an hour while each system was tested.

Mr. Zwerling said in some state codes limited full function testing could be done once a month and then electrode mechanical could be done weekly to ensure the signal was reaching the proper location. He said it could be something to look into. He suggested including a section that spoke in relation to interbuilding complaints as that was not included in the current ordinance. He said if someone in a hotel had a complaint about another guest

within the same hotel, it needed to be addressed within the facility.

Mayor Sikes-Kline said she thought including the interbuilding clause was a reasonable addition.

Commissioner Blonder and Commissioner DePreter agreed.

Commissioner Blonder asked for more research to be done regarding the emergency testing, as it had become worse and worse over the years.

Ms. Lopez advised that the Florida School of the Deaf and Blind was a public school under State Statute, had students as residents who lived on property; therefore, there were a lot of requirements due to the special needs of the students. She said she would have to understand more about the emergency alert tones, which could be more of a safety issue even though it was not a pleasant sound. She stated she was willing to speak to the school attorney to find out more.

Commissioner Blonder said the alarms were taking place even when students were not on premises, so it was more than just drills for them.

Commissioner DePreter said he wanted to have public outreach to both businesses and residents.

Mayor Sikes-Kline agreed and felt that it did not need to be included in the ordinance but felt a good communication plan could be put together for the community. She clarified that hotels, Airbnb's, STR's, and bed and breakfast would be considered residential for the purpose of this ordinance, windows and doors would be left as it was, and the third item was what time Thursday night would end.

Mayor Sikes-Kline said there was a majority to have Thursday night end at 10:00 p.m. and asked for that language to

be amended. She asked the city attorney to explore the system testing for state public schools that were in residential areas.

Commissioner Springfield said he was concerned about the length of time it took to have a completed report, but this has been a very tedious process. He said he did not feel like it was finished and more work in the future would have to be done to make adjustments as needed. He encouraged holding a workshop prior to the next commission meeting, to explain to businesses how this new ordinance would be used and effective. He felt this was an excellent solution to the problems brought up during the 'night life ordinance' and wanted the business community to follow through and be supportive. He said if the City switched from gas powered tools and lawn equipment to electric, it could help eliminate some of the sounds.

Ms. Lopez asked if the commission wanted to postpone the ordinance to allow for more community input or move forward.

There was consensus to move forward.

MOTION

Commissioner DePreter MOVED to pass Ordinance 2025-08 on first reading and moved to second reading to the June 23, 2025 meeting and include the following items: leave the language regarding the windows and doors as it was, change Thursday night to a weeknight ending at 10:00 p.m., move ahead with the idea with hotels, Airbnbs, and bed and breakfast would be treated as a residents and include language that this would not apply to interbuilding noise, and system testing for public schools in the residential neighborhood if it applied. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Springfield.

Ms. Lopez read the Ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-08

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 11, ARTICLE IV OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE PROVIDING FOR REGULATIONS REGARDING NOISE CONTROL; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

VOTE ON MOTION:

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

NAYES: NONE

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY¹

9.A.2. Ordinance 2025-09: Amends existing Planned Unit Development (PUD) at 36 Granada Street and 8 De Soto Place. (A. Skinner, Planning and Building Director)

Amy Skinner, Planning and Building Director, reviewed the Ordinance.

Commissioner DePreter said there was some language regarding parking that was eliminated and had agreed to use the language that the Planning staff had recommended.

Ms. Skinner replied in the affirmative and said the only part of the Planned Unit Development (PUD) was the signage section related to the mural.

Commissioner Garris felt the mural did not need to be on the building. She pointed out she attended the grand opening and thought the developers had done an outstanding job on the building and did not feel it would add value. She said a plaque was going to be added to the building to pay homage to the history of the building.

¹ Break from 7:27p.m.-7:45p.m.

Commissioner Blonder questioned if there was an elevation change.

Ms. Skinner explained the elevations on the south side of Desoto Street referred to a mural. She said there were other elevation changes in relation to the PUD that were done last January. She said the request to eliminate the mural.

Commissioner Blonder said the mural was not on the building and she was unhappy with how this happened. She said a PUD was a negotiation and the mural was part of that and was approved with that provision. She said what the commission was being asked to do was give forgiveness after-the-fact. She said the building was beautiful, but this could be precedent setting. She said she was not in support of approving a PUD to have them come back and request something else with no information. She said this was not a replacement for the mural that was approved and shown in the PUD. She said as it was presented, she was not in support.

Commissioner Springfield agreed and said this could set a precedent on future PUDs to violate the agreement and then return and ask for forgiveness. He asked if fines were possible or if there were other ways to help prevent this in the future if these were to be approved.

Commissioner DePreter said originally, he understood the building would have a different building façade with a different elevation. He said it was changed to help alleviate flooding. He said as a former sign painter, the mural being on the building would be attractive as it was not just a design. He said the suggestion with the mural was to have a plaque and for it to provide more of the history of the building which he thought was more appropriate. He said overtime, PUDs changed, and he did not feel this was an overreaching request as the mural lost its value since it was not painted on the building. He recommended working with the historic

preservation department to find the best location for the plaque.

Commissioner Garris said with the history of flooding in the building it was understandable that the elevation had to be raised to alleviate additional flooding. She felt the plaque could provide a history of the different uses of the building to understand the history.

Mayor Sikes-Kline agreed it was unfortunate that something this important was not there as it could have added character to the building. She said the building had history, and she was pleased the building was elevated as it would save taxpayers money but did not like the way this happened. She suggested asking for a historic marker and working with the historic preservation department. She asked how the language in the PUD could be revised to reflect that request.

Mr. Birchim replied, at second reading, the design and language could be presented as an exhibit.

Ms. Lopez said that would allow everyone to understand exactly what was being approved and it would be added to the PUD as an exhibit.

Commissioner DePreter said it would be beneficial to have the design and a potential location for the marker.

The Commission provided their ex parte communication.

Paul McGarvy, applicant, pointed out that the elevations shown were approved in the last PUD modification and no mural was in the drawings. He said he was happy to add a plaque or a historic marker to the building since he had agreed to that with the PZB.

Mayor Sikes-Kline said there was a historic photo shown that she thought should be incorporated into the marker as it depicted the history of the building. She commended him for his work on the building but thought when the modification

was presented a text amendment it should have been provided at the same time.

MOTION

Commissioner DePreter MOVED to pass Ordinance 2025-09 on first reading and moved to second reading with the following conditions bringing an exhibit of the new historical plaque with a history of the building, working with the City's Historic Preservation Officer, with dimensions, language, graphics, and two potential locations. The motion was SECONDED by Mayor Sikes-Kline.

Isabelle Lopez, City Attorney, read the Ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-09

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA AMENDING THE ZONING FOR APPROXIMATELY .75 ACRES OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 36 GRANADA STREET (PID# 203240-0000) AND 8 DE SOTO PLACE (PID# 203230-0000), AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED HEREINAFTER, TO AMEND ITS CURRENT PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD) CLASSIFICATION ADOPTING A NEW 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, Sikes-Kline, Garris, Springfield

NAYES: Blonder

MOTION CARRIED 4/1

9.B. Resolutions

9.B.1. Resolution 2025-14: Approval of FDOT Reimbursement Agreement for the Removal, Preservation, and Replacement of the Historic Medici Lions. (J. Webber, Grants Administration Coordinator)

Jacob Webber, Grants Administration Coordinator, reviewed the Resolution.

Commissioner Blonder clarified this agreement had received a lot of news, press, and public notification. She wanted to make sure everyone understood what was being proposed and asked Mr. Birchim to explain.

Mr. Birchim explained that the City was engaging a moving company to lift the lions onto a trailer. He said City employees would drive the vehicles as there would be one per each lion to the Solid Waste building at the end of Riberia Street where they would be stored. He said there would be a fenced barrier to protect the lions while in storage. He said while in storage, they would be professionally restored and rehabilitated. He said once the seawall project was completed, the lion would be reinstalled to their home at the base of the bridge.

Commissioner Blonder asked if this was the same procedure as when the bridge was being replaced.

Mr. Birchim said it was, except the lions were on the same trailer; however, that was too risky.

Mayor Sikes-Kline said she was excited about the restoration of the lions as the City was working with Enzo Torcoletti and Joel Segal who had worked on the lion previously and had done an amazing job.

MOTION

Mayor Sikes-Kline MOVED to pass Resolution 2025-14. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Blonder.

VOTE ON MOTION:

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

NAYES: NONE

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

9.B.2. Resolution 2025-18: Approves the purchase of 160 Marine Street. (D. Birchim, City Manager)

David Birchim, City Manager, reviewed the Resolution 2025-18.

Commissioner Springfield clarified that the use of the site would be for a staging area which would provide additional savings for the City and then, if the City wanted to sell the property, it could.

Mr. Birchim confirmed that the language was included in the resolution and if the commission chooses, the property could be sold.

Commissioner DePreter said the three words that stood out to him were 'paramount public purpose', and its highest and best use was single-family. He said it was fairly appraised, but this seemed to be a good reason to pay above the appraised value. He asked if the Commission had to decide if they wanted to sell the property once the project was finished tonight.

Mr. Birchim replied that was at the Commissions discretion and that did not have to be decided tonight.

Commissioner Garris said this project had been going on for a long time and this would get the City one step closer to completion and help with the flooding.

Mayor Sikes-Kline felt this was a key parcel to making the City more resilient, especially this area as it was low and flooded regularly. She was in support of being able to recoup the cost of the property with a future land sale.

MOTION

Commissioner DePreter MOVED to pass Resolution 2025-18. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Garris.

VOTE ON MOTION:

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

NAYES: NONE

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

9.B.3. Resolution 2025-21: Requests SJRWMD and FL DEP to reduce permit application fees. (S. Slaughter, Utilities & Public Works Director)

Stephen Slaughter, Utilities & Public Works Director, reviewed the Resolution.

MOTION

Commissioner Blonder MOVED to pass Resolution 2025-21. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Springfield.

VOTE ON MOTION:

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

NAYES: NONE

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

9.B.4. Resolution 2025-22: Authorizes the execution of the Florida Shared-Use Nonmotorized Trail Network Program Grant Agreement with FDOT. (X. Pellicer, Mobility Manager)

Xavier Pellicer, Mobility Manager, reviewed the Resolution.

Commissioner DePreter said he was happy this project had grant funds to help with the construction, and he expressed his excitement since he was an avid biker. He said he knew this would take an extensive amount of time and thought quite a bit of feedback would be received. He said he was looking forward to seeing how this progressed.

Commissioner Blonder agreed, and said she too was a regular user of the bike path and felt this project would be very beneficial. She thanked him for his work on this project.

Commission Garris congratulated Mr. Pellicer for receiving an award from the Neighborhood Association, as it proved that the community saw him trying to improve mobility for the City. She thanked him for all the different things he did, especially with Nights of Lights and with the new plan in place she was confident that the mobility concerns would be addressed.

MOTION

Commissioner Blonder MOVED to pass Resolution 2025-22. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Garris.

VOTE ON MOTION:

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

NAYES: NONE

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

9.B.5. Resolution 2025-23: Opposes Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing. (D. Birchim, City Manager)

David Birchim, City Manager, reviewed the Resolution 2025-23.

Mayor Sikes-Kline stated the last time a similar resolution was passed, the City was supporting the fishing community to fight this issue.

Mr. Birchim replied this was the same issue, but the City was supporting a different program.

Mayor Sikes-Kline agreed to support the resolution as it could be detrimental to the fishing and tourism industries, in addition to the environmental concerns.

Commissioner Blonder said most of the time the land infrastructure was not thought of and pipelines were used to support this type of work. She asked how soon the resolution could be sent since the public comment period was closing quickly.

Darlene Galambos, City Clerk, replied, if approved, that it would be sent out tomorrow.

MOTION

Commissioner Blonder MOVED to pass Resolution 2025-23. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Springfield.

VOTE ON MOTION:

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

NAYES: NONE

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

10. Staff Reports and Presentations

11. ITEMS BY CITY ATTORNEY

11.A. Options for conservation land maintenance and control. (I. Lopez, City Attorney)

Item was tabled to another meeting to allow more time for discussion.

11.B. 2025 Legislative Session Update-for informational purposes only. (A. Owen, Assistant City Attorney)

Isabelle Lopez, City Attorney, advised that the 2025 legislation session update was for information only unless they had questions. She noted the governor had signed bills to protect the state parks.

Mayor Sikes-Kline asked if she would provide a brief update about the signed historic demolition bill.

Ms. Lopez replied that at the time of this update, it had not been signed but it was now. She said now if there was an illegal demolition done, the person(s) responsible could be fined twenty percent of the value of the property. She said the focus was more for education and deterrence rather than punitive.

12. ITEMS BY CITY CLERK

12.A. Notification of one (1) Term Expiration for the City of St. Augustine Audit Review Committee. (D. Galambos, City Clerk)

Darlene Galambos, City Clerk, notified the Commission of one upcoming term expiration for the City of St. Augustine Audit Review Committee.

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

Darlene Galambos, City Clerk, requested three appointments to the Lincolnville Redevelopment Area (LCRA) Steering Committee. She said there were a total of five applications and two were current board members who were eligible for reappointment. She said ballots were available or nominations could be made.

Mayor Sikes-Kline nominated the two current board members that were eligible for reappointment.

MOTION

Mayor Sikes-Kline MOVED to nominate and reappointment, James St. George and Mari Hayes to Lincolnville Redevelopment Area (LCRA) Steering Committee. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Blonder and APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

Mayor Sikes-Kline said that unless someone wanted to nominate an applicant for the last position, they would vote by ballot.

Ms. Lopez reminded everyone that the ballots were public records.

Ms. Galambos said the results were as follows:

- Nycol Smith 1
- Tira Kindler 4

12.C. Request for One (1) appointment-Corridor Review Committee (CRC). (D. Galambos, City Clerk)

Darlene Galambos, City Clerk, requested one appointment for the Corridor Review Committee. She advised one application had been received from Michael C. Blake, who was qualified to serve on the board.

Mayor Sikes-Kline and Commissioner Garris were in support of appointing Mr. Blake.

Commissioner DePreter asked if Mr. Blake was eligible since he did not live within the City limits.

Ms. Galambos replied that he was an architect, which made him eligible. She said the former member was an architect as well, and she felt this was a good replacement.

MOTION

Commissioner DePreter MOVED to Appoint Michael C. Blake to the Corridor Review Committee. The motion was SECONDED by Mayor Sikes-Kline and APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

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

Darlene Galambos, City Clerk, reminded the Commission of the available positions on the different Boards and Committees.

13. ITEMS BY CITY MANAGER

David Birchim, City Manager, congratulated Mayor Sikes-Kline for her leadership with Senate Bill 582, unlawful

demolition of historical buildings and structures, and Isabelle Lopez, City Attorney, for writing and rewriting the bill until it was signed into law by Governor DeSantis on May 23, 2025. He said this reflected the commitment to historic preservation and other organizations throughout the state had taken the time to thank the City.

Mayor Sikes-Kline thanked Ms. Lopez for handling the media. She said this was a product of what took place after the recent Bridge Street demolition and helped the City move forward.

14. Items by Mayor and Commissioners

Mayor Sikes-Kline said she had recently returned home from Israel on an official visit at the request of the Israeli Consulate General in Miami, where she had been part of a delegation for about a week. She said the experience had been life changing and incredible. She presented the City with a gift from Amit Halevi, Israeli Knesset Member Chair of Subcommittee Defense Strategy and Readiness. She expressed her gratitude for living in the United States and the safety we have. She requested a proclamation or resolution to be brought forward endorsing a consistent definition of antisemitism. She said she had been requested to do this by the Jewish Federation in Jacksonville, Florida.

Mayor Sikes-Kline said when the mooring field ordinance was passed, she had asked if a provision could be added to prohibited advertising. She said at the time it did not seem to be an issue, but it was determined if it became an issue, it could be brought back. She felt it was time it should be added as there was something in the mooring field currently that was advertising something and she was not in favor of it.

Mr. Birchim replied if it was a construction barge it could be their logo or a way to identify them. He said if it was an advertisement, it could be reviewed. He

said recommendations on how this could be regulated could be provided.

Ms. Lopez advised that there was a provision for advertisements included in the sign ordinance.

Commissioner Springfield asked for more research to be done on Iberia Street as there was a lot more traffic on the road since the sports courts had been improved. He expressed his excitement at being able to read about the history of the West City in the West City Community Redevelopment Agency Draft (WCCRA). He said he hoped there could be some plaques added to tell more of the history in the area.

Commissioner Blonder congratulated Mayor Sikes-Kline for being selected as the Hometown Hero for the eighth consecutive year. She thanked her for leadership and representation of the City. She said now that we were entering hurricane season, everyone needed to understand that the City, County, and State were doing everything they could at a local level to be proactive; however, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) may not be as reliable at a time when it was most critical. She said we would do our best to be resilient and prioritize our resiliency efforts. She said she had been spending time on the bike path and in Hastings and was impressed with what Main Street, Hastings was doing and thought the public art brought connection between Hastings and the City.

Commissioner Garris congratulated Mayor Sikes-Kline, Ms. Lopez, and Mr. Birchim for their work in Tallahassee as it was a team effort. She said Vicki Pepper spoke from CARE St. Augustine about the Dignity Bus, which she mentioned before but she had asked them to send some brochures to everyone. She said it was not a moot or lost point but more about timing and this would be discussed more during the budget cycle. She requested an update on the Drop-in day center.

Mr. Birchim replied that they were waiting on Florida Power and Light but were more than happy to provide an update.

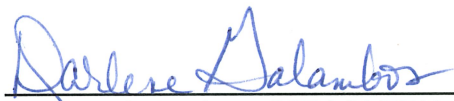
Commissioner Garris said there were many people she had been in contact with that were interested in attending the groundbreaking and helping at the center. She felt it was wonderful the City recognized PRIDE month. She thought it was important that every citizen know they were valued and not just select groups. She said we should all move forward with acts of kindness, love, and peace as it was part of our world, and it did not cost anything to be kinder.

15. Adjournment

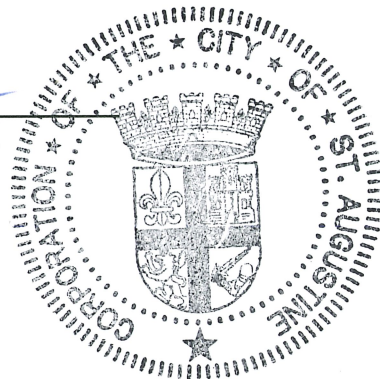
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 P.M.²



Nancy Sikes-Kline, MAYOR



Darlene Galambos, CITY CLERK



² Transcribed by Elyse Wiemann