

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

Regular City Commission Meeting
Monday, February 9, 2026

The City Commission met in formal session Monday, February 9, 2026, 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
Jaime D. Perkins, Director, Community Services
Amy Skinner, Director, Planning and Building
Melissa Wissel, Director, Communications
Jon Marston, Police Chief
Kevin Carroll, Sergeant, Police Department
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

Mayor Sikes-Kline requested to move item 10.A. 2025–2026 Nights of Lights Season Review to item 7. B. Items of Great Public Importance, and to read a letter from The Fundación Consejo España–Estados Unidos regarding an award the City was receiving.

MOTION

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

3. Special Presentations, Recognitions and Proclamations

3.A. Black History Month Poetry Reading, Dr. Ann Browning Masters, City of St. Augustine Poet Laureate (M. Wissel, Communications Director)

4. General Public Comments (3 minutes per individual)

The Commission heard from the following members of the public:

- Arthur Culbert
- Katherine Zodda
- Heather Wilson
- Jason Judge
- Lauren Giber
- Thomas Reynolds
- Patricia Ramos

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:
•February 23, 2026, 3:30PM, Special City Commission Meeting: Property Tax Reform Discussion
•February 23, 2026, 5:00PM, Regular City Commission Meeting
•March 9, 2026, 5:00PM, Regular City Commission Meeting
•March 23, 2026, 5:00PM, Regular City Commission Meeting

CA.4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR COMMISSION MEETINGS: NONE

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: NONE.

CA.8 City Commission Approval to Use the City Seal for Irish Exhibit at the Visitor Information Center and Community Table Event with Flagler College (M. Wissel, Communications Director)

CA.9 Selection of Jen Lomberk for the Red Cedar Award for Environmental Impact (B. Blonder, Vice Mayor)

CA.10 Satisfaction and Release of Lien: 204 Pelican Reef Drive (I. Lopez, City Attorney)

CA.11 Satisfaction and Release of Lien: 186 Pelican Reef Drive (I. Lopez, City Attorney)

CA.12 Eminent Domain: Lake Maria Sanchez — Invoice for Professional Services (I. Lopez, City Attorney)

CA.13 Quarterly Report: 1st Quarter FY 2025-2026 (I. Lopez, City Attorney)

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 Jim 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

Mayor Sikes-Kline read a letter from The Fundación Consejo España–Estados Unidos announcing that the City of St. Augustine was chosen to receive the 11th Bernardo de Gálvez Award, which honors the efforts to preserve historic legacy between the United States and Spain.

7.B.1. 2025–2026 Nights of Lights Season Review (D. Birchim, City Manager)

David Birchim, City Manager, provided an overview of the 2025-2026 Nights of Lights (NoL) Season Review. He discussed the following:

- Parking Operations
- Transportation and Mobility
- Public Restrooms
- Solid Waste and Property Services
- Public Safety
- Communications

Meredith Breidenstein, Assistant City Manager, reviewed the budget expenditures for the Nights of the Lights 2025-2026 Season.

Commissioner Jon DePreter said after reviewing the presentation he was more concerned about the daily rate of operations. He said he asked Ms. Breidenstein if she could provide more about the daily cost.

Ms. Breidenstein reviewed the NoL daily cost and cost per ride on the shuttles. She said for the complete fifty-eight days of NoL excluding the shuttles it was \$10,268. She said the cost for the Visitor Information Center (VIC) Shuttles, which came from the Broudy Lot and the County Lots to the VIC, which ran for thirty-three days, cost a total of \$18,353. She said the Anastasia Island shuttle cost, which was covered as

of now by a grant from the Department of Transportation (DOT), ran for fifty-six days cost \$729. She said the City alone, without any grant assistance, adding the daily rate and each shuttles daily rate, could pay for thirteen total days.

Commissioner Cynthia Garris said that this could pay for the original twelve days of shuttles that would have normally been done by the City.

Ms. Breidenstein replied that could pay for the twelve days of shuttles but this year there were many more operational expenditures than in previous years.

Commissioner Springfield said the State paid for the shuttle for the beach area; however, the City lost that in the downtown core for that period of time.

Ms. Breidenstein said that was correct although it would have been difficult to navigate logistically.

Commissioner Springfield said, this year, traffic flow was much better than last year, and he thought it could have operated more efficiently. He said the loss of revenue from parking was not accounted for and should be considered because that was the same as spending it. He noted that local residents did not pay \$40 to park at the municipal parking garage if they used their residents' card. He said the residents' card brought their fee to \$3.

Commissioner Blonder asked for the balance sheet to be updated to include the parking loss revenue.

Ms. Breidenstein replied in the affirmative.

Mayor Sikes-Kline asked if the bike racks were well used.

Mr. Birchim replied that they were used extensively and more were ordered and put on the bayfront to protect pedestrians from walking between vehicles and

crossing traffic mid-block; however, those had to be redeployed daily.

Mayor Sikes-Kline felt those should be named something different because it was not a 'bike rack'. She said these were more like pedestrian barricades, which were different than bike racks.

Mr. Birchim understood and explained that the reason they were called 'bike racks' was how they looked; however, they were used to delineate the pedestrian spaces from the vehicular spaces, whereas the meridian barricades were to safeguard pedestrians from vehicles.

Mayor Sikes-Kline asked about the SMART St. Augustine program, which was the dynamic sign program. She said the messages could start as far as interstate 95 and asked when that would be implemented.

Reuben Franklin, Assistance City Manager, said the SMART St. Augustine program, should be ready for the upcoming 2026-2027 NoL season, as he anticipated construction to start late spring 2026.

Commissioner Blonder said there was additional cost to staff besides the police and fire department. She asked if there was a way to capture those additional expenses.

Ms. Breidenstein replied that almost everything associated with NoL had been included. She said a different charge code was added to timecards for those departments that assisted with NoL, such as solid waste, parking, events, and mobility. She said those numbers were included in the numbers provided.

Commissioner Springfield said during NoL, City staff were unable to do their daily job requirements like paving streets; therefore, that was a loss of activity from staff because they were concentrated on NoL, which had been done for the past thirty years.

Ms. Breidenstein commented that a lot of this was overtime; however, things were adjusted seasonally to focus on NoL.

The Commission heard from the following members of the public:

- Sarah Rose Stone
- Anthony Sexton
- Melinda Rakoncay
- Len Weeks
- Robin Wertz
- Scott York

Commissioner Springfield suggested keeping the meridian barricades up for safety. He said there were economic factors that differed from this year to last year but was unsure how to measure. He said he appreciated that Len Weeks brought up the revenue that was generated and felt that should be noted, even if the money was committed by resolution to be used elsewhere. He said he wanted to understand exactly where funds came from to assist during the NoL season and have that information quantified.

Mr. Birchim replied that the money generated was from parking revenues, which were earmarked as mentioned, and permit revenues, which were insignificant. He said that information could be compiled and provided.

Commissioner Springfield added that he thought signage would be good to implement to advise of other business on Charlotte and Spanish Street and about restroom locations. He said he appreciated having the Toques Lot available, but it was a hard balance to help employees or those who were unable to get downtown. He said as a resident, he was very happy with how NoL went and spent more time downtown than in past years. He said he was curious about the hotel data compared to last year as that could help determine the number of people in town.

Commissioner DePreter stated he thought that the hotel occupancy could be tracked

through the bed tax. He said that it may be provided by Susan Philips at the Visitors Convention Bureau (VCB). He said from his understanding and the numbers from last year, around 75% of the Tourist Development Taxes (TDT) came from St. Augustine Beach and the City of St. Augustine, to include Vilano Beach. He said the cost for the beach shuttle was \$2.00 per person and it had been tried previously but now there was real data, which showed it beneficial. He stated he wanted to work towards having a shuttle lane on San Marco Avenue. He suggested adding bike racks on the south side of the Bridge of Lions as there were many residents that would utilize them. He thought it would be beneficial to add shuttle stops along San Marco Avenue as it had been mentioned by several business owners. He said during his ride along with police there seemed to be some issues with the geofencing enforcement and felt that should be looked into further. He said one of the corporals he was riding with suggested adding a police officer to the VIC shuttle area with the amount of people using the shuttles as it was a very busy area. He questioned if the extra week in November was fruitful. He said from what he had heard it had been, but he had not received anything official. He suggested reviewing the cost of the shuttles as there was an increase of 13% per person in one year.

Commissioner Garris felt that even though the parking garage money was earmarked for other things, there had to be a profit, and she thought that it should be taken into consideration. She said the parking ticket fines increased from \$35 to \$100 and she requested that that revenue should be taken into account as well. She was concerned that the business owner of Florida Cracker Café noted his business was down 30% and he had to let 10% of his staff go. She said that was very unfortunate as it was very hard to maintain good staff in the retail and food industry. She was disheartened by the owner of the Art Gallery as she mentioned their

business was down too due to the lack of visitors on Cuna Street. She felt the Toques parking lot was not being utilized as the cost for the spaces was higher than any other ones and suggested returning the lot back to pay by plate. She said with people being disabled there was no transportation provided to help get them into town and this could have helped them but if not, they would not come downtown. She was pleased that the residents were happy with less traffic cut-through; however, other businesses complained that the parking restrictions had hurt their businesses and once the hours changed it was better. She said the hours should remain to what it was changed to, to help avoid problems next year. She thanked Mr. Birchim and Ms. Breidenstein for the presentation and noted that the businesses paid taxes yearly, and their concerns and needs should be taken into consideration.

Commissioner Blonder thanked staff, the public speakers and the Commission. She said the NoL presentation provided a great deal of information that was needed to help make decisions moving forward. She noted there was an increase in shuttle passengers of around fifty thousand, which more than tripled the amount from 2024. She said the changes proved that there was interest and if the wait times could be improved it could become even more beneficial; however, the cost to run the shuttles nearly tripled, which was a large expense. She agreed there was a critical need for a transit lane on San Marco Avenue and make it permanent. She said she wanted to be more creative on how the County could assist the City with funding since the City was where most of the bed tax came from and the City was still left with a shortfall. She said this was a major expense and if it was unable to be paid, then other decisions had to be made.

Mayor Sikes-Kline agreed and thanked Mr. Birchim for the presentation provided and thanked him for following through on all the promises made, which she appreciated. She said it was not perfect and it could be

improved but commended him for receiving feedback and being open during the process. She felt the City was able to accommodate more people, make them safer; however, did not feel the visitors received a better aesthetic appearance and that was a concern. She said she cared about the aesthetics as it made the City desirable and enticed people to visit and wanted that to be a priority moving forward. She noted Representative Sam Greco suggested installing permanent bollards instead of the meridian barriers, which were not pleasing and made it seem dangerous. She said how revenue was generated for the City by NoL was a question that every mayor struggled to answer but knew it would continue to be a challenge. She said the employee parking was thought out but it did not come to fruition, but she felt we should continue to find ways to help accommodate our employees in the City. She thanked everyone for staying engaged and encouraged them to continue to be involved moving forward. She said a planning study request had been made to the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization regarding shuttling, which could help with obtaining a transit lane. She said she looked forward to the results of the resident survey by the neighborhood councils and the VCB NoL economic survey.¹

7.C. Other Items Requiring Public Hearing

(None)

8. Ordinances and Resolutions – Public Hearing Required.

8.A. Ordinances – Second Reading

8.A.1. Ordinance 2026-03: Amending the Future Land Use Designation of Approximately 4.55 acres at Beacon Street and East Park Avenue East of

Billings Street (A. Skinner, Planning and Building Director)

Amy Skinner, Planning and Building Director, reviewed Ordinance 2026-03.

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

MOTION

Commissioner Blonder MOVED to pass Ordinance 2026-03 on second reading. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Springfield.

Ms. Lopez read the title as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-03

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP (FLUM) DESIGNATION OF A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 4.55 ACRES; LOCATED AT BEACON STREET AND EAST PARK AVENUE; EAST OF BILLINGS STREET AS PORTIONS OF HILDRETH BACK BAY ADDITION SUBDIVISION IN THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED HEREINAFTER; CHANGING APPROXIMATELY 0.75 UPLAND ACRES OF PROPERTY FROM ITS CURRENT LAND USE DESIGNATION OF RESIDENTIAL LOW DENSITY TO RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE AND CHANGING APPROXIMATELY 3.80 WATERWARD ACRES OF PROPERTY FROM ITS CURRENT DESIGNATION OF RESIDENTIAL 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

¹ Break taken 7:26p.m.-7:37p.m.

8.A.2. Ordinance 2026-04: Amending the Zoning Designation of Approximately 4.55 acres at Beacon Street and East Park Avenue east of Billings Street (A. Skinner, Planning and Building Director)

Amy Skinner, Planning and Building Director, reviewed Ordinance 2026-04.

Ex Parte Communication:

(None)

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

MOTION

Commissioner Springfield MOVED to pass Ordinance 2026-04 on second reading. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Garris.

Ms. Lopez read the title as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-04

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA REZONING A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 4.55 ACRES; LOCATED AT BEACON STREET AND EAST PARK AVENUE; EAST OF BILLINGS STREET AS PORTIONS OF HILDRETH BACK BAY ADDITION SUBDIVISION IN THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED HEREINAFTER; REZONING APPROXIMATELY 0.75 UPLAND ACRES FROM ITS CURRENT CLASSIFICATION OF RESIDENTIAL SINGLE FAMILY-TWO (RS-2) TO THE CITY CLASSIFICATION OF GOVERNMENT USE (GU), AND REZONING APPROXIMATELY 3.80 WATERWARD ACRES FROM ITS CURRENT CLASSIFICATION OF RESIDENTIAL SINGLE FAMILY-TWO (RS-2) 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, Garris, DePreter, Blonder, Sikes-Kline

NAYES: NONE

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

8.A.3. Ordinance 2026-05: Amending the Future Land Use Designation of Approximately 2.12 acres at Fishers Island between the Matanzas River and State Road 312, commonly known as Fish Island Inholding (A. Skinner, Planning and Building Director)

Amy Skinner, Planning and Building Director, reviewed Ordinance 2026-05.

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

MOTION

Commissioner Springfield MOVED to pass Ordinance 2026-05 on second reading. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner DePreter.

Ms. Lopez read the title as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-05

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP (FLUM) DESIGNATION OF A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 2.12 ACRES; LOCATED AT FISHERS ISLAND BETWEEN THE MATANZAS RIVER AND STATE ROAD 312 IN THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED HEREINAFTER; CHANGING APPROXIMATELY 2.12 UPLAND ACRES OF PROPERTY FROM ITS CURRENT LAND USE DESIGNATION OF RESIDENTIAL MEDIUM DENSITY/MIXED USE TO RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE; 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

8.A.4. Ordinance 2026-06: Amending the Zoning Designation of Approximately 2.12 acres at Fishers Island between the Matanzas River and State Road 312, commonly known as Fish Island Inholding (A. Skinner, Planning and Building Director)

Amy Skinner, Planning and Building Director, reviewed Ordinance 2026-06.

Ex Parte Communication:

(None)

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

MOTION

Commissioner DePreter MOVED to pass Ordinance 2026-06 on second reading. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Springfield.

Ms. Lopez read the title as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-06

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA REZONING A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 2.12 ACRES; LOCATED AT FISHERS ISLAND BETWEEN THE MATANZAS RIVER AND STATE ROAD 312 IN THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED HEREINAFTER; REZONING APPROXIMATELY 2.12 UPLAND ACRES FROM ITS CURRENT CLASSIFICATION OF RESIDENTIAL AND GENERAL OFFICE A (RGO-A) TO THE CITY CLASSIFICATION OF GOVERNMENT USE (GU), 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.5. Ordinance 2026-07: Amending the Zoning Designation of Approximately 54.67 acres at Fishers Island between the Matanzas River and State Road 312, commonly known as Fish Island Preserve (A. Skinner, Planning and Building Director)

Amy Skinner, Planning and Building Director, reviewed Ordinance 2026-07.

Ex Parte Communication:

(None)

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

MOTION

Commissioner DePreter MOVED to pass Ordinance 2026-07 on second reading. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Springfield.

Ms. Lopez read the title as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-07

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA REZONING A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 54.67 ACRES; LOCATED AT FISHERS ISLAND BETWEEN THE MATANZAS RIVER AND STATE ROAD 312 IN THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED HEREINAFTER; REZONING APPROXIMATELY 15.52 UPLAND ACRES FROM ITS CURRENT CLASSIFICATION OF COMMERCIAL MEDIUM-TWO (CM-2) AND

APPROXIMATELY 39.15 UPLAND ACRES OF RESIDENTIAL AND GENERAL OFFICE A (RGO-A) TO THE CITY CLASSIFICATION OF GOVERNMENT USE (GU), 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.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. 2025–2026 Nights of Lights Season Review (D. Birchim, City Manager)

Item moved to 7.B.1.

11. ITEMS BY CITY ATTORNEY

Isabelle Lopez, City Attorney, asked if the Commission wanted her to continue to enforce submerged land leases.

After a brief discussion, it was determined that Ms. Lopez would provide more information regarding submerged land leases and how they were enforced.

Mayor Sikes-Kline thanked Ms. Lopez for the quarterly report. She said it was obvious that her office was very busy and active, but it was a pleasure to work with her and her office.

12. ITEMS BY CITY CLERK

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

Darlene Galambos, City Clerk, said that applications were being accepted for the Historic Architecture Review Board and the Corridor Review Committee, as there was one position on each respectively.

13. ITEMS BY CITY MANAGER

David Birchim, City Manager, advised that there would be a temporary change to the franchise routes for the Horse Carriages and City Code required that the Commission be notified. He said the change was due to the construction taking place on Sevilla Street and would last through mid-June.

14. Items by Mayor and Commissioners

Commissioner Springfield said he had received some emails concerning the NoL lights and décor. He felt that the rules should be enforced and that it should return to what was intended, which was to highlight the architectural historic buildings. He said St. Johns County was represented well in Tallahassee on St. Johns County Day, and it was a very positive experience. He was pleased 100-Acres were purchased and it was now permanently preserved.

Commissioner Garris agreed that attending St. Johns County Day was a great experience and it was nice to speak with

the legislators. She said safety was very important not only for residents and visitors but for those who lived on the outskirts of the city. She said on State Road 207 and US1, it was dark and difficult to travel alone and adding lighting would help with that and make the City even more beautiful. She said Lauren Giber mentioned the traffic on Iberia Street, and she agreed that anything that could be done to make it safer should be because she knew it could not be monitored constantly. She said no signage had been installed at the lights on King Street because the intersection was still being blocked. She said it seemed that only one-horse company was being targeted, and she felt that should be taken seriously, especially since that was where the illness was and the death of one horse.

Mayor Sikes-Kline asked if there was confirmation of a horse death from strangles.

Mr. Birchim replied that one horse passed from strangles; however, the report from the veterinarian had not been received. He said Corey Sakryd, General Services Director, spoke to the State veterinarian who confirmed that the horse did pass.

Commissioner DePreter said there was an article he read that noted the state was working on regulations for e-bikes and felt the City should be aware of this, since it had been brought up before.

Commissioner Blonder agreed with Commissioner Garris about the horses and agreed with Commissioner Springfield that there could be other options for the leased barn. She said she hoped staff would provide more information as it was given by veterinarians and then restrictions for the carriages could be tightened. She said NoL décor should return to the original intent. She thanked her fellow commissioners and staff for attending St. Johns County Day in Tallahassee, as she was unable to attend. She said three new trash receptacles were on San Marco

Avenue, and they blended in with the environment, and she thought that would help with the trash problem in that area. She mentioned that she wanted the vendor ordinance reviewed as she thought that some were out of character and non-compliant. She asked if there was an update regarding the King Street Bridge construction.

Mr. Birchim replied that the City was waiting on a press release from the Department of Transportation (DOT) about the status of the project. He said at this time it was his understanding that DOT intended to repair the bridge and close it for about a month and reopen for vehicular traffic; however, nothing formal had been provided.

Mayor Sikes-Kline commented that the same thing took place at the Bridge of Lions, which helped extend the life of the bridge.

Mr. Birchim replied that it was a repair to help extend the life of the bridge for several more years prior to having to replace it in totality.

Mayor Sikes-Kline requested to have a comprehensive update on the one-acre barn property to discuss the lease, status of the repairs, and anything else that could be provided and advised that if a death of a horse occurred on the property, the commission should be notified.

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

Mayor Sikes-Kline said she was unsure exactly where Commissioner Garris requested for lighting to be installed on SR207 but knew there was a legislative priority list and did not know if it should be added to the list or if the request should go through the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), which she was more than happy to do but would need more information on where the lights were being requested to be put.

Mr. Birchim advised that he would speak with Commissioner Garris to get more details and then find a path forward with the mobility department.

Mayor Sikes-Kline agreed with the white lights only for NoL and highlighted the buildings as intended. She said the president of the business coalition reached out and asked if the City would not permit colored lights or inflatables. She felt it was time for it to be enforced as she cared as for the aesthetics of the City. She did not want there to be a distraction from the real purpose.

Mr. Birchim added that this was discussed at the end of the 2024 NoL season and the commission instructed staff to create guidelines for lighting. He said at that time it could not be done; however, it could be revisited but the question was the enforcement.

Mayor Sikes-Kline agreed that enforcement could be difficult but felt it was necessary.

Mr. Birchim commented that some businesses may not be aware of the rules, but the guidelines could help.

Mayor Sikes-Kline said she received another request for the naming of a City street. She said she asked Darlene Galambos, City Clerk, about the guidelines for renaming of streets and the resolution had been provided for review.

Ms. Galambos reviewed the criteria and said she did not believe the second request received would qualify based off one of the requirements which 'was a deceased person or person who has made significant and outstanding contributions of public service to the community'. She said there were criteria that the requestor had to meet as well, which was outlined in the resolution. She said she was concerned with one of the criteria, which was '60% of the homesteaded property owners abutting

the street', which may not represent business owners and long-term renters.

Commissioner Garris said she would give the guidelines to Cythina Dukes, niece of Ms. Janie Price. She told the commissioners that having a marker to honor her aunt at Dr. Robert B. Hayling Park was not what Ms. Dukes had requested and did not support that. She said that Ms. Dukes wanted a street named after Ms. Price, to honor her, as her aunt had been instrumental in the Lincolnville area.

Mayor Sikes-Kline said this was a newer provision and asked who should be included. She said thought San Sebastian Way would be a good selection since there were no residents along that street and the previously proposed Planned Unit Development did not come to fruition.

Ms. Galambos asked how the wording should be modified; to include renters and business owners, or homesteaded properties should be included.

Commissioner Springfield felt renters should not be included but felt businesses, property owners, or homesteaded properties should be included.

Commissioner DePreter said he thought it should be homesteaded properties or leave the resolution as it was and see the outcome.

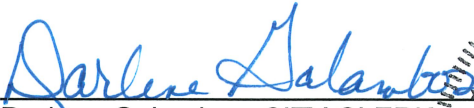
Mayor Sikes-Kline agreed.

15. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:24 P.M.²



Nancy Sikes-Kline, MAYOR



Darlene Galambos, CITY CLERK



² Transcribed by Elyse Wiemann