



OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

RANDY DEFOOR
COUNCIL MEMBER, DISTRICT 14
PHONE (904) 255-5214
FAX (904) 255-5230
EMAIL: RDEFOOR@COJ.NET

117 WEST DUVAL STREET, SUITE
425
4TH FLOOR, CITY HALL
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202

Council Member Randy DeFoor and Council Member Matt Carlucci Re Riverside Pump Station March 28, 2020 at 3:00 pm Minutes

Location: Lynwood Roberts Room, City Hall 117 W. Duval Street

Attendance: Council Member Matt Carlucci, Council Member Randy DeFoor, Director of Public Works, Steve Long, Chief of Engineering Robin Smith, Auditor Phillip Peterson, Attorney Carla Lopera, Executive Director of Riverside Avondale Preservation, Shannon Blankenship, Kellen Lindsay, Scott Ennis, Andrew Bilello, Jim Schwartz, Erik Olsen, Irvin Weinstein, Joe Porter, Lori Joyce, Trisha Meili, Executive Council Assistant Brooks Dame

Meeting Convened: 3:10 p.m.

Council Member Carlucci and Council Member DeFoor welcomed the public. The attendees for the meeting introduced themselves. Council Member DeFoor walked everyone through the work that has been completed and is ongoing for the State Road 211 (Riverside Ave) and Stockton Ave intersection. She referred to the handout *20230308 Handout 2 – Timeline Noticed Meeting CM DeFoor and CM Carlucci RE Riverside Pump Station*. She concluded that former Director of Public Works, John Pappas, was instrumental in helping her get a Riverside Avenue Drainage Study in the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) schedule. The project is in Beyond 5 Years in the CIP. Council Member DeFoor noted that this study is expected to cost \$250k but will lead to a multi-million-dollar solution; the solution will be complicated and likely involve purchasing property in Riverside Avondale, which is at a premium.

Council Member Carlucci reflected on his prior term as a Council Member under Mayor John Delaney. He recalled the process San Marco went through to get their Pump Stations. He noted the biggest challenge at the time was land to put the pump. The most recent real estate purchase for the LaSalle pump, which inspired Mr. Wayne Weaver to call Council Member Carlucci, was purchased for \$900,000. One went into Landon Park and the other on Children's Way, and the property was given by the Hospital to the project. He praised those years as bountiful years for infrastructure projects. Council Member Carlucci share San Marco's geography was like Riverside along St. Johns bulkhead. Council Member DeFoor confirmed Stockton Ave was a hill. The nearby streets, Copeland, Goodwin, and Osceola, were also in need of assistance. She noted that one of the San Marco pump project started under Former Council Member Lori Boyer, in the early 2000s. Council Member DeFoor complimented Council Member Carlucci and compared their business philosophy "See a problem and fix it" was often hindered because government moves slowly.

The Council Member's agreed investing in drainage infrastructure led to cost savings for the entire community. Council Member Carlucci and Council Member DeFoor spoke to Auditor Phillip Peterson regarding to inquire the feasibility of moving this project up in the CIP Schedule. Mr. Peterson confirmed the project could be moved up with legislation. They discussed the project funding titled Resiliency Infrastructure Improvements. Council Member Carlucci asked Attorney Carla Lopera to prepare legislation to move this project up. Council Member DeFoor confirmed that Director Pappas had represented it would be sooner.

Director Steve Long commented on the differences between the locations for these pump stations. Riverside Ave was a State Road while all of the San Marco roads are under the City. He noted the drainage under the side streets- Copeland, Goodwin- are all separate from Riverside Ave/SR 211. The State road has a trench drain which can easily become blocked. He reported the City has a Chief Resilience Officer (CRO) who is working on a Resiliency Plan for Jacksonville. If the pump station is the solution, he would like it to be regional, improve the system and the entire drainage area- all the way back to King through Copeland. It would be 280 acres. The San Marco pump station served less than 100 acers. Neighbors asked Director Long to clarify the State's responsibility. Director Long confirmed the State maintained their road and their drainage. The City maintains the north to south drainage, but if the water ran into the City drainage then the City accommodates it.

Council Member Carlucci asked if it was unreasonable to move the study up to next year, in coordination with the CRO? Director Long confirmed any study would be in coordination with the CRO. Council Member Carlucci

Mr. Erik Olsen voiced his support for small application solutions instead of a mega application. Director Long received the feedback and noted the study would lead to solutions. Director Long confirmed Chief Smith would head up the projects recommended by the detailed study. He noted many locations in town faced difficulties with rainfall and flooding. Meeting attendees noted other locations, including Heckscher Drive.

Council Member DeFoor noted there were many federal opportunities available. Mr. Olsen agreed and noted many of them need matching or a study to prove need. Director Long agreed the study was vital for applying for grants. He confirmed the CRO was applying for grants for these projects as well as the administration.

Council Member DeFoor agreed to reach out to the administration to discuss their support of moving the project up.

Mr. Jim Schwarz expressed his thanks for this meeting and the commitment to a long-term solution. He noted Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) was working on a re-surfacing project that did not include drainage. He expressed his frustration with the lack of drainage in their project. Director Long shared he believed one solution for the State Road was profiling. Currently, storm water stages up and it takes a significant amount for it to be conveyed through to the inlets in the intersections. The road is older, and profiling was, likely, not considered in its original design. Director Long recommended neighbors speak with the FDOT Manager Jim Knight. He noted if the study recommendations crossed or involved the State, his office would coordinate with them.

Attendees discussed tidal flex valves and their efficiency. Director Long committed to checking on the installation of the valves to see the level of head loss in the pipes- and exploring propping them open to see if that made a difference for Sunny Day Flooding. He noted Riverside Avenue was within the areas of land that is below elevation, a low spot, about 1.8 , which is underneath our high tide levels, more than the usual four or five, six times a year, but bunches of times a year. Mr. Olsen thanked Director Long, noting that he thought the valves were not designed for the conditions present on Riverside Ave. He committed to checking the bulkhead for a hole.

Ms. Lori Joyce shared the neighborhood perspective. She shared the flooded roadways were a danger due to the hospital, doctors' offices, St. Catherines, and homes just feet away. Neighbors witness cars stalling out every rainstorm, the water rises quickly up to waist level and JSO closes the roads. Director Long promised Ms. Joyce that Chief Smith would put this as his top priority to get the project done, findings presented, and get solutions from study to design to permit, to construction.

Council Member DeFoor thanked Director Long, Chief Smith, Council Member Carlucci and neighbors. She noted that the neighborhood had a new State Rep, Representative Angie Nixon.

Ms. Shannon Blankenship committed RAP would circle back with FDOT to ensure the drainage need was incorporated in their new plans. She echoed Ms. Joyce on the importance of this project for safety and also for the historic homes all around this street.

Chief Robin Smith confirmed his contact information was the best way to submit concerns and to answer questions on this topic. He provided his email.

Council Member DeFoor thanked the attendees and her colleague, Council Member Carlucci.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:10 PM

Minutes prepared by Brooks Dame, Executive Council Assistant to Council Member Randy DeFoor. The following items were submitted for public record and can be accessed by contacting the Legislative Services:

- 20230328 Agenda Noticed Meeting CM DeFoor and CM Carlucci RE Riverside Pump Station
- 20230328 Amended Noticed Meeting CM DeFoor and CM Carlucci RE Riverside Pump Station
- 20230328 Sign In Sheet Noticed Meeting CM DeFoor and CM Carlucci RE Riverside Pump Station
- 20230328 Handout 1 - CIP Schedule Noticed Meeting CM DeFoor and CM Carlucci RE Riverside Pump Station
- 20230308 Handout 2 – Timeline Noticed Meeting CM DeFoor and CM Carlucci RE Riverside Pump Station

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
Teresa Eichner, Chief, Public Information
CITYC@COJ.NET
Electronic Notice Kiosk – 1st Floor City Hall
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