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OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Notice Meeting Council President Terrance Freeman and Council Vice President Ron

Salem Regarding Council Leadership 2023/2024

Meeting Minutes - March 1, 2023

1:00 P.M.

Location: Don Davis Room, 1st Floor City Hall

In Attendance: Council President Terrance Freeman, Council Vice President Ron Salem, CM Reggie Gaffney, Jr., CM Randy White, CW Ju’Coby Pittman, CM Kevin Carriço and CM Sam Newby, **See attached Sign in Sheet for additional attendees.**

Meeting Convened: 1:00 p.m.

Council President Terrance Freeman called the meeting to order and thanked each for taking time today to attend the meeting. He began, stating just to give a little timeline for those who are new to the City Council Process, when it comes to Leadership and I wanted to give a little context to where we’re at. I know there has been an email circulating around today’s meeting by one of our colleagues and a comment made last night at the council meeting by one of our colleagues about rushing to do things. We got to this position that we are in now because of something that actually happened to me and CM Morgan not on behalf of me but also some legislation that I was working on as well, filed a bill that said Leadership conversations should not take place in the fall.

Council President Freeman explained the history of Council Members announcing their candidacy and how we got to this position: In 2020 Council Member Morgan filed a bill, 2020-319 Co-Sponsored by Council Member Carlucci:

There was a time on the Council when in August, September and October, people were running and positioning their commitments and pledges before that year had taken place so that is how we landed on this position of March. So if you look at March, March is when it is open for the whole thirty days, everyone can put their name in and put their best case forward. So that is what I experienced that year when I ran, there were several that committed to one and I believe maybe two people committed to me, so I was going to wait until later. I held the course because I knew that we couldn’t have an election until May.

A lot of things happened until we got to the end. Council President Freeman continued and stated, “I refute any comments on the process on what we’re doing, and this current model is a hasty

decision or a rushed decision it is not". To answer the other part Council Members coming in I was fortunate enough to be here when new council members were coming in. I would like to acknowledge Sheri Webber is here on behalf of CM Carlucci's office and Brooks Dame is here on behalf of CW DeFoor's office, so I really wanted to give context and history to how we got to where we're at.

Council President Freeman explained the history of Council Members announcing their candidacy and how we got to this position: In 2020 Council Member Morgan filed a bill, 2020-319 Co-Sponsored by Council Member Carlucci:

Refer: Ordinance 2020-319 an Ordinance relating to the Council Rules; Amending Council Rule 1.103 (Method of Election of Officers), Chapter 1 (Organization of the Council), Council Rules, to allow for an Annual Declaration of Leadership Interests; Providing for Waiver of Council Rules to accept new Candidates for consideration; Providing an effective date. Be it Ordained by the Council of the City of Jacksonville: Section 1. Amending Council Rule 1.103 (Method of Officers), Chapter 1 (Organization of the Council), Rules, is hereby amended to read as follows: CHAPTER 1. METHOD OF ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS PART 1. OFFICERS AND EMPLOYERS RULE 1.103 ANNUAL DECLARATION OF LEADERSHIP INTEREST AND METHOD OF ELECTION OF OFFICERS. (a) Annual declaration of leadership interest. Candidates for City Council offices to be filled by election pursuant to Council Rule 1.102 and 1.103 shall express their interest in Council consideration for President or Vice President for such election by filing his or her intent to be considered and any supporting material, no more than 2 pages, with the Office of the Council Secretary/Director no earlier than March 1 and no later than March 30. The Council may consider these Council Members for future leadership positions and hold notice meetings to discuss qualifications.

Council President Freeman stated I'm honored today when a Vice President that has done what Ron has done which is to be a strong leader and be present to help his colleagues', for me being always supporting, even when was disagreeing which is okay. The role of Vice President is not easy, Ron comes to this seat with a life of Civic experience. Ron you have done an amazing job and a tremendous Vice President, so I'm honored today to do the same thing as my predecessor, Past President Sam Newby hosting this meeting for you to show my appreciation during my toughest times and many of you know my story, with my son being born during the Redistricting, fighting for his life in NICU. Knowing that I had someone engaged and ready to step in and willing, thank you for that. Ron has a tremendous Bio, we all should know it, I'm not going to bore you with it, so now I'm giving the floor to you Council Vice President Salem and offer my full support.

Council Vice President Salem, begins first of all thank you for doing this, I'm announcing today for President of the City Council. I think I have been involved in some significant legislation and leadership roles where I think I've demonstrated to my colleagues that I have the potential to lead and I try to lead by example. All of you are my friends, all nineteen of us and I try to keep it that way, and I don't get personal. I think it's important to be fair to all, maintain that cordial relationship with everyone. Respective of Party and position or issue. I want to lead this council to continue to move this city forward. I think we will have some real challenges this year in particular, we're going to have 9 or 10 new Council Members, we will have a new Mayor and I think my organizational strengths will allow us to pull all that together and get those new members up to speed as quickly as we can and continue to do great things for this city, so with that I appreciate it and I hope I can earn your support today or in the near future.

Council President Freeman, thank you Council Vice President Salem and I would like to one be the first to offer my support and will be signing a pledge form. I will open up the floor for any discussions or questions my colleagues may have about you. I would like to recognize Makenzi Connor for attending the meeting on behalf of Council Member Rory Diamond.

Council Member Carrico, no questions just a couple statements about our Vice President Ron Salem, some things that I have noticed, as I have watched him during my two and half years on the council:

- 1.He does his homework
- 2.Disagrees with respect

I'm in support of you and will sign your pledge today. I look forward to serving under your Leadership this upcoming year.

Council Member Gaffney, for me I'm still a newbie. I've been in this job now for one hundred days and I have been learning and looking after your Leadership. To Council Vice President Salem you have demonstrated excellent leadership and it's been an honor watching you. You have my support.

Council Member Pittman, Ron, you know you and I have worked together for a long time, and I respect the work you are doing. Sometimes we get along and sometimes we don't get along but at the end of the day it's not about us, it's about the people, the community, and constituents and how they depend on us. I enjoyed being on the Special Committees with you and being fair. What's important to me going forward is we do have a lot of new people coming and to learn all the things you need to know about the Council, and how you can bring us together. I love your Leadership and what you have done over the years so I can say I can support you fully because you asked me first and you appear to be loyal and that means a lot.

Council Member White, everything has been said and you always verify things and have been fair. I hope you don't have as many issues as our present President (Freeman). He's had a lot of issues and he has handled them professionally. So, I will support you today.

Council Member Newby, first of all I want to thank our present President Terrance Freeman who has done a great job as Vice President and you have really done great job as President. You have exceeded my expectations as a big brother talking to a little brother, I'm truly proud of you, really proud of the work you have done. Let's give a big hand to Council President Freeman. I need to also comment on the legislation that Council President /freeman was talking about earlier, I think the process now is the best and March is the great time. Let me now talk about Ron Salem, did a great job as Finance Chair and I know you will be a super good President. I support you today and will be signing a pledge in support.

Council Vice President Salem when I ran for Vice President I was glad that the four black Councilmembers came to my Notice Meeting, so I think most people view me as one that gets along and try to work with everybody. When you are moving the city forward, we are all in this together.

Council President Freeman, thank everyone for coming also acknowledging again Sheri Webber on behalf of Council Member Matt Carlucci also submitting his pledge form; Amber Lehman on behalf of Council Member Nick Howland submitting his pledge form; Makenzi Connor on behalf

of Council Member/Rory Diamond submitting his pledge form. Are there any questions or concerns, seeing no other questions, this meeting is adjourned.

Minutes: Prepared by Gerrie Ford-Hardin, Secretary to the Council President – At-Large, Group 1, (904) 255-5179, gerrief@coj.net

Posted: 3/7/23 10:30 a.m.

Please contact Gerrie Ford-Hardin, Secretary to the Council President At-Large Group 1, at (904) 255-5179, for additional information or correspondence.

TEF/gfh

cc: Council Members and Staff

Margaret “Peggy” Sidman, Director/Council Secretary

Merriane Lahmeur, Chief, Legislative Services

Yvonne Mitchell, Chief, Administrative Services

Jeff /Clements, Chief, Research

Teresa Eichner, Chief, Public Information

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