



OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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March 3, 2023

5:00 PM.

Noticed Meeting Minutes

20230123 Minutes CM Joyce Morgan's January Town Hall Meeting

Monday, January 23, 2023, 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 pertaining to City Council District 1.

Location: Blue Cypress Park, 4012 University Blvd. North Jacksonville, FL 32277

Attendance: Council Member Joyce Morgan (District 1), Love Branagan (United Congregations for Communities and Youth Junior Leader), Warren Hillson (United Congregations for Communities and Youth, Condor Soccer Player), Bill Joyce, Assistant VP, Construction & Capital Programs, Daryl Joseph, City of Jacksonville, Director of Parks Recreation and Community Services) Steve Long (City of Jacksonville, Director of Public Works), Chester Aikens II (City of Jacksonville, ECA District 1), Matt Tuohy (Arlington CRA, Chair) and Members of the District 1 Community

Council Member Joyce Morgan: CM Morgan opened her January Town Hall Meeting at Blue Cypress Park clubhouse by welcoming everyone. She wished everyone a very happy new year and stated how special Blue Cypress Park is to her. Following her opening she introduced Love Branagan, a student at UCCY, to give the opening invocation.

Council Member Joyce Morgan: CM Morgan next introduced Warren Hillson, a UCCY student, and UCCY soccer player, to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.



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Warren Hilson: Warren Hilson led the town hall in the Pledge of Allegiance. Following the pledge, Council Member Morgan introduced Dr. Regina Young, the founder of UCCY (United Congregations for Communities and Youth), welcomed the group to her facility, and gave background information on her program.

Council Member Joyce Morgan: CM Morgan introduced Mr. Bill Joyce, the Assistant VP of Construction & Capital Programs at the JTA. Mr. Joyce is on the program to update the group on the progress of the "Complete Streets" project on the Merrill Road and University Blvd. corridors.

Bill Joyce: Mr. Joyce thanked Council Member Morgan for her introduction and discussed the "JTA's Complete Streets" project focusing on stretches from Merrill Rd to Townsend Blvd. and on University Blvd. from Arlington Expressway to the Merrill Road Round-A-Bout. Mr. Joyce stated that both these initiatives would focus on improving the corridor, making sidewalks more walkable and bicycle lanes safer and more pedestrian friendly. Mr. Joyce noted that the project's scope includes University Blvd. from the Arlington Expressway to Arlington Road and hopes to expand, joining a section from Arlington Road to the Merrill Road Round-A-Bout. Mr. Joyce also noted that the JTA planned to host a forum in March to get input from Arlington neighbors and residents on what they would like to see in the project's scope. Following his presentation, Mr. Joyce took questions from the member of the community about the upcoming projects.

Council Member Joyce Morgan: CM Morgan thanked Mr. Joyce for his update and suggested to Mr. Joyce that she had plenty of venues in her District for a possible community meeting. Council Member Morgan next introduced Public Works Director Steve Long to give a Public Works update and follow up on some of the topics Mr. Joyce addressed.



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Public Works Director Steve Long: Director Long thanked Council Member Morgan for the introduction and immediately addressed the City of Jacksonville project at Lone Star Road and Mill Creek Road. Director Long stated that the project would be done in phases. The first stage would take place at Trednick Parkway at the Southside Connector. The City is now acquiring the property up to the roundabout in the middle of the proposed connection, so the City will ultimately be able to connect the two roads making sure they are up to the City of Jacksonville standards. Director Long stated that although the City identifies the project as phase 1 and phase 2, it is just one project. Director Long went over the procurement process and indicated that he hopes to have the project under construction by the end of this calendar year.

Director Long next updated the group about items, including Fire Station 65, currently under construction at the end of Arlington Road, just south of Atlantic Blvd. Mr. Long stated that construction is now 98% complete and should be opening in the next 30 to 60 days. Director Long said the Woolery Road drainage improvements would begin work at the end of March to provide much-needed stormwater drainage improvements. Next, Director Long talked about the Arlington Road Bridge at Strawberry Creek and provided an update on the issues with the structure and plans the City of Jacksonville is taking to improve the problems. Director Long detailed both short-term and long-term issues and noted that he anticipated work beginning in the next 60 days. Finally, the Director discussed one final Arlington drainage project to improve the stormwater flow at Macy Avenue behind Arlington Elementary.

Finally, Director Long touched on a couple of projects his department (Public Works) is working with the Parks Department on, including constructing a new pool here at Blue Cypress Park. Mr. Long stated that the project would go through the procurement process shortly, and the Exchange Island project is underneath the Matthews Bridge. Director Long also said that University Blvd. and Fort Caroline Roads would be resurfaced later this year. After his updates, Director Long opened the floor to take questions from the audience.

Council Member Joyce Morgan: Council Member Morgan thanked Director Long and introduced Director Daryl Joseph to give an update on Parks.



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Director Daryl Joseph: Director Joseph thanked Council Member Morgan for the introduction and gave a brief overview of projects planned for our District 1 parks. Director Joseph presented a 3-page handout that he provided for everyone in attendance. Director Joseph first announced the sites for the upcoming summer camps later this year and mentioned that the City is hiring lifeguards paying 14 dollars an hour. Director Joseph next talked about the planned outdoor movie nights at parks for spring, outdoor yoga, World of Nations, and the River Jams series of concerts. Finally, Mr. Joseph announced that the Jacksonville Jazz Festival is scheduled for May 25 -28.

Director Joseph next talked about ongoing Parks projects, including that Norman Studios off Arlington Road is wrapping up its renovations. Director Joseph stated that the building we are in now, the Blue Cypress Clubhouse, will have some upgrades shortly to help improve the curb appeal of the building. Mr. Joseph next talked about the Blue Cypress pool project that will be put out to bid soon to go along with the recent additions of pickleball courts and artificial turf fields. Directly Joseph addressed the potential land swap agreement with the State of Florida for a possible rowing center along the banks of the Arlington River. Director Joseph also highlighted the playground improvements planned at Justina Road Park. Finally, he talked about the planned legislation to allow for a partnership between Lutheran Services and the City of Jacksonville to build a public building to potentially house in a "Head Start" program for little or no-cost childcare for families in the area. Director Joseph concluded by opening the floor for questions from the audience.

Council Member Joyce Morgan: CM Morgan thanked Director Joseph for this update and gave a few additional comments to follow up on the presentations from our presenters, including the Blue Cypress Pool, the Be The Lite Center, and the College Park Development (Former Town and Country Shopping Center). Council Member Morgan invited Arlington CRA Chair Matt Tuohy to speak to give an update on the Arlington CRA.

Matt Tuohy: Chair Tuohy gave the group an update on the Arlington CRA and the plans for the Arlington CRA corridor.



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Council Member Morgan: CM Morgan finished by taking a few more questions from the audience and following the questions that included topics regarding the Gazebo Shopping Center and the Regency Square Mall, which have become even more blighted. Following a few more comments from the neighborhood members in attendance, Council Member Morgan thanked everyone for attending this evening's meeting and notified the group that the next meeting would occur at Parkwood Baptist Church off Lone Star Road.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:28 PM

Minutes: Minutes Completed by Chester A. Aikens II, ECA District 1, Completed on March 3, 2023

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 contact legislative services for these items:

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

cc: Council Members and Staff

Margaret "Peggy" Sidman, Director/Council Secretary

Merriane Lahmeur, Chief Legislative Services

Yvonne Mitchell, Chief, Administrative Services Division

Jeff Clements, Chief, Research Division

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