

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

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**CITY COUNCIL LUNCH-AND-LEARN MEETING MINUTES**

**JACKSONVILLE AVIATION AUTHORITY PRESENTATION**

**May 30, 2019**

**11:30 a.m.**

**Location:** Lynwood Roberts Room, 1st floor, City Hall – St. James Building; 117 West Duval Street

**In attendance:** Council Members Aaron Bowman (President), Sam Newby, Matt Schellenberg, Scott Wilson, John Crescimbeni, Jim Love, Randy White, Danny Becton, Bill Gulliford, Al Ferraro, Reginald Gaffney, Greg Anderson, Terrance Freeman, Tommy Hazouri

**Council Members-elect:** Ron Salem, Matt Carlucci, Michael Boylan

**Excused**: Council Members Garrett Dennis, Joyce Morgan

**Also**: Cheryl Brown – Council Secretary/Director; Carol Owens and Jessica Matthews – Legislative Services Division; Yvonne Mitchell – Council Research Division; Mark VanLoh, Richard Rossi, Michael Stewart – Jacksonville Aviation Authority

**Meeting Convened**: 11:43 a.m.

Council President Bowman convened the meeting and welcomed the attendees and gave a brief safety overview. He introduced JAA Chief Executive Officer Mark VanLoh to make the presentation.

Mr. VanLoh acknowledged Council Member Randy White for his attendance at all the JAA board meetings, and his Director of Government Affairs, Michael Stewart. His presentation covered air service, financial performance, and capital projects. It was noted that airports are on federal property that can not be sold. The administration has the authority to develop on the land (with restrictions) and extend long term leases to tenants. Mr. VanLoh noted that within the next few months, significant changes were expected in the Cecil Field area due to new development coming to Jacksonville. He reported that traffic is growing at the airport because people want to visit, live, and work in Jacksonville. The City is both a business and leisure destination. Last year, Jacksonville International Airport (JIA) was the fastest growing airport in North America. Currently, all the major airlines, except Alaska Airlines, provide service to JIA, which allows prices to be reasonable and full flights. From April 2018 to April 2019, an additional 396 flights were added to service equal to a 16.18% increase; and an addition of 72,008 available seats equivalent to a 25.39% increase. JIA has experienced 18 consecutive months of consistent growth. March 2019 was the highest month in history regarding the number of passengers served. The new concourse B will provide six additional gates initially then six more as needed. Thus, further updates to concessions and bathrooms are underway. JIA does not offer any stop traffic to the West Coast. Mr. VanLoh stated presentations are being to the major airlines to offer flights out of Jacksonville to areas like Seattle, Los Angles, Phoenix, and San Francisco.

Mr. VanLoh stated that JIA has been paying down its debt although the new concourse with cost approximately $200 million. The airport and federal grants will primarily the expenses. JIA is self-sustaining and does not receive any taxes from the City for any of the aviation facilities. The concessions, parking, rentals, etc. have all increased, which permits additional funds to be used for capital improvements. The escalators and moving walkways are being removed and updated. Within the next year or two, the entire parking lot will be redone. In response to a question about Craig Field, Mr. VanLoh explained that the extension of a runaway is costly. It first begins with Council approving the action. Extending a runway typically takes about ten years to complete due to the severe environmental issues and residential regulations. In response to Council Member Ferraro’s comments about concerned residents, Mr. VanLoh clarified that JIA was only repaving internal roads and not extending a runway. He agreed to attend a community meeting upon request. Council Member-Elect Ron Salem suggested Mr. VanLoh submit a letter to the editor or statement to the community to address the concerns. Regarding safety checkpoints, Mr. VankLoh shared that inspections will be lengthened with new technology provided by Homeland Security. The technology will allow passengers to walk through without removing items continuously.

Mr. VanLoh continued the presentation with a review of the capital projects. The Concourse B Expansion design is expected to be completed within a year with the opening slated for December 2022. After a review of customer comments and suggestions, the restrooms at JIA have been newly renovated to serve the public better.. The facilities are being remodeled two at a time. It was confirmed that changing tables are included in the men’s room, and family restroom accommodations are provided. GA FIS applies to the Customs & Border Control, which is a Federal Inspection Station. Mr. VanLoh stated a brand-new customs facility is being built at the airport to service the international flights which are not scheduled service. He noted that approximately 6-8 aircrafts a night come through JIA to clear customs. Cargo service is doing well and expected to increase. The additional capital projects include rehabilitation of taxiways and road access along with the modernizing the baggage claim ceiling and lighting.

Mr. VanLoh explained that Florida is one of the best champions for aviation by collecting fuel taxes and distributing it amongst the airports. He noted that JIA might receive money from the State towards the expansion. Regarding the growth at JIA and Cecil Field, Mr. VanLoh stated that partnership with the City is essential to improve road access to the facilities. He mentioned the collaboration with the new fire station on airport property. He shared that all the Cecil Field tenants want to expand, and JIA is working hard to make the accommodations.

Council President Bowman shared that he will be participating with JIA in the upcoming international presentations to about 20 companies to continue and develop relationships to expand services. The team seeks to sell the airport structure, aerospace industry, labor force, and quality of life in Jacksonville. Council President Bowman thanked Mr. VanLoh and everyone for their attendance.

**Meeting adjourned:** 12:35 p.m.

Minutes: Yvonne Mitchell, Council Research Division

6.03.19 Posted 8:00 a.m.

Tape: City Council Lunch-and-Learn meeting 5.30.19

JAA presentation - LSD