

# **City of Jacksonville**

*1st Floor - Council Chamber  
117 W. Duval Street*



## **Meeting Minutes**

**In-Person Meeting**

**Wednesday, June 9, 2021**

**9:30 AM**

**Council Chambers 1st Floor, City Hall**

## **Jacksonville Waterways Commission**

*CM Al Ferraro, Chair  
CM Michael Boylan, Vice Chair  
CM Garrett Dennis  
CM Matt Carlucci, Alternate  
Jon Michael Barker  
Robert Birtalan  
Lindsey Brock  
Lane Burnett  
Senator Audrey Gibson  
Mark Devereaux  
Andrew Fraden  
Marc Hardesty  
Jill D. Haskell  
Raymond S. Pringle, Jr.  
Marshall Adkison, Ex-Officio  
Adam Hoyles, Ex-Officio*

*Maritza Sanchez & Jessica Smith, 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.

The meeting noticed herein for Wednesday, June 9, 2021, 9:30M can be accessed as follows:

1. You may attend the meeting in-person at the physical location- City Council Chambers, but CDC guidelines will be adhered to due to COVID-19. Concurrent with the expiration of Mayor Curry's Emergency Executive Proclamation 2020-005, any member of the public entering City-owned public buildings may choose to wear a mask inside the building. Council strongly encourages the use of masks for all employees and visitors, especially when social distancing at 6 feet (or more) is not possible. Council will make masks available for visitors and the public.
2. You may attend the meeting virtually (for viewing only- no participation in public comment or public hearings).
3. The public is encouraged to share general comments with individual Council Members by email or telephone. [CCMeeting06152021@coj.net](mailto:CCMeeting06152021@coj.net) is the designated email for comments from the public.

**Note: Our next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, August, 11, 2021.**

**Meeting Convened: 9:34 AM**

**Meeting Adjourned: 12:27 PM**

1. Call To Order
2. Roll Call

3. ADA Waterways Status Report - Kara Tucker

**Kara Tucker, Chief of Disabled Services, talked about the previous meeting where a family spoke about the need of an adaptive kayak launch at the Thomas Creek area. Ms. Tucker said they are working with the Parks Department will be working with the family on this process.**

4. Approval - Jacksonville Waterways Commission Minutes for May 12, 2021.

Hand Vote:

10-0

**The minutes for the meeting from May 12th were approved. Birtalan, Haskell, Barker, Chair Ferraro, CM Bowman, Brock Pringle, Devereaux, Burnett, Fraden voted yes.**

**10-0**

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

**Dr. White said that the rainfall and water temperature is running about average, but there has been a dramatic shift in salinity levels. Dr. White gave an update on the barge that has coal ash which has spilled into the waters off the Jacksonville coast. Dr. White gave an update on the cleaning process and the impact those contaminates could have on the water. Dr. White talked about the upcoming hurricane season and the possibility of 6 to 10 hurricanes in the area. Mr. Barker asked about the impact from the coal ash spill. Dr. White said he is waiting on the environmental report which should be available next week to see how the spill has impacted the wildlife.**

**Dr. Pinto talked about the impact of algae blooms and other damage to the grass which is the food manatees eat. Dr. Pinto said there has been 1 manatee death since last months meeting, so now there is a total of 15 deaths this year. Dr. Pinto said none of the deaths have been from watercrafts.**

**New Business:**

6. 2021-314 ORD Apv & Auth the Mayor, or His Designee, & the Corp Secretary to Execute & Deliver that Certain Purchase & Sale Agreement (The "Agreement") btwn the City of Jax & Robert Alexander Castro, & all Closing & Other Documents Relating Thereto, & to Otherwise Take all Necessary Action to Effectuate the Purposes of the Agreement for Acquisition by the City of a Residential Parcel Located at 310 King Street (R.E. #055684-0000), (The "Property"), at the Negotiated Purchase Price of \$117,000.00, to be Utilized in the Restoration of the Mccoy's Creek Floodplain; Providing for Oversight of Acquisition of the Property by the Real Estate Division of the Dept of Public Works & Thereafter by the Parks, Recreation & Community Services Dept. (Dist. 9-Dennis) (Staffopoulos) (Req of Mayor) (JWC Apv)  
5/25/21 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, F, JWC  
Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 166, F.S. & CR 3.601 –6/8/21

Contact:

Renee Hunter

Heather Nagy

Nikita Reed

Hand Vote:

11-0

**Renee Hunter, Public Works Real Estate, described the bill that has to do with purchase of residential property in order to lengthen a bridge.**

**John Nooney read the bill and said he was in support of the bill.**

**The vote was 11-0**

**Birtalan, Haskell, Barker, Ferraro, Bowman, Brock, Hardesty, Pringle, Devereaux, Burnett, Fraden voted yes.**

7. 2021-336 ORD Transmitting a Proposed Large-Scale Revision to the FLUM of 2030 Comp Plan at 0 Philips Highway, btwn Energy Center Dr. & Severn St.,(81.49± Acres) – LDR, CGC & BP to MDR, CGC, CSV & LI - Owned by Sphinx Management Inc., ET AL. (Appl #L-5527-21A) (Dist 11-Becton) (Reed) (LUZ)  
6/8/21 CO Introduced: LUZ, JWC  
LUZ PH – 8/3/21  
Public Hearing Pursuant to Sec 163.3187, F.S. & Chapt 650, Pt 4, Ord Code – 7/27/21 & 8/10/21

DEFER TO NEXT CYCLE

**DEFERRED**

8. 2021-356 ORD Apv & Auth the Mayor, or His Designee, & the Corp Secretary to Execute & Deliver for & on behalf of the City, that Certain License Agreemnt btwn the City of Jax & JTA, Providing a Revocable, Nonexclusive License to the City, for an Open-Ended Term with no license fee, for use of approximately 53 Sq. Ft of JTA-Owned Property at the entrance to the Fort George Island St. Johns River Ferry Terminal located at 9618 Heckscher Dr., Jax, FL 32226 (R.E. #168242-0000), for Construction & Maintenance of a Wayfinding/Welcome Sign & Associated Improvements; Providing for Oversight of License Agreemnt Approval & Execution by the Real Estate Division of the Dept of Public Works, & Thereafter by the Engineering & Construction Management Division of the Dept of Public Works. (Staffopoulos) (Req of Mayor) (JWC Apv) 6/8/21 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, TEU, F, JWC  
Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 –6/22/21

Contact:  
Renee Hunter

Hand Vote:  
11-0

**Renee Hunter, Public Works Real Estate, explained the legislation which with authorize an execution of a license agreement with the Jacksonville Transit Authority to construct and maintain a welcome sign. Commissioner Brock asked if the Heckscher Drive Community Association was approving of the sign. Robin Smith, Public Works, said the approval is only needed from JTA, because it is on JTA property.**

**The vote was 11-0**

**Birtalan, Haskell, Barker, Ferraro, Bowman, Brock, Hardesty, Pringle, Devereaux, Burnett, Fraden voted yes**

9. 2021-358 ORD Apv & Auth the CEO of DIA to Execute & Deliver on behalf of the City that Certain Dev Agreemnt btwn the DIA & Jax Historic Naval Ship Association, Inc. ("JHNSA"), for Relocation of Retired Naval Vessel USS Orleck (DD-886) to Downtown Jax as a Floating Museum, at the Former Jax Shipyard Site on Jax's Northbank, Said Agreemnt Being for a 3-Yr Period & Contingent Upon Certain Conditions Precedent Being Met by JHNSA prior to City's Entering into 10-Yr License Agreemnt with JHNSA, together with Two 5-Yr License Renewal Options, Subject to Mutual Agreemnt of the Parties, for JHNSA to Construct, Operate & Maintain the Ship Museum; Auth DIA to Amend Dev Agreemnt & License Agreemnt in accordance with Dev & License Agreemnt Terms without further Council approval; Providing for Oversight by DIA.  
(Sawyer) (Req of DIA)  
6/8/21 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, F, JWC  
Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 166, F.S. & CR 3.601 – 6/22/21

Contact:  
Seven Kelley

DEFER TO NEXT CYCLE

**Steven Kelley, DIA, detailed the bill through a PowerPoint. The bill will authorize the Development Agreement between the DIA and Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association, Inc. (JHNSA) for the relocation of the USS Orleck to Downtown Jacksonville as a floating museum at the former Jacksonville Shipyard site in Jacksonville's Northbank Downtown Community Redevelopment Area. The USS Orleck will be used for historical and STEM education for the youth, a center point for school field trips, ROTC, and the boy scouts. The ship will also be able to hold galas, symposiums, and other events. Dr. Kelley explained how this will connect to the Riverwalk. The Chief Executive Officer of the DIA is authorized to execute additional amendments to the Development Agreement and License Agreement, as needed. The initial license agreement with JHNSA is for a period of ten years, and may be extended for two additional periods of five years under the same terms and conditions. There are no annual or monthly license fees for JHNSA under this licensing agreement, and JHNSA is responsible for all costs of operation and maintenance. The DIA will oversee the Project.**

**Commissioner Brock asked what happens if the JHNSA does not have the funds and what would the relocation process be for the ship. The cost is determined based on the estimate it will cost to be brought back to be decommissioned. Commissioner Devereaux asked who will own the ship. Dr. Kelley said that the JHNSA will own the title to the USS Orleck and the city will have ownership of the pier and the submerged land lease.**

**Commissioner Birtalan stressed how much he would like there to be a naval museum in Jacksonville, but emphasized his worries about this ship. Commissioner Birtalan talked about the historical background of trying to have a ship in Jacksonville.**

Commissioner Birtalan said he would like more information regarding how the JHNSA will be able to maintain this ship and what kind of tourism this will be able to draw. CM Bowman echoed the concerns of Commissioner Birtalan and said he does not feel comfortable supporting this legislation. Commissioner Fraden asked about the cost of painting the ship. Dr. Kelley clarified that JHNSA would occur all maintenance costs. Commissioner Birtalan asked for this to be deferred until more information can be delivered to the commission.

**The legislation was deferred by Chair Ferraro.**

10. Cameras on Boat Docks Presentation (30 Minutes)

Contact:  
Dean M. Shott

Dean Shott and Austin Shott from US Boat Ramps gave a PowerPoint presentation about the camera system they have implemented at boat docks around Jacksonville. Austin Shott explained that they provide real time video at locations such as boat docks or marinas. Captain Suber said these cameras have been very helpful in showing what happened during a dispute or catch criminal activity. Commissioner Pringle expressed support on the camera program.

11. Thomas Park ADA Accessible Kayak Launch

Contact:  
Brian Burket  
Kara Tucker

Brian Burket, Parks Department, gave an update on the review the Parks Department did on the implementation of an adaptive kayak launch at Thomas Creek Park. Mr. Burket went over the location of the park and its history. Mr. Burket gave an overview of the existing facilities at Thomas Creek Park. The Parks Department's evaluation said there is sufficient depth and space for an extra fixed dock. Mr. Burket said the estimated cost would be \$100,000 to \$150,000. Commissioner Pringle said it is important to know that it is all inclusive when an adaptive kayak launch is implemented.

## 12. Locally Regulating Barges

Contact:  
Chairman Ferraro  
Susan Grandin

**Susan Grandin, Office of General Counsel, talked about the regulation of barges which are commercial vessels. Ms. Grandin explained that if a barge is somewhere for a long period of time, they should have a submerged land lease. Ms. Grandin talked about adding all commercial vessels to floating structures. Chair Ferraro gave the historical background that led to this focus on barges. Chair Ferraro said this is about the concern of barges being parked in areas and cause damage to docks.**

**Commissioner Brock stressed the need to be extremely cautious when legislating for barges and there would need to be exceptions to this possible addition. Mr. Brock said there will most likely be strong opposition from small marine contractors. Ms. Grandin clarified for Mr. Adkison that what would be put in the drafted legislation is the term commercial vessel, excluding fishing vessels. Captain Suber emphasized the concern of restricting commercial activity on the water. Commissioner Barker talked about the long standing impact of derelict vessels and barges in the Ortega River.**

**Old Business:**

## 13. Update of Artificial Reefs of Northeast Florida on April 7, 2021 (15 Minutes)

Contact:  
Lindsey Brock

**Commissioner Brock talked about the current artificial reefs in Northeast Florida. Mr. Brock highlighted that there is a grant program for March of 2022 for \$60,000 to go towards an artificial reef. Mr. Brock said that there should be a scheduled Artificial Reef Committee meeting for August.**

## 14. Public Comment

**John Nooney talked about a possible kayak launch being created downtown and the need for a map that shows where the launches are located.**

## 15. 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.



Minutes: Richard Distel, Council Research  
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