

**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

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

**NEIGHBORBOOD BLIGHT MEETING MINUTES**

**April 22, 2015**

**10:00 a.m.**

**City Hall**

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

**Lynwood Roberts Room**

**Attendance:** Council Members Greg Anderson, John Crescimbeni, Bill Gulliford (Acting Chair), Warren Jones, Jim Love

**Excused:** Council Members Bill Bishop and Denise Lee

**Also**: Teresa Eickner – Mayor’s Office; Cherry Shaw – General Counsel’s Office; Jim Robinson – Public Works Department; Folks Huxford and Elaine Spencer – Planning & Development Department; Kimberly Scott – Regulatory Compliance Department; Jim Robinson – Public Works Department; 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 Gulliford called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

The meeting began with introductions from the committee.

CM Gulliford announced the snipe sign legislation was deferred in Finance committee.

**Minutes**

Motion/2nd move to approve April 8th minutes – Crescimbeni/Jones (4-0)

Motion/2nd move to strike “not” in under Crime Report by Chief Ivey, second paragraph, last sentence – Gulliford/Crescimbeni (4-0)

**Neighborhood Blight**

1. Completion of Tire & Snipe Sign Buyback Event – Jeff Foster

Mr. Foster distributed the final cost breakdown. The 2015 event totals equaled $140,325.59 which is under budget. Due to additional Public Works employees on site, this year’s labor expense decreased. Four front-end loaders were used to accommodate usage in one day versus one loader over a three day period. Mr. Foster commented that next year’s improvements include additional pre-coordination meetings and designated relief teams with staggered times of arrival. Mr. Mark Anino, a volunteer, was acknowledged for his participation at the event.

*Assignment:*

Jeff Foster – explore alternative options for transporting tires to and from Trail Ridge; or directly to company that disposes of tires

1. Operation Urban Blight Report – John Pappas

Mr. Pappas provided a thorough review of the Blight Operation Plan. The purpose of the plan is to utilize limited resources with the greatest impact. The focus has been on “areas of need” which are known chronic Ordinance Code violation areas, repetitive illegal dumping locations, and neglected right-of-ways. The handout depicted March and April cases in focus areas. There were 140.45 tons of illegal dumping; 762 bags of litter; and 429 tires collected in March 2015 along with 215 CARE issues addressed; 211 abatements completed; and 18 hazardous trees removed.

Further discussion covered identifying opportunities to improve the City’s effectiveness in addressing community needs; surveillance cameras for illegal dumping; posting warning signs about illegal dumping; and junk cars.

*Assignment:*

John Pappas – explore having possible transfer station in high illegal dumping areas

Jim Robinson – make adjustments to maps to make more legible; provide a copy of February report and statistics since October 2013 to CM Crescimbeni; provide monthly report of maps and focus area charts

1. Draft of Land Registry Ordinance – Paige Johnston & Caleena Shirley

Ms. Paige Johnston reviewed the differences between the current and proposed legislation regarding the foreclosure land registry. The two major differences are the increase of the registration fee; and the addition of an annual renewal fee. Ms. Shirley commented that the funds, policies and legislation are based on foreclosures. Therefore, moving forward the correct terminology should be Foreclosure Registry Funds. The potential strategies for the registry funds and funded percentage are:

* Provide direct services to homeowners with properties on the registry (30%)
* Provide services to residential properties surrounding foreclosed properties on the registry (40%)
* Provide assistance to neighborhood and organizations where foreclosed properties are located (20%)

The remaining 10% is for contingency for any maxed out category. CM Crescimbeni requested that language is added to ensure the option to increase registration fees without another RFP is in contracts.

*Assignments:*

Committee - review the draft and contact Paige with any questions or amendments prior to next meeting

Paige Johnston – prepare the final draft for approval at next meeting

1. Informing public regarding need to rent dumpsters for refuse – Tom Goldsbury

Mr. Goldsbury stated there is no current process for informing the public about debris from construction projects; however, improvements are underway. The division will draft a notice to be distributed to inform customers of requirement. Additionally, he is going to inquiry with ITD in getting a notice added to the customer’s transmittal form. There were several suggestions offered by the committee.

*Assignment:*

Tom Goldsbury – expected to implement steps to notify customers

Mr. Martinez - review process in how information is distributed to the public

1. Mascot name contest – Paul Martinez

Ms. Paige Johnston reported that one of the potential names “Jaxson” did not meet the criteria for trademark infringement. Additionally, the Jaguars counsel was not supportive of the potential name. However, they are receptive of a partnership with the City to assist in the blight efforts. The committee conducted a vote for the mascot name. There were seven names on the ballot and “JaxCan” received the majority vote. The name was submitted by a fourth grade student. The presentation to the winner and mascot name will be held at the next Council meeting.

1. Blight Application Usage – Paul Martinez

The MyJax/Fight Blight application is working. It has been downloaded 1,245 times since the launch in March. 359 service requests haven been created with 292 of them closed. In addition, there have been 4,178 sessions from citizens gathering information.

1. Mascot name contest – Paul Martinez

Mr. Martinez shared information regarding an ongoing blight public awareness campaign. This would include, but not limited to, attending trade shows and sports events; purchasing giveaways; wrapping a van; and developing a neighbor publication. All of these suggestions would assist in promoting the message with consistency. Additionally, there is potential for public/private partnership with advertisement in publications. The committee was provided an expense budget for consideration.

1. Snipe Sign Legislation – CM Crescimbeni

CM Crescimbeni commented the subcommittee will have another workshop. It will be in noticed. He received a complaint from a candidate in the March election regarding citations; therefore, political campaign signs will be addressed. A citizen wrote CM Crescimbeni and suggested that mobile sign makers are contacted on a periodic basis to remind their customers of right-of-way regulations.

**New Business**

1. Clothing Recycling Bins – CM Crescimbeni

CM Crescimbeni showed a picture of an overloaded donation receptacles with numerous garbage bags of clothing piled up against it. He commented about concerns from Arlington CPAC regarding overloaded bins as blight. The picture shown was taken on morning of Wednesday, April 22, 2015. In response to a question, Ms. Kimberly Scott stated code officers can make contact with owner of property regarding the receptacle. Ms. Johnston provided brief details regarding actions of other municipalities. This topic will be on next week’s agenda.

**Public Comments**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

Yvonne P. Mitchell, 630-1679

04.23.15 7:30p.m.