

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

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

**NEIGHBORBOOD BLIGHT MEETING MINUTES**

**May 27, 2015**

**10:00 a.m.**

**City Hall**

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

**Lynwood Roberts Room**

**Attendance:** Council Members Denise E. Lee (arr. 10:52a), Chair, Greg Anderson, John Crescimbeni (arr. 10:12a), Warren Jones, Jim Love

**Excused:** Council Members Bill Bishop and Warren Jones

**Also**: Council Member Elect Garrett Dennis; Teresa Eichner – Mayor’s Office; Paige Johnston – General Counsel’s Office; Jim Robinson – Public Works Department; Folks Huxford – Planning & Development Department; Kimberly Scott – Regulatory Compliance Department; Dan Macdonald – ECA Dist. 8; Chief Ivey – Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office; 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 10:04 a.m.

The meeting began with introductions from the committee and attendees.

**Minutes**

Motion/2nd move to approve May 20th amended minutes – Crescimbeni/Love (4-0)

1. JEA policy on bills – Wayne Young

Mr. Young reported that JEA’s policy to limit notices and inserts in monthly bills to utility related issues is based on customer service satisfaction surveys and best practices of similar authorities. There is no regional or federal regulation that requires participation in noticing events or activities outside of utility matters. The inclusion of the Tire Buyback events was considered an environmental issue; thus, JEA printed the event in monthly bills. CM Gulliford chairs the JEA Agreement Committee which is currently negotiating the analytical agreement which expires in 2016. CM Gulliford stated he will bring this topic up in upcoming meetings. In response to CM Crescimbeni’s question, Mr. Young will inquire whether information can be disseminated to specific customers depending on county.

*Assignments:*

Mr. Young – provide answer regarding information being sorted to customers according to area

1. Public Relations for ShAdCo, CPAC and CDC – Paul Martinez

Mr. Martinez provided a draft layout for approval on the combined brochure. There was a unanimous consensus for Mr. Martinez to move forward with layout and gathering information from various agencies.

Assignment:

Mr. Martinez – obtain information from agencies to insert in brochure

1. Park Summer Programs Outreach Efforts – Tony Lopez

Mr. Lopez provided an overview of all programming offered by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services for the summer which include, but not limited to, summer camps, summer night lights and swimming pool season. All of the programs are listed in the JaxParks Summer Guide which was distributed and can be located on the City’s website. Registration for summer programs began in April. For information about summer camp locations with available slots call 630-CITY or 630-7919.

There was discussion regarding Duval County School Board and the City partnering to provide additional facilities for youth activities year round and during the summer to expand the number of youth served. Teresa Eichner stated a meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 28th with superintendent to discuss similar topic.

1. Underlying Issues of Crime Presentation – Chief Pat Ivey & Sgt. Steve Barreira

Chief Ivey provided an overview of the efforts JSO has taken to address underlying issues of crime beyond just making arrests. He announced JSO is sponsoring an open forum with youth on Thursday, May 28th at Abyssinia Baptist Church. This will be an ongoing event to assist with community and police relations. Sgt. Barreria is a part of JSO’s Community Problem Response Team which is responsible for determining the underlying issues in a community. Sgt. Barreira provided a thorough presentation which explained the impact of environmental issues on crime. He explained that an individual’s perception of safety is just as important as the reality of safety.

1. Zombie Property/Foreclosed Property Registry – CM Gulliford

CM Jones submitted a written report to the committee. It has been confirmed with the Office of General Counsel that legislation will not be required for zombie properties. Housing & Community Development Division will share information with JALA to ensure properties are identified and pursued at no cost to the City. The subcommittee recommended amending Section 122.461, *Ordinance Code* to all private entities to receive tax reverted properties. Ms. Paige Johnston reviewed the proposed legislation.

Assignments:

Caleena Shirley – provide top 10 municipalities in Florida that access a fee or accelerated fee on zombie properties

Paige Johnston – research when the Ordinance was created; provide CM Lee update next week; work on language to include fee for reverted properties; provide a narrative of discussion and changes; address concern of reversion rights with third party loans; add language for CDCs to proactively maintain properties

1. Report on JSO & Inspectors Coordinating – Jim Robinson & Chief Ivey

Chief Ivey stated that the coordination of reports, illegal dumping and tire waste inspections requires the return of the liaison officer. Each zone will maintain trained designated officers to deal with issues. CM Lee requested that a quarterly report be provided to the committee to maintain collaboration with JSO.

1. Garbage Collection & Recycling Brochure – CM Crescimbeni

A report will be provided at the next meeting.

1. Sign Law Poster in sign shops– CM Jim Love

CM Love presented a sheet on sign laws as a resource for sign shops to utilize for customers. It lists the website and excerpts of the sign requirements.

**Next Week’s Agenda**

Jim Robinson/Jeff Foster – Report on Generator /Hauler Inspections and Citations

CM Crescimbeni/CM Love - Garbage Collection & Recycling Brochure

Report on all legislation related to blight (on separate sheet)

Update from Housing & Community Development Division

Update from Public Works Department

Update from Public Relations (Fight Blight application, etc.)

Update from JTA

Update from Code Enforcement

Assignment:

Dan Macdonald – create a sheet “Things Ad Hoc Committee & Administration Did to Improve Blight” for next meeting; schedule a meeting with JEA president and Mr. Wayne Young

Departments – provide a list of enacted or pending legislation pertaining to blight

**Public Comment**

Mr. Alex Pellom stated this is his last meeting because of taken a new position in Cleveland, OH.

Ms. Doretha Tompkins expressed her congratulations to Council Member Elect Garrett Dennis.

Mr. Mark Anino inquired about the next step with getting the sign laws resource sheets to sign shops.

Ms. Lisa Darnall shared that the blight bus is still in rotation throughout Jacksonville.

Rev. Mark Bivins requested assistance in his community to reduce crime and blight. He has made several reports to the City and JSO to no avail. There are some concerns regarding animal control, portable basketball goals in the street being utilized by individuals that are not from the neighborhood, and other issues. (CM Lee requested Rev. Bivins bring all his information to next meeting).

Ms. Gracie McCastler commented she is still working on the truancy issue. Currently, she is awaiting information from Mr. Mac McCulley.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Yvonne P. Mitchell, 630-1679

05.29.15 4:00p.m.