November 19, 2020

(5:00 p.m.)

**Meeting Minutes**

**20201119 Noticed Meeting Council Member Michael Boylan re: JEA Governance**

**Meeting Date:**  November 19, 2020

**Topic:**  JEA Governance

**Location: Lynwood Roberts Room**

**In Attendance:** Council Members Michael Boylan (District 6), Ron Salem (At-Large District 2), Randy DeFoor (District 14), LeAnna Cumber (District 5), Lawsikia Hodges (Office of General Counsel), Peggy Sidman (Office of General Counsel), Kurt Wilson (JEA), Kim Taylor (Council Auditor), Phillip Peterson (Council Auditor) and Sonia Johnson (District 6 ECA).

***Please refer to sign-in sheet for a complete list***

**Meeting Convened:** 10:05 a.m.

**Councilman Boylan** welcomed all and made introductions of the various attendees.

Explained the intent of the meeting was to finalize any pending matters in ensuring a comprehensive bill, and discuss the joint work that has taken place over the course of the past year involving his colleagues and Office of General Counsel (OGC) particularly Lawsikia Hodges and Peggy Sidman for the significant rewrite of Article 21, and wanted to thank them all, and also to go over the Auditor’s recommendations. The proposed amendment focuses on accountability, transparency, process of developing new business, expanding existing business, and privatization.

**Lawsikia Hodges** – provided an overview of the amendments (*see attached*):

* Items #1 & #3 concentrate on transparency with recommendation of publishing rules & procedures on JEA’s website
* Item #2 is regarding JEA’s disposition of property and to that **CM Salem** voiced the following concerns:
  + Is JEA authorized to do Request for Qualifications (RFQ) thru present Charter and **Lawsikia Hodges** said that under current existing charter, yes they are authorized to sell their property
  + Should another city entity have a need for the property, should they have precedent over the RFQ? **Lawsikia Hodges** answered that they are working with the city on a Request For Information (RFI)
  + JEA selling to a business that is not aligned to water, sewer or electricity – **Lawsikia Hodges** said that once the property is sold it is no longer JEA’s asset
  + Agrees that value has to be determined to pay fair market value
* Item #4 referenced a defined contribution plan
* Item #5 reviews definition of compensation and **CM Cumber** wanted to ensure that loop holes were not an issue

**CM DeFoor** – Stated that JEA wants the opportunity to market their valuable property to highest level of use because the end result goes to the citizens.

**CM Boylan** - asked if independent agencies have priority over private sectors?

**CM Salem** – stated that if JEA’s property was sold to the Port Authority, it would inhibit growth long term as it would promote jobs.

**CM Cumber -** stated that the Port is running out of space and in this case, it would be best for the city to sell to them in order to expand & grow as it is not helpful to get into a bidding war and consider a basic amendment in regards to government assets.

**CM DeFoor –** agrees that it is a complicated matter that needs to be separated.

**CM Salem**  – stated city entities should get priorities from another entity when there is a clarified need and would like to see it included in the charter.

**Lawsikia Hodges** – stated that she would not recommend adding lots of new procedures to in the charter and will work with both CMs Salem and DeFoor to discuss the language in a separate noticed meeting.

**Phillip Peterson** – provided a summary of the Auditor’s amendments: Item #s 6 – 12(*see attached*)

**Peggy Sidman** – Stated the referendum regarding board member appointment was certified in the election results and codified.

**Public Comment**:

Mr. Bruce Fouraker – offered a memo requesting JEA fund undergrounding of electric utilities and expand water & sewer services to improve reliability, redundancy and resilience (*see attachment*).

**Meeting Adjourned:** 11:13 a.m.

***\*The written minutes for this meeting are only an overview of what was discussed. For verbatim comments of this meeting, please listen to the audio recording.***

**Minutes:** Sonia Johnson – Complete on November 19, 2020

**Attached:** MeetingNotice, Minutes**,** Sign-In, Audioand Handouts– Submitted to Legislative Services Department .

**cc:** Council Members/Staff

Cheryl L Brown, Director

Jessica Matthews, Chief of Legislative Services

Jeff Clements, Chief of Research

Kristi Sikes, Chief, Administrative Services Division

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