



OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

JOYCE MORGAN
COUNCIL MEMBER DISTRICT 1
OFFICE (904) 255-5201
FAX (904) 255-5230

SUITE 425, CITY HALL
117 WEST DUVAL STREET
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202
E-MAIL: JOYCEMORGAN@COJ.NET

April 5, 2023

5:00 PM

Noticed Meeting Minutes

20230227 Minutes CM Joyce Morgan's February Town Hall Meeting

Monday, February 27, 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: Parkwood Baptist Church 7900 Lone Star Road Jacksonville, Florida 32211

Attendance: Council Member Joyce Morgan (District 1), School Board Member Kelly Coker (District 1), Deacon Tom Tolbert, Parkwood Baptist Church, Robert Hund, CPA(Director of Finance Lutheran Service Florida/Duval Region Head Start Early Start) Steve Long (Director of Public Works City of Jacksonville) Chester Aikens II,(ECA City Council District 1) Daryl Joseph (Parks Director, City of Jacksonville) Thomas Register (Acting Chief of Code Enforcement) Members and constituents of City Council District 1.

Council Member Joyce Morgan: CM Morgan opened her February Town Hall Meeting at Parkwood Baptist Church by welcoming everyone. Council Member Morgan next introduced Deacon Tom Tolbert, who gave an opening welcome to Parkwood Baptist Church and gave the invocation.



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Deacon Tom Tolbert: Deacon Tolbert thanked CM Morgan for her introduction and welcomed everyone in attendance to Parkwood Baptist Church. Deacon Tolbert next opened the meeting up by giving the invocation.

Council Member Joyce Morgan: CM Morgan thanked Deacon Tolbert for his invocation and led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. CM Morgan next gave background on the proposed Head Start Center at Victory Park, the first topic for this evening. CM Morgan introduced Parks Daryl Joseph and Robert Hund from Lutheran Services Florida to give information about the proposed project.

Director Daryl Joseph: Daryl Joseph introduced himself to the assembled group and immediately began to discuss the proposed project. Director Joseph gave an overview of the project, noting that the facility will serve approximately 130 youth directly from the community. The construction should cost around 3 million plus the additional dollars coming from the City in the form of grants or money that Head Start will put up themselves. Director Joseph next opened the floor for questions from the audience. Some of the questions dealt with the age of the children that will be serviced (6 months to 5 years of age), where the parking will be located (back side of the property, and many of the students will not need parking because they simply will walk to the facility. Finally, there was a question as to why the City of Jacksonville would want to give up City Park land for a Head Start facility. Director Joseph said there was a need for the project, and the proposed facility would be a public City building, and the selected space was an area that wasn't being utilized at the current park.

Robert Hund, CPA: (Director of Finance at Lutheran Services Florida/Duval Region Head Start) Director Hund gave additional background on the proposed project and answered more questions for the group assembled. During the question-and-answer portion of his presentation, Mr. Hund listed where Head Start currently has centers and noted the organizations and vendors they currently partner with. Mr. Hund also talked about how this center will be a jewel for the area, and it is more feasible for Head Start to build from the ground up instead of renovating a space. Mr. Hund finally talked about how Head Start is funded in partnership of the Federal Government with the City of Jacksonville, where the Federal Government matches 4 dollars for every 1 dollar.



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Council Member Joyce Morgan: Council Member Morgan thanked Mr. Hund and Director Joseph for their update on the proposed center and stated that she thinks this situation is a win-win for the community when we could serve children and families. She went on to say that we have 25 parks in District 1. She also noted that this would not be the only agreement in our City, as several agreements like this currently exist. Council Member next introduced the Acting Code Enforcement Thomas Register.

Thomas Register: Mr. Register thanked Council Member Morgan for her introduction and introduced himself to the group. Mr. Register went over what exactly his office does. For example, ensuring that buildings and structures are up to code and addressing nuisance properties and blight. Mr. Register went on to talk about the planned demolition of the former BeTheLite Center. Mr. Register next went on to take questions from the audience about issues regarding City Code Enforcement. Mr. Register finished by taking questions about neighborhood code sweeps and illegal parking in residential Arlington neighborhoods and addressed restricted animals.

Council Member Joyce Morgan: Council Member Morgan thanked Acting Chief Register for his comments and went on to introduce Public Works Director Steve Long for his District 1 Public Works report.

Public Works Steve Long: Public Works Director Long thanked CM Morgan for her introduction and gave an overview of the scope of Public Works. Director Long stated that the department is divided into seven divisions (Public Buildings, Right of Way and Storm Water Maintenance, Solid Waste, Mowing and Landscaping, Traffic Engineering, Engineering Division, and Real Estate Division). Director Long gave an update on various projects the Public Works Department is working on in District 1. Public Works Director finished by taking questions from the group, including the issue at Strawberry Creek and Arlington Road, Worley Drive Outfall, and traffic signals that possibly need to be addressed.

Council Member Joyce Morgan: CM Morgan thanked Mr. Public Works Director Long for his updated and finished but introduced School Board Member Kelly Coker to give a DCPS update.



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School Board Member Kelly Coker: SB Member Coker thanked Council Member Morgan for her introduction and immediately addressed that School Choice applications are due tomorrow. SB Member Coker also addressed programming currently occurring in Arlington area schools.

Council Member Joyce Morgan: CM Morgan gave brief remarks on projects, including the WAWA, College Park, and Regency Square Mall. Following her comments, CM Morgan announced to the group that there would be a City Council Meeting tomorrow and that our next Town Hall Meeting would occur at the Regency Square Branch Library on March 27, 2023, and adjourned the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:48 PM

Minutes: Minutes Completed by Chester A. Aikens II, ECA District 1, Completed on April 5, 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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