

City of Jacksonville

1st Floor - Council Chamber
117 W. Duval Street



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

9:30 AM

Council Chambers 1st Floor, City Hall & Virtual

Jacksonville Waterways Commission

CM Al Ferraro, Chair

CM Randy White, Vice Chair, Excused

CM Aaron Bowman

CM Terrance Freeman, Alternate

Jon Michael Barker

Robert Birtalan

Lindsey Brock

Lane Burnett

State Rep. Cord Byrd

Mark Devereaux

Marc Hardesty, Absent

Jill D. Haskell

Raymond S. Pringle, Jr.

Marshall Adkison, Ex-Officio

Adam Hoyles, Ex-Officio

Jessica Smith & Vonya Balogh, Legislative Assistants

Susan Grandin, Asst. General Counsel

Dr. Quinton White, Jacksonville University

Dr. Gerard Pinto, Jacksonville University

Richard Distel, Research Assistant

Jim Suber, Waterways Coordinator

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Council with respect to any matter considered at such meeting, such person will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose, such person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

RULE 4.505 DISRUPTION OF MEETING No member of the audience shall applaud nor make any noise or remarks that are audible to the Committee that would indicate approval or disapproval of anything being discussed. Any disregard of this rule may result in removal by the Sergeant at Arms.

REQUEST TO SPEAK:

1. Fill out a speaker card.
2. Sign it if you are going to speak.
3. Read the rules on the back of the card.
4. Place card in tray.

PARKING: If you park in the Library Garage (Entry on Duval St, W of Main St), please see the Legislative Assistant for ticket validation.

Present 11 - Commissioner Robert Birtalan, Commissioner Lindsey Brock, Commissioner Cord Byrd, Commissioner Jill Haskell, Commissioner Raymond Pringle, Commissioner Lane Burnett, Commissioner Mark Devereaux, Chair Al Ferraro, Alternate Terrance Freeman, Council Member Aaron Bowman, and Commissioner Jon Michael Barker

Excused 1 - Vice Chair Randy White

Absent 1 - Commissioner Marc Hardesty

Note: Our next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, January 13th, 2021

Meeting Convened: 9:37 AM Meeting Adjourned: 12:28 PM

1. **Approval - Jacksonville Waterways Commission Minutes for Wednesday, October 14, 2020.**
2. **Approval - Special Jacksonville Waterways Commission Minutes for Wednesday, October 28, 2020.**
3. **Approval - FIND Subcommittee of the Jacksonville Waterways Commission Minutes for Monday, November 9, 2020.**

4. St. Johns River Status Report on Water Quality and Manatees - Dr. White & Dr. Pinto

Dr. White said river temperatures have finally dropped, with minor flooding as a result of high tides, and a wide range in salinity. The Mayport facility will start construction on the dock project around March and it is expected to take approximately a year.

Dr. Pinto said it is currently quiet in Jacksonville in terms of manatees and there were no deaths since the last meeting. There have been 8 manatee deaths for the year but no watercraft deaths.

Adam Hoyles asked about the population numbers of manatees. Dr. Pinto said that the cold weather drives them away and that there have been higher numbers at the springs. Dr. White said generally the manatee population is increasing, with about 400 in the area.

5. [2020-0598-E](#) ORD Transmitting a Proposed Large Scale Revision to FLUM of the 2030 Comp Plan at 0 U.S. Hwy 301 S. & 0 Normandy Blvd & 0 Maxville Macclenny Hwy, btwn I-10 & Maxville Macclenny Hwy (7002.25± Acres) – AGR-I, AGR-II & AGR-III to MU – 301 Capital Partners, LLC. (Appl# L-5457-20A) (Dist 12-White) (Kelly) (LUZ) (PD & PC Apv)
10/13/20 CO Introduced: LUZ, JWC (added to JWC on 10/12/20)
10/20/20 LUZ Read 2nd & Rerefer
10/27/20 CO Read 2nd & Rereferred; LUZ
11/10/20 CO Meeting Cancelled - No Action
11/17/20 LUZ Meeting Cancelled-No Action
11/24/20 CO PH Cont'd 12/8/20
12/1/20 LUZ PH Amend/Approve 7-0
12/8/20 CO PH Amend/Approved 17-0
LUZ PH – 11/17/20 & 12/1/20
Public Hearing Pursuant to Sec 163.3184(3), F.S. & Chapt 650, Pt 4, Ord Code – 11/10/20 & 11/24/20, 12/8/20

Ed Lukacovic, Planning Department, went over the large scale and a full scale land use amendments from the two bills before the commission. This land use amendment was approved by the Planning Department on November 5th. This will need to go to the state and then come back to the City for approval. Mr. Lukacovic went over the location and the proposal that will amend the area to be mixed-use. There will be a total of 15,000 dwelling units. Mr. Lukacovic detailed the flood zones and went over the drainage path in the location. Paul Harden, representing the applicant, said that the vote in the Planning Department was unanimous. Mr. Devereaux asked about the size of this project and the ability to put schools in this area after this development. Mr. Harden said the reason for changing it from rural use to mixed-use is so that it can comply with having schools in the area. Mr. Harden said this is a 20 to 25 year project, and that this project is a third of the size as compared to the Nocatee project. Mr. Pringle asked about the houses being built in this project. Mr. Harden said there will be a range of house sizes, but it will be market driven.

Commission did not have a physical quorum present so the bill was up for discussion only.

6. [2020-0608](#) ORD Small-Scale FLUM Amendmnt to 2030 Comp Plan at 3029 New Berlin Rd., btwn New Berlin & Yellow Bluff Rd. (3.14± Acres) – LDR to CGC – Timothy H. Joy & Laurie A. Joy. (Appl# L-5473-20C) (Dist 2-Ferraro) (McDaniel) (LUZ) (PD & PC Apv) (Rezoning 2020-609)
10/13/20 CO Introduced: LUZ, JWC (added to JWC on 10/12/20)
10/20/20 LUZ Read 2nd & Rerefer
10/27/20 CO Read 2nd & Rereferred; LUZ
11/10/20 CO Meeting Cancelled - No Action
11/17/20 LUZ Meeting Cancelled-No Action
11/24/20 CO PH Cont'd 12/8/20
12/8/20 CO PH Cont'd 1/12/21
LUZ PH – 11/17/20 & 12/1/20, 1/5/21
Public Hearing Pursuant to Sec 163.3187, F.S. & Chapt 650, Pt 4, Ord Code – 11/10/20 & 11/24/20, 12/8/20,1/12/21

Ed Lukacovic, Planning Department, went over the small scale land use amendment and the hearing dates for this project. This is in a low density residential zone. Chair Ferraro said that this is in his district and he is very familiar with the area.

Commission did not have a physical quorum present so the bill was up for discussion only.

7. New Business:

- **USCOE Permit Application Replacing Dockage at Mayport for USCG - Mark D. Bolchoz, P.E. (10:00 AM)**
- **Presentation on Jacksonville Gullah Geechee Nation Youth Program and the Waterways - Sandra Morene**
- **FWC's 2020 Legislation - Major Robert Rowe, Boating & Waterways Section Leader, FWC (10:30 AM)**
- **Possible Changes to the State Derelict Vessel Laws - Susan Grandin**

USCOE Permit Application Replacing Dockage at Mayport for USCG

Mark Bolchoz, P.E., President of Bolchoz Marine Advisors, Inc., detailed that the scope of the work is from damage caused by Hurricane Matthew. The dockage will be replaced and repaired in the same footprint, and there will be minor dredging in the basin. The estimated timeframe for the completion of the project is March 2021.

Presentation on Jacksonville Gullah Geechee Nation

Sandra Morene, Jacksonville Gullah Geechee Nation, talked about the goal of the organization to find people that have ancestral heritage with the Gullah Geechee and represent their voices. The organization is looking to teach youth about the history of the Gullah Geechee. Ms. Moore went over the programs the organization is running to help those in the community. Right now they are training the youth to row, and at Camp Gullah Geechee Rowing 5 children are put through beginner rowing training. Ms. Morene talked about the population of descendants that live in the Jacksonville area. October is Gullah Geechee Month and they have local chefs that make cuisine which represent their heritage.

The organization has been teaching coding and educates the youth on the history of the Gullah Geechee. They grow gardens at local schools and teach children how to grow, harvest and cook the food. CM Pittman talked about the importance of knowing your heritage. Mr. Pringle said he would like to work with the group to make sure there are adaptive docks. There was a discussion on forming a committee to look into this. Mr. Pringle and CM Pittman said they would work on it. Adam Hoyles said he would help with any environmental permitting.

FWC'S 2020 Legislation – Major Robert Rowe, Boating & Waterways Section Leader, FWC

Mr. Rowe went over legislation changes and the regulations of human powered vessels. Mr. Rowe said that there is a lot in the 25-page boating bill, and he detailed legislation such as the refusal to take a breathalyzer test when operating a vessel. Mr.

Rowe said the changes will allow them to regulate human powered vessels. Mr. Rowe talked about derelict vessel investigations and the ability to implement compliance. Every person operating a vessel will have to go through boater education. Mr. Rowe talked about the expectations as to what is a derelict vessel and what is not actually defined as a derelict vessel.

Susan Grandin, Office of General Counsel, asked Mr. Rowe about floating structures and the regulation. Mr. Rowe said on a state level there is not much done with floating structures and it has just been under the radar in terms of making any changes to the legislation. Mr. Rowe said there is plenty of time to make changes to add language around floating structures. Commissioner Barker asked about separation from private docks. Mr. Rowe said this was not added because the boating industry strongly pushed back on having that separation from private docks.

Possible Changes to the State Derelict Vessel Laws

Ms. Grandin said she has been trying to get in contact with other local governments to see what kind of derelict vessels laws they have and regarding the amendment to derelict vessel regulation.

8. Old Business:

- **Wake Zone Committee**
 - Commissioner Haskell

- **What has been done about the Sandbar Created as a Result of River Dredging?**
 - Beau Corbett/Eric Green

- **Updates on Shad Creek - CM Ferraro**

- **FIND Subcommittee Recommendations - Brian Burket**

Wake Zone Committee

Commissioner Haskell talked about the work she is doing on the committee and research on wake zones.

Sandbar Created as a result of River Dredging

Beau Corbett, USACE District, talked about the Jacksonville harbor deepening. Mr. Corbett talked about the dredging and that it means the requirements were not found to be contributing to the sandbar. He talked about the alleged pipe problem, and he said they will continue to look into past dredging projects and the shoul.

Update on Shad Creek

Chair Ferraro said that he, together with staff from the Mayor's Office and Parks Department, came out to view the area. They have come up with an area for the parks department to look at for a wake zone to begin and end.

FIND Subcommittee

Brian Burket, Parks and Recreation, talked about the FIND grants and that there are two phases with the design and the construction phase. For 2020, there were 4 applications and only 1 project was awarded for Bert Maxwell Boat ramp. Mr. Burket went over the 5 projects that are going to be submitted for next year's FIND grants. The handout details the projects and their location, cost and scope of construction.

Commissioner Haskell asked when the last time Goodbys Creek was dredged. Mr. Burket said it was last dredged about 15 years ago.

Chair Ferraro said that the boat parade was an amazing sight and thanked Captain Suber for his great job with that event. Captain Suber said there were great boats and it is one of their biggest events of the year. Captain Suber thanked everyone that was a part of the event for all their effort to make it a smoothly run event.

Chair Ferraro welcomed Jon Michael Barker as a new Commissioner and thanked Matt Brockelman for his service on the Waterways Commission.

9. Public Comment

Stanley Scott stated his support of the Gullah Geechee Nation and said the City should give them \$100,000 to support their work. Mr. Scott wondered why the gate is up at Riverview docks. Mr. Scott said he is working with John Nooney to open up the docks in the Northside.

Adjournment

Pursuant to the American with Disabilities Act, accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. Please allow 1-2 business days notification to process; last minute requests will be accepted; but may not be possible to fulfill. Please contact Disabled Services Division at: V 904-255-5466, TTY-904-255-5476, or email your request to KaraT@coj.net.

Rollcall

- Present** 11 - Commissioner Cord Byrd, Commissioner Jill Haskell, Commissioner Raymond Pringle, Commissioner Lane Burnett, Commissioner Mark Devereaux, Chair Al Ferraro, Alternate Terrance Freeman, Council Member Aaron Bowman, Commissioner Jon Michael Barker, Commissioner Robert Birtalan, and Commissioner Lindsey Brock
- Excused** 1 - Vice Chair Randy White
- Absent** 1 - Commissioner Marc Hardesty

Minutes: Richard Distel, Council Research Division
rdistel@coj.net (904) 255-5140
Posted 1.4.21 5:00 p.m.