

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

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**COURTHOUSE OVERSIGHT SPECIAL COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Wednesday, November 20, 2013, 3:30 P.M.

Conference Room A, 4th Floor, City Hall

**In attendance:** Council Members Greg Anderson (Chair), John Crescimbeni, E. Denise Lee; Assistant General Counsel Paige Johnston; Kirk Sherman and Janice Billy – Council Auditor’s Office; Jim Robinson, Director of Public Works; Philip Zamarron - Legislative Services; John J. Jackson - Council Research Division

**Also in attendance**: Council Member Doyle Carter, Judge Lance Day, Court Administrator Joe Stelma, Cheryl Peek – State Attorney’s Office, Derek Igou – Clerk of the Courts Office; Tom Goldsbury and Steve Hatton - Public Works Department; Jack Shad - Public Parking Division; Max Marbut, *Financial News & Daily Record,* Ron Littlepage and David Bauerline, *Florida Times-Union;*  Russell Harper - Jobs for Jacksonville; Dennis Ramm, Joe Capraro, Gerry Kelly, Steven Sines - the Morganti Group; Kim Adkins, Tiffany Odell, Trisha Thakkar, Sarah Stanley, Brittany Swann, UNF; Leeann Krieg, Executive Council Assistant.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:35 P.M. and announced that at the end of the agenda items the Morganti Group would make a presentation (audio-visual) depicting the renovation of the Old Federal Courthouse.

In an update on Fire Suppression System at the Courthouse (sprinklers, fire alarms, etc), Tom Goldsbury reported that everything has been tested and everything is working properly. We are off fire watch.

Mr. Goldsbury reported that approximately 90% of subcontractors are local; on ADA concerns and issues, 90% of the work has been completed; the contract completion date for Courthouse work is December 8, 2014; the contractor (Turner) is on schedule.

Jack Shad, Public Parking Officer, reported that jurors at the County Courthouse are parking at the MPS (Metropolitan Parking Solutions) facility on Adams Street, directly across the street from the Courthouse and, to date, there have been no complaints rendered about the facility; everything with parking is going well.

Jim Robinson, Director, Public Works Department, reported that most of the work that Turner was contracted to do has been completed. A few minor issues remain. The concrete walkways in front of the Courthouse do not drain sufficiently after rainfall. The post-construction close-out is nearing; he expects that by Christmas, the initial close-out discussions should be underway.

Council Member John Crescimbeni asked Mr. Robinson where the City stood with Turner on Courthouse financial issues. Mr. Robinson indicated that all of the Turner invoices have been paid. In the last invoice, there are issues that the City does not agree with; Turner will be asked to submit a revised invoice. Mr. Robinson said that he would have a better financial report at the next meeting of the Committee on Courthouse Oversight.

On the State’s Attorney’s Office/Old Federal Courthouse, Jerry Kelly, Project Manager for the Morganti Group, reported on how the renovation of the Old Federal Courthouse is going so far. A slideshow providing a visual depiction of the work underway would come at the end of the meeting’s agenda items.

The Morganti Group has a $25 million contract with the City for the renovation project.

92 workers are currently on the job; 125-130 workers will be the maximum work detail.

Council Member Crescimbeni asked if the workers were certified. The response was that verifying workers was not a requirement in the contract. In a response to a question raised by Council Member E. Denise Lee, the Morganti Group was not aware of the previous problems that the City had incurred with Courthouse workers. The Morganti Group representatives explained that 85 of the 92 workers currently on the job are employed by sub-contractors. The question was raised as to what constituted “local” contractors? It was generally understood that local meant within the five Counties (Duval, Clay, St. Johns, Nassau, and Baker). Whether or not the E-verify process was in place was uncertain; there will be a report at the December meeting. (In a subsequent follow-up e-mail the day after the meeting, Tom Goldsbury reported to the committee that E-Verify is a requirement of the subcontractors’ contracts. By law Morganti cannot directly check on the citizenship status of the employees of subcontractors, but will be sending the subcontractors a reminder that E-Verify compliance is required.

Cheryl Peek, State’s Attorney’s Office, 4th District, said that the State’s Attorney’s Office was satisfied with the work underway with the renovation project, felt that everyone had been helpful, and thanked the Morganti Group, the City, and others for keeping the SAO in the loop.

It was announced that Pearl Street would be closed for a while during the construction of the bridge that will connect the Old Federal Courthouse with the County Courthouse; 2 cranes will be at either end of the stretch of Pearl Street that will be closed. Judge Lance Day implored the contractors to keep the Court (particularly Courthouse Administrator Stelma) abreast of the street closure time-frame so as to enable the judges to plan their workdays accordingly.

On the budget, Assistant Council Auditor Janice Billy reported that the Courthouse project is within budget. According to figures that were furnished by the Public Works Department, $311 million has been allocated to the unified courthouse project so far. $31 million has been allocated for the Old Federal Courthouse renovation project; change orders are still being made.

Council Member Lee remarked that she has been impressed with all that she has heard regarding the Courthouse issues, particularly the budget; she was particularly pleased to know that the bridge connecting the Courthouse and the State’s Attorney’s Office will be constructed. She commended all of the parties, particularly Tom Goldsbury.

Dennis Ramm, Morganti Group Project Manager provided the slideshow giving a visual depiction of the Old Federal Courthouse renovation project. Morganti Group representatives and Tom Goldsbury fielded questions, as well. Mr. Goldsbury invited anyone who wished to tour the site to get in touch with him to make the necessary arrangements.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6: 00 P.M.

John J. Jackson, Council Research Division

Posted 11.212.13, 4:00 p.m.