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| **OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL** |
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**Meeting Minutes**

**Council Member Garrett Dennis**

**Meeting Date:** February 4, 2020

**Topic:** JEA Board Appointments

**Location:** City Hall, 117 W. Duval St., Suite 425, Council Conference Room A

**In Attendance:** Council Member Garrett Dennis (District 9), Council President Scott Wilson (District 4), Council Vice President Tommy Hazouri (At-Large Group 3), Council Member Leanna Cumber (District 5), Council Member Michael Boylan (District 6), Council Member Brenda Priestly Jackson (District 10), Council Member Danny Becton (District 11), Council Member Randy White (District 12), Council Member Randy DeFoor (District 14), Council Member Matt Carlucci (At-Large Group 4), Council Member Sam Newby (At-Large Group 5), Trista Carraher (Council Auditors Office), Kim Taylor (Assistant Council Auditor), Paige Johnston (Office of General Counsel), Jordan Elsbury (Mayor’s Office)
***Please refer to Attendance Sheet for a complete listing of meeting attendees.***

**Meeting Convened:** 4:01 p.m.

Council Member Garrett Dennis called the meeting to order and had everyone introduce themselves for the record. CM Dennis stated he believes there is an urgency to introduce legislation because there is a Charter crisis as the entire JEA board is resigning.

CM Dennis opened the meeting up to the other council members to discuss the legislation he proposed to allow council members to select members of the JEA board. CM Hazouri asked for clarification on the legislation, when a special election would occur, and when the JEA board members are resigning. CM Newby stated he agreed with the legislation to allow council members to select members of the JEA board but was concerned about the price of having a special election.

CM Dennis asked if City Council would be able to change the Charter to have City Council be an oversight board to JEA. Ms. Sidman said there are a number of reasons that would not work but if City Council wanted to be a policy board, JEA could be moved to a department of the City of Jacksonville. CM Becton stated he didn’t believe there was an emergency for a special election because council members currently vote on potential JEA board members.

President Wilson stated he would like all changes to be discussed at the Future of JEA workshops and did not believe an emergency was warranted at this point. CM DeFoor disagreed and said it’s an emergency and council needs to do a better job with appointments. CM Carlucci expressed concern that proposed changes are addressing an outlier situation.

CM Priestly Jackson stated it may be an outlier situation, but it is a really bad outlier. CM Priestly Jackson asked if the Mayor could allow for City Council to appoint members until a referendum could be on the ballot. Ms. Sidman asked for time to research the issue. President Wilson said he had thought of something similar and asked Mr. Elsbury if Mayor Curry would consider former Council Member Bill Gulliford as a JEA board member. CM Dennis directed Ms. Sidman to draft a letter from City Council asking for Mayor Curry to allow for City Council to appoint members to the JEA board.

CM Cumber expressed concerns that council has not taken the appointment process seriously enough and people are confirmed too easily. CM Cumber stated it does not take a Charter change to take the process more seriously and council already votes on JEA board members. CM Boylan said the Rules Committee takes the process seriously and is hopeful council will continue to use the JEA workshop to move forward.

CM Dennis stated his intentions to file the legislation, thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Public Comment: Attendees expressed concerns with JEA leadership and board members.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 4:48 p.m.

***The written minutes for this meeting are only an overview of what was discussed.***

***For verbatim comments for this meeting, please listen to the audio recording.***

Minutes: Taryn Roberts, Executive Council Assistant District 9

Attached: Sign-in sheets, Handouts

cc: Council Members/Staff

 Cheryl Brown, Director/Council Secretary

 Jessica Matthews, Chief, Legislative Services Division

 Jeff Clements, Chief of Research
Kristi Sikes, Chief, Administrative Services Division

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