

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

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**CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON RESILIENCY**

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE AND CONTINUED OPERATIONS**

**Virtual meeting via Zoom – no physical location**

**October 8, 2020**

**8:30 a.m.**

**Location:** Virtual meeting via Zoom – no physical location

**In attendance:** Subcommittee members Garrett Dennis and Randy DeFoor; Subject matter experts Sandra Fradd, Mark Green, Lisa King, Joe Loretta, Amanda Polematidis, Jim Seaton, Nikole Ward

**Also**: Special Committee members Matt Carlucci, Joyce Morgan; Citizen subject matter experts John Sapora, Ashantae Green; Jeff Clements, Yvonne Mitchell – Council Research Division; Steve Cassada, Eric Grantham and Melanie Wilkes – Council Support Services; Kristen Reed and Susan Kelly – Planning and Development Department; Kealey West and Susan Grandin – Office of General Counsel; Kim Taylor and Phillip Peterson – Council Auditor’s Office; Sean Lahav – Northeast Florida Regional Council; Paul McElroy, Wayne Young, Kurtis Wilson, Hai Vu – JEA; Mary Tapppouni – Adaptation Action Area Working Group

**Meeting Convened**: 8:32 a.m.

Chairman Dennis convened the meeting and a roll call of the attendees was taken.

Mr. Dennis discussed the City’s borrowing capacity and his newly-filed ordinance to borrow $41 million in capital improvement funds for projects citywide as an add-on to the bonds anticipated to be sold to finance the Jacksonville Jaguars’ Lot J redevelopment project. His proposal is to move items in the Capital Improvement Progam from funding in future years to being funded in the current year (FY20-21). He has proposed a list of projects for each of the 14 council districts, but recognizes that the district council members may wish to change the projects in their districts to something that might be a higher priority for their constituents. He also proposes using $15 million for septic tank phase-out uses citywide. Council Member DeFoor recommended that this new funding be dedicated to resiliency-related projects rather than other types of projects. Council Member Carlucci echoed his preference to concentrate on resiliency projects and felt that funding should be directed to where it’s needed most, particularly the urban core, and not necessarily spread evenly over the 14 council districts. Mr. Dennis emphasized that this is a once-in-decades opportunity to piggyback on the Lot J development bond issue to meet long-standing community needs and reiterated his philosophy to “go big or go home” when finding funding to address these needs.

Kristen Reed of the Planning Department led a discussion of the Adaptation Action Area Working Group’s proposed Comprehensive Plan amendments to the Conservation and Coastal Management Element. She described the Comp Plan’s hierarchy of goals, objectives and policies and how the policies are ultimately implemented via the Ordinance Code and land development regulations. She reviewed the goals, objectives and policies on a line-by-line basis and responded to comments and questions submitted in advance by citizen subject matter experts about specific items. Goal 14 of the Element is proposed to be rewritten to consolidate all resiliency-related objectives and policies into that goal for ease of access. Jim Seaton suggested that vulnerability assessment policies be added to address broad-scale issues of the inter-connectedness of numerous vital systems and the higher-order impacts of storms and disasters that impact how quickly the city’s economy could recover after a major event rather than just concentrating on very specific neighborhood-level impacts. Ms. Reed will draft a policy for consideration at the next meeting.

Council Member Carlucci asked if lists of short-term and long-term resiliency priorities were going to be assembled and estimated costs produced. He hopes the Resiliency Committee can produce a list of proposed projects with cost estimates, using the work of the AAA Working Group, for the City Council to consider and fund. Ms. Reed said that doing vulnerability assessments was one of the three major recommendations of the AAA Group and those assessments (by the City, JEA, Jaxport, etc.) will lead to the development of prioritized project lists. With regard to another suggestion, Council Member DeFoor said she was shocked that state law and the City’s ordinances don’t already require disclosure by a seller or landlord of the fact that a property has previously flooded and feels that should be required in the same way as a radon gas disclosure is required as a standard part of a real estate transaction.. It may take communication with the city’s legislative delegation to push for action at the state level. Regarding the repair and replacement of private seawalls and bulkheads, Chairman Dennis recommended creating a mechanism to help provide City resources to incentivize private owners of such facilities to upgrade them for the community’s benefit.

Chairman Dennis noted that JEA representatives were on the call to talk about septic tank and greenhouse gas issues, but it appears there had been some confusion or miscommunication. That presentation was intended for the 4:00 p.m. Environmental Planning Subcommittee meeting.

Jim Seaton asked if resiliency measures had been incorporated into the Lot J development proposal and suggested that they merit inclusion given the magnitude of the City’s investment in the project. Mr. Dennis said the proposal has the City investing $77 million in public infrastructure, so resiliency should certainly be a consideration in that expenditure.

Next meeting – October 22nd, 8:30 a.m.

**Meeting adjourned:** 9:51 a.m.

Minutes: Jeff Clements, Council Research Division

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10.8.20 Posted 10:30 a.m.