

City of Jacksonville

1st Floor - Council Chamber
117 W. Duval Street



Meeting Minutes

Coal Ash Barge Bridgeport Incident Review
Committee

Friday, March 25, 2022

9:30 AM

Lynwood Roberts Room, 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

Lane Burnett

Senator Audrey Gibson

Mark Devereaux

Andrew Fraden

Marc Hardesty

Richard Hartley

Jill D. Haskell

Raymond S. Pringle, Jr.

Marshall Adkison, Ex-Officio

Adam Hoyles, Ex-Officio

Maritza Sanchez, Legislative Assistant

Barbara Ireland Hobson, Legislative Assistant

Susan Grandin, Asst. General Counsel

Dr. Quinton White, Jacksonville University

Dr. Gerard Pinto, Jacksonville University

Richard Distel, Research Assistant

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.

You may attend the meeting in-person at the physical location - Lynwood Roberts Room, 1st Floor, 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.

Meeting Start: 9:31 am

Meeting End: 10:38 am

Attendance: John Michael Barker, Robert Birtalan, Marc Hardesty, Richard Hartley, Raymond Pringle, and Adam Hoyles

Call to Order - Chair Robert Birtalian

Introductions

Chair Birtalan called the meeting to order and gave a historical background for the committee.

Discussion of the Coal Ash Barge Bridgeport Incident.

Mr. Birtalan went over the objective of this committee, which is to review this event and look into what could be done to prevent and mitigate this kind of event in the future. Lindsey Brock, former Waterways member, said he is waiting for the Coast Guard's incident report to be released. Mr. Pringle said the committee should put more pressure on the Coast Guard to get the report released. There was a motion to send for a FOIA request when the report has been finished. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hoyles talked about the need to focus on how the city responds to spills and what kind of outside entities can help in being more prepared when an event like this happens again. Mr. Brock talked about the need for a higher number of response vessels and how areas like Miami have those kinds of resources. Mr. Brock said he would look into the available resources and talk to the Propeller Club of Jacksonville. Mr. Brock said together with the Propeller Club they would make a presentation regarding this to the full Waterways Commission. Mr. Barker said it would be helpful to look at the available resources within Jacksonville and what larger groups can be helpful. Mr. Brock said this is an economic development opportunity for Jacksonville. Mr. Hardesty talked about coal ash and its health risks. Mr. Birtalan said that since Department of Environmental Protection considers coal ash to not be a hazardous material then that it isn't going to help to focus on banning coal ash. Mr. Barker said there are materials that are transported that are much more dangerous than coal ash and that is why the focus on safer transportation is critical.

Ellen Glasser, Mayor of Atlantic Beach, talked about the process of how this event was responded to and the lack of information available to the public. Ms. Glasser talked about Atlantic Beach's resolution which banned coal ash. Ms. Glasser said it would have been helpful if the City of Jacksonville was more proactive to respond to the spill and educate the public. Mr. Birtalan said there was little public notification. Mr. Hoyles suggested that this work could be done by the city's public relations department in order to make the public feel more comfortable during a spill.

Mr. Birtalan went over the topics covered in this first meeting and said they will set the next date for this committee at the full Waterways Commission.

Commission Members Comments and Discussion**Discuss Next Date for Meeting****Public Comment****Adjournment**

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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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