

**Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting
held Monday, December 21, 2015, at 7:00 P.M.
in the Council Chambers, 11 North 3rd Street,
Jacksonville Beach, Florida.**



CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Latham called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

OPENING CEREMONIES:

Council Member Wilson gave the invocation, followed by the salute to the flag.

ROLL CALL:

Mayor: William C. Latham

Council Members: Lee Buck Keith Doherty Christine Hoffman
 Bruce Thomason Phil Vogelsang (*Absent*) Jeanell Wilson

Also present were City Manager George Forbes, and City Clerk Laurie Scott.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Ms. Wilson, seconded by Ms. Hoffman, and passed unanimously, to approve the following minutes as presented:

- Regular Council Meeting held on December 7, 2015

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Doherty wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year, and added that he will be running for re-election next year.

Mr. Buck commented that he went to Deck the Chairs and was impressed by how many people were out enjoying it. He added that it was such a special event for our City.

Mayor Latham congratulated Kurtis Loftus and the Deck the Chairs (DTC) Board for a successful extravaganza on Sunday, December 13. DTC has come a long way, and it is great to see the event bring in such large, family-oriented crowds.

Mayor Latham congratulated Jacksonville Beach Elementary (JBE) School for being designated one of Florida's Blue Ribbon Schools. Out of 5,000 plus private and public schools, JBE was ranked in the top ten.

The Mayor congratulated Katherine Way Beach Boutique on their ribbon-cutting ceremony on Thursday, December 17.

The Mayor thanked the Jacksonville Beach Police Department officers, staff, and volunteers for another great Kids' Christmas at Ace Turner and the Carver Center on Saturday, December 19.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR TO VISITORS:

Mr. Ken Marsh, 2027 Gail Ave., Jacksonville Beach, discussed implementing a communication plan for the "Courtesy to the Floor" visitors. He spoke at the last City Council meeting about the Jacksonville Beach "Downtown Vision" and has yet to receive any emails or phone calls in response to his suggestions.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

(a) Item #15-202, Red Bull Night Riders Presentation

Ms. Bridget Jones, Field Marketing Specialist for Red Bull North America, thanked the City of Jacksonville Beach for hosting the 5th Annual Red Bull Night Riders surf competition on Friday, November 13, 2015. More than 7,000 people attended this event this year, which is 2,000 more than last year.

To show their appreciation, the Red Bull Night Riders presented a custom surfboard and stand to the Council, signed by each of the six competitors from this year's event.

(b) Item #15-203, ISO Fire Protection Rating Presentation

Mayor Latham asked all those in attendance from the Fire Department to approach the dais. The Insurance Services Office (ISO) recently gave the City of Jacksonville Beach a Class 2 fire protection rating which is an improvement from its previous rating as a Class 3. Not only does this mean that the fire department's level of fire protection has improved, but it could also earn lower property insurance rates for businesses and homeowners in Jacksonville Beach.

Mayor Latham then presented a plaque to the members of the Jacksonville Beach Fire Department personnel in attendance and recognized them for a job well done.

Mr. Forbes added that out of the 48,885 fire departments inspected nationwide, only 917 have a Class 2 rating. He also pointed out that Public Works deserves some of the credit for ensuring infrastructure has been improved over the past 20 to 25 years.

Chief Frazier also recognized the Police Department for their part in this ISO rating increase.

(c) Item #15-211, Request by City Attorney for Shade Meeting

It was originally recommended that the City Council schedule five shade meetings pursuant to Florida Statute §286.011(8) to discuss pending litigation.

The original proposed date and time in the City Council memo was Tuesday, January 19, 2016, at 5:15 p.m., which is just before the City Council meeting. Mr. Forbes offered an alternative date and time of Monday, January 11, 2016, at 5:15 p.m.

Motion: It was moved by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Ms. Hoffman to schedule five shade meetings pursuant to Florida Statute §286.011 on Monday, January 11, 2016, at 5:15 p.m.

Roll call vote: Ayes – Buck, Doherty, Hoffman, Thomason, Wilson, and Mayor Latham. The motion carried unanimously.

CITY CLERK:

CITY MANAGER:

(a) Item #15-204, Accept the Monthly Financial Reports for the Month of November 2015.

Motion: It was moved by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Ms. Hoffman to accept the monthly financial reports for the month of November 2015, as submitted by the Chief Financial Officer.

Roll call vote: Ayes – Doherty, Hoffman, Thomason, Wilson, Buck, and Mayor Latham. The motion carried unanimously.

(b) Item #15-205, Approve the Annual 26.2 with Donna Marathon.

Motion: It was moved by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Ms. Hoffman to approve the 26.2 with Donna marathon as detailed in the memo from Police Chief Patrick K. Dooley dated December 9, 2015.

Mr. Forbes stated that the marathon routes are presented to the Council, and there has been a change to the route this year.

Chief Dooley explained that the runners will not run on the beach; instead, the full marathon runners will continue north on 1st Street to 16th Avenue North. The half marathon runners will turn west on 2nd Avenue North, then south on 2nd Street to 16th Avenue South.

Mr. Thomason inquired about the reasoning behind eliminating the route on the beach. Ms. Donna Deegan, the event organizer, explained that after consulting with a race analyzer, it is more efficient to run on the road versus the beach.

Ms. Deegan thanked the Jacksonville Beach Police and Fire Departments for their help with this event. She added that CNN had recently lauded her event as “One of Seven U.S. Marathons Worth the Trip” and Women’s Running magazine readers chose the marathon as the number one charity race in the nation.

Mr. Doherty asked if more professional runners would attend due to the beach portion being taken out of the run. Ms. Deegan stated that the number of participants had increased since announcing they were removing the beach route.

Mayor Latham congratulated Ms. Deegan on her recent accolades and said he looks forward to this event for years to come.

Roll call vote: Ayes – Hoffman, Thomason, Wilson, Buck, Doherty, and Mayor Latham. The motion carried unanimously.

(c) Item #15-206, Approve Funding for Temporary Part-time Special Projects Manager for Parks & Recreation.

Motion: It was moved by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Ms. Hoffman to approve the addition of a temporary, part-time position in the Parks & Recreation Department as described in the memo from the City Manager dated December 10, 2015.

Mr. Forbes added that the City has been going through numerous transitions over the past couple of years, and some former Directors have continued to work part-time after retirement to assist with those transitions and to manage certain projects. Mr. Meadors, Director of Parks and Recreation, will be retiring in January, and the City would like him to remain onboard, part-time, to handle special projects, such as the rebuilding of our parks, and physically verifying that our cemetery maps are correct.

Mr. Doherty inquired if the City had anyone in mind for this position. Mr. Forbes stated that nobody currently on staff has the expertise and historical knowledge that Mr. Meadors has obtained after 30 years, so it would be beneficial for Mr. Meadors to stay on, if possible.

Ms. Wilson inquired if this was a temporary position and Mr. Forbes indicated that it would be a part-time position filled for a year or two at the most.

Roll call vote: Ayes – Thomason, Wilson, Buck, Doherty, Hoffman,
and Mayor Latham. The motion carried unanimously.

- (d) **Item #15-207, Award Unit Price Bid Number 1415-12, "Ocean Forest Drainage Improvements Project (Parts A & B)," to G & H Underground Construction, Inc., and Authorize Construction Administration Services with the Project Design Firm Jones Edmunds & Associates, Inc.**

Motion: It was moved by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Ms. Hoffman to award Unit Price Bid Number 1415-12, titled "Ocean Forest Drainage Improvements Project (Parts A and B)" to the lowest, qualified bidder, G & H Underground Construction, Incorporated, and authorize Construction Administration Services with the project's design firm, Jones Edmunds and Associates, Incorporated, as explained in the memorandum from the Public Works Director dated December 10, 2015.

Mr. Forbes explained that the City will be replacing the entire storm drainage system in the Ocean Forest subdivision by replacing 2,600 linear feet of old, damaged galvanized metal storm water pipe with PVC pipe and installing cured in place pipe as a liner inside 1,715 linear feet.

Ms. Wilson asked about new construction on the marsh and if some of that pipe had been replaced more recently; Mr. Forbes stated that this area will not necessarily be affected, but some of the pipe has been there more than 30 years. Ty Edwards, Public Works Director, added that the pipe near the marsh has seen much salt water damage and some of the pipe has been in the ground a lot longer than people might expect.

Mr. Doherty inquired about the timeframe for this project. Mr. Forbes responded that Part A is slated to take 180 days, and part B will take 120 days to complete. There will be a traffic management plan in place before any work begins.

Mr. Buck commented that the timeframe for this project and the competitive bids on this project were impressive.

Roll call vote: Ayes – Wilson, Buck, Doherty, Hoffman, Thomason, and Mayor Latham. The motion carried unanimously.

- (e) **Item #15-210, Award Unit Price Bid Number 1516-01, "Downtown Redevelopment District Infrastructure Improvements, Phase III C - Project 1," to J.B. Coxwell Contracting, Inc., and Authorize Construction Administration Services with the Project Design Firm, GAI Consultants, Inc.**

Motion: It was moved by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Ms. Hoffman to award Unit Price Bid Number 1516-01, titled "Downtown Redevelopment District Infrastructure Improvements, Phase III C - Project 1" to J.B. Coxwell Contracting, Incorporated, authorize Construction Administration Services with the project's design firm, GAI Consultants, Incorporated, and authorize Construction Inspection Services through the City's Public Works Department, as described in the memorandum from the Public Works Director dated December 10, 2015.

Mr. Forbes added that the City spent several years focusing on the central business district in Jacksonville Beach and is now taking the first steps in rebuilding infrastructure in residential areas, starting with 1st and 2nd Streets, and everything east of A1A from Beach Blvd. to 16th Avenue South. This project is expected to take 18 months to complete.

Ms. Wilson inquired about the concrete paving of alleyways and the width of the alleyways. Mr. Edwards explained that the concrete paving is necessary for parking and trash collection, especially around new construction. Also, these alleyways will be approximately 12 feet wide, allowing adequate access for emergency vehicles and garbage trucks.

Ms. Wilson asked about the paver enhancements on the eastside of the 1st Street sidewalk from Beach Blvd to the Oceanfront Park. Mr. Forbes stated that the new pavers will be similar to existing pavers downtown and in front of Oceanfront Park.

Ms. Wilson also asked about project funding; it was noted that the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) has appropriated funds from the Downtown Redevelopment Tax Increment Trust Fund for this project, and the City would pick up the cost for the area from 13th Avenue to 16th Avenue.

Mr. Doherty inquired about 1st Avenue South, specifically between 1st and 2nd Street, noting that there are rental properties in the area, and expressed concerns about resident parking during this project. Mr. Edwards stated that there will be a phased approach to this project and contractors will be taking parking into consideration.

Mr. Doherty asked if this project is scheduled to start at a particular time of the year. Mr. Edwards said they hope to begin sometime after the New Year, perhaps in February, but this is an 18-month project and will run through the summer.

Mr. Thomason asked about the widening of bike lanes, and Mr. Edwards stated that they plan to add a foot to each side of the bike lane, with no change to the actual size of the vehicle lane.

Mr. Buck commended Mr. Edwards and his staff on his public outreach efforts regarding this project, noting the Open House that was held on October 7, 2015, to discuss this project with residents in the areas to be affected.

Ms. Hoffman inquired about the CRA meeting held December 16, 2015, about funding approval for this project. It was noted that there were no issues at the meeting, and the funding was approved.

Roll call vote: Ayes – Buck, Doherty, Hoffman, Thomason, Wilson, and Mayor Latham. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTIONS:

(a) Item #15-208, RESOLUTION NO. 1956-2015

Mayor Latham requested that the City Clerk read Resolution No. 1956-2015, by title only, whereupon Ms. Scott read the following:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE BEACH, FLORIDA,
AMENDING THE PERSONNEL POLICIES RELATING TO EMPLOYEE
DONATIONS OF VACATION LEAVE IN THE EVENT OF A
CATASTROPHIC ILLNESS, EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 21, 2015.**

Motion: It was moved by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Ms. Hoffman to amend Resolution Number 1956-2015, [as shown on Attachment A and hereby made part of these minutes] amending the Personnel Policies to remove the five-day minimum hospitalization requirement included in the

definition of a catastrophic illness for the purpose of employee vacation leave donations.

Mr. Forbes spoke on this matter and suggested a strikeout to the verbiage “a minimum of five days” in item 14, page 4-13 of Attachment “A” of this Resolution when defining a catastrophic injury. He noted that this wording has hindered some employees from receiving donated leave, and some major injuries do not always require a five-day stay in the hospital. Therefore, the text was amended to define a catastrophic illness as “a life-threatening illness or injury that requires hospitalization, including immediate medical attention at a licensed facility.”

Roll call vote: Ayes – Doherty, Hoffman, Thomason, Wilson, Buck,
and Mayor Latham. The motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCES:

(a) Item #15-209, ORDINANCE NO. 2015-8066 (First Reading)

Mayor Latham requested that the City Clerk read Ordinance No. 2015-8066 (First Reading), by title only, whereupon Ms. Scott read the following:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 30, ARTICLE III, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE BEACH BY AMENDING SECTION 30-34(a), ADDITIONAL HOMESTEAD EXEMPTIONS AUTHORIZED, ADDING SECTION 30-34(b) TO AUTHORIZE AN ADDITIONAL EXEMPTION AND AMENDING SECTION 30-35, ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT TO HOUSEHOLD INCOME; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND PROVIDING DIRECTIONS TO THE CITY CLERK.

Motion: It was moved by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Ms. Hoffman to adopt Ordinance Number 2015-8066, amending Chapter 30, Article III, “Additional Homestead Exemptions,” of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Jacksonville Beach to provide a second additional Senior Homestead Exemption.

Mr. Forbes noted that there was currently a homestead exemption in Jacksonville Beach for senior citizens. This additional homestead exemption could provide a qualifying property owner with total exemption from the City’s property taxes.

Ms. Forbes noted that to qualify for this additional exemption an applicant must meet the following criteria: market value of their home must be less than \$250,000; have legal or equitable title to the property; have resided on the property for no less than 25 years; be 65 or older, and meet annual limited income requirements prescribed in Florida Statute §196.075 (the limitation for 2015 is \$28,448). If adopted, this ordinance would take effect in January 2017.

Mr. Doherty asked how many people this would affect. Mr. Forbes stated that this exemption is very stringent, set by state law, and probably wouldn't affect many people.

Roll call vote: Ayes – Hoffman, Thomason, Wilson, Buck, Doherty, and Mayor Latham. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

Submitted by: Laurie Scott
City Clerk

Approval:


Jeanell Wilson, Mayor Pro Tem

Date: 1/22/16