



AARON L. BOWMAN
Council Member
District 3
Email: abowman@coj.net

117 West Duval Street
City Hall, Suite 425
Jacksonville, Florida 32202
Office (904) 255-5203

OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES
NOTICED TOWN HALL MEETING
RE: LOCAL OPTION GAS TAX AND SEPTIC TANK PROGRAM
Monday, May 17, 2021, 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
Pablo Creek Regional Library

Attendance: Council Member Bowman, Council Member Ferraro, Council Member Morgan, Nat Ford with JTA, Jordan Elsbury with Mayor's Office, additional staff and board members were present and reflected on the sign-in sheets.

Meeting Convened: 5:42 p.m.

Council Member Bowman thanked presenters, staff, board members, and constituents for attending. He reminded the attendees that currently we have a six-cents gas tax, and the State of Florida allows up to a twelve-cents gas tax. Before City Council now is ORD 2021-0223 to increase the gas tax to twelve cents.

Jordan Elsbury with the Mayor's Office gave a brief presentation on ORD 2021-0223 which proposes amending Chapter 799 (Local Option Gas Tax). He explained that for almost ten years the City has not significantly funded infrastructure projects and as such we are currently experiencing a backlog. The 2015 Pension Reform Plan allowed for robust infrastructure funding but due to the huge backlog and the rapid growth in our city, we continue to be lacking in funding. The Local Option Gas Tax (LOGT) would provide the city the ability to fund much-needed infrastructure as well as new projects.

Following his presentation, a video produced by JTA was shown which detailed the projects that would be included if the LOGT passes. The video can be found at JobsforJax.net (<https://www.jobsforjax.net/>).

Nat Ford, CEO of JTA, spoke briefly following the video, reiterating the impact the LOGT would have on road projects if the bill passes. He said the LOGT would allow JTA to address deferred

and ongoing maintenance, new road projects, and expansion of the Skyway Project which includes the autonomous vehicle program and a new ferry.

Following the presentations, Council Member Bowman opened the meeting for questions and answers. There were questions, concerns, support, and opposition expressed for ORD 2021-0223 (LOGT). There were no questions on ORD 2021-0235 Wastewater System Improvement Program (Septic Tank Removal).

Closing remarks were provided by Council Member Bowman and he thanked all for attending.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:58 p.m.

*Minutes prepared by Carol Brock
05/19/2021*