# MEETING MINUTES

**Noticed Meeting Council Discretionary Funds**

**Council Member Priestly Jackson and Council President Scott Wilson**

Monday, September 23, 2019 9:30 a.m.

City Hall, 117 W. Duval Street, Suite 425 City Council Conference Room A

**Attendance:** Councilwoman Brenda Priestly Jackson, Council President Scott Wilson, Council Members LeAnna Cumber, Randy White, Council Auditor Kyle Billy, Brian Parks-Council Auditor’s Office, Peggy Sidman-OGC, Jackie Lee-ECA to the Council President, Kendra Mervin-Executive Council Assistant District 10. All other attendees are listed on the attendance sign-in sheet.

Council Member Brenda Priestly Jackson convened the meeting at 9:34 a.m.

CM Priestly Jackson stated that she is going to present a floor amendment relative to the budget during tomorrow’s Council meeting. She referenced an August 16, 2019 email sent on behalf of Council Member Aaron Bowman that advised, at the conclusion of the fourth budget hearing meeting, $358,211 would be in the Special Council Contingency Fund. She then expressed that the email motivated her to notice the meeting because Council Members were also advised to make recommendations as to how the funds should be allocated.

CM Priestly Jackson is proposing legislation that would entitle each Council District to an equal share of the contingency funds. She shared that she was disquieted to learn that between March 2019 and June 30, 2019, over $174,000 of District 10’s remaining contingency funds were expended, within juxtaposition of her taking office as the elected Council Member on July 1, 2019. Peggy Sidman, Office of General Counsel, was contacted to assist with drafting the legislation and distributed a handout delineating CM Priestly Jackson’s proposed usage of the Special Contingency Funds. In the proposed usage draft, Council Districts 1 through 11 would receive $25,935, Districts 12 through 14 would receive $25,934 and District Council Members will be required to obtain the consent of an At-Large Council Member for any expenditure of funds.

CM Priestly Jackson addressed the Finance appropriation of $225,000 to Goodwill Industries for a workforce program presently planned to be housed at the Legends Center. She expressed great concern that she was not informed about the program slated to be housed in her district (the Legends Center) and opposes the total appropriation. The amount seems excessive relative to the number of individuals who would be served (64). In her proposal, $189,083 would be taken from the appropriation of $225,000 to be divided amongst the 14 Districts.

CP Scott Wilson expressed his appreciation for CM Priestly Jackson’s proposal and affirmed that he would consider it. He stated that her recommendations to also reduce funding from the Retention Pond program and the Volunteers in Medicine fund may not be feasible. The Retention Pond funding is especially important to CM Cumber’s and CM Pittman’s districts; funding to Children in Medicine is equally important. CP Wilson acknowledged her concern about not being provided details of the workforce program. He suggested she contact Leah Lynch with Goodwill Industries to be fully apprised. CM Scott Wilson stated that he will think about the final amount and sources that can be adjusted and equally distributed to the 14 districts before making a final commitment.

CM Randy White asked whether there were any other funds that can be used and split between the districts as proposed by CM Priestly Jackson. The Loblolly fund of District 12 was mentioned.

Brian Parks-Council Auditor’s Office made a point of Clarification: there are two operating contingencies each year; one from the Council and the other from the Mayor. He confirmed that the Mayor offered $20,000 from the 2018-2019 fiscal year and $16,933 is available from the Council discretionary funds in the current year 2018-2019.

The two budget bills before City Council are 2019-646 (Contingency Funds) and 2019-504 (Mayor’s Budget) for the City of Jacksonville.

*Written minutes for this meeting represent an overview of the discussion.*

**Meeting Adjourned:** 9:53 a.m.

*Minutes prepared by Kendra Mervin, Executive Council Assistant – District 10, 904-255-5146,* *mervink@coj.net**. The following items were submitted for public record and can be accessed by contacting the Legislative Services Division: minutes, attendance sheet, handouts, audio recording).*

BPJ/km

cc: Council Members/Staff

 Cheryl L. Brown, Director/Council Secretary

Jessica Matthews, Chief of Legislative Services

Jeff Clements, Chief of Research

 Kristi Sikes, Chief of Administrative Services

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