

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

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**Special Committee on the Future of JEA Meeting Minutes**

**May 17, 2018**

**3:30 p.m.**

**Topic:** Future of JEA

**Location:** City Council Chamber, 1st floor, City Hall – St. James Building, 117 West Duval Street

**In attendance:** Council Members John Crescimbeni (Chair), Danny Becton, Aaron Bowman, Lori Boyer, Anna Lopez Brosche, Garrett Dennis, Al Ferraro, Reginald Gaffney, Tommy Hazouri, Jim Love, Scott Wilson

**Excused:** Council Members Matt Schellenberg, Doyle Carter, Bill Gulliford, Greg Anderson, Reggie Brown

**Also**: Peggy Sidman - Office of General Counsel; Kyle Billy, Phillip Peterson and Jeff Rodda - Council Auditor’s Office; Staci Lewis and Althea Henry – Legislative Services Division; Jeff Clements – Council Research Division; Nancy Kilgo and Jordan Pope - JEA

**Meeting Convened**: 3:32 p.m.

Council Member Crescimbeni called the meeting to order and the attendees introduced themselves for the record.

JEA Follow-ups

Grant opportunities available to both municipal and private water and sewer utilities:

Jordan Pope of JEA reported that 2 grant sources have been identified that would be available to both municipal and investor owned utilities – a St. Johns River Water Management District cost-sharing program and state appropriations. In response to a question from Chairman Crescimbeni, Mr. Pope said that the JEA no longer has dedicated grant writers as it once did but sees the need to get back into the grant writing business. Mr. Crescimbeni said that his experience chairing the St. Johns River Ferry Commission found that hiring a contract grant writer paid huge dividends in successful applications and recommended that be explored as an option.

Public vs. private utility considerations in water and sewer expansions: Mr. Pope said this would be a good topic to pose to the representatives of the Florida Public Service Commission when they come to the next committee meeting.

Council Member Hazouri asked for the City Council to get information on the CEO search firm just hired by JEA and on the set of qualifications established by the JEA board for a new CEO.

Supervisor of Elections presentation

Supervisor of Elections Mike Hogan reported that the November 2018 general election ballot will be extremely long, with a large number of constitutional amendments. He cautioned that if any more items are added to the ballot by the June 22nd deadline it will likely cause the ballot to expand to a second page at a cost of $100,000 for the paper alone, not counting programming costs. He expects a 20-22% turnout at the August primary and a 50% turnout for the November general election based on past history. Council Member Crescimbeni said that the JEA straw ballot referendum has already been sent to the Supervisor and is on the ballot, so any expansion to a separate ballot page would come from additional items added after the JEA straw ballot was approved. In response to a question from Council Member Morgan, Supervisor Hogan reported that there will be 18 early voting sites at the same locations as the last election and with the same hours of operation. In response to a question from Council Member Dennis, Mr. Hogan said that the state would not be providing any funding for the 2018 elections. He said that his office is already buying additional ballot paper to be used either for a second page for the November ballot or for the City elections in the spring of 2019, and additional toner for the ballot printers. Mr. Hogan said that the election supervisors in the Northeast Florida region pool their funding for radio and billboard advertising to announce the election and promote voting, including early voting.

In response to a question from Council Member Hazouri, Mr. Hogan reported that the number of registered voters is growing steadily. He stated that when his staff goes to high schools, they have much better success at registering students when they’re allowed to go from classroom to classroom to promote registration; they are much less successful if restricted to a table in the cafeteria. In response to a question from Mr. Hazouri, Mr. Hogan stated that voter roll maintenance is done on an on-going basis in accordance with state law.

Council President

Council President Brosche said that she has not yet received a response from the JEA board to the list of 10 questions she sent last week regarding the qualifications and selection process of Aaron Zahn to be the Interim CEO; she understands the a response is being prepared. Ms. Brosche read into the record the 10 questions she posed to the JEA board.

Public Comment

James Taylor said that Jordan Pope’s presentation at the last meeting on the cost of operating the St. Johns River Power Park versus purchasing power on an as-needed basis was

Mr. Pope said that the figures he reported for SJRPP was the actual cost to run the plant for a year, as was the actual cost of purchased power. He will prepared a revised comparison of the cost per megawatt hour for SJRPP and purchased power

Next meeting – May 24th at 2:00 p.m. The presenters will be representatives of the Florida Public Service Commission and the University of Florida’s Public Utility Research Center.

**Meeting Adjourned**: 4:13 p.m.

Jeff Clements, Council Research Division

5.18.18 Posted 5:30 p.m.