

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

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4TH FLOOR, CITY HALL

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**SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SAFE AND HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**City Council Chamber, 1st floor, City Hall**

 **February 14, 2018**

**1:00 p.m.**

**Location:** City Council Chamber, City Hall – St. James Building, 117 West Duval Street

**In attendance:** Council Members Reggie Brown (Chair), Anne Brosche, Lori Boyer, Katrina Brown (arr. 1:10p), Garrett Dennis (arr. 1:19)

**Also**: Paige Johnston and Peggy Sidman – Office of General Counsel; Tommy Carter – Council Auditor’s Office; Jordan Elsbury – Mayor’s Office; Yvonne Mitchell – Council Research Division

**Meeting Convened**: 1:04 p.m.

Chairman R. Brown called the meeting to order, and the attendees introduced themselves for the record. Nancy Veasey, Director of Government Affairs, shared that JEA mapped areas within each district without water and sewer. They are attempting to upload the maps to the website. Some depictions show areas with water and no sewer, and fewer with sewer and no water. Due to the Better Jacksonville initiative, some areas kept their well system but have a sewer system. Historically, when the City owned water sewer utilities, the revenues did not fund septic tank phase out. It was deemed a general government obligation. However, some phase-out projects were completed as part of a capital improvement development.

The current septic tank phase-out project has 35 neighborhoods listed. Funds have been secured for the top three neighborhoods. The project requires 70% participation from the residents in the area. As of July 2017, Biltmore area participation rate is 78%. Residents are constantly signing up. The project is still in the design stage with a projection of a year before construction begins. The Beverly Hills Project Outreach has been very successful. A project outreach staff is housed at a nearby library to get additional information. 54% of the residents have registered with a deadline of August to reach 70% participation.

In response to an inquiry from Chairman R. Brown, Ms. Veasey commented that the former Water & Sewer Expansion Authority (WSCA) was established as a financing agent to assist residents that wanted to pay for water & sewer installation over time. WSCA expanded its range to identify federal grant funding which covered major projects like Lincoln Villas and Pine Forest areas. Near the end of the Better Jacksonville Septic Tank Phase-out Program, the City and JEA agreed services could be addressed without a separate authority. She stated that overtime funding, federal and state, has been minimal for large-scale phase-out projects. The current program has a $15 million contribution from the city which is matched by JEA.

As it relates to tipping communities, Ms. Veasey stated JEA needed to identify and inventory the services and needs of the area. Chairman R. Brown requested she reviews the neighborhood already identified in District 4 and 8. Once an assessment has been completed, she will report back to the committee regarding possible options for additional support.

Council Member Boyer requested clear criteria on what services JEA will or will not pay. Her concern is JEA will cover the cost of one street to extend services to additional houses; however, will not install a water and sewer system on the street with no service. Council President Brosche suggested that JEA is added to the model moving forward to complete an assessment earlier in the process. Council Member K. Brown requested a white paper on criteria and policies of JEA to address individual streets

Mike Bruno, Director of Patrol & Enforcement - JSO, stated the department is working with Motorola for the pilot program. He provided detailed information about the specifications and benefits of using Motorola. The cameras will be strategically installed in neighborhoods and parks. The technology will allow the operator to input specifics such as a red hat and the camera will identify all subjects in that specific area with a red hat.

Council Member K. Brown requested an update regarding appropriations for cameras that were previously designated for illegal dumping areas. Council Member Boyer provided some historical perspective of the cameras for illegal dumping. Chairman R. Brown requested that Director Bruno provide an expense report for implementing the illegal dumping cameras along with potential locations.

In response to Council Member Boyer’s question, Council Member K. Brown stated she has been meeting with administration regarding liter cleanup. There are a couple of initiatives begin discussed such adding new liter crews, employing the homeless through a temp agency, or involving youth in an educational component. She expects to schedule a meeting within the next couple of weeks to share details. The annual Tire Buyback is in March. The planning committee is looking into expanding the Tire Buyback to include a citywide cleanup day. This could serve as a fundraiser for churches or organizations and help clean up Jacksonville. Council Member Boyer commented that more efforts were needed in promoting the “no liter” campaign.

Chairman R. Brown mentioned a program in Houston that works with the homeless community. The concept involves homeless individuals working with the city, cleaning up, and earning a bed for the night. He will provide more information at the next meeting.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, February 28, 2018, at 1:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers.

Upcoming Topics:

1. Blight issues (illegal dumping)
2. Presentations – JEA, JSO, Solid Waste, and Parks & Recreation Department

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

\* The written minutes for this meeting are an overview of the discussion. For verbatim comments, the audio version may be retrieved from the Office of Legislative Services.

Minutes: Yvonne P. Mitchell, Council Research

 02.16.18 Posted 5:00 p.m.

Tapes: Special Committee on Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods meeting – LSD – 02.14.18

Handouts: Special Committee on Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods meeting – 02.14.18