

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

Regular City Commission Meeting
Monday, October 27, 2025

The City Commission met in formal session Monday, October 27, 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
Jennifer Michaux, Police Chief
Elyse Wiemann, Senior 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

David Birchim, City Manager, announced that under Item 10.A Staff Reports, and noted the request was to move money out of stormwater reserves to cover a funding gap for the seawall project at the City Marina.

Mayor Sikes-Kline said she was usually not in support of big items similar to this coming in at the last minute; however, the community was aware of the seawall

project as it had been discussed many times. She felt it was not unexpected to think the project could be overbudget.

Mr. Birchim replied that they felt it was urgent to move the project along, and the cost of the project came in higher than anticipated.

MOTION

Mayor Sikes-Kline MOVED to APPROVE the Regular Agenda with the modification. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Jim Springfield and APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

3. Special Presentations, Recognitions and Proclamations

3.A. Proclamation 2025-35: Proclaims the month of October 2025 as Domestic

Violence Awareness Month (N. Sikes-Kline, Mayor)

4. General Public Comments (3 minutes per individual)

The Commission heard from the following members of the public:

- Scott York
- Katherine Zoda
- Heather Wilson
- Patricia Ramos
- BJ Kalaidi
- Brandon Bartels

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:
•November 10, 2025, 5:00PM, Regular City Commission Meeting
•December 8, 2025, 5:00PM, Regular City Commission Meeting
•January 12, 2026, 5:00PM, Regular City Commission Meeting

CA.4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR COMMISSION MEETINGS:
•August 25, 2025 - Regular City Commission Meeting
•August 28, 2025 - Special Budget City Commission Meeting
•September 8, 2025 - Regular City Commission Meeting
•September 11, 2025 - Shade City Commission Meeting
•September 11, 2025- Special Budget City Commission Meeting
•September 22, 2025 - Shade City Commission Meeting
•September 22, 2025 - Regular City Commission Meeting

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

CA.6 PROPOSED PROCLAMATIONS, CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION/RECOGNITION. (COMMISSION APPROVAL REQUIRED). (TO BE READ AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING). NONE.

CA.7 NOTIFICATION OF PROCLAMATIONS/CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION ISSUED:
Certificate of Recognition 2025-09: Pastor Byron E. Hodges and First Lady Flo Hodges in Celebration of 20 years of service to the Greater St. Mary's Missionary Church (C. Garris, Commissioner)

CA.8 Approval of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) - \$20,224.00 for Breaching Training Door and Forensic Evidence Drying Cabinet (J. Michaux, Chief of Police)

CA.9 Habitat for Humanity of St. Johns County Request for Use of City Seal (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 Sikes-Kline MOVED to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Cynthia Garris 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 2025-23: Amends the Future Land Use Designation of approximately 11.39 Acres at Florida Avenue and 3 Theodore Street East of Nesmith Avenue (A. Skinner, Planning and Building Director)

Amy Skinner, Planning and Building, reviewed Ordinance 2025-23.

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

- Matra Hahn
- Ann Solomon

MOTION

Commissioner Springfield MOVED to pass Ordinance 2025-23 on second reading. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Garris.

Ms. Lopez read the title as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-23

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA AMENDING THE

FUTURE LAND USE MAP (FLUM) DESIGNATION OF A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 11.39 ACRES; LOCATED AT FLORIDA AVENUE AND 3 THEODORE STREET: EAST OF NESMITH AVENUE BETWEEN THEODORE STREET TO THE NORTH AND JOSIAH STREET TO THE SOUTH AS PORTIONS OF WHITNEYS SUBDIVISION -PART OF RAVENSWOOD IN THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED HEREINAFTER; CHANGING APPROXIMATELY 2.97 UPLAND ACRES OF PROPERTY FROM ITS CURRENT LAND USE DESIGNATION OF RESIDENTIAL MEDIUM DENSITY TO RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE AND CHANGING APPROXIMATELY 8.42 WATERWARD ACRES OF PROPERTY FROM ITS CURRENT DESIGNATION OF OPEN LAND (VERY LOW DENSITY) TO OPEN LAND (CONSERVATION); PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERANCE OF INVALID PROVISIONS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

VOTE ON MOTION:

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

NAYES: NONE

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

8.A.2. Ordinance 2025-24: Amends the Zoning of approximately 11.39 acres at Florida Avenue and 3 Theodore Street East of Nesmith Avenue (A. Skinner, Planning and Building Director)

Amy Skinner, Planning and Building, reviewed Ordinance 2025-24.

Ex Parte Communication
(None)

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

MOTION

Commissioner Jon DePreter MOVED to pass Ordinance 2025-24 on second reading. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Springfield.

Ms. Lopez read the title as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-24

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA REZONING A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 11.39 ACRES; LOCATED AT FLORIDA AVENUE AND 3 THEODORE STREET; EAST OF NESMITH AVENUE BETWEEN THEODORE STREET TO THE NORTH AND JOSIAH STREET TO THE SOUTH AS PORTIONS OF WHITNEYS SUBDIVISION -PART OF RAVENSWOOD IN THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED HEREINAFTER, REZONING APPROXIMATELY 2.97 UPLAND ACRES FROM ITS CURRENT CLASSIFICATION OF RESIDENTIAL GENERAL-ONE (RG-1) TO THE CITY CLASSIFICATION OF GOVERNMENT USE (GU) AND REZONING APPROXIMATELY 8.42 WATERWARD ACRES FROM ITS CURRENT CLASSIFICATION OF RESIDENTIAL GENERAL-ONE (RG-1) TO THE CITY CLASSIFICATION OF OPEN LAND (OL); PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERANCE OF INVALID PROVISIONS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

VOTE ON MOTION:

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

NAYES: NONE

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

8.A.3. Ordinance 2025-25: Amends the Future Land Use Designation of approximately 6.57 acres at Florida Avenue and Julia Street East of Florida Avenue (A. Skinner, Planning and Building Director)

Amy Skinner, Planning and Building, reviewed Ordinance 2025-25

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

MOTION

Commissioner Blonder MOVED to pass Ordinance 2025-25 on second reading. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner DePreter

Ms. Lopez read the title as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-25

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP (FLUM) DESIGNATION OF A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 6.57 ACRES; LOCATED AT FLORIDA AVENUE AND JULIA STREET; EAST OF FLORIDA AVENUE BETWEEN JULIA STREET TO THE NORTH AND EVERGREEN AVENUE TO THE SOUTH AS PORTIONS OF RAVENSWOOD SUBDIVISION IN THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED HEREINAFTER; CHANGING APPROXIMATELY 4.26 UPLAND ACRES OF PROPERTY FROM ITS CURRENT LAND USE DESIGNATION OF RESIDENTIAL MEDIUM DENSITY TO RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE AND CHANGING APPROXIMATELY 2.31 WATERWARD ACRES OF PROPERTY FROM ITS CURRENT DESIGNATION OF OPEN LAND (VERY LOW DENSITY) TO OPEN LAND (CONSERVATION); PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERANCE OF INVALID PROVISIONS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

VOTE ON MOTION:

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

NAYES: NONE

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

8.A.4. Ordinance 2025-26: Amends the Zoning of approximately 6.57 acres at Florida Avenue and Julia Street East of Florida Avenue (A. Skinner, Planning and Building Director)

Amy Skinner, Planning and Building, reviewed Ordinance 2025-26.

Ex Parte Communication

(None)

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

MOTION

Commissioner DePreter MOVED to pass Ordinance 2025-26 on second reading. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Garris.

Ms. Lopez read the title as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-26

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA REZONING A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 6.57 ACRES; LOCATED AT FLORIDA AVENUE AND JULIA STREET; EAST OF FLORIDA AVENUE BETWEEN JULIA STREET TO THE NORTH AND EVERGREEN AVENUE TO THE SOUTH AS PORTIONS OF THE RAVENSWOOD SUBDIVISION IN THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED HEREINAFTER; REZONING APPROXIMATELY 2.53 ACRES FROM ITS CURRENT CLASSIFICATION OF RESIDENTIAL GENERAL-TWO (RG-2) TO THE CITY CLASSIFICATION OF GOVERNMENT USE (GU), REZONING APPROXIMATELY 1.28 ACRES FROM ITS CURRENT CLASSIFICATION OF OPEN LAND (OL) TO THE CITY CLASSIFICATION OF GOVERNMENT USE (GU), REZONING APPROXIMATELY 0.33 ACRES OF FORMER CITY RIGHT-OF-WAY FROM UNDESIGNATED TO THE CITY CLASSIFICATION OF

GOVERNMENT USE (GU), AND REZONING APPROXIMATELY 0.12 ACRES OF FORMER CITY RIGHT-OF-WAY FROM UNDESIGNATED TO THE CITY CLASSIFICATION OF OPEN LAND (OL); PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERANCE OF INVALID PROVISIONS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

VOTE ON MOTION:

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

NAYES: NONE

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

8.A.5. Ordinance 2025-27: Amends the Future Land Use Designation of approximately 2.47 acres at 10,14, and 18 Smith Street and Evergreen Avenue East of Nesbit Avenue (A. Skinner, Planning and Building Director)

Amy Skinner, Planning and Building, reviewed Ordinance 2025-27

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

MOTION

Commissioner Blonder MOVED to pass Ordinance 2025-27 on second reading. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Springfield.

Ms. Lopez read the title as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-27

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP(FLUM) DESIGNATION OF A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 2.47 ACRES; LOCATED AT 10, 14, AND 18 SMITH STREET AND EVERGREEN AVENUE; EAST OF NESBIT AVENUE BETWEEN EVERGREEN AVENUE TO THE NORTH AND SMITH STREET TO THE SOUTH AS PORTIONS OF THE BOVEE PLAT

SHOWING SUBDIVISION OF PROPE IN THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED HEREINAFTER; CHANGING APPROXIMATELY 1.4 UPLAND ACRES OF PROPERTY FROM ITS CURRENT LAND USE DESIGNATION OF RESIDENTIAL MEDIUM DENSITY TO RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE AND CHANGING APPROXIMATELY 1.07 WATERWARD ACRES OF PROPERTY FROM ITS CURRENT DESIGNATION OF OPEN LAND (VERY LOW DENSITY) TO OPEN LAND (CONSERVATION); PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERANCE OF INVALID PROVISIONS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

VOTE ON MOTION:

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

NAYES: NONE

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

8.A.6. Ordinance 2025-28: Amends the Zoning of approximately 2.47 acres at 10,14, and 18 Smith Street and Evergreen Avenue East of Nesbit Avenue (A. Skinner, Planning and Building Director)

Amy Skinner, Planning and Building, reviewed Ordinance 2025-28

Ex Parte Communication

(None)

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

MOTION

Commissioner Springfield MOVED to pass Ordinance 2025-28 on second reading. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner DePreter.

Ms. Lopez read the title as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-28

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA REZONING A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 2.47 ACRES; LOCATED AT 10, 14, AND 18 SMITH STREET AND EVERGREEN AVENUE; EAST OF NESBIT AVENUE BETWEEN EVERGREEN AVENUE TO THE NORTH AND SMITH STREET TO THE SOUTH AS PORTIONS OF THE BOVEE PLAT SHOWING SUBDIVISION OF PROPE IN THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED HEREINAFTER, REZONING APPROXIMATELY 1.4 UPLAND ACRES FROM ITS CURRENT CLASSIFICATION OF RESIDENTIAL GENERAL-ONE (RG-1) TO THE CITY CLASSIFICATION OF GOVERNMENT USE (GU), AND REZONING APPROXIMATELY 1.07 WATERWARD ACRES FROM ITS CURRENT CLASSIFICATION OF RESIDENTIAL GENERAL-ONE (RG-1) TO THE CITY CLASSIFICATION OF OPEN LAND (OL); PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERANCE OF INVALID PROVISIONS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

VOTE ON MOTION:

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

NAYES: NONE

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Mayor Sikes-Kline said she felt this was a great program and she thanked Commissioner Blonder for her leadership.

Commissioner Bonder thanked the Commission for their support and standing for conservation. She said the rezonings and land use amendments helped solidify that these properties would remain in conservation.

Commissioner Springfield added that the only way to conserve property was to own it. He said he thought it was the right thing to do.

Commissioner DePreter said this had come full circle for him. He complemented Ms. Hahn and Ms. Solomon for their dedication and neighborhood work. He said the property could have been developed, as he was on the Planning and Zoning Board during that time; however, he felt this was the best alternative use for the property.

8.A.7. Ordinance 2025-30: Provides minor editorial changes to the city's parking regulations (I. Lopez, City Attorney)

Isabelle Lopez, City Attorney, presented Ordinance 2025-30

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

MOTION

Commissioner DePreter MOVED to pass Ordinance 2025-30 on second reading. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Springfield.

Ms. Lopez read the title as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-30

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 24, ARTICLE II OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE PROVIDING FOR DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING FOR GENDER NEUTRAL LANGUAGE; PROVIDING FOR PARKING PROHIBITIONS CONSISTENT WITH STATE STATUTE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

VOTE ON MOTION:

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

NAYES: NONE

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

8.A.8. Ordinance 2025-31: Creating Section 8-117, Repair timeline for milestone inspections (R. Schauland, Building Official, Planning and Building)

Richard Schauland, City Building Official, reviewed Ordinance 2025-31.

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

MOTION

Commissioner Springfield MOVED to pass Ordinance 2025-31 on second reading. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Blonder.

Ms. Lopez read the title as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-31

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA, CREATING SECTION 8-117 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE TO CONFORM WITH STATE STATUTE REGARDING A TIMEFRAME FOR REPAIRS OF SUBSTANTIAL STRUCTURAL DETERIORATION TO A CONDOMINIUM OR COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

VOTE ON MOTION:

AYES: Springfield, Blonder, DePreter, Garris, 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

10.A Request to Use Stormwater Reserve funds to complete City Marina Seawall Project

Jessica Beach, Chief Resiliency Office and Utility and Public Works Deputy Director, requested additional funding for the Avienda Menendez Seawall project, which was in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and had been for the past few years. She said funding was received from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in 2017 as a result from hurricane Irma and from the Florida Inlet Navigation District (FIND). She said the total grant funding for the project, including the City's matching portion, was a little over \$1.5 million dollars. She said the design and permitting phases were complete and they were in the construction phase of the project. She said the project total for construction and archeology was a little over \$2 million dollars. She said the budget deficit was \$476,937, and the stormwater reserve fund had available a total of \$668,000. She said the request was to utilize the stormwater reserves to cover the budget deficit for construction. She said they had contacted FIND and FEMA to request more funding for the project, if possible, but that took time. She said the goal was to complete the project prior to the December 2026 FEMA grant deadline.

Mayor Sikes-Kline said using the funds from stormwater made sense. She noted this project had been in the CIP for quite some time.

Ms. Beach added that the funding from FEMA became available after hurricane Irma, but it took time for funding to be awarded and having contracts in place. She said the construction contract from FEMA was received in June 2025.

Mayor Sikes- Kline commented that it was difficult to explain how long federal programs took. She agreed that it would be better to proceed with the project and ask for more funding from FEMA and FIND as this was a priority.

Commissioner Springfield agreed that it was best to move forward with the project utilizing the Stormwater funds and then look for ways to replenish the fund.

Ms. Beach said this was a team effort and she thanked everyone for their help.

MOTION

Mayor Sikes-Kline MOVED to APPROVE the expenditure as described. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Blonder.

VOTE ON MOTION:

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

NAYES: NONE

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

11. ITEMS BY CITY ATTORNEY

(None)

12. ITEMS BY CITY CLERK

12.A. Notification of three (3) upcoming term expirations - St. Augustine Firefighters' Pension Trust Fund, Board of Trustees (D. Galambos, City Clerk)

Darlene Galambos, City Clerk, announced there were three term expirations on the Firefighters' Pension Trust Fund, Board of Trustees. She said the expiring members were eligible for reappointment. She said

advertisement for the positions would be done as well.

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

Darlene Galambos, City Clerk, said applications for the Planning and Zoning Board (PZB), and those would be presented at the November meeting. She said there was an available position on the Civil Service Board.

Mayor Sikes-Kline asked how many applications were received for the PZB.

Ms. Galambos replied there were a total of three applications for two open seats.

13. ITEMS BY CITY MANAGER

David Birchim, City Manager, announced the mobile Museum of Tolerance would be in town and it was free and open to the public. He said it would be off of Granada Street, and he encouraged everyone to stop by for the experience. He said on Wednesday, October 29th at 10:30 a.m. the ribbon cutting for the Dining with Dignity pavilion would take place at 92 South Dixie. He said this was the first step in creating a drop-in day center for the homeless. He said this would move the Dining with Dignity program from behind City Hall to the new property. He said the first meal would be served on November 14, 2025.

Mayor Sikes-Kline thanked him for working with the Mobile Museum of Tolerance. She said this was requested by a professor at Flagler College, and she appreciated all the work that had been done to accommodate the bus. She said there were many of these types of buses and it was a very fascinating experience.

Commissioner Blonder agreed it was a great experience.

14. Items by Mayor and Commissioners

Commissioner Garris asked what the hours were for the Museum of Tolerance.

Mr. Birchim replied that he thought it opened at 10:00 a.m. but was unsure of the closing time.

Commissioner Garris thanked everyone involved that was associated with Dining with Dignity. She expressed her gratitude to Barry Fox, Chuck Cushman, the facilities team, TBL Construction, and Florida Power and Light (FPL) for helping with the project. She said this was a great place for the homeless to have meals with dignity. She thanked Commissioner Springfield for the breakfast event hosted by the Kiwanis Club. She said there were many events that took place over the week, and she was happy to live in a beautiful city. She thanked the two residents from Florida Avenue that spoke in support of the conservation land. She felt the commission was listening to the people and fulfilling the needs.

Commissioner DePreter asked if the fifty or more employees for employee parking was accurate.

Mr. Birchim replied that he thought it was, however, wanted to speak with staff to see if there was any flexibility but would follow up regarding this issue.

Commissioner DePreter said during public comment a sink hole was mentioned, and he understood that it might be new information and asked for that to be addressed.

Mr. Birchim agreed that it was new information and he would follow up with the resident regarding the issue.

Commissioner DePreter thanked the Communications Department for setting up the coffee meet ups. He said around nine or ten people showed up at Flamingo Coffee Bar, and he felt it was done well. He

said a couple issues brought to his attention were flooding and tide check valve maintenance. He said the question was if the flooding was due to the tide check valve or was it because it was overloaded. He said there used to be an active map on the website and he was unable to locate it.

Mr. Birchim commented that the map was on the website; however, the maintenance schedule was not on the map. He said he spoke to the Public Works director about combining the two, so when anyone looked at the Geographic Information System (GIS) Maps, there could be an identifier that indicated the maintenance schedule.

Commissioner DePreter felt that would be helpful even though it was more of a seasonal issue but anytime residents were able to access up-to-date information, it was beneficial for them. He said another topic discussed was efficiently closing roads with signage, which he understood was complicated but the complaint was that when the roads flood, vehicles would still come down the road and water would get inside their residents.

Mr. Birchim said they were in the process of trying to close roads more efficiently. He said the Chief of Police was working on that, and the streets that were prone to flooding in the City had been identified. He said a management plan was being created with a focus on the more prone to flooding areas. He said they were making sure there were enough signs on hand and were trying to determine locations to pre-deploy those signs. He said this was being organized by the City Fire and Police Departments.

Commissioner DePreter thanked Mr. Birchim for responding to that request.

Commissioner Springfield said the Florida City Week was done well. He said there was a comment that this type of thing should be done more often and he agreed. He said if it was later in the evenings, it

could encourage those who worked to attend. He said he was impressed with the presentation given by the Mayor to the Florida Legislature at the County. He said his coffee event was held at Dos on San Marco Avenue and he had a list of comments from residents that he would provide to the City Manager. He explained people were desperate to understand how the City operated, and he felt there was a lot that could be done to help educate the residents. He added he spoke to the eighth graders at Pioneer School for their Civics class about City government, which was a great time.

Commissioner Blonder said she was contacted about the upkeep and maintenance of the pool at the Galimore Center. She agreed that at the Coffee with a Commissioner, she heard some great ideas from residents and provided those to the City Manager. She said legislation was being worked on in relation to that. She said she participated in the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program through Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), to fully understand what it was like to go through the process, and it had been three years since she submitted her application. She said that there were around fifty people who submitted applications when she did and there had been many delays due to funding or other issues. She said last year she applied for the Elevate Florida Program and was at the final stage and was denied since she had an application in with the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program. She said the reason she applied for the program was to understand the hardships, although decisions had to be made by FEMA before moving forward. She said they were trying to adapt to sea level rise; however, they were being blocked, and that was very difficult. She said as a Commission, they were working diligently to do everything they could to assist the residents with things like this.

Mayor Sikes-Kline agreed that City Government Week went well for her too.

She appreciated the opportunity to have coffee with her neighbors and friends. She said she participated in the City Archeology tour given by our City Archeologist at the Visitors Information Center, which was very interesting. She said she attended the Historic Area Council along with the Chamber of Commerce where the Nights of Lights presentation was given by the City Manager. She felt it was very informative for them and productive feedback was given. She thanked the commissioners for attending a dedication to Conner Park and said the Conner and Carter families were very grateful, and it was a very positive experience. She said she spoke to the Legislative delegation at the County, with the City's legislative request this morning and learned that the City would be required to have a fifty percent match on all project requests. She apologized for not recognizing the commissioners that attended the meeting as there was very limited time; however, she thanked them for coming and being supportive. She thanked the City Attorney for providing guidance on what could be discussed concerning ad valorem tax cut proposal. She pointed out that the cities and counties had limited ways of raising revenue. She said the City was not as dependent on ad valorem tax and was grateful that the City had been strategizing over the years for other sources. She said campaigns were not allowed; however, forums were allowed for people to come and ask questions. She suggested hosting a forum in January as she felt it was a guarantee to happen. She added they had an amazing time at the 100-year celebration of Davis Shores, there were many speakers, food was amazing, and the entertainment was great. She said she gave the toast at the end of the night and it was a wonderful event.

15. Adjournment

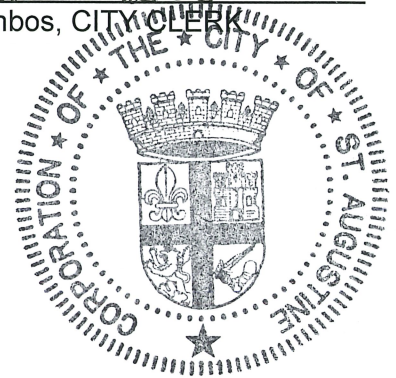
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:22 P.M.¹



Nancy Sikes-Kline, MAYOR



Darlene Galambos, CITY CLERK



¹ Transcribed by Elyse Wiemann