

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

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**SPECIAL AD HOC COMMITTEE ON JACKSONVILLE’S**

**NEIGHBORBOOD BLIGHT MEETING MINUTES**

**March 18, 2015**

**10:00 a.m.**

**City Hall**

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

**Lynwood Roberts Room**

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

**Excused:** Council Member Bill Gulliford

**Also**: Cleveland Ferguson and Teresa Eichner – Mayor’s Office; Paige Johnston and Cherry Shaw – General Counsel Office; Dan Macdonald – ECA Dist. 8; Robert Campbell – Office of Council Auditor’s; Yvonne Mitchell – Council Research

See attached sign-in sheet for additional attendees.

Council Member Lee called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

The meeting began with introductions from the committee and attendees.

**Minutes**

Motion/2nd move to approve February 19th minutes –Love/Crescimbeni (5-0)

**Land Blight**

1. Update from Housing & Neighborhood (Vacant Property Registry) - CM Gulliford, CM Jones & Paige Johnston

Ms. Johnston provided a brief review of the proposed legislation. The main highlights include increasing the registration fee from $150.00 to $250.00; requiring an annual renewal fee; providing for a fine in the amount of $500.00 for non-compliance; and providing for adoption of a policy for the expenditure of funds consistent with *Ordinance Code*. The policy is being drafted and will be reviewed by the subcommittee at their next meeting. Ms. Johnston shared comments brought up during the subcommittee meeting regarding provisions for home owner associations with registry; changes submitted by auditors; and revised language for annual renewal registration suggested by the current vendor, Community Champions.

*Assignment:*

Paige Johnston –amend the draft accordingly for next meeting; provide an extra page detailing changes

1. Discussion of cost of upcoming Tire Buyback event – CM Crescimbeni

There was a thorough review of the financial breakdown of the 2014 Waste Tire and Snipe Sign Buyback Event. CM Crescimbeni voiced concerns about the expenditures and current funding. It should be noted that last year’s event used a grand total $136,209.20 out of the $178,502.00 approved by Council. This year PW requested an additional $150,000. The committee has not received a budget nor timeline plan for the 2015 event. Mr. Martinez provided information regarding advertisement. Several questions regarding costs were tabled for Mr. Jeff Foster or Jim Robinson.

*Assignments:*

Public Works – provide breakdown for the 2015 event

Paul Martinez – provide information on individuals responsible for contacting various agencies by close of business on 3/19/15; provide timeline and assignment plan from the 2014 event

Cleveland Ferguson – will ensure committee receives 2015 budget and timeline plan close of business on 3/19/15

**Neighborhood Blight**

1. Updated report from JEA about street lights – Mike Brost, JEA

Mr. Brost provided information regarding the conversion of the LED lights. He stated that a mandate of LEDs in future development can be done through JEA or City Ordinance. Over the past year, a successful plight, field inventory (100,000 lights) and cost of study survey have been completed. The plan is to begin a rate hearing this summer (June-July). This hearing provides the opportunity to add the LED options and move forward with doing a wholesale change of the City’s 100,000 lights. The estimated capital for project is $40 million. Mr. Brost commented that JEA intends to meet with the City, JSO and CPACs to develop a plan as a community for the priority areas. He suggests that large roadways that are more visible be converted first.

*Assignment:*

Mike Brost – provide a written report of JEA’s conversion plan and intent to include CPACs, JSO and Council in discussions with phase out and areas of priority

1. Report on missed trash pickup - CM Lee

There have been a total of 2102 reported missed garbage collections from February 1, 2015 to March 18, 2015. Due to time restraints, CM Lee postponed the full report to next meeting. CM Crescimbeni inquired about the penalties accessed to ADS versus the other two vendors. Mr. Pappas explained there is policy that fines the vendor $25 for missed collection and $1000 for missed routes. The concern is excessive fines and enforcement so that vendors are not continuously being maintained on contract when services are not sufficient.

*Assignments:*

Cleveland Ferguson – follow up with Chris Hagans with ADS regarding communication about missed trash collection and Mr. Foster’s telephone call

Peggy Sidman – review contract for default provision

John Pappas – provide a historical (past 3-4 years) breakdown of the assessed fees on vendors

1. Discussion of snipe sign legislation 2014-553 – CM Love and Cherry Shaw

The TEU committee deferred the bill and is now off cycle.

Motion/2nd to direct committee chair to request bill be added to the addendum for discharge - Crescimbeni/Jones (6-0)

**New Business**

None

**Public Comments**

Paul Tutwiler inquired whether the Tire Buyback event would be postponed.

Unidentified citizen expressed his concern that the project manager was not available for the meeting.

Mr. Stanley inquired about the 30 days for payment regarding the vacant registry. Additionally, he commented is disapproval of Public Works requesting funds for upcoming event and had not submitted detailed report from last year’s event.

Ms. Yvonne Ward inquired about the details of the garbage collection contracts. She wanted to know if the vendors list types of trash they will or will not pick up. An additional concern was the trimming of trees during the LED lightening conversion. Ms. Ward would like for neighborhood presidents to be engaged in the discussions of exchange priority.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

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

Posted 03.27.15 4:30 p.m.