



Ronald B. Salem, Pharm.D.
Councilman, At-Large Group 2
Office (904) 255-5216
Fax (904) 255-5230
E-Mail: rsalem@coj.net

117 West Duval Street
City Hall, Suite 425
Jacksonville, FL 32202

OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

TDD: (904) 255-5200

Council Member Salem Town Hall Local Option Gas Tax with JTA

Meeting Date: May 12, 2021

Topic: Local Option Gas Tax with JTA

Location: Regency Square Branch Library

In attendance: Council Member Ron Salem, Council Member Matt Carlucci, Council Member Joyce Morgan, Council Member Al Ferraro, Council Member Danny Becton, Council Member Michael Boylan, Yvonne Mitchell (Council Research), Steve Cassada (Council IT), Nat Ford (JTA), Jessica Shepler (JTA), David Cawton (JTA), Jordan Elsbury (Administration), Leeann Krieg (Administration), John Pappas (Public Works), Margaret Dees (Jacksonville University), Jim Gilmore (Southern Group), Ari Jolly (JTA Board Chair), Abel Harding (JTA Board Member), Debbie Buckland (JTA Board Member), Tyrona Clark-Murray (North FL TPO)

For a complete list of attendees, please refer to the sign-in sheet.

Meeting Convened: 5:30 PM

Council Member Ron Salem called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda. CM Salem stated that the purpose of this meeting is to discuss the proposed local option gas tax legislation and asked the presenters to introduce themselves for the record. He then instructed JTA to play their video presentation for the group. CM Salem invited the guests to tour the autonomous JTA vehicles that have been placed outside the library after the meeting.

Jordan Elsbury (Administration) discussed the background of the Economic Recovery Task Force, which is where the local option gas tax idea began. This partnership between the City and JTA could take on many shovel-ready projects and create a large amount of jobs.

Nat Ford (JTA) discussed the significant infrastructure needs in Duval County and JTA's vision for a more connected and accessible city. Their priority projects list includes projects from all areas of town in an attempt to improve transportation capabilities for all citizens. Mr. Ford explained the purpose of the Skyway Advisory Committee and the options they considered for its future.

CM Salem opened the floor to public comments. Tyrona Clark-Murray (North FL TPO) asked if there were any other types of fees considered before the gas tax was proposed. Mr. Elsbury answered yes, there were several other options considered as a revenue source. The millage increase was chosen because the funds created by a gas tax can only be spent on infrastructure. Marilyn Fenton-Harmer (Zoom participant) voiced concerns about the Lone Star Road project, which is a project on the JTA priority list, and new homes being built without connecting to City water. Sheenah Thrasher (citizen) had to depart before public comment so CM Salem read



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her question directly from the comment card. She asked if vehicles are shared by people from different parties, picking up a mix of the public or one party per vehicle, non-stop until their destination. Mr. Ford said yes, this is the ultimate goal of public transportation and this is the vision JTA is working towards for Jacksonville.

With no further discussion, CM Salem thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:45 PM

Minutes: Nikki Evans – complete on May 19, 2021

cc: Council Members/Staff
Cheryl Brown, Director/Council Secretary
Jessica Matthews, Chief, Legislative Services Division
Jeff Clements, Chief of Research
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