

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: Friday, February 28, 2020
TIME: 9:05 a.m. - 11:59 a.m.
PLACE: Council Chambers
First Floor
City Hall at St. James Building
117 West Duval Street
Jacksonville, Florida 32202

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lindsey Brock, Chairperson
Ann-Marie Knight, Vice Chairperson
Jessica Baker, Board Member
Frank Denton, Board Member
William W.C. Gentry, Board Member
Charles Griggs, Board Member
Nick Howland, Board Member
Heidi Jameson, Board Member
Emily Lisska, Board Member
Betzy Santiago, Board Member
Hon. Matt Schellenberg, Board Member
Hon. Ronald V. Swanson, Board Member
Chris Hagan, Board Member
Celestine Mills, Board Member

ALSO PRESENT:

CRC Staff:

Jessica Smith, Legislative Assistant
Juliette Williams, Legislative Services
Jeff Clements, Chief of Council Research
Anthony Baltiero, Council Research
Steve Cassada and Melanie Wilkes, Information
Systems Administrator.
Kealey West, Office of General Counsel

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: And we will gavel the
3 meeting to order. We have the minutes of the
4 January 31st meeting. Everyone had an
5 opportunity to review those?

6 Let me know if there are any revisions or
7 changes. Otherwise, I'll entertain a motion
8 for approval.

9 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: So moved.

10 THE COURT: Motion. Do I have a second?

11 COMMISSIONER MILLS: Aye.

12 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Second. All in favor
13 of accepting the minutes as written say aye?

14 COLLECTIVELY: Aye.

15 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Any opposed?

16 Thank you. We have the minutes.

17 We're ripping through our agenda.

18 Okay. First, do we have any initial
19 public comment?

20 MR. NOONEY: Right here.

21 THE COURT: Oh. Imagine my surprise.

22 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: Who is that?

23 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: All right. Three
24 minutes.

25 MR. NOONEY: Wow. Here's my card, and

1 thank you for recognizing public comment. And
2 even though it's not on the agenda --

3 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: You're going to --

4 MR. NOONEY: -- I want to recognize the
5 Pledge of Allegiance.

6 I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the
7 United States of America, and to the Republic
8 for which it stands, one Nation under God,
9 indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

10 And thank God for the court reporter. I
11 swear the testimony that I am about to give is
12 the whole truth and nothing but the truth, and
13 not a Charter Revision Commission fib.

14 All right. As I always am proud to say,
15 Florida Times Union, every issue is worth
16 getting into. This was Sunday's paper, front
17 page. Front page. "Ethics Loophole Allowed
18 City Travel."

19 Now, I participated ten years ago in the
20 Charter Revision Commission and, really,
21 ethics. It got put back in the Charter, but
22 then it was subsequently gutted. Now, I'm only
23 down to -- you know what this next headline
24 should read after this Charter Revision
25 Commission is finished? Charter Revision

1 Commission allowed a Charter amendment that any
2 CRA, DIA, Urban Core Development Authority that
3 has a waterways component and taxpayer money is
4 given to that entity, then public access to
5 that waterway will/shall be guaranteed for Joe
6 Q. Public.

7 Now, this is our Charter. And when you
8 hear, going forward, the different three
9 subcommittees and what's being proposed as this
10 headline "Ethics Loophole," how about a charter
11 loophole that says: Visit Jacksonville. We
12 are going to be the most open city in 67 -- you
13 will want to visit our waterways.

14 And I shared with one committee, 2007,
15 451. You know, I mean, the legislation is the
16 dialogue of the community, and right now you
17 are amending our Charter. You still have
18 unbelievable power until your work is done.
19 And so, please, put that type of language in
20 our Charter.

21 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Thank you.

22 MR. NOONEY: Thank you for allowing
23 public comment.

24 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Thank you, sir.

25 All right. Moving along -- oh. We have

1 another one. Oh. I'm sorry. I didn't have
2 your card.

3 MR. SCOTT: I don't have my card. I just
4 walked in. I didn't see it.

5 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Go ahead and give us
6 your name and address, please.

7 MR. SCOTT: Yes. My name is Stanley
8 Scott. My address is on file.

9 One, today I agree with John Nooney.

10 Number two, for many years -- over 50
11 years we have not received the sewage that
12 we -- I mean, the infrastructure to -- not that
13 I don't remember what's going on. I'm just
14 disappointed that this will be my last time
15 coming to this meeting here because it's just a
16 waste of my time. Because I've been a part of
17 the Charter Revision for two terms, and nothing
18 changes. We go through the motions, nothing
19 changes. There have been Democratic
20 leadership, Republican leadership, and the city
21 is still in bad shape.

22 It's just appalling to me, and I'm going
23 to take the time to say this. I will not be --
24 I will be writing concerning -- because right
25 now I've been thinking about Axe Handle

1 Saturday for the last three days. But the most
2 appalling part of that what happened that night
3 that happened to that Ms. Chapel -- Chappell.
4 Sorry about that. When she was just going
5 home, a mother of ten children was trying to
6 get home to feed her family, and some Caucasian
7 young fellows killed her. She was just going
8 home. She was just -- that just breaks me up.

9 Like I said, I joined the Navy. I had
10 four brothers before that that served in the
11 military and I joined. And when that -- when I
12 think of her, it just breaks my heart. I think
13 about Jacksonville and the way they treat
14 African Americans in the city.

15 But today it's not about race more than
16 anything. It's about leadership. You see this
17 corruption that's going on in the mayor's
18 office all the way down to the bottom. You
19 have got corruption in JTA. You've got
20 corruption all over the place, but nothing
21 changes.

22 Every ten years that y'all get together
23 to change the conditions through the Charter.
24 First of all, you need to change that. That
25 should be an annual event. Not the whole, just

1 a review to cover that area.

2 But, in closing, it breaks my heart that
3 African American family members are being
4 killed in this city and nobody says anything.
5 It breaks my heart.

6 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Thank you, Mr. Scott.
7 If you would, please, just fill out one of the
8 blue cards and turn that in so we have that for
9 our proceedings.

10 MR. SCOTT: Absolutely.

11 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. I don't see
12 anybody else walking up to the podium.

13 So let me talk about what our goals are
14 for today. You've seen the agenda that we
15 passed out, so -- and I guess I also want to
16 talk about scheduling for our meetings through
17 the month of March. My hope is that we will
18 have each -- I said subcommittee, I probably
19 should have said committee -- present your
20 findings, your recommendations, and what has
21 come out of your committee. We will then have
22 public comment as required before we take a
23 vote. We will then have a motion and the
24 second on the recommendations. And then at
25 that time we will be in debate on those

1 recommendations.

2 And if there are any amendments or
3 discussions or questions that we have, then
4 that's when we'll get those done. And then
5 once we have satisfied ourselves on our
6 questions and amendments, we will have a vote
7 and have those recommendations finalized. I'm
8 hoping that we're able to get through all of
9 them because what I would like to be doing on
10 March 5th and 6th -- and, if needed, two weeks
11 after that -- is have our final report.

12 And I've already spoken with Mr. Clements
13 and giving him angst with our schedule because
14 next week is a committee week for City Council.
15 But we would be putting together our final
16 report, which the bricks are what we are going
17 to have today. The bricks of the report. It's
18 a metaphor. Work with me. The mortar around
19 those bricks will be what Mr. Clements and I
20 will be working on discussing all the speakers
21 that we've heard from, the hours and the
22 meetings that we've put in, the public -- you
23 know, the town hall discussions that we've had,
24 and -- including some of the recommendations
25 that we're not making, issues that we looked at

1 but we said, You know what, we don't think
2 those are right for inclusion in the Charter.
3 So that's what we're going to be working on to
4 then be able to present to everyone, and then
5 we will come back and have that approved.

6 My goal for us is that on March 20th we
7 will be filing our report before 5:00 p.m. so
8 that it can be discussed at the agenda meeting
9 with the City Council on that next Tuesday,
10 which I believe would be the 24th. And at that
11 point -- I've spoken with Council president and
12 he said if I could come and just talk to the
13 Council there, then they will decide if they
14 want to have a full report or anything from us,
15 a formal report at the Council meeting, you
16 know, because they've got a lot of things going
17 on, especially right now. So I had that
18 discussion with Council president, and he
19 thought that would probably be a good idea to
20 get the view of the Council as a whole on our
21 process.

22 So the moment the report is filed, then
23 pursuant to the ordinance that creates this
24 Commission, the moment I file it, we're out of
25 the sunshine. So I will make sure that you-all

1 get an email that lets you know that our
2 official duties and responsibilities have ended
3 with the filing of that report. And as
4 discussed, you know, I'm hoping that we will
5 all be setting up meetings after that as
6 private citizens with Council members to
7 discuss our recommendations and assist in
8 getting these items -- these items passed.

9 Any questions?

10 Let's see. I do have that. Mr. Gentry.

11 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: In terms of timing
12 too, I know the document we've been working
13 on -- and it may be also true of some of the
14 other recommendations. I'm not sure how far
15 they've gotten on it, but I think we also need
16 to get General Counsel or someone looking at
17 our products in terms of formatting and
18 conforming it to what's needed for the Charter.
19 We've tried to track it, but I don't think
20 we've done nearly as good of job as needs to be
21 done.

22 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: You've anticipated
23 what Ms. West was going to be discussing here
24 back at the end.

25 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: Okay. Thank you.

1 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Once we -- I should
2 have explained that a little more clearly.

3 After we have our final recommendations,
4 they will be going to General Counsel's office
5 to make sure, you know, we don't have any
6 preemption, make sure we're referencing all of
7 the proper sections that we would need to
8 reference if these changes were to occur, and
9 just making sure that we don't have any --
10 we're not creating any conflicts -- yeah --
11 unintended consequences in there. So that will
12 be happening. Once we have our final one,
13 they're going to give it one last look and make
14 sure that we are on track.

15 Sure.

16 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: The only suggestion
17 would be that at some point after they've
18 looked at it for purposes of form, that we get
19 one last look at it. And I say that only
20 because, in changing form, you can change
21 substance. And having -- for example, I was
22 Chair of the Rules Committee, and every time we
23 would have a rule, it would go to our Form
24 Committee, and when it would come back it was a
25 different rule. And so, you know, there needs

1 to be a followup process on that. I'm not
2 trying to attribute any ill will to the people
3 doing the form, but form can impact substance.

4 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yeah. No. When we
5 vote on our final report, that will be the
6 final report. That will be what is filed.
7 Once -- once we have our approval on it, that
8 will be it. So the goal is to have that review
9 completed -- if we -- if we go through
10 everything and we have approval on all the
11 recommendations today, that I've already
12 discussed with General Counsel's office that
13 we're looking to have our final report ready
14 for discussion and voting next Thursday and
15 Friday.

16 Ms. West.

17 MS. WEST: Through the Chair, yes. OGC,
18 once these are formalized, we'll look at both
19 form and substance of the matter to make sure
20 there is no conflict with state law, state
21 constitution, or otherwise preempted. We'll
22 also make a determination whether they have to
23 be adopted by Council or referendum or through
24 the state legislature. If there are any legal
25 concerns, we will come back to you to let you

1 know those probably next week, Thursday or
2 Friday as indicated.

3 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Perfect. Thank you.

4 And that's why I kind of wanted to -- I
5 know it may feel like rushing us through this,
6 but I want to make sure that if there are
7 issues, we've got time to address them so that
8 we can have our report submitted by the
9 deadline of March 31st.

10 Any other questions?

11 All right. We'll go to the next item,
12 which is the Charter recommendation. And if
13 you -- the Charter Revision Commission one.
14 It's these two pieces of paper. You've got a
15 red line copy. Mine, they were separated by
16 another insert, but they should be there in
17 your packet.

18 And, Judge Swanson, I saw you on there
19 and then I saw you off.

20 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: Well, I was going
21 to interject before we got to substantive
22 business.

23 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay.

24 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: Do we have the
25 dates and times for the next meetings or were

1 you going to take that up later?

2 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Well, tell you what.
3 We can take it up now.

4 So we noticed when -- after the last
5 meeting, we polled everybody for their
6 availability on the Thursdays and Fridays that
7 we have remaining in March. I went through and
8 tallied those up from the responses that we
9 had, and we had the most people available on
10 March 5th and 6th. And...

11 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: Are these 9:00
12 meetings?

13 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Actually, no. These
14 will be 8:30 meetings with a hard stop at 11:30
15 because there is another group that is coming
16 in at noon, and we have to clear the chambers
17 in time for them to set up for their next one.
18 So those would be 8:30 to 11:30.

19 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: Okay.

20 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: And then we were
21 going to look at the -- had notice, actually,
22 the 19th and the 20th. That had the most
23 people available.

24 While we're all here, who all is
25 available on the 12th and the 13th?

1 Take a moment to look at your calendar
2 and raise your hand. 12th.

3 COMMISSIONER HAGAN: That's TPC week.

4 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: That's TPC. That's
5 why it wasn't there. I was like --

6 COMMISSIONER HOWLAND: And spring break.

7 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: And it's spring
8 break. Okay. So that's out. So that
9 really -- you know, if we can't get it done on
10 the 20th, then we'll set some dates that next
11 week, but I don't want to do that because I
12 don't want to plan for failure. I want to plan
13 for success and adapt. And so we will keep
14 that. And I will also say -- and I believe
15 we're good on this.

16 Ms. West, you can check me if I'm wrong.

17 If we send out our report and there are
18 people who cannot attend the meeting but have
19 suggestions, can they email those to staff and
20 then those suggestions be discussed at our
21 meeting on the 5th and 6th?

22 MS. WEST: Through the Chair. I'm not
23 aware there's a prohibition on that. So I
24 think the suggestions, as they've been doing,
25 can come in through staff.

1 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay.

2 MS. WEST: As long as they're discussed
3 in an open meeting.

4 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yes. Okay. So for
5 those of you -- I know there's a few of us who
6 can't make the 5th and 6th. We will do our
7 best to get that report out to you so you can
8 look at it. And if you have any suggestions,
9 changes, then you can submit those back to
10 staff through Jessica Matthews. And then they
11 will present them to us, and we can discuss it
12 at the meeting. So -- Ms. Knight.

13 COMMISSIONER KNIGHT: Am I on?

14 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Nope. You hit the
15 microphone button there behind your paper.

16 COMMISSIONER KNIGHT: Okay. I apologize.

17 So I had such a great track record until
18 the month of March. And I apologize that I
19 will miss the 5th, 6th, 19th, and 20th, which
20 is a big chunk of time. I'm out of the
21 country. But maybe should we transfer my
22 subcommittee chair leadership role to one of my
23 colleagues during those four weeks? It's four
24 consecutive meetings. And, of course, I'll
25 still submit, you know, any comments I have on

1 the final product instead of going back and
2 forth.

3 Would that be necessary? I don't mind.

4 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: If you would like to
5 designate someone to speak on behalf of your
6 committee, I think that's fine, or we can just
7 hear from the committee members in mass. I'll
8 leave that decision up to you.

9 COMMISSIONER KNIGHT: Ma'am, what are
10 your thoughts?

11 MS. WEST: You can designate someone to
12 speak on behalf of the subcommittee. As far as
13 the recommendations, as long as you're sending
14 them to staff and not circulating them amongst
15 the members, then that would be fine.

16 COMMISSIONER KNIGHT: Well, you know, the
17 guy that's not in the room gets the short
18 string. So, for the record, it will be
19 Commissioner Griggs.

20 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Commissioner Griggs
21 is voluntold.

22 COMMISSIONER KNIGHT: Voluntold.

23 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: All right. Teach him
24 to miss a meeting.

25 All right. I don't see anybody else on

1 the queue so we will go back to the Charter
2 Revision Commission proposal, which is to put
3 the Commission into the Charter and require the
4 action. You can see where we -- I think one of
5 the more substantive ones was take out the word
6 appointed and appointment and put approved, and
7 that's in Section 17.102. And we left in the
8 word appointed at the end of that because
9 that's just, you know, stating that the
10 Commission itself will be reappointed.

11 And I believe the other changes that we
12 talked about -- we added the word structure. I
13 believe that was Mr. Gentry. That's in 103. I
14 will go through -- I see --

15 I'll tell you what. Let's open it up for
16 public hearing first, and then we'll have our
17 discussions. So is there anyone to discuss the
18 Charter Revision Commission proposal?

19 Mr. Nooney.

20 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: May I ask that -- I
21 think you did that with the last comments you
22 made. But may I ask that it be made clear that
23 the public comment relates to what's right now,
24 what's pending, and not just favorite topics.

25 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Correct. It is just

1 as to this change.

2 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: Yes. Thank you.

3 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Start the clock,
4 please.

5 MR. NOONEY: John Nooney. Address is on
6 file.

7 You know, it's a shame that you're
8 putting this in the front of the agenda and --
9 you know, for those at home may have no idea
10 what this stuff is, but the Charter Revision
11 Commission Charter recommendation, public
12 comment and discussion and vote. Well, then
13 right after that we're going to go into the
14 subcommittee recommendations. So wouldn't you
15 put this at the end because you're asking them
16 to amend our Charter? So why don't you hear
17 the recommendations of all the subcommittees
18 and then vote on what you're going to be doing
19 at the end? I think that would be a better
20 plan.

21 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Mr. Nooney, this is a
22 specific amendment that we're discussing.

23 MR. NOONEY: Okay.

24 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Not all of them.
25 It's related to one item.

1 MR. NOONEY: Well, it is the
2 recommendation; right?

3 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: No. It is one
4 recommendation. You should have a draft of it.

5 MR. NOONEY: Okay. Well, you know, you
6 just get this -- okay. But just maybe it just
7 would have been better at the end. That's all.
8 All right. Well, thank you.

9 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Thank you.

10 Anyone else to discuss the proposed
11 Charter Revision Commission including the
12 Commission into the Charter?

13 MR. SCOTT: Stanley Scott. My address is
14 on file.

15 I disapprove of your recommendation.
16 I've been through this information, and there's
17 nothing changed that's going to impact the
18 leadership. It's just words on a paper. And I
19 am opposed to your recommendations.

20 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Thank you.

21 He's not given a comment card?

22 No. I believe we have one.

23 Okay. So now we have this before us.

24 And so that we can start our discussion, do I
25 have a motion and a second on the Charter

1 Revision Commission amendment?

2 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: Motion.

3 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Motion by Mr. Gentry.

4 A second?

5 COMMISSIONER JAMESON: Second.

6 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Second. Okay. We
7 are in discussion. I have Mr. Schellenberg on
8 the queue.

9 You've got to push the button, too.

10 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Thank you,
11 Chair. I appreciate the work that's being
12 done.

13 I would like to have a little bit more
14 thought and maybe actually vote on it at our
15 next meeting. But, more importantly, I don't
16 see it necessary to put this in the Charter. I
17 think that it has been historic that it is
18 applicable. I think it's important that we at
19 least look at the Charter, but I don't think
20 it's necessary to put in the Charter because
21 ten years ago only one thing came out of this
22 group, and that was the ethics issue.

23 I think that we should be more focused on
24 what the Council is actually going to pass, and
25 it's unlikely they're going to pass this. It's

1 partly because the issue in the Constitutional
2 Revision Commission in Tallahassee. They're
3 looking at basically scrapping it because it's
4 such a disaster with bundling that they're
5 looking at it that maybe we shouldn't do it at
6 all. And, quite frankly, they way -- what they
7 did and what came out of there and the
8 bundling, I think it was disrespectful of the
9 process. So I think I'd be very careful that
10 we want to get things that are actually going
11 to be passed, and it's unlikely that they're
12 going to put this in the Charter.

13 And that would be my -- so I have two
14 issues. I want to think about it a little bit
15 more, but my initial impression is I would not
16 put this in the Charter. Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: All right. Are you
18 moving to table it or...

19 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Chair, I
20 wouldn't necessarily table it. I would just
21 say let's go ahead and put it -- you have the
22 discretion. Just put it on -- everybody can
23 read it, comprehend what we're asking the
24 Council to do, and go forward with it. I would
25 give ample opportunity for people to read the

1 changes, if they haven't already read it, and
2 think about it and contemplate it in another
3 week or two, and then at that time have a more
4 vigorous debate about putting it on the
5 Charter. That's what you want to do. You want
6 to make changes as well as put it on the
7 Charter. Thank you.

8 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. Mr. Gentry.

9 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: Thank you,
10 Mr. Chairman.

11 I do think if you're going to have a
12 Charter and a Charter Revision Commission, the
13 Charter Revision Commission should be in the
14 Charter. And it would seem to me better
15 protect that process, which I think is an
16 important one.

17 But the main reason I wanted to speak --
18 and I think I said this last time and I got
19 talked out of it -- and I want to address it
20 one more time. And this may be the lawyer --
21 and Judge Swanson should maybe weigh in on this
22 because, at the appellate level, I'm sure he's
23 seen it.

24 My concern -- I know this is old
25 language. Old language. My concern in 17.103

1 where we say: The Commission shall make
2 recommendations to the Council concerning those
3 provisions in the Charter, related laws, and
4 other special acts of legislature affecting the
5 Consolidated City of government.

6 Okay. That sentence is broad and I
7 understand that. Basically, things that affect
8 the government commission may recommend. But
9 then the next sentence says: In making its
10 recommendation -- which seems to be a
11 limitation upon the recommendation -- the
12 Commission shall consider all relevant factors
13 to the structure of the local units of
14 government in the Consolidated City of
15 Jacksonville and the relationship between the
16 State of Florida and local units of government,
17 which are best calculated to fulfill the needs
18 of the citizens of the Consolidated City of
19 government.

20 I am concerned -- and I know this hasn't
21 been raised. But if someone raised it, that
22 the second clause would be a limitation on the
23 first, and, for example, we wouldn't have been
24 able to recommend the ethics changes because
25 ethics changes don't relate to the structure of

1 the local units of government, nor the
2 relationship between the state and local units.

3 And there are other things that this
4 Commission has looked at that would not fall
5 within that provision. So I continue to be
6 concerned that if someone raised it, that that
7 would be a limitation and I don't think that's
8 the intent. So usually when you say things
9 like in making its recommendation, you would
10 throw in the verbiage, among other things, the
11 Commission shall consider. But by not having
12 some caveat or things like including, you know,
13 words like that.

14 So that's my concern. And I raised it
15 last time, and I think I was talked out of it
16 because that first clause, but I still have
17 concerns.

18 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Well, my
19 understanding of it in reading it is that if
20 there is a limitation, that limitation is to
21 considerations but not the recommendations
22 because it says in making the recommendations,
23 these are the things that you consider.
24 However, if you want to put in -- and if I'm
25 hearing a motion to include among other things,

1 so it would be: In making its recommendations,
2 the Commission shall consider, among other
3 things, all relevant factors.

4 Is that where you would want to put that?

5 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: I think that's a
6 good place for it, and I'll make that motion.

7 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. You'll make
8 that motion. Okay. Let me put that in here.
9 Shall consider.

10 Okay. There's a motion. Is there a
11 second?

12 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: Second.

13 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Second.

14 Any discussion?

15 I don't see anybody.

16 All in favor of the amendment to include
17 "among other things" after the word consider
18 and before the word all?

19 Do we have to do this on a ballot or can
20 we just -- by voice? Hand vote?

21 Okay. All in favor, raise your hand.

22 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. It's
23 unanimous.

24 So, now, any further discussion?

25 All right. So we still have a motion

1 to -- do we need a new motion or move it since
2 it's been amended?

3 MS. WEST: No. So now you're just on the
4 motion as amended.

5 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Just on the motion as
6 amended. Do we need to put this one on the
7 ballot?

8 No. Okay.

9 Then we will do a hand raise again.

10 All those in favor of the motion as
11 amended for approval of the Charter Revision
12 Commission language, raise your hand.

13 Okay. Okay. So we've got -- did y'all
14 get the count?

15 Okay. Any opposed?

16 All right. Motion carries.

17 We've now got two in the can. Okay.

18 All right. Next on our agenda is the
19 subcommittee updates and discussions. And,
20 first off, we have Urban Core recommendations.
21 So which ones are yours? Do we have those in
22 our packet?

23 COMMISSIONER KNIGHT: Yes, you do. It's
24 titled "Urban Core Development Authority."

25 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: It's this one.

1 COMMISSIONER KNIGHT: This one. And I
2 don't know if you received it today.

3 I'll start with kind of quoting our
4 colleague, Mr. Scott, who said: Today isn't
5 about race; it is about leadership. I thought
6 that was a timely comment.

7 What I'm going to do really quickly is
8 just recap how we came to the recommendation
9 we're making, because it's pretty
10 straightforward, and then give an outline of
11 that. And, of course, my colleagues are
12 Commissioner Mills, Commissioner Denton, and
13 Commissioner Griggs, who isn't present.

14 And while our recommendation really isn't
15 about race, it is about a significant
16 disparity, and it's focused on distressed areas
17 of our community.

18 So thinking back to prior to November, we
19 all heard several leaders, experts, colleagues
20 from the community give examples of how we got
21 here, okay, and how -- what the missed
22 opportunities are. So in November when our
23 subcommittee met, we decided to take a
24 four-pronged approach, continued to gather some
25 more historical facts, assess everything,

1 assess everything we've heard in full committee
2 and in our subcommittee, and then try to
3 understand and define the opportunities.

4 We're not necessarily low hanging fruit
5 because there's nothing low hanging fruit about
6 our recommendation, but what is the best foot
7 forward that we believe would be the most
8 effective, and then finally summarize into a
9 proposal, which you have today.

10 We held two town hall meetings, welcomed
11 citizens to share their thoughts. I personally
12 met with 10 of 19 City Council members. Two
13 are pending, one canceled, and six no
14 responses.

15 You heard in our full committee several
16 times, I think, Commissioner Griggs share an
17 idea of a development authority. And while you
18 probably are reading ahead and you'll see
19 that's where we landed, I wanted to make sure
20 that you're aware that we did not simply rubber
21 stamp our colleague's recommendation. We went
22 through a distinct, I think pretty clean
23 process -- maybe my colleagues can comment as
24 they need to -- to make sure that we're not
25 missing another opportunity.

1 In reviewing everything, whether it's
2 septic tank process, whether it's economic
3 trust fund on the north side, we looked to see
4 where the opportunities and the gaps are. And
5 while there's been great work put forward, what
6 we sensed was a lack of coordination across
7 groups. We looked at, I guess, lots more data.
8 And then we finally sat down and said, Okay, no
9 more data. Let's independently take everything
10 we learned from listening to constituents, from
11 looking at data, and all of our notes and
12 minutes and so forth. We shared a template.
13 We agreed on the template of format. Everyone
14 had the opportunity to compile their comments
15 into that format.

16 As I've said here and in our
17 subcommittee, we are blessed to have
18 Commissioner Denton in our group. So we gave
19 him all of our input, and with that input he
20 consolidated the key themes. We came back
21 together. We reviewed it, just similar like
22 what we're doing today, and then we agreed on
23 the final recommendation, which is in your
24 packet.

25 So we're not offering an easy solution,

1 and we recognize that. And you'll see as you
2 get time to read through it, I think we're
3 approximately six pages -- excuse me -- seven
4 pages. There's nothing easy about this
5 recommendation. If it was easy, we wouldn't
6 have needed to have it a part of our topics
7 list, right. It would have already been done.

8 So I want to just quickly walk you
9 through and point out to you -- the
10 recommendation is this: Is to create an Urban
11 Core Development Authority, which would plan,
12 coordinate, and implement public and private
13 initiatives to address consolidated
14 disparities, alleviate economic community and
15 social failures in the most distressed area of
16 the city.

17 That is our recommendation. What we
18 included in the packet to either remind you or
19 bring to your attention is some key data, but
20 we also included information from all of the
21 data we've received as a full body around
22 various leaders, you know, from the Blueprint
23 for Improvement in 2014. We referenced
24 specific things that, you know, has come up in
25 the past, which automatically feeds into our

1 recommendation.

2 Our scope, if you take your packet and
3 flip it over to the very back, Attachment A is
4 what we're proposing as a scope, the area of
5 the defined area. As you look at that, you'll
6 see that we did a little bit of a carve out
7 downtown -- of downtown to exclude the Downtown
8 Investment Authority. We were using the Health
9 Zone One map, which is a Department of Health
10 map. And in that map, it would have included
11 the downtown area. Well, that's not necessary.
12 There's a different focus there. There's great
13 work going on by the DIA. So we did a carve
14 out. And then for the health zone, we pulled
15 it a little bit northwest and used I-295 as a
16 boundary. So, in a sense, we created our own
17 map. We took the Health Zone One map and we
18 tweaked it a little bit. So that's the scope.
19 That's the area of concentration that we
20 focused on.

21 You know, the first question is: Where
22 is the money coming from? If you flip over to
23 page 5, you'll see, as we've all seen in our
24 meetings, various leaders have come forward and
25 talked about how would a capital improvement

1 program work, how would a CBA work, and so
2 forth. So we've included the recommended
3 funding sources, which is a community
4 redevelopment area, a millage rate adjustment,
5 and/or a capital improvement plan. And then
6 secondary, we listed other funding sources. So
7 this is on page 6, the second page -- I'm
8 sorry. It starts on page 5 and concludes on
9 page 6. So when it says "in addition," the
10 subcommittee heard from speakers who suggested
11 other possible sources. We're just making sure
12 you're aware of those funding options. But,
13 really, we focused -- our recommendations would
14 be limited to the first three.

15 As far as the structure for this
16 development authority -- let me just get there.

17 On page 4, we outlined what the USDA --
18 UCDA would look like. A broad-based board of
19 directors would have powers and duties that
20 included the following, and there's several
21 items listed there.

22 So, you know, in summary, realizing that
23 I'm the first of three, the clear
24 recommendation from us is that a development
25 authority be crafted -- because I'm not a

1 football-knowledgeable lady. But what I have
2 learned about football is a quarterback is
3 essential. And when we looked at all of the
4 agencies that are trying to do good work in
5 that community, whether they are government
6 agencies or private, it seems there's a
7 disconnect of a quarterback. So if I were to
8 leave you with one word to help you think about
9 that, that's what we're saying. We need a
10 quarterback to kind of step in and help guide
11 the work, create a strategy, and lead it into
12 the future. We know this is not a five-year
13 plan. This is not even a ten-year plan. It
14 took 50 years to get here. It's going to take
15 a long time to work through the issues that
16 we've observed, but we believe this is the best
17 way to address the conundrum.

18 So Commissioner Denton or Commissioner
19 Mills, do you have anything to add or maybe
20 that I may have missed in comments?

21 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Mr. Denton.

22 COMMISSIONER DENTON: Yeah. I would
23 point this as the basis for this
24 recommendation, the first paragraph under
25 background, which is -- and I think we heard

1 some of this in the full commission before.

2 But two major issues are guiding this
3 recommendation. One is, there is a widespread
4 feeling in the African American community that
5 promises of consolidation were not kept. And
6 we had people at our town hall meetings and at
7 our meetings who were beyond passionate on the
8 subject, including to tears at times, feeling
9 that they've been left behind in Jacksonville.
10 And there's a very clear racial cut there.

11 The second one, and we actually moved it
12 to number one because we felt that it was -- in
13 addition to that moral commitment that we feel
14 like the city has, we also have to recognize
15 the glaring disparities between the quality of
16 life in the area that we've identified and the
17 rest of the city. People have written about it
18 for years. I think a former mayor called it a
19 tale of two cities when he wrote about it. I
20 can't remember which one that was. People
21 still refer to that, and it's very much true.

22 So we ended up feeling that, in addition
23 to addressing the historical issue that
24 continues to hang over the city, that, as a
25 city, we should say it's unacceptable that a

1 well-defined part of our city suffers from so
2 many disparities that are documented in the
3 report and that we all know about. So we felt
4 like just as the Downtown Investment Authority
5 was created to address the heart of the city,
6 that we needed one more authority focused at
7 the most disaffected and troubled part of the
8 city that affects not just that part of the
9 city, but the entire city, particularly when
10 you get to areas like crime and social failure
11 and educational failure and the other things
12 that we've dealt with.

13 So as you look at this, I hope you'll
14 keep those very strong motivations in mind when
15 you go beyond this and look at it. It really
16 is, in my view, a fairly modest proposal. We
17 had more extreme proposals indebted, but this
18 is to create what would be a small authority
19 with a relatively small budget to quarterback,
20 as our Chair said, to master plan strategies
21 across all of the areas of quality of life and
22 socioeconomic situations to look at what -- the
23 good work being done by public and private
24 organizations now in that part of the city, but
25 then identifying gaps and overlaps and

1 opportunities and try to mobilize, again,
2 public/private charitable forces to fill in
3 gaps that exist, which could be public programs
4 or private. But this is not -- the budget
5 commitment that we're asking for here or
6 recommending is well short of just what we're
7 spending on the DIA, which is not exactly
8 overwhelming itself.

9 So I would just add to our Chair those
10 feelings. But I will say -- and Ms. Mills, I
11 hope she will speak up and Commissioner Griggs
12 as well when he's here, that this is something
13 that we feel like not just with our brains but
14 with our hearts that this is something this
15 Commission needs to recommend. Thank you.

16 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Ms. Mills, do you
17 have anything to add?

18 COMMISSIONER MILLS: Hello.

19 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: I've got the benefit
20 I only have to push one button and it gives me
21 a green light so I know my mic is working.

22 COMMISSIONER MILLS: Through the Chair.
23 Good morning, everyone.

24 I just would like to say to the Urban
25 Core Committee, it has been challenging for us,

1 but I think we've tried to get through it the
2 best way that we can. In making the
3 recommendations, I know I had some issues with
4 them because it's a little more than just
5 coming down here being a part of a Charter.
6 It's being an African in the community and
7 volunteering and tutoring, as Mr. Denton does,
8 too.

9 I think the most important part was that
10 when I was at my grandson's game on Saturday
11 and I saw all these little kids running around
12 playing, and my first thing to the coaches was:
13 Where are they in academics? And they couldn't
14 answer. So I made a recommendation to them to
15 always check every week to see where they are
16 academic, because they just can't win on the
17 field. They've got to learn how to win off the
18 field, too.

19 So when you look at these recommendations
20 as a Council, I really do hope that they look
21 at the recommendations that each subcommittee
22 is making and they really dig down on the
23 inside and find something that will pierce
24 their heart. If they have one, I don't know.
25 But this is important. And to be a part --

1 when I talk about this, so many people want to
2 know why am I on this committee. You know, why
3 are you wasting your time? Nothing is going to
4 change.

5 That really hurts because I've spent a
6 lot of time down here. But what I told them is
7 that, you know, we all have to change and
8 that's what I'm adding on this, that so many
9 people say if you have an Urban Core
10 Development, what about other people who don't
11 have one, what about other people who have put
12 in community dollars. Well, I think people on
13 the urban side have gone to other parts of
14 town, and they've put money in their
15 communities through shopping, you know,
16 whatever it is. They have the amenities over
17 there. I can certainly attest to not that many
18 people are coming over to the Urban Core
19 putting money in the Urban Core.

20 When I look at Lonnie Miller Park, there
21 is an amphitheater on consolidated soil.
22 Really, the park was built on consolidated --
23 not -- I meant contaminated soil. And now you
24 have an amphitheater in Lonnie Miller Park that
25 I have no idea what they can do with that.

1 So it's just programs that they may say
2 they're doing things over there, but is it
3 constructive? What can it help? What can we
4 do in Lonnie Miller Park where people are going
5 to feel safe and, you know, want to go out
6 there and use the park? It can't bring dollars
7 into the community because no one else is going
8 to want to come and use it.

9 So I just hope that people understand the
10 realness of it, because I passed by a community
11 center on Saturday. My girlfriend buried her
12 dad. And I rode by this community center, and
13 I just had to stop and stand there because
14 that's the community center that saved me.
15 That's the community center where I had a
16 chance to go to learn arts and crafts. I had a
17 chance to be tutored. I had a chance to find
18 out what it is to be great if I wanted to be
19 great. But I had that chance.

20 Kids today don't have a chance. Whether
21 it's through parenting, whether it's through
22 community, whether it's through our -- I really
23 don't even want to put it on City Council
24 because I don't look for them to be heros. The
25 heros start in your community. They start at

1 home. But so many parents are working two jobs
2 to be able to make one check. So that's why
3 there's so many disparities.

4 When I looked at the ten worst
5 neighborhoods in Jacksonville, it was very
6 scary to see that their homes are averaging --
7 I think it was a little over 30,000, and the
8 average income was 25. And the ten best
9 neighborhoods, income is -- average income is
10 over 70, and the homes are up in the 200s.
11 Now, I'm not, you know, saying anything about
12 where anyone lives and what they do. But I'm
13 saying we have to really say that we want to
14 change. The change has to start with us to
15 understand that.

16 If you just take a drive, you will see
17 the vast difference. There's one gas station
18 between Soutel and US-1 and Soutel and Lem
19 Turner. One gas station. One ATM. Are you
20 kidding me? There's no banks. How do you
21 live? Everything they do, they have to go out
22 of the community. But the Urban Core has sat
23 back and watched Jacksonville grow in leaps and
24 bounds, and at no time has any significant
25 amount of money been put toward the Urban Core.

1 I'm not blaming anybody. Trust me, I'm not.

2 As a private citizen, I have a duty to do
3 and I'm going to continue to do it whether
4 anybody does it or not. But there will be
5 voices after this committee when we're through
6 with this Charter. There will be voices.
7 People won't see the last of me. I've taken
8 this on personally because I believe in helping
9 people. I believe in being there for people
10 and not pointing the hand to say everybody
11 doesn't deserve a chance. In this
12 consolidation, we have not had a chance. And
13 I'm saying "we" because I am African American.
14 Thank you.

15 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Thank you.

16 Ms. Jameson, I see you on the queue, but
17 I'd like -- we do have a speaker card for
18 public comment.

19 Mr. Scott, did you -- were you just
20 simply saying you're in support?

21 MR. SCOTT: Stanley Scott. My address is
22 on file.

23 I recommend and support this topic here.
24 I was born and raised in this area. My
25 family -- my father's house is 507 Nora Street

1 right there where FCCJ school is at the present
2 time. I was there, once again, on Axe Handle
3 Saturday. I was eight years old. In this
4 community here, you have been taking money from
5 this community, millions of dollars the over
6 the years, over the last 40 years. And
7 Republicans and Democrats has taken the money
8 and used it on other sides of town.

9 Now, I'm not talking about something I
10 don't know. I've been involved in this
11 community and this city and was raised up in
12 this building right here as a baby. Made corn.
13 It's appalling that the leadership -- that the
14 leadership has overlooked. We talk about one
15 city, one Jacksonville. That's the biggest
16 farse I ever heard.

17 But the law said that the sewage in the
18 Urban Core was a priority. That's a law, and
19 no one, not one mayor, has addressed that
20 issue. We talking about the Urban Core here.
21 I covered this whole area except for Nocatee.
22 That's the only area I have not lived in.

23 What has taken place in the city is evil,
24 pure evil. You have marginalized people
25 because of race in the Urban Core. Now you're

1 talking about coming back because you're in
2 violation of -- because you had went through
3 with the Downtown Investment Authority and
4 allowed them to do all them CRAs in this area.
5 It's against the law. You have taken the power
6 away from the City Council people and created
7 an opportunity for you to take money from the
8 Urban Core and give it to the Downtown
9 Investment Authority. Now, is that pure evil
10 or what is it?

11 And I'm talking about some facts. I can
12 pull it up. I've been a community blogger for
13 many years with the Times Union. I read these
14 articles. My mentor, Mr. Edward Exson, been
15 dealing with this for 60 years. It's a
16 travesty. And it's continuing and it needs to
17 change. Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Thank you.

19 Mr. Nooney, are you speaking on the Urban
20 Core?

21 MR. NOONEY: Yes.

22 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay.

23 MR. NOONEY: My name is John Nooney.

24 Address is on file.

25 And, yes, I do want to speak on the Urban

1 Core Development Authority service area. You
2 know, again, this is our Charter. Here's the
3 map. You see? This map is huge. It's
4 absolutely massive. You know, you've got the
5 St. Johns River, Trout River. You're showing
6 right here JU, the zoo. And, again, you know,
7 this is our Charter.

8 And the Urban Services District
9 Subcommittee -- Chairman Brock, you put
10 waterways into this committee. You didn't --
11 you hadn't had testimony from anyone on this
12 issue. And, you know, if you want
13 redevelopment, you know, put in the Charter
14 that any CRA or DIA or this Urban Core
15 Development Authority that has a waterways
16 component and taxpayer money is given to that
17 entity, then public access to that waterway
18 will, shall be immediately granted to Joe Q.
19 Public. And you will probably see some of the
20 biggest economic boom in the consolidated
21 government of Jacksonville. It's waterways.
22 It's that simple. And y'all cite ordinance
23 numbers. Look them up.

24 Thank God for the court reporter.

25 You know, 2007, 451; 2013, 384; 2005,

1 207; 2014, 412; 2015, 777. You know, there's
2 legislation -- I could go on and on, but I'm
3 only down to a minute.

4 This map is huge. And, you know, as far
5 as funding and taxing, it doesn't include, you
6 know, the beaches. It's not including Mandarin
7 or -- you know, I believe Riverside is taken
8 out of the equation. And, of course, 2015,
9 460, that was the legislature that created the
10 Downtown Investment Authority.

11 And, again, I've been through all these
12 different meetings seeking a resolution. That
13 would support such a Charter amendment,
14 especially for the Urban Core Development
15 Authority. So, I mean, this is the biggest
16 shot.

17 And I'll tell you something. For someone
18 who -- I'm not from Jacksonville, but I've been
19 attempting to participate in the waterways for
20 over 20-plus years. I'll tell you right now,
21 if you're not picky, you will get crushed. A
22 big reason I'm here is that if I do, at least I
23 gave it the best shot --

24 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Thank you. Thank
25 you, Mr. Nooney.

1 MR. NOONEY: -- to really tell people to
2 visit Jacksonville.

3 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Thank you,
4 Mr. Nooney.

5 MR. NOONEY: Thank you for allowing
6 public participation.

7 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Anyone else to speak
8 on the Urban Core Development Authority?

9 Okay. So that we can get into our
10 discussion and debate, do I have a motion and a
11 second on the Urban Core Development Authority
12 recommendations?

13 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: Motion.

14 COMMISSIONER HOWLAND: Second.

15 COMMISSIONER MILLS: Second.

16 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. I have
17 Ms. Jameson on the queue.

18 COMMISSIONER JAMESON: Thank you. Sorry
19 about that.

20 So a couple questions I have. I do feel
21 like this is very thoughtful. So I know y'all
22 have done a lot of research on this.

23 My first question is relating to the
24 funding. I know that you've identified that
25 number in here. I'd be curious how you came to

1 that number, and then also if it would be
2 appropriate to include that number in the
3 Charter. I have some questions about that.
4 And then, again, I see there's a funding number
5 here just for 2020. So what would that number
6 look like for the next 10 years?

7 Again, this Charter Commission doesn't
8 get together until every 10 years. So I'm
9 curious, again, is it appropriate to include
10 that number in our Charter or would that just
11 be your recommendation that we would like to be
12 in the budget each year?

13 COMMISSIONER KNIGHT: So give me your
14 specific reference. What page?

15 COMMISSIONER JAMESON: Oh, sure. On page
16 5 you have a section called "Funding," and it
17 says that -- oh. Excuse me. I'm sorry.
18 That's DIA. I'm sorry. I thought you were
19 recommending that this was the funding here. I
20 apologize.

21 COMMISSIONER KNIGHT: No.

22 COMMISSIONER JAMESON: And then my other
23 question is: Are there other CRAs that are in
24 the boundaries of this -- what are we calling
25 it -- the UCDA?

1 COMMISSIONER KNIGHT: Anthony, help me.
2 I think there's one -- actually, there is one
3 right, one CRA, within this boundary, the
4 Soutel -- yep. That's the only one then.

5 COMMISSIONER JAMESON: Those are my only
6 initial questions.

7 COMMISSIONER KNIGHT: Thank you.

8 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. Next we have
9 Mr. Gentry.

10 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: Thank you,
11 Mr. Chair.

12 I don't think the committee needs to
13 justify why we need this. Emily Lisska
14 reminded us that in 2022 we're going to have
15 the 200th year of the founding of the City of
16 Jacksonville. And I haven't lived that long.
17 But during the last 70 or so, I've been here
18 and this situation existed the whole time. So
19 it makes sense that we try to do something to
20 address it. I think it is appropriate to be in
21 the Charter since the Charter addresses the
22 Urban District in Article I.

23 My question really is more kind of form
24 and format. I think you guys have done a great
25 job, and I understand the recommendations. But

1 are we going to try to reduce this to a form of
2 a Charter amendment between now and the next
3 week or two? Which there are probably formats
4 with DIA and other legislation where we could
5 do it, or just send these as recommendations to
6 the City Council for it to do? I personally --
7 it's your work, but I personally would prefer
8 us to craft what we want rather than sending
9 something on.

10 So I was just wondering what we're voting
11 on today, actually, and what the final product
12 is going to look like.

13 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: I have my
14 understanding, but I'll let Ms. Knight...

15 COMMISSIONER KNIGHT: So this was our
16 recommendation, but I do appreciate your
17 thought that it should be more succinct to
18 match the format of the Charter. Anthony kind
19 of helped us with our formatting so I'm not
20 sure if it's a contradiction to the way we
21 planned overall. If the desire is to mirror
22 how the DIA or the investment authorities are
23 listed in the Charter, then we obviously need
24 to amend.

25 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. Would you-all

1 be able to get that in time for the meeting
2 next week?

3 COMMISSIONER KNIGHT: March 5th, yes. I
4 can't say that because I don't know that we can
5 all meet.

6 Can we all meet?

7 I think that would be a key.

8 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay.

9 COMMISSIONER DENTON: I can certainly
10 meet. But are we talking about drafting
11 specific language to go into the Charter? So I
12 don't think we have a lawyer in our group, so I
13 wonder if we shouldn't ask the OGC or staff to
14 work with us in putting it in the appropriate
15 language. We frankly didn't really go that
16 far, but I think it's -- I think we might be
17 faking it, and it would be good to have legal
18 advice on doing that if it passes today.

19 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Well, let me -- did
20 you have a response to that?

21 Nope.

22 Okay. Mr. Schellenberg.

23 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: I feel very
24 lonely over here, but that's okay.

25 A couple -- it is a huge area. And the

1 question is there's a -- how much money are you
2 going to spend? And, quite frankly, there is a
3 lot of money being spent in this general area
4 for sewer hookup. And between the JTA and the
5 City of Jacksonville, we're spending, I think,
6 between -- I don't remember the exact number --
7 about 20- to 30 million dollars for
8 neighborhoods to be connected to the sewer
9 line, and that includes this Urban Core area.
10 So when you say that it's not getting money, it
11 is getting money, but it doesn't go very far.

12 So I would be -- I'm not quite sure how
13 to address it. I understand that every mayor
14 since consolidation could have done something
15 here. There's no question about it. And they
16 haven't done what they should be doing to lift
17 every vote up, and that's specifically this
18 area. And I would blame all the council people
19 that represent this area. They haven't done a
20 very good job. And they're going to come back
21 and say, Hey, we're doing sewer hookups.
22 We've got 20-, 30 million dollars being spent
23 in this area.

24 In addition, there's a group of people
25 there at -- off of West Beaver. It's called

1 the Railroad District, and they're doing a
2 fantastic job of bringing that community,
3 businesses specifically, but the community
4 together to figure out how to get gainly
5 employed more people in this area. So there
6 are pockets of people doing amazing work in
7 there.

8 So I have a couple questions.

9 Did you look at actually how much money
10 the City is spending in this area? The septic
11 tank would be one.

12 And then the other -- and I have other
13 questions.

14 And did you talk to Jeff Edwards who is
15 sort of spearheading the Railroad District?

16 COMMISSIONER KNIGHT: So I'm going to
17 start with your earlier comment that we
18 referenced funding. I think, if I remember my
19 own comment clearly, what I emphasized is that
20 this community is not necessarily -- I'm not
21 saying it needs -- it doesn't need money, but
22 it needs quarterbacking. That's what I said
23 earlier. That it's -- the idea is that all of
24 those agencies, whether they're doing good work
25 or not, they need a direction. That's the

1 first comment.

2 As far as looking at the budget, yes. I
3 think we all received -- what was it -- the
4 operating budget. We received the Northwest
5 Economic Trust Fund, and there were others that
6 we received.

7 And then your third comment. I don't
8 know -- we didn't bring -- we didn't ask
9 Mr. Edwards to come to us as a group. But I've
10 met with him several times, not necessarily on
11 this topic, but just about the Railyard. And I
12 agree, they're doing fantastic work.

13 But you're proving our point. One pocket
14 has a very narrow focus. They're doing good
15 work in their area. How can we replicate and
16 try to make sure that all pockets are getting
17 the attention? Because if you look at the data
18 in -- excuse me. If you look at the data in
19 the proposal, not just thinking about
20 entrepreneurs and jobs -- both are important --
21 but we're also, to Commissioner Mills' point,
22 thinking about education, right.

23 So it's bigger than one piece of the pie.
24 So that's why the recommendation was written
25 that way. I don't believe I said anything

1 about there's a set dollar that is needed.
2 While I do think there are monies needed, I
3 think that's for this development authority and
4 its leadership and its board to determine where
5 the detail gaps are. That wasn't, in our
6 opinion, our work to do. But the work was to
7 communicate that there is needed leadership.

8 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Just to
9 follow up. What is the actual population of
10 this Urban Core area?

11 COMMISSIONER KNIGHT: So I don't have a
12 total number of population of this --
13 Mr. Griggs.

14 (Commissioner Griggs enters.)

15 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Hey,
16 Mr. Griggs. How are you?

17 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Mr. Griggs, will you
18 respond to that? You've got to turn the mic on
19 and hit the mic button.

20 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: The approximate
21 population for the Urban Core District is
22 roughly about 110,000 people.

23 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Okay. So
24 this goes back to my beating the drum.
25 Basically that is one City Council person.

1 It's actually one and a half. And as I
2 suggested, your quarterback could be a City
3 Council person. We have the census going
4 forward. We will be redistricting next year,
5 and this population could actually have a
6 full-time Council person.

7 And as I looked at the map previously,
8 right now it's sort of divided between two or
9 three of them, and they don't have any
10 particular focus because, in my opinion, those
11 districts are gerrymandered. Okay. They're
12 not compact. And, generally speaking, they're
13 not really community of interest. So your
14 quarterback could be that City Council person.

15 But I will go from the top to the bottom.
16 The mayor has great discretion in this area.
17 Al Lawson, the congressional person
18 representing this area, where is he? And then
19 look at the three District Council people that
20 currently represents this area. And that's the
21 failure that I see, not just currently, but
22 historically. This is embarrassing. For 50
23 years this area has been neglected, and it's
24 all because of the prior elected officials
25 neglecting this area going forward.

1 And, by the way, the other thing I would
2 like -- how many schools are in this area?
3 And it's not just schools. I want to know the
4 population of the schools over the 10, 20 and
5 current population. That population is
6 diminishing if I looked at -- if I understand
7 the dynamics of the school system.

8 But, anyway, I understand that we need to
9 do something. It's a big area. A huge area.
10 It's 110,000 people. And I'm not quite sure if
11 this is the solution, per se. But I think that
12 as opposed to putting it in a Charter, I would
13 say: City Council, get your act together and
14 start doing something because this mayor --
15 over the last eleven years that budget, city
16 budget, has gone from 900 million dollars to
17 120 -- 1.2 billion dollars. That's 300 million
18 dollars more coming in over the last eleven
19 years, and you're telling me that there's no
20 additional money that should be designated to
21 this area to uplift this area? I just find it
22 appalling. Thank you.

23 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. Next --

24 Mr. Griggs, were you responding? Because
25 I've got other people on the queue.

1 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: (Nods head.)

2 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. All right.

3 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: I apologize for the
4 tardiness and walking in on Mr. Schellenberg's
5 comments.

6 But I don't want the concept of what the
7 approach here is to be lost. What we've
8 attempted to do as a subcommittee is to address
9 this from a prospective where we can remove --
10 try to remove as much politics out of this as
11 possible and put it in a situation where those
12 people in power have no choice but to address
13 the situation.

14 We have -- as you pointed out, we have
15 relied on Council leadership and administrative
16 leadership in order to address this issue for
17 the last 50 years, and no one seems to feel
18 like it's valid enough. Only through Charter
19 amendment will people have the ability to take
20 action. We've left this to the will of the
21 elected officials for too long. And in order
22 for people to be able to take action, they're
23 going to have to be told that they have to take
24 action.

25 One representative, in my opinion -- the

1 way the City Council districts are drawn up,
2 you have four representatives primarily for the
3 Urban Core districts against, you know, 15
4 other Council members. That's what it always
5 boils down to for the most part. Then they
6 have -- you know, in a little bit of defense
7 for them, they're not going to be able to get
8 the kind of traction they need in order to get
9 major projects across the finish line.

10 So the concept is to address this in a
11 way that everybody has to participate. Not
12 just one Council member, not just four Council
13 members, not just five or six. Everybody has
14 to participate. Everybody has to address the
15 problem as a whole, as a complete city. That's
16 the concept.

17 And like my colleague, Commissioner
18 Knight, mentioned, a quarterback is necessary
19 in order to -- just like we have with DIA,
20 someone who is figuring out things for --
21 strategically for that particular area of town
22 because it's a priority seemingly. It seems to
23 be a priority. We've got other things coming
24 up. We've got people asking for funding across
25 the board. But when it comes to the Urban

1 Core, you know, it's neglect and it's never a
2 priority.

3 So this would make it a priority, if it's
4 in the Charter, that you have to do something.
5 You have to invest in this area and try to
6 arrest the issues that have been here for
7 50-plus years.

8 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Mr. Denton, you
9 wanted to respond as well?

10 COMMISSIONER DENTON: Yes, if I may.

11 We have been relying for 50-plus years on
12 political leadership, and for whatever reason
13 -- not necessarily evil or incompetence -- it
14 just hasn't happened. When we talked about --
15 we used the term quarterback, what we really
16 envision here is that the Urban Core
17 Development Authority would hire a
18 professional, a full-time professional, who
19 understands the complexity of poverty and who
20 would have a small staff -- we're suggesting
21 maybe three in here -- something like that, to
22 then advise our political leadership on setting
23 priorities. We talked about a master plan
24 where we understand the realities of poverty
25 and how complex it is and would come up with

1 solutions to recommend to the political
2 leadership.

3 The second thing is, I hope that this
4 discussion doesn't focus only on infrastructure
5 issues like septic tanks and sewers and streets
6 and sidewalks. Those -- they're certainly
7 there and they're included. But, mainly, the
8 issues surrounding poverty are much more -- as
9 I'm sure we all know -- more complex than
10 infrastructure. The definition of this when
11 you read it, it goes into all aspects of it.

12 Let me give you an example of an unmet
13 need. In my professional life, I've worked a
14 lot in these areas and various cities. And in
15 my personal life, I have worked with a school
16 in this area and have for a couple of years.
17 One of the things I learned -- I tutored a boy
18 last year, and I'm tutoring a boy this year,
19 and in talking to the social worker at the
20 school and the teachers there, both of these
21 boys have learning disabilities, which is
22 probably why they used a citizen volunteer to
23 help the teachers in tutoring them.

24 But both of them -- one of them may have
25 ADHD, or it was suggested by a professional,

1 PTSD because we don't talk about it very much.
2 But in some neighborhoods where there's social
3 and economic chaos and poverty, kids can have
4 PTSD. And one thought from someone at Baptist
5 was that the boy last year may have PTSD on top
6 of ADD or ADHD. The boy this year apparently
7 has ADD.

8 But here's the wrinkle. We have programs
9 for that. And are they adequately funded?
10 Maybe, maybe not. But in both of these cases,
11 what I found out is that the mothers of these
12 boys are against -- one of them against even
13 getting a diagnosis; the other against any sort
14 of medicine that one might routinely treat for
15 ADD. And I was told by a teacher there -- and
16 I had learned this before and I already knew it
17 -- oh. I sound better this way.

18 I had known this before, but a teacher,
19 an African American teacher -- both these boys
20 are African American. The school is 90-some
21 odd percent African American.

22 The teacher told me that there is
23 mistrust in the African American community for
24 things like taking medicine -- and we heard
25 this in one of our town hall meetings --

1 against drugging my children. And so the child
2 last year, this is his second -- I'm sorry --
3 his third time in the third grade. I don't
4 know -- I just found out Tuesday that his
5 mother has been evicted and they're living
6 temporarily in a hotel. Again, another
7 complexity of poverty.

8 But that boy has been held back twice in
9 the third grade. He's 10 years old now. I
10 don't know if he's going to get out of the
11 third grade this year. I'd be surprised. I
12 don't know about the child this year. But what
13 happens if you can't read by the third grade,
14 the data shows you're not going to succeed in
15 school probably, and you get to a point where
16 the schools who are helpless in this. I mean,
17 these teachers on the front line, I've told
18 some of them yesterday how much I admire what
19 they do.

20 But it's not a failure of the school
21 district. I'm not sure it's a failure
22 anywhere. It's a complexity. And I would hope
23 that the UCDA -- because these kids, if they
24 can't read by the third grade, they'll
25 eventually drop out of school, and you know

1 where that will leave them. Not on a job if
2 they can't read. And I hope that the UCDA
3 would study this phenomenon and figure out a
4 solution.

5 Frankly, I'm not an expert in it. But my
6 feeling that the solution to the issue of trust
7 in the African -- poor African American
8 community on these issues is not going to be
9 fixed by budget appropriation or by a
10 government agency. It's going to be fixed
11 perhaps by leaders in the community and other
12 ways. So this is not just about spending tens
13 or 30 billion dollars in infrastructure
14 improvement. It's about understanding the
15 complexities of these issues and finding a way
16 with public or private or community resources
17 to address these issues. Because, you know,
18 these two little boys, they probably are
19 serviced by a septic tank, but that isn't going
20 to be their problem down the road.

21 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Ms. Lisska.

22 COMMISSIONER LISSKA: Well, I had asked
23 to speak a long time ago, and I know you've had
24 a lot of people on the queue. So, of course, I
25 wanted to speak on the fact that I'm willing to

1 vote on a concept today, but I would like the
2 opportunity to see this in the form of an
3 actual Charter amendment and get a chance to
4 review that and then vote once again. So I'm
5 happy -- I'm speaking to, you know, the motion
6 on the floor -- there is a motion on the floor
7 to approve what's been presented today. As I
8 understand, there's that motion, but I would
9 like -- and I'm willing to vote on that, but I
10 would like another opportunity to vote. That's
11 number one.

12 Number two, I do want a little
13 discussion, if possible, from the committee
14 that did all this work and put it together.
15 Did they use a model for the staffing and how
16 did they come up -- because that suggestion is
17 sort of specific in this format, and that was
18 nice to see. Any specifics that could be
19 given? Thank you very much, because I know you
20 had a lot to deal with and a lot of input about
21 the staffing for the authority.

22 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: All right. So I will
23 respond to the first one because --

24 COMMISSIONER LISSKA: Okay. Thank you.

25 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: -- I -- in looking at

1 the Downtown Investment Authority -- so you
2 have the Downtown Investment Authority that I
3 believe is a creature of ordinance.

4 Is there anyone here --

5 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: Yes.

6 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yes.

7 Then you have the Downtown --
8 Jacksonville Downtown Investment Authority,
9 which is -- actually, it's the Downtown
10 Development -- Jacksonville Downtown
11 Development Authority, which is an advisory
12 board to the DIA, and that's in the Charter.
13 And so when, you know, we said, Well, we'll
14 just use the DIA as a model. Well, it's
15 hybrid. So there is an ordinance component,
16 and then there is the advisory board that's in
17 the Charter. I think that's an awful lot of
18 wordsmithing for us to get done on this.

19 I like the report that has come out of
20 the committee because I believe it sets
21 priorities and direction and then allows for
22 the staff, the City Council, OGC to work that
23 out of is it -- do we need a hybrid of
24 ordinance and charter, or is there a way to
25 craft it just through the Charter? I don't

1 know that we have the time remaining to
2 actually craft that. But I do believe -- I do
3 believe that this report says these
4 recommendations say, this is a priority, here's
5 where it needs to be focused, and here's the
6 general structure that we would like to see
7 created, and then leave that to the electeds
8 and to the General Counsel on what is that best
9 methodology. Is it by ordinance? Is it by
10 charter? Is it a hybrid much like we have with
11 the DIA?

12 So that's my response on that one. I'm
13 hoping I'm not overstepping anything in with
14 the committee on that. But I like the report
15 that they've giving. Yeah, it would be great,
16 but I just don't know that we have the time to
17 craft that.

18 Now, the second question I will leave --
19 Mr. Denton.

20 COMMISSIONER DENTON: We did talk about
21 that issue about whether in the ordinance or in
22 the charter, and we felt like this issue,
23 particularly with the history of it and that
24 it's so important, that we wanted to recommend
25 the Charter. But I can't speak for the entire

1 subcommittee, but I expect we'd be happy
2 wherever it is.

3 On your other question about the size of
4 the staff, you know, we don't know. We're
5 winging it. But what we've proposed here is
6 that we would like to create a board, appointed
7 board, that would hire a CEO or an executive
8 director who would be a professional and have a
9 small staff. I think we suggest maybe
10 something like three with an expenditure of
11 less than a million dollars. And we did that
12 looking at what the DIA has had, which I think
13 it's -- it's in there -- something like a
14 million and a half dollars.

15 We would invest a lot the first year.
16 But the first year we would have this
17 professional working with the board to develop
18 the master plan, to look at all of these areas,
19 all of these variables, certainly
20 infrastructure but also socioeconomic
21 variables, the programs that are already
22 there -- and there are number of them --
23 working with Public Works, working with the
24 public schools, and coming up with and
25 delivering a master plan to the board that then

1 could lay out -- set priorities -- goals and
2 priorities for out years, for the second years
3 and beyond, and then presumably would be more
4 budget requests beyond that.

5 But some of it -- our vision is some of
6 it would be, wow, there's this need in this
7 community. Let's look at national foundations
8 and federal programs and state programs and
9 pull them in to address it. So some of these
10 things might not be local tax dollars, while
11 naturally that would be the focus.

12 One example is there's an organization
13 called Lift Jax that's just now getting started
14 that would actually be an anti-poverty program
15 on some of these facets in this area. And
16 there are others already working in their city
17 or volunteers in the schools and the New Town
18 Success Zone. But this would be a coordinating
19 study and planning agency that would look for
20 gaps and overlaps and would help those efforts
21 succeed.

22 An example is the public schools, and
23 they're dealing with -- as I said a minute ago,
24 with a lot of things that are not in their --
25 not an arrow in their quiver. And they're just

1 having to deal with it because they don't have
2 the resources to take on the things that I
3 talked about.

4 That would come to this authority, and
5 they would say, Gee, what do you do about that
6 and what are the resources available? Should
7 we talk to the Health Department or DCF or a
8 nonprofit and come up with a plan to identify
9 these hidden but very real complications and
10 burdens of poverty in this part of the city?

11 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. We've got a
12 lot of folks on this. We've got about an hour
13 -- a little less than an hour and half to go.
14 Judge Swanson.

15 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: Thank you.

16 I think this is -- I listened to
17 Ms. Mills, and I think we all heard her and
18 what she had to say. And we -- it impacts
19 because she's at ground zero and many of us are
20 not. I think those of us that are not at
21 ground zero need to recognize that we are not,
22 and we need to listen to those that are on the
23 front lines.

24 I don't think that Mr. Schellenberg
25 intended to be insensitive in some of his

1 comments. I know he didn't. But it can be
2 interpreted that way when he suggests that
3 there's a City Council person that may bear the
4 responsibility over the course of history for
5 these deficiencies. I just don't agree with
6 that. This is our responsibility as a
7 community. It's not one City Council person.
8 We all take responsibility for this, and we
9 should all feel a sense of shame, frankly, for
10 the deficiencies in our community and a sense
11 of responsibility to try to make it better.

12 Now, I don't think that this Urban Core
13 Development Authority is going to fix it
14 tomorrow, and I don't think anybody here thinks
15 that. But what we do have, clearly -- and I
16 think Ms. Mills reflects that -- is a sense --
17 a lack of trust that's evolved over the course
18 of decades, not months. And so this is one
19 step towards establishing a sense of community
20 commitment and a sense of trust from those of
21 the community who have lost it.

22 I don't know what the right answer is,
23 but I think that this subcommittee should be
24 commended for their work. And I think we look
25 at this in a macro, not a micro. It's not

1 intended to prioritize the sewer system. It's
2 intended to prioritize a focus on a community
3 that has not received that focus in the past.
4 So I support what y'all put together. I
5 commend you for the work that you put on it --
6 put together on it.

7 In terms of formatting, I agree we need
8 to format it in the right -- in the right form
9 for it to go through. But if -- I would
10 suggest that whenever we wrap up our
11 responsibilities and we have an opportunity to
12 go forward to the City Council and the
13 community at large, there is no greater
14 responsibility we have than to push for this --
15 for this -- and what this subcommittee has
16 recommended. And I would commend you all for
17 the work you've done. Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: All right. Next we
19 have Ms. Baker for the first time.

20 COMMISSIONER BAKER: Well, Commissioner
21 Knight, you and your subcommittee members did a
22 tremendous amount of work, and I really
23 appreciate everything -- I'm trying to look at
24 all the subcommittee members -- that you-all
25 put into this.

1 I think this is a necessary first step to
2 improving that area, revitalizing it, regaining
3 the trust of those people who are our
4 neighbors. They're our community. And I think
5 having an executive director and staff will
6 give this area a leader with clear purpose and
7 responsibility in bringing together all of the
8 partners to the table and -- private and not
9 private. So I think this is the first step,
10 like I said.

11 I agree with everything that the Judge
12 just said.

13 And I heard you, Commissioner Mills. I
14 heard you.

15 With that said, I do want the format. I
16 think we could do a better job in really
17 defining all of the parts. So I see in the
18 memo the list of responsibilities for the
19 advisory board on page 4, and I think that
20 is -- that's great. I think I'd like to see --
21 I'd like to see something a little bit more
22 compact that we can present to Council that
23 will show the responsibilities for the
24 executive director or the CEO for the staff. I
25 think the executive -- I think we need to put

1 in there that the executive director or CEO
2 shall create a strategic plan looking out like
3 five or ten years to really have goals in mind
4 that they can be held accountable to.

5 And so I think this is great. I love the
6 background. I love all the information. I
7 think I would like to really see what's going
8 to be put in the Charter. I look at Article
9 20, the Jacksonville Downtown Investment
10 Authority. It's really only a front and back
11 page, and most of this is provisions about
12 serving on the Commission, and I don't think it
13 would take much to work with OGC in order to
14 really format it properly so that people
15 understand exactly what this authority is
16 doing. And then we can have in the back the
17 background and your -- and all of the research
18 you did, because really that shows why we need
19 this.

20 So that's all I ask. I think there's a
21 way to get it into a good format. And what's
22 on the ballot is different than what's in the
23 Charter. So I think we're looking at what's
24 going to be in the Charter, and I think it's up
25 to the elected officials to really -- and OGC

1 -- with OGC to put together the language for
2 the ballot. That's down the road. But I want
3 to know what is going to be in the Charter in
4 this, and that's a great way of how to explain
5 to people what we're doing.

6 COMMISSIONER KNIGHT: No. I --

7 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Ms. Mills, so you
8 want to respond?

9 I'm sorry. Ms. Knight. She's next on
10 the list.

11 COMMISSIONER KNIGHT: I totally agree.
12 One of the things I think why we felt we needed
13 the detail -- but, again, I agree.

14 We've been, as a community, down this
15 road. Right? It came up in the Blueprint.
16 It's come up other times, and it was written
17 succinctly then. So how do we get it to stick
18 this time? And that's what I worry about. If
19 you get too administrative and -- how are we
20 going to get the attention and the commitment
21 and the recognition that something now as to be
22 done because it's been said a couple of times
23 in a simple form?

24 But I do agree that we got to get there.
25 And then we have to lean on all of us to help

1 after, after we're done, to emphasize to our
2 City Council and leaders that they can't just
3 ignore it. But I wholeheartedly agree. But
4 the text needs to be there to emphasize the
5 importance. Otherwise, it's going to be like
6 any other text in the last probably 30 years or
7 so.

8 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. So then --
9 well, let me -- Mr. Hagan, you haven't spoken
10 yet. So everybody else is coming up for a
11 second time.

12 COMMISSIONER HAGAN: Thank you,
13 Mr. Chairman.

14 I think -- like the rest of my colleagues
15 here, I think that y'all have done an amazing
16 job on this. I did try to -- you know, as I
17 went through the documents, I skimmed over the
18 findings, because like everybody else here,
19 there's no question that this is needed.

20 But what I would say is that, like
21 Ms. Baker, I think that this is -- I'd like to
22 see more of how this is created in moving
23 forward so that we give City Council -- when
24 they take it, you know, they can say, Okay.
25 This is what we're going to have. This is the

1 format. This is how it's presented. And then
2 once you hire an executive director, you hire
3 someone with passion in the community. I mean,
4 I don't think it should be in the Charter, but
5 I think you should hire Ms. Mills here. I
6 think she would be a great executive director.

7 COMMISSIONER HOWLAND: Then she can't
8 vote on it.

9 COMMISSIONER HAGAN: And, you know, I
10 think talking about how we present this, is it
11 in the Charter? Is it an ordinance? I don't
12 think we have the option to do ordinances here.
13 But if we put this forward to the City Council
14 as a charter amendment, they'd take it real
15 serious. We're serious that this has got to
16 happen now. We want, you know, people's feet
17 held to the fire.

18 You know, there's a couple things in here
19 that when I was reading through it -- you know,
20 just for example, you said the City Council
21 could provide a millage rate. I think it
22 should say shall. That means that this has to
23 happen. This is going to happen, and they're
24 going to take this very serious. So I would
25 take out all the coulds and put all shalls, and

1 just kind of put the emphasis on how this needs
2 to happen.

3 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. And I'm trying
4 to figure out how -- so it sounds like --

5 Ms. Knight, it sounds like you guys are
6 willing to go back and craft language that's
7 specifically to the Charter.

8 COMMISSIONER KNIGHT: Following
9 Commissioner Denton's suggestion, give us a
10 lawyer.

11 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. Mr. Gentry.
12 I'm sorry I'm going off on these.

13 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: I would move that
14 we adopt this in concept, send it back to
15 committee to put into a format that would be
16 appropriate to go in the Charter.

17 I spoke to Judge Swanson. He and I could
18 be available Monday afternoon if you guys want
19 to meet with us, and we'll be happy to help you
20 try to fashion this into something that's got
21 some legalese approach to it, you know, that
22 would be consistent with a Charter amendment.
23 And probably, Mr. Chairman, follow that Article
24 21. Keep it simple and tight and see if we
25 can't get something done.

1 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yeah. And you
2 probably need to go back and look at some of
3 the ordinance language as well --

4 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: Right.

5 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. So you made
6 the initial motion anyway so --

7 Can he amend his own motion?

8 COMMISSIONER BAKER: I second.

9 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: I'm just making sure
10 we're following proper procedure.

11 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: Do I need to
12 withdraw my motion?

13 MS. WEST: There can be an amendment.

14 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. So the
15 amendment to the motion is to adopt the report
16 in concept with it being returned to the
17 committee for final Charter language.

18 Does everybody understand the amendment?

19 Okay. All in favor -- any discussion on
20 the amendment?

21 All in favor of the amendment, raise your
22 hand.

23 Okay. Any opposed?

24 All right. Amendment carries.

25 Now, on the motion as amended, is there

1 any further discussion?

2 Ms. Mills, I have you on the queue.

3 COMMISSIONER MILLS: Well, I think it's
4 been summed up.

5 But just to say in the defense of -- not
6 really in the defense. But in the
7 subcommittee, as Mr. Denton said, he didn't
8 want to put a lot of emotion in it because he
9 wanted it to be presented to Council so they
10 would, you know, consider. Me being a
11 renegade, I wasn't quite that clean with it.

12 And to Mr. -- Commissioner Schellenberg,
13 yes, there is money, you know, being spent over
14 there. I never said there was not -- there
15 wasn't any money being spent. It's just not
16 enough to tell the difference when you're still
17 being neglected from years when you talked
18 about it to now.

19 As far as the City Council persons,
20 you're right. Shame on us for voting the same
21 type of people in with the same mentality, but
22 we're in that same shape right now. So we
23 don't have one Council member or one at-large
24 Council member. We have nineteen, and the
25 nineteen has to step up, too, because it has to

1 be adopted by the whole City Council.

2 So I do feel that with us going back
3 redoing everything and putting it in -- I do
4 believe in taking out the word should. I like
5 shall, must, because they have to see this as
6 it is if they want this to get better. Or
7 maybe when the crime bleeds over into another
8 area, people will come back to the table and
9 say, Oh, yeah, we need to get it done.

10 So let's not have that. Jacksonville is
11 a beautiful place to live. I've been here all
12 my life, and I've never, ever seen it at the
13 point where people don't respect government.
14 They don't care about anything that anybody
15 says because people only see what's in front of
16 their face, and that's why this is so
17 important. Thank you, everybody.

18 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. Mr. Gentry,
19 you're on the queue. Are you good?

20 Okay. Mr. Schellenberg.

21 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: I apologize.
22 Thank you, Chair.

23 I'm not -- yeah. In a sense, elected
24 officials advocate in the area for which they
25 are, and they inform the other 19 about what's

1 going on and what is important to their
2 districts going forward. So I'm not insulting
3 them. I'm saying that they didn't -- they're
4 not doing the jobs that they should be doing.

5 Even though there's five areas that --
6 four districts that cover this area, there's
7 five at large districts, and their
8 responsibility is supposedly for all of
9 Jacksonville. So when people say that there's
10 only one district person, you have five other
11 people representing that area. And all you
12 need is 10 folks to get something done and move
13 forward.

14 I obviously voted for this to go forward,
15 but I also believe that I want to see the
16 actual details before we -- I vote on it in
17 total because I think that there's -- it's a
18 large area. It's a concern to me. Yes, there
19 is money being spent. But I'll echo Mr. Denton
20 because I've tutored up in that area. Not in
21 some of the -- the concerns that you have
22 voiced.

23 But I'm on the other side, that there's a
24 great mistrust of almost of everything, the
25 policing and everything in that area, and it is

1 a huge concern. It was an eye-opening
2 experience when I did tutoring up there. But
3 I've been on the Jacksonville Honorows for 26
4 years. I see the efforts that non-profits are
5 doing in this area. And when they do -- these
6 young people do the reading or whatever was
7 required to get a ticket or a seat at the
8 Jaguar games and we come back three months
9 later, we can't find them because they've been
10 moved from one place to another. It is just --
11 it is absolutely discouraging to see it, but to
12 live it is just -- they live a different world
13 than I was brought up.

14 So we need to do something. I appreciate
15 the committee, Ms. Knight, doing all this
16 stuff, and I hope something will come of it.
17 But we have had 50 years of nothing happen.
18 Thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Mr. Howland.

20 COMMISSIONER HOWLAND: Thank you. Is
21 that working?

22 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: No. You hit the
23 button on the...

24 COMMISSIONER HOWLAND: There we go.
25 That's working.

1 I have been quiet so far during this
2 discussion because I can tell where 10 of the
3 14 of us are going, and we're going in the
4 direction that I want. As -- as a free mind,
5 free market Republican, I generally take the
6 stance politically that I like limited
7 government and individual liberty. But just as
8 importantly, I like equal opportunity. And for
9 a city that has for so long left this part
10 behind through infrastructure, through
11 education, through public safety, I think it's
12 time that we act, and I commend the
13 subcommittee for this recommendation. I fully
14 support it and I fully support the motion as
15 amended made by Mr. Gentry to craft a language
16 such that it will be most effective in
17 consistency with the other recommendations and
18 in passing when we take it to the City Council.
19 Thanks.

20 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: All right. Thank
21 you.

22 I have no one else. The motion on the
23 table -- Mr. Denton.

24 COMMISSIONER DENTON: It's short. It's
25 just a little thing.

1 I wonder, if we're going to meet Monday,
2 which I can do -- and we certainly would have
3 two fine lawyers helping us -- I wonder if we
4 could -- if someone -- one of you or OGC could
5 come up with a draft of the Charter amendment
6 so we can start with something or else we'd be
7 trying to wordsmith in a meeting, and I think
8 it would be better to start with a draft, if we
9 could. I don't know how that would happen.

10 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: I would certainly
11 recommend that you include OGC in that initial
12 drafting on that.

13 Ms. West, do you want to write a check
14 that somebody else in your office has to cash?

15 MS. WEST: Well, I'm certain OGC will be
16 happy to participate, and we will get with the
17 parties involved and try to move that forward.

18 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. All right.

19 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Mr. Chair,
20 can I ask you a quick question?

21 You've got a time limit --

22 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Mr. Schellenberg.

23 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: I'm sorry for
24 interrupting. It's point of order.

25 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yes.

1 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: The 24 hours,
2 does that include the weekend to notice
3 meetings? That's all I was going to ask. On
4 the notice meeting issue, is -- because you've
5 got to do it right now sort of to meet -- you
6 can't obviously do it Monday morning, but you
7 could do it Monday afternoon. Whatever the
8 time limit is of 24 hours does not include the
9 weekends.

10 Thank you very much for the point of
11 order, Chair.

12 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: So what's been
13 brought to my attention is it's also a
14 committee day, and so we may have staffing
15 issues.

16 Ms. Knight, I believe what will need to
17 happen is you will need to work through the
18 staff here at legislative services in
19 determining your meeting. Perhaps we can go
20 ahead and -- is it 24 hours by the hour or is
21 it 24 hours by the calendar day?

22 MS. WEST: Hour.

23 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: By the hour.

24 MS. WEST: I believe it's by the hour.

25 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. Then can we go

1 ahead and notice a meeting for their committee
2 now that meets in the Don Davis room. Is that
3 room taken?

4 Okay. If you could check.

5 And I think as long as we get the notice
6 out before noon to meet at -- what time would
7 be good for you-all? 1:00? 1:30? Later.
8 4:00? Is that good?

9 Yeah. We're going to see if we can
10 accommodate the staffing issue. If we can,
11 we'll go ahead and notice it -- well, I'd like
12 to go ahead and notice it now, and then if we
13 have to amend it, we can amend it.

14 You're out. Okay.

15 MS. WEST: Through the Chair. So that is
16 a committee day, and committees are scheduled
17 to run through 4:00.

18 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Through 4:00.

19 MS. WEST: TEU would be on the Monday and
20 then Rules would be on Tuesday.

21 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: So then staff is free
22 after 4:00.

23 MS. WEST: I'm not committing staff. I'm
24 just telling you it's a committee day, and
25 that's when they move through.

1 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. Well, then it
2 sounds like we have a window of opportunity,
3 and we will stick our foot in that window to
4 prevent it from closing. Thank you.

5 Okay.

6 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: Okay. I'm
7 confused. Is it set for 4:00?

8 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: We're going to have
9 it noticed for 4:00 p.m. Monday. And more
10 likely than not, the only room that will be
11 open would be the Don Davis Room. But they're
12 checking on that. 4:00, Monday, Don Davis
13 room.

14 Okay. I've got Mr. Denton and Ms. West
15 still on the queue.

16 You're good.

17 Ms. West, you're good.

18 Okay. So we're back to the original
19 motion as amended to approve the
20 recommendations with it being returned to the
21 committee for crafting final Charter language.
22 Everyone understand?

23 Yes, proven concept, the report with the
24 final language to be provided back.

25 MS. WEST: Through the Chair.

1 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yes.

2 MS. WEST: I believe you already voted on
3 that motion. We have it down on our entry.

4 Staff, was there a vote?

5 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Well, we voted on the
6 amendment to the motion that it would be
7 returned for final Charter language.

8 MS. WEST: Okay. Thank you.

9 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: So this will be the
10 vote on the final motion as amended.

11 Everybody got it?

12 All in favor raise your hand.

13 Okay. That looks like unanimous.

14 All right. Thank you.

15 Next, Government Structure
16 recommendations.

17 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: Good afternoon --
18 I guess good morning.

19 We have two topics that were previously
20 provided and discussed that documents should be
21 in front of each commissioner's -- on each
22 commissioner's table that I think we can depose
23 of relatively quickly. The one deals with
24 nonpartisan elections and the other deals with
25 ranked choice voting. In both instances, these

1 items have been previously discussed, and in
2 both instances the subcommittee does not
3 recommend proceeding towards implementation of
4 either issue. But we do think it's fair to
5 include it as part of the comment -- or
6 commentary when you make your report.

7 So with that being said, I think you
8 could proceed to comment on these, public
9 comment, and then any discussion and a quick
10 vote if you think that's appropriate.

11 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yes. I would like to
12 have our government structure -- I know we had
13 Mr. Scott, I believe, was the first card that
14 came up on this, and then I've got Mr. Nooney.

15 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: And are you going
16 to take them individually or both
17 simultaneously?

18 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: We're going to take
19 it on all of the recommendations as whole.

20 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: All four?

21 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yeah.

22 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: Okay. Well, I've
23 got other items to bring up real quickly then.

24 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay.

25 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: If that's the

1 order you want to proceed.

2 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yes. I'd like to go
3 ahead and get it done that way.

4 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: Okay. Ms. Baker
5 is going to report out on size and composition
6 of City Council, and there is a document
7 supportive of her comments that should be in
8 front of everybody.

9 COMMISSIONER BAKER: Okay. Thank you.

10 And through the Chair. So we also --
11 there was a lot of testimony in front of the
12 full Commission -- some testimony that size of
13 Council is too large. So we decided, as a
14 subcommittee, to look into that issue more
15 deeply. And we had a lot of research done by
16 Mr. Clements. We had further testimony given
17 to our subcommittee regarding the size and
18 composition of City Council.

19 And, ultimately, we concluded that
20 benefits for keeping the at large districts for
21 keeping the size of Council outweighed
22 rationales against at large districts or
23 reducing the size of Council.

24 So you can read through the background,
25 the rationale for at large districts, the

1 rationale against at large districts, but
2 that's what we came to as a conclusion.

3 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. Any other ones
4 in there? I see the other one on the term
5 limit.

6 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: Yes. We have one
7 final document for consideration. Again, it is
8 before you. Mr. McCoy is not here so
9 Ms. Jameson is going to report out on this.

10 COMMISSIONER JAMESON: Thank you.

11 I do think that while we're considering
12 all of these options, I think that this option
13 might be one that we might want to take up
14 separately, just because I do think it's
15 important to note the other issues were passed
16 unanimously through our subcommittee except for
17 the issue of increasing our term limits. So
18 this might be one that we maybe could pull out
19 and vote on separately.

20 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Well, yeah. Our
21 voting we'll do separately.

22 COMMISSIONER JAMESON: Okay.

23 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: But for the purposes
24 of public comment, I wanted to have all of them
25 brought up and then we'll have our public

1 comments.

2 COMMISSIONER JAMESON: Good idea.

3 So the concept here that we've been
4 discussing is the issue of term limits, should
5 we increase those term limits -- specific to
6 City Council is the only one that we actually
7 have a recommendation on -- increasing those
8 term limits from two consecutive terms to three
9 consecutive terms. We have some rationale in
10 here as far as why we should. Most
11 importantly, we do feel that it's important as
12 far as preserving institutional knowledge,
13 which is also, again, a topic of our
14 subcommittee.

15 And then as well as, there's another
16 document you will have in front of you -- it
17 looks like this -- relating to City Council
18 members that have served more than two terms
19 total. So as many people might understand, the
20 issue of term limits in the City of
21 Jacksonville is just consecutive terms. So you
22 can't serve more than two consecutive terms.
23 You can wait out one full term and then come
24 back to City Council, but you also can serve
25 additional terms should you be elected through

1 a special election.

2 So, again, it's two consecutive full
3 terms. So there are several members that have
4 may be served nine or ten years. There's
5 several that have served over that because,
6 again, they have waited their one term out and
7 have come back.

8 Several of us on the subcommittee have
9 felt that it is important to increase our
10 consecutive term limits that we do have here in
11 the City of Jacksonville. So our
12 recommendation is to move from two consecutive
13 terms to three consecutive terms.

14 I will also give some time to
15 Commissioner Baker to discuss an opposing
16 opinion on specifically consecutive term
17 limits.

18 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: I think Ms. Baker
19 wanted to reserve until after the public
20 comments. Is that correct?

21 COMMISSIONER JAMESON: Oh, sorry.

22 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: That's okay.

23 I think the posture we're in is we have
24 four items before you, subject to your
25 discretion, move to public comment on all four,

1 and then Commission discussion on each or all
2 of the four with the understanding that
3 Ms. Baker is going to basically take a minority
4 position on the last item briefed.

5 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: And given how these
6 have been presented, we will do that. We will
7 have public comment with regards to all of the
8 recommendations. And then when we take them
9 up, we'll have a motion and second as to each
10 individual one and a discussion and then a vote
11 on them.

12 So at this time, Mr. Scott. Thank you
13 for your patience.

14 MS. SCOTT: Thank you. Stanley Scott.
15 My address on file.

16 My only issue is it should be only two
17 terms, period. When we look at the data --
18 once again, I'm going to say it. With the
19 African American Economic Recovery Think Tank,
20 we do research on a national level. And a lot
21 of times when I come to the meeting, I do not
22 get proper respect. You have a lot of people
23 that come up and talk -- but I'll come back on
24 that. Sorry about that. I got to -- get a
25 little wrapped up.

1 The point is, no. Two terms is enough,
2 because what we have seen, that the equality of
3 our comfort for the city is in bad shape. And
4 I'm using the word in bad shape meaning that
5 it's not -- when we talk about value of
6 proposition for the city, overall, this city is
7 a second-tier city. You know what I'm saying,
8 four being the highest. When we talk about the
9 quality of outcome, we have a better time in
10 Savannah, Georgia, and Valdosta. People
11 recommend those two cities than Jacksonville.
12 Thank you.

13 COMMISSIONER KNIGHT: Mr. Nooney.

14 MR. NOONEY: Hello. My name is John
15 Nooney. Address is on file.

16 So government structure, again, this is
17 our Charter. And I've got just three minutes
18 to talk on the four recommendations. And let
19 me just say, our Charter.

20 You know, this was Sunday's paper. I
21 shared it with you. "Ethics Loophole Allowed
22 for City Travel." Just remember our Charter.
23 Ethics was put in the Charter in 1968. It was
24 removed in 1972. The last Charter Revision
25 Committee, ethics was put back in, and then it

1 was just subsequently gutted.

2 So, now, here we are. We're talking
3 about size and composition of City Council.
4 And right here, Should the City of Jacksonville
5 Charter be amended to change the size or
6 composition? The answer is no. Eight is
7 enough.

8 Here's a piece of legislation on the
9 table just saying, Hey, Poll: 72 percent of
10 likely voters in Jacksonville opposed longer
11 City Council term limits.

12 Right now there's supposed to be the
13 federal sentencing of two former Jacksonville
14 City Council members right now. Where are we
15 with that?

16 And then here, the next is going to be on
17 the size and composition of City Council --
18 I'm just down to a minute and a half -- and
19 should the City of Jacksonville Charter be
20 amended to change the size or composition of
21 City Council? And right here, I'm just reading
22 right from what you have here. It says: The
23 subcommittee debated whether the at large
24 districts should be reduced or eliminated
25 entirely, whether to create 19 council

1 districts by eliminating the at large districts
2 or amend the Charter to give clear
3 responsibility and policymaking to the at-large
4 members.

5 So, in my opinion then, you know, the
6 Council representation for the different
7 districts would be basically eliminated. Now
8 you're just consolidating the power to the five
9 at large. No.

10 Let me just share with you. You know how
11 tough it is -- I've -- to reach out to an
12 elected legislative representative? I'll
13 share -- here's an example. Gosh, I ran into
14 Matt up here at the restroom on the fourth
15 floor. I asked him about an issue on Pottsburg
16 Creek. Matt says to me, Well, who's your
17 Council rep?

18 I go, It's Scott.

19 Really. You got to talk to Scott.

20 That's just one example. What if you're
21 ignored for eight years?

22 I mean, now you have zero -- the at
23 large, don't get me wrong, that's where you
24 fall back on.

25 Now -- so, anyway, as far as these, stick

1 to the two terms and don't give the at large
2 the most power and reduce the representation.
3 And, especially, you're talking about
4 redistricting. Also, you're creating this
5 unbelievable Urban Core Development Authority
6 and now just really reduced a lot of that
7 power.

8 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Thank you,
9 Mr. Nooney.

10 MR. NOONEY: Thank you for listening.

11 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Judge, which one
12 would you like for us to take a motion and
13 second on first?

14 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: I think that the
15 ranked choice voting and the nonpartisan
16 elections are going to be the least
17 controversial --

18 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay.

19 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: -- and probably
20 easy to -- and those two items are basically
21 items for comment in the report. They're not
22 items to recommend changes to anything. So I
23 think those would be the least controversial.

24 The size and composition of the City
25 Council, again, we not recommending a change,

1 but there may be some people that have some
2 divergent views in terms of what we should do
3 with those at large positions that may generate
4 more discussion. I think the issue that's
5 going to generate the most discussion would be
6 the term limit issue.

7 So my suggestion is take nonpartisan
8 election and ranked choice voting first. I
9 think those would be disposed of pretty
10 quickly.

11 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. Are you making
12 that motion then?

13 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: So moved. Do you
14 want me to move them individually or
15 collectively?

16 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Let's move those two
17 collectively, if we can, because I want to
18 then --

19 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: Okay. On the
20 issue of nonpartisan elections and ranked
21 choice voting, we recommend no on each of those
22 from the subcommittee.

23 I make a motion that we comment on both
24 in the negative in the final report.

25 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: All right. Is there

1 a second?

2 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: Second.

3 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Second. Okay.

4 Discussion, Mr. Gentry. Okay.

5 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: I was going to move
6 all of the matters except for term limits in
7 the hope that we could move things along. But
8 I support the motion to approve that, the first
9 two.

10 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: What was the other
11 one?

12 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: It's nonpartisan
13 elections and ranked choice voting --

14 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: So we've got a motion
15 -- we've got an amendment --

16 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: Amendment to
17 include --

18 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: -- to include the
19 size and composition of City Council to that.
20 Is there a second on that amendment?

21 COMMISSIONER HOWLAND: Second.

22 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: All right. Any
23 discussion on the amendment?

24 All right. Everybody in favor of the
25 amendment, raise your hand.

1 Okay. Any opposed?

2 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: Size and
3 composition of the City Council.

4 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: You're not
5 going to change it?

6 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: We're just going to
7 consider all three at once so that we can keep
8 things moving.

9 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: All right.

10 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. So the
11 amendment passed. We're now on the motion
12 itself to consider all three recommendations on
13 size and composition of City Council, ranked
14 choice voting, and nonpartisan elections.

15 Mr. Gentry, I see you on. Are you still
16 on the queue?

17 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: No.

18 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. Any other
19 discussion on these three items?

20 Okay. I don't see anybody. So if you're
21 in favor of adopting the recommendations as
22 presented by the committee on size and
23 composition of City Council, ranked choice
24 voting, and nonpartisan elections, raise your
25 hand.

1 Any opposed?

2 All right. Those carry.

3 Next we have term limits.

4 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: That leaves the
5 issue of term limits. It has been briefed. I
6 know we have minority comment from Ms. Baker
7 from the committee, and I think it would be
8 appropriate to recognize her first before we
9 have a general discussion.

10 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Well, actually, we
11 need -- yeah. We need to have the motion and a
12 second, and then we can have discussion.

13 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: Okay. I so move.

14 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. Second anyone?

15 COMMISSIONER JAMESON: Second.

16 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Second by
17 Ms. Jameson.

18 Now we are in discussion.

19 And, Ms. Baker, the floor is yours.

20 MS. WEST: Through the Chair. I think we
21 need clarification on the motion. He so moved,
22 but I'm not sure it's clear what's being moved
23 at this juncture.

24 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Thank you. I will
25 clear it up. So the --

1 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: The recommendation
2 is to extend City Council term limits from two
3 consecutive four-year terms to three
4 consecutive four-year terms. The new term
5 limit would start with officers who are sworn
6 into office in 2031, which is consistent with
7 an earlier motion that was made, passed, and
8 carried concerning dates in the future where
9 officeholders would commence their service
10 consistent with budget cycle.

11 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. Does that
12 clarify --

13 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: And keep the mayor
14 and constitutional officers at the status quo.

15 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. And I'm not
16 going to have Ms. Baker on the clock because we
17 haven't done it after that. But any further
18 discussion on this, I am going to ask that we
19 time it to three minutes so that we can keep
20 things moving.

21 Ms. Baker, the floor is yours.

22 COMMISSIONER BAKER: Thank you,
23 Mr. Chair.

24 I cannot support extending term limits
25 for any elected officials. Term limits provide

1 a mechanism for holding leaders accountable,
2 reduces the tendency towards corruption, gives
3 new generations the opportunity to compete for
4 political office and choose new leaders. Term
5 limits ensures turnover, which promotes
6 diversity in our government. It promotes new
7 ideas, fresh ideas.

8 The framers did not include term limits
9 in our federal constitution. But if you read
10 the federalist papers, you will see that they
11 envisioned a government of the people, by the
12 people, and for the people. They envisioned
13 that citizens would serve the people and then
14 return to their private lives.

15 It was Benjamin Franklin who summed up
16 the best case for term limits more than two
17 centuries ago. He said, In Free governments,
18 the rulers are the servants and the people are
19 their superiors. For the former to return
20 among the latter does not degrade but promote
21 them. In other words, when politicians know
22 they must return to ordinary society and live
23 under the laws passed while they were in
24 government, at least some of them will think
25 more carefully about the long-term effects of

1 the programs they support.

2 My second favorite president, first to
3 President Lincoln, is President Washington.
4 And he actually decided that eight was enough.
5 And if eight is enough for our first president,
6 then eight is enough for our City Council and
7 our elected officials.

8 Lastly, I have provided two articles in
9 our packet. Two years ago City Council did
10 consider a referendum to increase term limits,
11 I believe, for all elected officials.
12 Seventy-two percent of voters in Jacksonville
13 opposed longer City Council term limits in a
14 poll while this debate was going on.
15 Seventy-five percent of voters across the
16 country support term limits for congress.
17 That's the second article. There is no
18 movement in our city or our country to extend
19 or eliminate term limits. This issue is not
20 even close to 50-50. People support term
21 limits overwhelming. For these reasons, I
22 cannot support this recommendation. Thank you.

23 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: All right. Next I
24 have Mr. Schellenberg.

25 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: That's

1 correct. Washington did say that every
2 president since him -- thank you, Mr. Chair,
3 first of all -- every president -- he says no
4 one is better than George Washington I guess
5 except for Franklin Roosevelt.

6 The issue -- all you have to do is look
7 at Tallahassee. What an absolute mess it is
8 over there. You barely get elected and you're
9 supporting -- not that it's good or bad. I'm
10 not -- but it empowers lobbyist and it empowers
11 bureaucracy.

12 And, in fact, we had somebody from the
13 City from the former -- he was a former member
14 of this administration came to our committee
15 and said -- when I brought up the institutional
16 knowledge, he goes, No. The bureaucracy has
17 institutional knowledge.

18 Well, it's clear to me they have
19 institutional knowledge about how to get things
20 done. But it's elected officials that require
21 the bureaucracy to do things for their
22 districts and for the benefit of all citizens.

23 Corruption, I'm going -- I don't know how
24 I can address Ms. Baker's obvious comment on
25 corruption. It doesn't help or hurt going

1 forward and what's going on at JEA. It's
2 pretty close to it.

3 So I don't believe three four-year terms
4 is wrong, and I tend to agree that eight is
5 enough. It used to be a show. It's still
6 applicable. But I think that when it was voted
7 on by me and probably half the class here --
8 you actually weren't old enough to vote on it
9 at all.

10 All I'm asking is -- all we're saying is
11 why don't we give a new generation an
12 opportunity to see if three four-year terms is
13 enough. It clearly isn't because we have
14 people that are recycling. I have Warren Jones
15 here that did 28 years in the City Council and
16 is now on the school board. I think that he
17 brings a vast amount of information that
18 young -- new people do not have going forward.
19 So I think that three four-year terms -- eight
20 is enough. I'm pretty sure that people said,
21 Yeah. Eight is enough. Go back and return, as
22 Ms. Baker said. But that's not really the
23 case. They come back.

24 I had one other thing I was going to say
25 and I forgot.

1 Oh. And now Tallahassee and their
2 brilliance is trying to state why -- tell each
3 community its school board members can only
4 serve two four-year terms. I think each this
5 is -- I think each community has every right to
6 determine how long they want their people to be
7 elected officials.

8 And when I was on the Florida Association
9 of Counties and Florida League of Cities, there
10 were many communities, many communities, that
11 had elected officials that would be there for
12 20, 30, 40 years. And you know what? They
13 were absolutely amazing in giving you the
14 heads-up about how they were approaching the
15 various issues. And not only were they voting
16 for issues, but they saw it through to make
17 sure it got done.

18 Because everybody talks about DIA down
19 here. DIA has not been as successful as
20 everybody says. We've been working on downtown
21 for 20 years and -- so each administration has
22 a different prospective about what's going on.

23 Look at Charleston, South Carolina. That
24 mayor was there for 28 years. It is enormously
25 more satisfactory going forward than we are in

1 downtown.

2 So it sounds great. Eight sounds like a
3 lot. By the way, a vast majority of elected
4 officials think that eight is enough. But why
5 don't you allow the citizens to determine if
6 they want to keep their elected officials as
7 opposed -- and that's more democracy than what
8 you're telling me eight is going to be
9 satisfactory, even though people say that's
10 enough. Let them vote. Thank you.

11 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Thank you.

12 Mr. Griggs.

13 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Thank you,
14 Mr. Chairman.

15 As I was reading the information and
16 recommendation, I was sort of searching for, I
17 guess, almost a silver bullet of some type of
18 why the recommendation for the extended term
19 limits. I didn't really see one. And I was
20 hearing Mr. Schellenberg's explanation over
21 there, and I'm still wondering if there is an
22 absolute reason why this is a better option
23 than what we have now, and I'm struggling to
24 get there on that.

25 So if someone who supported the

1 recommendation can explain -- maybe give -- you
2 know, I know a lot of the information
3 Mr. Schellenberg just mentioned is fairly
4 subjective, and I appreciate that. We know
5 over -- some times over -- you know, reasons
6 are given or various objectives, but -- and it
7 may be worth it. But because this is an issue
8 where we've -- you know, the public seems to
9 want to stay with two terms, I think we
10 probably need a little more something to hold
11 onto. Because, in the document, there was as
12 much two-term information as there was three-
13 or four-term information. And it seems like
14 communities are very much split on how to do
15 this, but with the majority of them going with
16 two terms. So if there is someone from the
17 subcommittee that can offer, I guess, something
18 else to hold on to -- a little more to hold on
19 to for, you know, why we should support this.

20 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. Next I have
21 Judge Swanson.

22 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: I'm going to take
23 a minute and a half, then yield some of my time
24 to Ms. Jameson.

25 I would think that there were two major

1 reasons to vote no. One has been articulated
2 very well by Ms. Baker. I think you take that
3 as a collective position, and I think she
4 articulated that position very well. It was
5 very convincing, frankly.

6 The second is this may not be a
7 politically viable suggestion, and that may be
8 a reason that its outcome is determinative for
9 any one of us on our votes. I recognize that.
10 I appreciate that.

11 Now let's flip over in terms of why to
12 support this position. I agree with
13 Mr. Schellenberg that term limits shift power
14 to staff or to bureaucracy to those that are
15 employees and not those that are elected
16 officials. And I think that's not a healthy
17 thing in a democracy. I think that the elected
18 officials are accountable. And if you limit
19 the time that they have, oftentimes the power
20 shift is to the staff. And by the time you
21 have somebody come in a couple years into their
22 term, three years into the term, they're just
23 starting to get their stride.

24 I would speak from personal experience.
25 I was a judge at different levels in the state,

1 and I was never subjected to term limits. And
2 what I saw with our judiciary is some of our
3 best judges did not hit their stride as mature
4 jurists until maybe their 10th, 12th, or even
5 later year in office. And if you had subjected
6 those judicial positions to term limits, you
7 will have -- you would have put an artificial
8 cap on maturation.

9 I think -- I agree with Mr. Schellenberg
10 that there are term limits, and it's a
11 four-year term and then a re-election
12 opportunity that the voters may or may not
13 re-elect somebody. And I think that that gives
14 the voter the opportunity to either say yes or
15 no to somebody in an elected office, and I
16 think that's a positive.

17 Now, with all that being said, I support
18 -- I support this motion, but I also recognize
19 it is probably not politically palatable in
20 either at the City Council level or within the
21 community at large. Irrespective of that, I
22 think it should be supported and discussed and
23 vetted. Thank you.

24 I yield my time to Heidi Jameson.

25 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Did you have anything

1 else to add on that?

2 COMMISSIONER JAMESON: Can I have more
3 than nine seconds?

4 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: You can have more
5 than nine seconds.

6 COMMISSIONER JAMESON: Thank you.

7 So great question. And I do think that
8 maybe this could have been built out a little
9 bit more.

10 But my biggest reason for advocating to
11 increase term limits is that's the power of the
12 voter. I don't think that automatically you
13 will be re-elected to your seat. I think,
14 again, that is the power of the voter. If they
15 think that that representative is doing a good
16 job, they could re-elect them or they could
17 elect somebody different.

18 So I don't think that this is a mandate
19 that necessarily everybody on City Council is
20 going to have three terms. That's up to the
21 voters to determine. So that is my biggest
22 reason for supporting term limits.

23 Again, to the Judge's point as far as
24 expertise and the length of time it might take
25 for them and their new staff, staff doesn't

1 necessarily stay when a new elected official
2 comes in as well. So I fully understand some
3 of the reasons Commissioner Baker has raised,
4 but I think that it is very important to
5 understand if an elected official is doing a
6 good job in that community and if those voters
7 want to keep that elected official representing
8 them and carry their charge for them on very
9 important issues, I think that those voters
10 should have that opportunity. And I think if
11 we limit those terms, then we are taking that
12 decision from the voters and I just can't
13 support that.

14 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: All right.

15 Ms. Santiago.

16 COMMISSIONER SANTIAGO: Good morning.
17 Thank you.

18 Okay. So I have three questions just
19 very quickly.

20 Number one, did you consider if you
21 extend for three terms and then they step away,
22 do they come back for three more terms? Was
23 that a consideration?

24 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. Yes.

25 Ms. Jameson.

1 COMMISSIONER JAMESON: The only part that
2 we are changing is two consecutive terms to
3 three consecutive terms. So you would still
4 then have that option to sit out for one term
5 and then come back.

6 COMMISSIONER SANTIAGO: Okay. And then
7 my second question was: Did you also
8 consider -- did you also discuss if you serve
9 City Council, you sit out, and now you come
10 back as mayor or you come back in a different
11 capacity, does that also affect your three
12 years? Because now you're three years City
13 Council -- actually, you could do six years
14 City Council, nine years City Council,
15 whatever, and then come back. Did you take
16 that into consideration?

17 COMMISSIONER JAMESON: Good question. So
18 the portion of the Charter that we are
19 requesting to change is just related to City
20 Council. So the way that our term limits are
21 determined here in Jacksonville, it's for the
22 seat that you hold. So there's term limits for
23 City Council. There's term limits for mayor.
24 Term limits for et cetera, et cetera. So
25 specifically this is only for City Council.

1 COMMISSIONER SANTIAGO: Okay. And I
2 guess just as a point, support or against, I
3 don't know. I guess, as an elected official,
4 you could also just decline a third term. So
5 that's also a possibility. Just a thought.

6 COMMISSIONER JAMESON: That's a good
7 point. We have seen several elected officials
8 that have put their own term limits in place.
9 Congressman Yoho is one of those people as
10 well. You can certainly -- you don't always
11 have to run again. You don't have to even run
12 for a second term if you don't see fit.

13 COMMISSIONER SANTIAGO: Thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. Next I have
15 Mr. Howland for the first time.

16 COMMISSIONER HOWLAND: I believe eight is
17 enough. I think there's other ways to solve
18 the continuity problems then to -- for someone
19 to sit in office for multiple terms and to grow
20 increasingly more powerful. And a little plug,
21 one of the those ways is the strategic plan
22 that maybe transcends people sitting in office.
23 But another might be educating voters on their
24 candidates a little bit better and more civic
25 involvement. You know, we always have the

1 opportunity to get a better candidate in for a
2 third term than the one that's in there, even
3 if the one that's in there is doing a decent
4 job.

5 So I have studied this issue back in
6 college in the early 90s, and I've thought
7 about it a lot since. And, really, the
8 conclusion I come to is I don't think letting
9 someone go well beyond two term limits is the
10 answer to some of our challenges. I fall back
11 on the common sense theory that eight is
12 enough. Thanks.

13 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Mr. Denton for the
14 first time.

15 COMMISSIONER DENTON: I'm over here in
16 the middle, and I was impressed with Judge
17 Swanson's comments but also Ms. Baker's. And I
18 was leaning that way, but then I remembered
19 Judge Swanson's point about maturing into the
20 office and learning.

21 I remember -- probably the most
22 remarkable political speech I have ever heard
23 in Jacksonville was Mayor Peyton's final Martin
24 Luther King Day speech over at the Prime
25 Osborn. I was sitting in the audience, and I

1 had never heard a politician stand up and admit
2 how much he had learned over his terms in
3 office.

4 He said, When I came into office, I
5 believed this set of things based on political
6 background and whatever. But here's what I've
7 learned in my, at that point, almost eight
8 years in office. And he offered a totally
9 different view of the city.

10 And these were things that go back to our
11 earlier Urban Core Development Authority
12 discussion, that he -- I don't know what he
13 felt about that back then, but I suspected that
14 if he had had a third term, he might have been
15 leading the charge on that. I don't know. But
16 I was impressed with his openness. But, of
17 course, he was leaving politics so he could
18 perhaps be a little more open.

19 But that kind of moved me to allow a
20 third term. Now, that was a mayor and not a
21 City Council member, and I understand that.
22 But the maturation thing, certainly with
23 judges, but I think also with City Council
24 people. And, ultimately, the people will
25 decide anyway whether a Council member should

1 get a third term. Thank you.

2 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. Next I have
3 Ms. Mills for the first time.

4 COMMISSIONER MILLS: Hello. Thank you.

5 Through the Chair. I was too impressed
6 with Commissioner Swanson and -- I'm sorry,
7 what's your last name -- Ms. Baker and also now
8 listening to Commissioner Denton. And I know
9 the people will have the last say so.

10 But I would support term limits. While
11 they may be maturing into their position, but
12 if their record is not speaking for them, then
13 we could be doing our city a disservice. So I
14 think eight is enough. And if you haven't done
15 it in the eight years to prove who you are and
16 making strides to better your communities and
17 the city that you represent, by all means -- I
18 know Commissioner Schellenberg made a point of,
19 you know, Warren Jones being in office for a
20 very, very long time. You know, with anything,
21 things change. Technology changes. People
22 change, the way we reach out.

23 But what I have a problem with is that a
24 lot of these people who are holding these
25 positions, a lot of these issues that we're

1 having now, it was under their leadership. So
2 that's the big problem for me. I don't care
3 about your name and people know your name.
4 And, unfortunately, people do vote by your
5 name, and I think that's really, really sad.

6 But I want people to understand that, you
7 know, a lot of this stuff that broke down, it
8 was under their administration. So I don't
9 know why you want to keep them in there any
10 longer.

11 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. Next up,
12 Mr. Griggs for the first time.

13 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Thank you,
14 Mr. Chairman.

15 I appreciate the Judge's comments. I
16 appreciate Ms. Baker's comments as well. But
17 on going more than -- kind of during the
18 discussion I kind of heard what I needed to
19 hear.

20 Going more than four years or two
21 terms -- you know, based upon the fact that
22 we're trying to give people the opportunity to,
23 you know, get in the game, I want my elected
24 officials to come ready to serve. We've seen
25 locally -- we've seen recently that many of our

1 city -- new City Council members that were just
2 recently elected have been standing up and
3 doing a great job at addressing some issues
4 that they were forced into addressing. They
5 came ready to hit the ground running.

6 The reality -- the political reality is
7 once that person gets in office, it's very
8 difficult getting them out. I would hate to
9 put us in a position where -- where if someone
10 serving four years or eight years and they have
11 been lackadaisical but they're able to raise
12 enough money to keep themselves employed at the
13 taxpayer's expense, that we have a tougher time
14 getting them out.

15 So I believe eight is enough based on
16 what I've heard here, and I'm going to show my
17 support in that direction. Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: All right. Next up,
19 Mr. Hagan. I'm sorry I skipped over you.
20 First time.

21 COMMISSIONER HAGAN: Quite all right.

22 Because I think Mr. Griggs made a good
23 point and a lot of what I am going to discuss
24 has a lot of -- you know, plays into what he
25 was saying.

1 I think the power of incumbency in a
2 campaign is something we can't overlook. So if
3 you eliminate term limits all together, you
4 could have an elected official that is maybe
5 not doing the right things, but because they're
6 an incumbent, it's hard to, you know, take them
7 out of their seat.

8 I'm leaning towards eight years is
9 enough. When you discuss -- Mr. Denton
10 mentioned Mayor Peyton and how much he learned
11 in his eight years. I truly believe that if
12 Mayor Peyton served 12 years that he could tell
13 you exactly how much he's learned in 12 years.
14 So I think once you're in elected office, you
15 continue to learn the entire time you're there.
16 You're going to learn new things every day. So
17 I don't know that if you only have eight years
18 to serve in office that, you know, there's a
19 huge gap of a learning curve.

20 Again, with Mr. Griggs' comments, I think
21 that it's important to have candidates that
22 come forward and are willing and ready to serve
23 and are doing their homework. A lot of what
24 you can learn on a City Council and what you're
25 undertaking on City Council you can learn as a

1 private citizen. So I'm leaning eight years is
2 enough.

3 I will say that, you know, that if you
4 did make a recommendation for 12 that there's
5 more opportunities for the candidates to be at
6 the ballot box to then -- you know, being held
7 accountable more for the voting population.
8 So, again, leaning eight, but I'm open to
9 conversation on 12.

10 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: All right. I've got
11 Mr. Schellenberg for the second time.

12 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: I'm going to
13 have to talk fast.

14 A couple things. Where in any business
15 do you dismiss a person after eight years? I
16 just find this amazing.

17 Second of all, all you have to do is look
18 at who's running against an incumbent and how
19 many people then run for the open seat. When I
20 ran in -- not to bore you to death -- there was
21 an incumbent there, and many of my colleagues,
22 people that -- not colleagues, they weren't my
23 colleagues -- many of my friends said, Wait
24 four years and we'll give you the money.

25 I go, I'm not waiting another four years.

1 But if they had said you have to wait
2 eight years to do it, I'm not quite sure if the
3 change of dynamics would have been applicable.
4 Okay. So I understand all the things that
5 sounds like eight is enough, but you have to
6 look at it.

7 In Jacksonville specifically, there's
8 only basically 24 -- 25 elected positions.
9 Almost every other county in the state of
10 Florida have many opportunities to learn and
11 grow and understand the bureaucracy. In
12 Jacksonville, eight is not enough because we do
13 bring people back. I think when people vote --
14 is that three minutes already?

15 When you bring people -- when it was
16 voted on, I am positive -- and even if voted
17 now -- they figure eight years and you're gone
18 and you do what Ms. Baker says, you live under
19 the rules. And I agree with every elected
20 official should live under the rules. In fact,
21 every rule that's publicated by an elected
22 official, they should go first to make sure it
23 works.

24 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay.

25 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Benny did

1 eleven years. Are you tilling me after eight
2 years he's got to go? No. It just so happens
3 he filled in another term, and then he got to
4 two consecutive terms. So he actually did
5 eleven years this last cycle, and his
6 institutional knowledge was amazing.

7 Finally, as Ms. Lisska knows in Mandarin,
8 LUZ, Land Use Zoning, I have stopped this
9 project in Mandarin for five years. But now
10 it's coming up again because I'm no longer
11 there, and the elected officials there, the
12 current person, he's a good guy, but he's being
13 approached that maybe what I said was
14 incorrect. If I were there, that development
15 would have never occurred under the conditions
16 it is now because I understand more thoroughly
17 about what it's going to take to happen and how
18 detrimental it might be to the area of
19 Mandarin. So I have --

20 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: I've got other people
21 on the queue.

22 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Huh?

23 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: I've got like five
24 other people on the queue.

25 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: I've got

1 three minutes. It can't be three minutes.

2 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: It was already.

3 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Okay. My
4 point is this. Think of it this way: Any
5 other business you would fire people after five
6 years is insane. Thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Ms. Baker.

8 COMMISSIONER BAKER: I'd like to make two
9 points that might sway some of you who are on
10 the fence.

11 And the first is Commissioner Santiago
12 commented on something that I'd like to clarify
13 to everyone. The function of our government
14 currently, you can serve two consecutive terms
15 and then you cannot be re-elected for a third
16 consecutive term in any office. However, if
17 you stay out after that election where someone
18 is re-elected and you are out for four years,
19 you can then seek re-election. You can come
20 back. Your knowledge, everything that you knew
21 can come back to the local government. So why
22 do we need to extend the term limits to three
23 consecutive terms when you could have decades
24 on City Council if you wanted to during your
25 lifetime because you can keep coming back.

1 So, to me, that point really shows that
2 we don't need to extend term limits. We don't.
3 Again, I think it brings in new people -- the
4 term limits brings in new people. If you want
5 your previous Council person back, you can ask
6 them to come on back.

7 Secondly, the Judge has a great point
8 about judges. However, I think judges are a
9 different breed. I think judges -- I think
10 judges, they have to seek higher education.
11 You have to go to law school. You have to pass
12 the bar. You have to have probably decades --
13 I don't know how much experience you have to
14 have as an attorney before you become a judge.
15 We should not have term limits on our judges.
16 The Supreme Court does not have term limits.
17 The president does. So, again, judges are a
18 different breed. I think that they require no
19 term limits in order to do their job. They are
20 held to very high standards under the bar in
21 all states of standards of conduct that the lay
22 person is not held to.

23 So those are my two points. Take them as
24 you will.

25 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: Mr. Chairman, I

1 want to make a motion.

2 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: You actually are next
3 on the queue for the first time.

4 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: I'd like to move to
5 table this until next Thursday. And the reason
6 being that we have one item left, which is
7 Strategic Planning Commission recommendation.
8 I think it would be helpful to be able to run
9 through this and give it to everyone so they'll
10 have it next week as opposed to starting next
11 week. I think it would make the consideration
12 go a lot easier, at least to get it out in
13 front of everyone. I'm afraid where we're
14 going with this, it's certainly going to go
15 until 12:00. So I would move to table it and
16 bring it up -- since it's just a
17 recommendation, bring it up next Thursday and
18 that way we can at least get this other item in
19 front of everyone to consider during the
20 interim.

21 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. So there's a
22 motion to table. Is there a second?

23 COMMISSIONER MILLS: Second.

24 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. A motion and a
25 second. Table, I don't believe this is

1 debatable; correct?

2 MS. WEST: Yes.

3 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: All right. So
4 everyone in favor of tabling the recommendation
5 on extending term limits to next Thursday,
6 raise your hand.

7 How many was that? Nine. So that wins.

8 Any opposed?

9 Okay. Opposed, yeah.

10 We're tabling. Okay. All right. Motion
11 carries. It's tabled.

12 Next is, in our remaining time, our
13 strategic planning.

14 COMMISSIONER SANTIAGO: Okay. Just so
15 that we can move quickly through this next one,
16 we have actually worked as a subcommittee very
17 well together. I think everybody's input will
18 be reflected in our recommendation. We
19 struggled with a couple parts, but I think we
20 have come up with language that allows for City
21 Council and the Commission itself to make their
22 own recommendations and provide their own input
23 guided by what we have set up as a structure.

24 So, for today's report, I have actually
25 asked Commissioner Gentry to outline what he so

1 delicately helped us craft so that we can
2 consider it for a vote.

3 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Mr. Gentry.

4 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: Thank you,
5 Mr. Chair.

6 Yeah. It's a fairly multifaceted
7 proposal, and that's why I wanted to go ahead
8 and get it out there so people could be looking
9 at it before next week.

10 Mr. Howland gave us the history last time
11 the presentation was made. We did have -- I
12 don't know -- well over ten committee meetings
13 and reviewed other jurisdictions, how they've
14 approached strategic planning. A lot of effort
15 went into this.

16 We also had, as guidelines, the
17 Blueprint, which is informative, I think, that
18 in the Blueprint for Improvement 2014, which
19 was such an extensive project, the first two
20 items in the Blueprint were continuity in
21 government and retention of institutional
22 knowledge, which is what the structural
23 committee has been focusing on. The second
24 item that the Blueprint felt like needed to be
25 address was an integrated mission and strategic

1 plan. Those two things were not really
2 addressed by the Blueprint, and we are now
3 addressing those. And I think we have all,
4 obviously by our choices, agreed that these are
5 critically important items.

6 What you have in front of you is an
7 effort to use the concepts and some of the
8 items from the Blueprint, and then it's been
9 expanded on substantially. The inability to
10 maintain focus on strategic matters has been
11 the bane of Jacksonville. That's one reason
12 why we're considering term limits and things
13 like that trying to increase -- whether you
14 agree with it or not, but that's one of the
15 reasons given by other communities who don't
16 have term limits and don't have some of the
17 restrictions we have for their ability to
18 maintain programs for long periods of time.

19 The two big issues that we see that
20 impact us are the strong mayor form of
21 government, which frequently results in the new
22 mayor coming in, throwing out everything that's
23 been going before, and starting over again.
24 And the term limits, which also limit
25 institutional knowledge at the Council level.

1 The idea of the strategic plan is to try
2 to provide a methodology whereby all the
3 different agencies and divisions and
4 authorities of the City can be aligned with one
5 strategic initiative and to maintain focus over
6 periods of office so that the plan would
7 transcend mayor to mayor.

8 The first section -- and what we did was
9 we numbered it sections one, two, et cetera.
10 I'm not sure from OGC where this would go in
11 the Charter. And so one of the things would be
12 what would be the Charter section numbers, but
13 we did it this way for purposes of having
14 something to work with.

15 The first section basically explains the
16 purpose of the strategic plan, and the main
17 purpose being to provide for coordination and
18 uniformity of vision mission and strategic
19 goals with the mayor, City Council, School
20 Board, constitutional officers, and all of the
21 authorities and agencies, which would transcend
22 terms of office and provide maximum benefits to
23 the community.

24 Section two is the membership. This was
25 the subject of about our first three or four

1 meetings struggling with the membership. The
2 Blueprint had basically put every elected and
3 constitutional officer on the Strategic
4 Planning Commission and would have brought the
5 City of Jacksonville government to a halt given
6 the Sunshine law, and it would have -- it would
7 have just been difficult to implement. And we
8 struggled with that.

9 And we also wanted to try to figure out a
10 way to have a balance with the City Council and
11 the mayor and to give the City Council more
12 by-in to the strategic planning because they're
13 the ones that will ultimately have to drive
14 this train, but also recognizing the mayor's
15 need to have complete by-in.

16 It was -- Bill Gulliford was the one who
17 first suggested appointing the at large Council
18 members to the Strategic Planning Commission
19 because, one, they represent the whole
20 community and have a broad input and should
21 have a broader views of the whole City's needs.
22 But also because he thought -- because they did
23 not have constituency service demands that the
24 other Councilmen do, that they would have more
25 time to devote to this. This could become one

1 of their major functions. That resonated with
2 us. And we asked others about it, and that
3 seemed to be a good idea.

4 And so we used that and provided that the
5 five at large members of the City Council would
6 be on the Strategic Planning Commission. We
7 provided for two persons to be appointed by the
8 mayor, one of whom would be Chair. So the
9 mayor would be appointing the chairman of the
10 commission, and you would have five counsel
11 members.

12 Initially there had been suggestions that
13 the CFO and -- the chief financial officer and
14 the chief operating officer of the City be on
15 the commission. We started running into
16 Sunshine law issues.

17 And let me just stop there. I think
18 everyone knows how much I dislike the Sunshine
19 law because of what I see as unnecessary
20 impediments and over broad. But by the same
21 token, we operate under it. It has good
22 purposes. And to the extent we can, I think we
23 should be very sensitive to the Sunshine
24 issues, which this committee has been. We
25 spent a lot of time wrangling about how could

1 we best not put people in a compromising
2 position and got input from OGC and also from
3 the attorney general's office and other
4 offices.

5 And one of the answers was to not -- if
6 we had said the CFO and COO, they have to talk
7 to each other, that would be a problem. This
8 way the mayor appoints two people, which will
9 be able to serve as representatives of his
10 executive branch. But he can decide which ones
11 are best that will not necessarily have the
12 cross-talk problems that might occur.

13 And then with the other members, the
14 superintendent of the schools or her designee
15 and the same with sheriff or his designee, that
16 will void the problems of the sheriff talking
17 to Council members and things like that. So
18 that is why we ultimately came up with that
19 structure, and it was a lot that went into it.

20 The Section 3 has to do with the duties
21 and powers of the Commission and also in
22 Section C provides for an advisory council.
23 The advisory council was also envisioned by the
24 Blueprint. We took some of the people who are
25 on the Commission itself and put them on the

1 advisory council from the Blueprint. We also
2 added some areas that -- C is actually the
3 focus areas that's in the Blueprint. Again, we
4 looked at those closely and made some changes
5 and modifications to what the Blueprint had
6 suggested.

7 The number one -- the first focus area is
8 Ms. Knight, compliance by the City with
9 historical health, welfare, and economic
10 development commitments. So that's one of the
11 focus areas of the Strategic Planning
12 Commission, again, trying -- aligning with what
13 we see is our major needs of the community. So
14 we listed some of the focus areas that are not
15 exclusive but intended to provide some
16 direction. And, as result of Mr. Nooney's
17 indomitable lobbying, we added the river and
18 waterways, including public access.

19 So D has to do with kind of the
20 methodology. Ms. Lisska pointed out to us the
21 anniversary of the founding of the City of
22 Jacksonville. So we were trying to get the
23 strategic plan up and running by June 15, 2020,
24 and the dates we have in here all working
25 amazingly towards that result.

1 And, again, I think -- and I think we
2 should keep in mind that this strategic plan
3 will hopefully substantively be very beneficial
4 for providing an overall focus for everyone and
5 some levels of accountability. But this is
6 also an opportunity to reinvigorate this city.
7 It contemplates a complete city-wide
8 engagement, and this is an opportunity to
9 reinvigorate our community, hopefully get us
10 working together. So that's what's envisioned
11 here and ultimately culminating in the plan
12 being announced on the 200th anniversary of the
13 founding of the City of Jacksonville.

14 The strategic plan, as we envision it, is
15 established for ten years. I know that's going
16 to be an issue of considerable discussion
17 probably. In talking to people from Pinellas
18 who had looked around the country, they found
19 10 years to be the most common denominator.
20 Other cities do use shorter periods of time.
21 It's important whatever years we decide that it
22 be an even number because we're trying to
23 transcend mayoral terms of office. It doesn't
24 make sense to have a four-year strategic plan.
25 You might well stick with what you got.

1 And if you look at Section G of roman
2 numeral three, it provides that the Strategic
3 Planning Commission shall reconvene as needed
4 to amend and adjust the strategic plan. The
5 idea of the strategic plan is a living
6 document. It's -- reports come from each of
7 the agencies every December. The Commission
8 reviews them, issues a report to show
9 compliance and areas that need to be refocused.
10 And there will be things that we met and not
11 met, and the plan will evolve during that time
12 is the concept.

13 Again, it's a strategic plan, which means
14 that you're dealing with a vision, a mission
15 statement, and overarching goals, and then
16 under that will be objectives.

17 But we wrestled with this issue a lot.
18 But I think consensus-wise, it should be at
19 least six years or eight years. We chose ten,
20 and that will be an area I think some of the
21 committee members still have questions about.

22 And then over in Roman numeral four,
23 that's the components of the plan, which will
24 be the big picture items. And then within
25 that, the Commission is certainly authorized to

1 identify objectives and initiatives. And the
2 concept is that each of the divisions,
3 agencies, authorities, everyone in the city
4 will be responsible for reporting out what
5 they're doing in terms of compliance with the
6 plan to try to get everyone on the same page at
7 least as to the key priorities of the City.

8 The Section 5 is the advisory council.
9 The concept of advisory council exists only
10 during the term of creating the plan. It will
11 be created at the same time the commission
12 comes in office and the advisory council will
13 be appointed. It will work with the commission
14 during that first nine months to create it, and
15 at that point the advisory council goes silent.

16 At the end of nine years, if we're using
17 a ten-year plan, the Strategic Planning
18 Commission will again start the planning
19 process. The advisory council will be created
20 at that time, and it will serve during the
21 creation time. So the advisory council only
22 exists for a much shorter period of time to
23 provide input to what we tried to identify as
24 the major stakeholders in the City of
25 Jacksonville, which is under Section 5, and

1 there's a list of who they all are.

2 Funding and operations, a lot of that was
3 taken from the Blueprint because I don't know
4 how to do funding, and nobody else on our
5 committee knew how to do funding. It looked
6 like they must know. It was Lori Boyer. I
7 figure she knows.

8 But we did add a few things, because one
9 of the most critical things that came out of
10 our conversations around the country with
11 people was the need for staff. The need for
12 staff. It has to be staff-driven. The
13 Blueprint had chosen \$250,000. We used that
14 number. Although I said or such greater,
15 making it a minimal amount for that first-year
16 startup. And the other thing is you have to
17 have a consultant to assist with the strategic
18 planning to keep people on task because we
19 always fall off of strategic planning and start
20 talking about initiatives and activities.

21 When we talk about what we're doing here,
22 people say, Well, the City has got a strategic
23 plan. No, it doesn't. It has a City Council
24 list of priorities and action items, which is
25 wonderful, but it does not have a strategic

1 plan. And so one of the things we require is a
2 staff that also during there planning period, a
3 facilitator to consult with to keep the
4 strategic planning on track.

5 So those are really the kind of
6 highlights, I think. And as people are getting
7 ready for next week, maybe that will help so
8 that we can really get focused. But, again, I
9 think the one big area is how long. Thank you.

10 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. I appreciate
11 that. And in going over that, we will have to
12 take this up on Thursday.

13 Mr. Griggs, did you have something short,
14 sweet, and specific?

15 Nope. Okay.

16 All right. Judge Swanson, one thing that
17 might be good since we are wanting to have
18 specific language, either you or Ms. Jameson
19 perhaps, look at section 5041, which is the
20 term limits of the City Council, and just
21 change the two to three and the 1991 to 2031,
22 and then we'll have the actual verbiage there
23 showing what will exactly be changed if that
24 one --

25 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: Ms. Jameson, if

1 you can take the lead on that because I'm going
2 to work with this other committee on some other
3 language. Is that all right?

4 COMMISSIONER JAMESON: Yeah.

5 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. Mr. Scott, I
6 had you down here for strategic planning, but
7 we're not going to be taking up that vote
8 today, so that will be next week.

9 MR. SCOTT: Yes.

10 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: All right. I don't
11 have any other public comment cards. Anything
12 else for the good of the order?

13 MR. SCOTT: What time for the meeting?

14 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: We will be reconvened
15 Thursday, next Thursday, at 8:30.

16 I remind everyone we have a hard stop at
17 11:30. So I probably will have everybody on
18 the clock so that we can move through quickly.

19 All right. We stand adjourned.

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF DUVAL

I, Tiffany Jones, Court Reporter, do hereby certify that I was authorized to and did report the foregoing proceedings; and that the transcript, pages 1 through 143, is a true record of my stenographic notes.

DATED this 6th day of March, 2020.

Tiffany Jones

Tiffany Jones, Court Reporter