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|  | **OFFICE OF THE**  **CITY COUNCIL** |  |
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**SPECIAL AD HOC COMMITTEE ON JACKSONVILLE’S**

**NEIGHBORBOOD IMPROVEMENT AND COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**August 3, 2015**

**4:00 p.m.**

**City Hall**

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

**Council Chambers**

**Attendance:** Council Members Garrett Dennis (Chair), John Crescimbeni (arr. 4:19p.), Bill Gulliford, Tommy Hazouri, Al Ferraro, Jim Love (arr. 4:03p.), and Joyce Morgan

**Also**: Council Members Reggie Brown and Doyle Carter (4:18p.); Paige Johnston – General Counsel’s Office; Rupal Wells – ECA Dist. 8; Darren Mason – ECA Dist. 1; Jenny Busby – ECA AL 3; Robert Campbell – Office of Council Auditor’s; Allison Korman Shelton and Denise Lee – Mayor’s Office; Crystal Shemwell - Legislative Services Division; Yvonne P. Mitchell – Council Research Division

See attached sign-in sheet for additional attendees.

Council Member Dennis called the meeting to order at 4:01p.m. The meeting began with introductions of committee members and staff. CM Dennis informed the audience to complete a comment card should anyone want to speak during public comments.

**Assignments/Subcommittee Work**

**1. Sign Shops**

CM Love stated the most updated draft of the resource poster is ready for introduction. Ms. Paige Johnston distributed the proposed legislation and draft poster. The Chief of Building Inspections, Tom Goldsbury oversees sign inspections within his division and was asked to review the draft documentation. Although he didn’t have any concerns regarding the language, he commented to Ms. Johnston that some businesses would not be impacted since they are online sign providers or outside of city limits.

In response to CM Dennis question, Ms. Johnston explained the City could be open to litigation since legislation doesn’t cover all types of sign shops; however, the main purpose of bill is to promote awareness of sign regulations through shops in Jacksonville. It should be noted that the detail listing of regulations can be found on the City’s website.

**Action:** The committee voted 5-1 (Dennis) to have the legislation filed for introduction.

**Assignments:**

Ms. Korman Shelton will inquire with administration regarding its ability to assist in distributing the resource posters to sign shops.

Ms. Johnston will file the legislation with the committee has the sponsor for introduction at the next Council meeting.

**2. Land Bank/Lazy Assets**

CM Gulliford provided historical information regarding vacant/abandoned properties. Currently, the City has over 30,000 of these types of properties. The Council recently approved legislation to monitor the turnover of properties with the renewal fee with Vacant Property Registry. Unfortunately, zombie properties were not incorporated within the vacant registry legislation and policy. CM Gulliford believes that land banking would be beneficial for Jacksonville; and should be an independent authority. He shared details about a manual published by the Center for Community Progress which outlines how land banks are strengthening neighborhoods. There is a notice meeting to discuss land banks including the DuPont Foundation, and the administration.

**Action:** Land Bank Discussion Meeting, City Council, St. James Building, 4th Floor, Conference Room A, Monday, August 10th @ 3:30p.m.

**Assignment:**

CM Dennis asked committee to seek further information regarding land banking to be prepared for upcoming discussions.

**3. 2014-553 Snipe Signs**

Mrs. Cherry Pollack explained the recent changes made to the bill. The increase of the fees was based on the comparison to other municipalities. The latest revision of the bill includes the TEU amendment. After some brief discussion, CM Dennis charged the subcommittee to revisit the legislation in an effort to get bill moved forward.

**Action:** CM Crescimbeni will lead the subcommittee. Council Members Ferraro and Morgan were appointed to the subcommittee.

**Assignment:**

The subcommittee was requested to report back on 8/17/15.

**4. 2015-361, 2015-377 & 2012-269**

Mrs. Pollock provided a brief overview of both pending bills. CM Reggie Brown commented that 2015-361 needed to be withdrawn because of the existing law from *Ordinance* 2012-269-E. The authority has already been assigned to the Park Division; however, the issue is the lack of enforcement and/or policy. Mr. Jack Shad commented that his officers do not have the authority to write parking citations on private residential property. There was extensive discussion regarding enforcement of existing law (2012-269-E) versus passing 2015-361. CM Crescimbeni requested the Research Division gather information on how other municipalities in Florida addresses unregistered vehicles and backed in/covered cars.

CM Dennis established a subcommittee to work 2015-361 and 2015-377. The subcommittee was charged to review 2012-269-E and incorporate components from the other two pending bills. There were several comments made about 2015-377.

**Action:** CM Crescimbeni will lead the subcommittee. Council Members Morgan and Hazouri were appointed as subcommittee members.

**Assignment:**

Ms. Yvonne Mitchell will research various municipalities regarding their policies/procedures unregistered vehicles in front yard; and research how municipalities deal with cars backed in or covered.

Mrs. Pollock and Mr. Shad will work together to develop a policy associated with 2012-269-E.

Ms. Korman Shelton will provide best practices on how departments in other jurisdictions enforce abovementioned policies.

Mr. Robert Prado will provide the number of complaints that involve junk vehicles/covered cars .

**5. 2015-519 Residential Donations**

Ms. Johnston reviewed the amendments to the legislation. The major changes include increasing the donation level from $25,000 to $50,000; adding a policy to evaluate and approve groups for donations; and adding the 90 day timeline for Council Members to respond to the Real Estate Division. CM Crescimbeni requested a time restraint be inserted on page 2, line 15 to ensure process is not unnecessarily delayed by any entity. CM Gulliford requested a public notice requirement is added to the policy.

**Action:** CM Gulliford will lead the subcommittee. Council Members Ferraro and Hazouri were appointed as subcommittee members.

**Assignment:**

Ms. Caleena Shirley will inquire whether public notice is codified as a part of Real Estate Division procedures.

**6. Update from Administration**

Ms. Denise Lee provided an update on the public awareness campaign. Everyone was encouraged to download the blight application. The committee should forward complaints relative to blight initiatives to Ms. Lee. She will ensure they are recorded properly and responses provided. Additionally, she stated that JSO is considering extending the boundaries of businesses to address loitering. There is a recommendation to increase the number of cuts within the Mowing and Landscape Maintenance Division.

**Action:** The committee should forward citizen concerns/issues to Ms. Lee regarding blight issues including snipe signs.

**Assignment:**

Ms. Lee will provide a biweekly overview on volume of calls/complaints received from committee members along with follow up update.

**Public Comments**

Mr. Scott held up a couple of “we buy houses” signs and encouraged the committee to take action towards snipe signs. He suggested that Municipal Code Compliance Department is provided additional funding for extra personnel to assist with collection of snipe signs.

All subcommittees are expected to provide a report at the next meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for 8/17 in Council Chambers at 4:00p.m.

There being no public comment or further business, meeting was adjourned at 6:03p.m.

Yvonne P. Mitchell, Council Research Division

08.05.15 Posted 5:15p.m.