



OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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November 8, 2022

5:00 PM.

Noticed Meeting Minutes

20220822 Minutes CM Joyce Morgan's August Town Hall Meeting

Monday, August 22, 2022, 6:00 PM.

Topic: This Town Hall Meeting is to provide a forum to continue ongoing discussions of District 1 projects and update constituents about issues about City Council District 1.

Location: Impact Church 9501 Arlington Expressway Suite 245, Jacksonville, Florida 32225

Attendance: Council Member Joyce Morgan (District 1), Mr. Jody Phillips (Duval County Clerk of Court), Mike Herzberg (Sleiman Enterprises), Assistant Chief Phil Alicea (Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Zone 2 Commander), Dr. Kelly Coker (Duval County School Board District 1) Director John Pappas (Department of Public Works, City of Jacksonville) Trish Kapustka, Janice Curry, Rocena Diogene

Council Member Joyce Morgan: CM Morgan began by opening her August Town Hall Meeting at Impact Church and introduced Rocena Diogene, who was one program to give the opening invocation.

Rocena Diogene: Rocena Diogene opened the town hall meeting with an opening invocation and gave background on Impact Church and the work the Church is doing in the community with Revitalize Arlington.

Council Member Joyce Morgan: CM Morgan thanked Ms. Diogene for her invocation and her work with Revitalize Arlington. CM Morgan next introduced Honor Diogene to lead the assembled group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Honor Diogene – Honor Diogene led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

Council Member Joyce Morgan: CM Morgan thanked Honor Diogene and introduced Mr. Jody Phillips, the Duval County Clerk of Court, scheduled to talk about the Duval County Courthouse and the services the office offers, particularly the issue of property fraud.

Clerk of Court Jody Phillips: Clerk of Court Phillips gave an overview of the various offices of the Duval County Courthouse, how these offices were set up, and what each office's duties included. Mr. Phillips also mentioned the courthouse does Passports and is incredibly proud of the "Let's Drive Jax" program that helps individuals with suspended licenses get their licenses reinstated. Next, Mr. Phillips went into his PowerPoint on



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property fraud and the steps he and his team are taking to combat individuals illegally recording properties that do not belong to them in their name. After his presentation, Mr. Phillips opened the floor to the audience for questions about the programs.

Council Member Joyce Morgan: Council Member Morgan thanked Mr. Phillips for his beneficial information and introduced Mike Hezberg from Sleiman enterprises to give an overview of a proposed property along the Southside Connector to service electric cars.

Mike Herzberg: Mr. Herzberg introduced himself as a Vice President at Sleiman Enterprises and immediately began to describe his proposed project. This project dealt with an entity that would like to put an electric vehicle repair center in the former Bells store in one of Sleiman's properties located along the Southside Connector. Mr. Herzberg noted if approved, the façade of the building wouldn't change too much, but the reuse of the building would help revitalize this shopping area and the surrounding Arlington area. Mr. Herzberg next answered community members' questions about his proposed project.

Council Member Joyce Morgan: CM Morgan thanked Mr. Herzberg for his presentation and detailed the dates and times for the public hearings relating to this proposed project in case members of the community wanted to weigh in with their opinion on the record. CM Morgan gave dates for the City Council Public Hearing, Land Use and Zoning Meeting, and the City Council Meeting where the item would be heard. Council Member Morgan next introduced Assistant Chief Phil Alicea, our Zone 2 Commander, to talk about some of our challenges with homelessness.

Assistant Chief Phil Alicea: Assistant Chief Phil Alicea thanked CM Morgan for the introduction and went right into addressing concerns from neighbors about homelessness at the corner of University Club and Fort Caroline Road. Assistant Chief assured the neighbors that this issue isn't something that is unique to our area, as the entire City deals with similar challenges. Assistant Chief stated that we have excellent resources available and it isn't a good idea to give individuals money; instead, direct individuals to the available resources. What happens many times is that individuals want to avoid following the rules. Assistant Chief stated that he has his officers on the situation and has directed his officers to offer homeless individuals resources first, give warnings second, and if problems still occur, then put the individuals in jail. Assistant Chief did acknowledge that jail can't be the answer, as the best option would be to get the individuals the help they need. Assistant Chief finished by adding that policing this issue has its challenges, particularly dealing with the 1st Amendment, freedom of Speech laws, and, many times, the Church across the street feeding the homeless individuals. The Walgreens store adjacent to the property often doesn't want to press charges which compound the issue, so it isn't always an easy situation to deal with. Assistant Chief opened up the floor for questions from the audience.

Council Member Joyce Morgan: CM Morgan thanked Assistant Chief Alicea for his update and introduced Dr. Kelly Coker, the District 1 School Board Member, to give an update.

Dr. Kelly Coker: School Board Member Coker thanked CM Morgan for her introduction and gave an update on items going on with the Duval County School Board. School Board Member Coker addressed recently launched



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DCPS programs aimed at preparing students for the workforce and workforce development. Dr. Coker also announced that this year the School System is doing far better with transportation, including school busses to and from school, and talked about a new school bus software dealing with routing system technology. Dr. Coker talked about the new Fort Caroline Middle School Auditorium that is scheduled to break ground in the very new future (the project suffered setbacks due to the rising costs of materials due to inflation). Finally, Dr. Coker finished addressing items, including mowing issues and the replacement of items at area schools that needed to be refreshed, including flags that needed to be replaced, and the success of the Early College Program at Terry Parker High School.

Council Member Joyce Morgan: CM Morgan thanked Dr. Coker for her update and introduced Public Works Director John Pappas to give an update from the Public Works Department.

Public Works Director John Pappas: Director Pappas thanked CM Morgan for her introduction and gave an update on items regarding the City of Jacksonville Public Works Department. Director Pappas discussed projects, including an outfall ditch that was improved at Simca Drive West, noting that, as a City, Jacksonville has at least 200 miles of significant outfalls that service ditches and drains throughout the City. Director Pappas also stated that the City of Jacksonville now looks at all City outfalls at least once each year which helps tremendously. Finally, the last major item addressed by Director Pappas dealt with the issue of soil erosion in the Alderman Park neighborhood. Following the Alderman Park issue, Director Pappas finished by answering and addressing questions and concerns from neighbors dealing with the City of Jacksonville Public Works Department.

Council Member Joyce Morgan: CM Morgan thanked Director Pappas for his update and invited Trish Kapustka and Janice Curry to talk about the upcoming Celebrate Arlington Week.

Trish Kapustka and Janice Curry – Ms. Kapustka and Ms. Curry thanked CM Morgan for giving them time to talk about the upcoming Celebrate Arlington Week of planned events. Ms. Kapustka and Ms. Curry stated that Celebrate Arlington week is scheduled for September 24 through October 2 and would consist of events including a 5K run, arts market, boat ride, JSO community walk, and a boat tour. Ms. Kapustka and Ms. Curry encouraged everyone to sign up and answer any questions from the group.

Council Member Joyce Morgan: Council Member Morgan thanked Ms. Kapustka and Ms. Curry for updating the community members with Celebrate Arlington and the week of planned events. Council Morgan finished addressing comment cards from neighbors in attendance regarding items in District one that were not addressed previously. Council Member Morgan concluded her town hall meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance and reminded everyone that her next Town Hall Meeting would be scheduled for 6:00 PM Monday, September 26, 2022, at the University Park Library.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:56 PM

Minutes: Completed by Chester A. Aikens II, ECA District 1, Completed on November 8, 2022.



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The written minutes for this meeting are only an overview of what was discussed. For verbatim comments for this meeting, please listen to the audio CD.

The following items have been submitted for public record. Please get in touch with legislative services for these items:

1. Meeting Minutes
2. Meeting Agenda
3. Meeting Notice
4. Sign In Sheets

cc: Council Members and Staff

Margaret "Peggy" Sidman, Director/Council Secretary

Marriage Lahmeur, Chief, Legislative Services

Yvonne Mitchell, Chief, Administrative Services Division

Jeff Clements, Chief, Research Division

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