

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**CHERYL L. BROWN** 117 WEST DUVAL STREET, SUITE 425

DIRECTOR 4TH FLOOR, CITY HALL

OFFICE (904) 630-1452 JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202

FAX (904) 630-2906

E-MAIL: CLBROWN@coj.net

**STAND UP FOR YOUR NEIGHBORBOODS**

**SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**October 29, 2014**

**10:00 a.m.**

**City Hall**

**117 W. Duval St., 1st Floor**

**Lynwood Roberts Room**

**Attendance:** Council Members Denise Lee (Chair), Bill Bishop, John Crescimbeni, Warren Jones, Jim Love

**Excused:** Council Members Greg Anderson and Bill Gulliford

**Also**: Karen Bowling – Mayor’s Office; Chief Pat Ivey – Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office; Kimberly Scott –Regulatory Compliance; Robert Campbell – Council Auditor’s Office;Paige Johnston and Stephen Durden – Office of General Counsel Office; Dan Macdonald – ECA; Yvonne P. Mitchell – Council Research Division

See attached sign-in sheet for additional attendees.

Council Member Lee called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m. The meeting began with introductions from the committee and attendees.

**Minutes**

Motion/2nd move to approve September 17th and October 16th minutes – Crescimbeni/Bishop (5-0)

**Vote on Draft Certificate of Use Legislation - CM Warren Jones & Paige Johnston**

CM Jones provided a brief summary regarding the purpose of the revision. The major changes include the addition of a section to revoke certificate(s); a section regarding a penalty for failure to obtain a certificate(s); and changing the term Business Tax Receipt to be consistent throughout the Code. Ms. Johnston will file the legislation for introduction to the full Council.

**Motion/2nd move to approve COU legislation - Jones/Crescimbeni (5-0)**

CM Jones expressed his appreciation to the sub-committee members that assisted in this process.

**Report on Policy regarding structures 50 years or older – CM Jones**

CM Jones CM Lee requested the definition of non-historic structures and criteria requiring a background check on potential buyers are added in the legislation. Chief Ivey suggested sub-committee consider disqualification criteria as it pertain to the background checks. There was discussion regarding a systematic approach in handling disposal of properties acquired by the City. Some of the suggestions were to offer Duval residents preference in purchasing homes; increase partnership with JSO through crime free multi-housing units program; institute a first time homeowners program; apply an application fee; and utilize the claw back provision/203K. CM Jones will take suggestions back to sub-committee for review at their next meeting: November 12th @ 2:00p.m., 4th Floor, Conference Room A. Draft legislation will be presented at the next Stand Up committee meeting.

**Vacant Land Registry and use of monies in registry – Stephen Durden**

Mr. Durden reported the Vacant Land Registry was adopted in 2010. He further provided an in-depth explanation of what constitutes fees versus taxes. The funds collected in this registry are fees, to which must be used to benefit the individual paying the fee and not shared by others in community. Mr. Durden shared there was some federal litigation pending which could alter the amount in the registry. Mr. Campbell stated approximately $1.7 million is in the registry with a possible 60/40 split associated with federal litigation. CM Lee requested a detail report from Housing Division in regards to the registry. Mr. Durden and Campbell will work together to determine the actual spendable amount along with possible uses of the fee.

**Discussion of new graphics (boxing gloves) – Paul Martinez or Aleizha Batson**

Mr. Martinez and Ms. Batson presented revised options of “fight blight” with gloves. CM Lee conducted a vote with committee and audience. Option #7 was selected and will be revised with a left/right gloves with stitching.

**New Business**

Chief Ivey stated JSO is awaiting arrival of the remainder of the surveillance cameras. Additionally, Operation Cease Fire is shifting into another program.

CM Lee requested an update on criminal activity in all zones. Grand Park video presented at next meeting. How many cameras in illegal dumping area/top areas?

CM Lee shared her concerns about the City only having one prime contractor to address the overload of work with retention ponds and

**Public Comment**

Ms. Gracie McCastler expressed her concerns about guns in the schools; and suggested City considers having a gun buyback event.

Mr. Robert Prado inquired about alternative ways (i.e. chemical agent) to address consistent overgrowth on properties which impacts repeat violations.

Mr. Jeff Foster requested an opportunity to do a ride-a-long with CM Lee to see areas of concerns in order to provide better service.

Mr. Pappas commented that vegetation control is currently being discussed in his office. He will provide a status report at next meeting. CM Lee requested Mr. Pappas to also prepare to present on comprehensive plan in November.

Mr. Van Dyke Walker stated JTA is moving forward with their mobility work program and working with JSO about lighting improvements. A presentation from JTA is forthcoming.

Mr. Carnell Oliver commented that more churches need to get involved with young men in the streets and provide activities as an alternative to the chaos in their lives.

Mr. Small inquired about a process or solution in maintaining properties that are consistently reported for overgrowth once it has been mowed.

Ms. Thomas commented the rotation utilized by the Mowing & Landscape Division is dysfunctional.

Mr. Brunson requested clarification of nonprofit organizations as it pertained to the donation of abandoned properties owned by the City.

Mr. Sole expressed his concern regarding the lack of pickups from the garbage collection sub-contractors (green trunks) in the San Pablo and Atlantic area.

The next meeting is scheduled Wednesday, Nov 12th. The committee saluted the veterans in attendance for their service in acknowledgement of the upcoming Veteran’s Day.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:24 p.m.

Yvonne P. Mitchell, Council Research Division (904) 630-1679

Posted 11.6.14 2:00p.m.