



OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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June 1, 2023

5:00 PM

Noticed Meeting Minutes

20230424 Minutes CM Joyce Morgan's April Town Hall Meeting

Monday, April 24, 2023, 6:00 PM.

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

Location: Mount Zion United Methodist Church – 1238 Ballard Ridge Road Jacksonville, Florida 32211.

Attendance: Council Member Joyce Morgan (District 1), Rev. Jacqueline Dowdy (Senior Pastor Mt. Zion UMC), Parks Director Daryl Joseph (City of Jacksonville), Steve Long (Director of Public Works City of Jacksonville) Ken Amaro (Council Member Elect, District 1) Chester Aikens II,(ECA City Council District 1) Members and constituents of City Council District 1.

Council Member Joyce Morgan: Council Member Morgan opened her March Town Hall Meeting at Mount Zion United Methodist Church by welcoming everyone. Council Member Morgan next talked about how honored she is to have her meeting at this historic church. CM Morgan next introduced the church's Senior Pastor, Rev. Jacqueline Dowdy, to give the welcome and opening invocation.

Rev. Jacqueline Dowdy: Rev. Dowdy, Senior Pastor of Mount Zion United Methodist Church, opened the meeting by giving the members in attendance a welcome to her church and proceeded to give the opening invocation.

Council Member Joyce Morgan: Following the invocation, Council Member Joyce Morgan led the assembled group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Following the Pledge, Council Member Morgan noted that District 1 has 25 parks and over 400 parks in the City. Next, Council Member Morgan introduced Parks Director Daryl Joseph to give a Parks Department update and present information on upcoming summer programming for the children who will be out of school for the summer.



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Director Daryl Joseph: Parks Director Daryl Joseph thanked Council Member Morgan and noted that the City has over 405 parks throughout the City. Our department has beaches, courts, parks, and trails. There literally is something for everyone. Director Joseph next mentioned that the City has recently partnered with the YMCA to provide free Zumba and Yoga at Riverfront Park. He also noted that every Thursday during the month of April, the City has sponsored the River Jams free concert series that will focus on a different genre of music each week. The Jazz Festival will also be hosted downtown at Riverfront Plaza on May 26 through May 28, 2023. Director Joseph next spoke about the planned renovations and improvements at six different Senior Centers around the City. Director Joseph next described how the COJ Summer Camps would be arranged this summer, each with either a focus on technology, nature, or sports. The summer programming will begin on June 20. In addition, there also will be opportunities for youth to participate in lifeguarding opportunities over the summer as well. Director Joseph finished his remarks by reviewing the various park projects and improvements planned for Council District 1, including Norman Studios and the new pool, basketball court, and synthetic fields at Blue Cypress Park. Following his updates Director Joseph took questions from the audience regarding tennis courts at Victory Park, bathrooms at Blue Cypress Golf Course, indoor pickleball at the Cuba Hunter Center, and the parks masterplan survey.

Council Member Joyce Morgan: Council Member Morgan thanked Director Joseph for his updates and gave him accolades for his hard work over the years. Council Member Morgan next detailed how tax dollars are allocated and how the council works with Director Joseph via the Special Committee on Parks. Council Member Morgan next introduced Steve Long from the Public Works Department.

Public Works Director Steve Long: Director Long thanked Director Joseph for all his work and talked about how his family regularly uses the park system, especially now that the weather is nice. Director Long updated the group on District 1 projects, including Woolery Drive Outfall, the Lone Star Road extension, and the Mill Creek Road improvements, which is currently under design. Finally, Director Long talked about the collaboration between his department and the Parks Department, collaborations including the Blue Cypress Pool, where the design and bid process had been completed but needed to go out again for the procurement process. Finally, Director Long gave an update on the Arlington Road bridge issue and repairs scheduled for Strawberry Creek between Arlington Expressway and Atlantic Blvd. Finally, Director Long opened the floor and took questions from the crowd about the Strawberry Creek Bridge replacement project on Arlington Road, semi-truck parking in residential neighborhoods, and a resurfacing project on Merrill Road.

Council Member Joyce Morgan: Council Member Morgan thanked Director Long for his remarks and talked a little about a traffic calming issue at Blue Cypress Park near Edenfield Road interchange that



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will be assessed next month in May and will take approximately two years for a traffic mast or signal to be placed if deemed necessary.

Public Works Director Steve Long: Director Long followed up on Council Member Morgan's comments about installing a mast arm and noted why it takes so long to install in an area.

Council Member Joyce Morgan: Council Member Morgan thanked Director Long again for his comments and invited Director Joseph up one last time to talk about COVID relief assistance funding that has been made available for families in need. Council Member Morgan next introduced Council Member-Elect Ken Amaro to speak to the District 1 neighbors and stated the fun fact that his daughter was once her babysitter.

Council Member Elect Ken Amaro: Council Member Elect Amaro acknowledged Council Member Morgan for her eight years of service and acknowledged everyone in attendance for attending and ensuring their voices were heard. Council Member-Elect Amaro assured the assembled group that they would still continue to have community town hall meetings during his term. Council Member Elect Amaro finished by stating that he's looking forward to serving this community that he has lived in for the past 40 years.

Council Member Joyce Morgan: Council Member Morgan thanked Council Member Elect Amaro for his comments and took a question from the audience regarding a building, the "Old Arlington Savings and Loan Building," at University Blvd., a mid-century modern building scheduled to be demolished.

Steve Matchett: Steve Matchett commented on the Old Arlington Savings and Loan Building scheduled to be demolished, gave details about its importance, and talked a little about Old Arlington Inc.

Council Member Joyce Morgan: Morgan thanked Mr. Matchett for everything he has done and will continue to do for the community. Council Member Morgan next took a few additional questions from the audience regarding Regency Mall. Council Member Morgan thanked everyone again for attending this evening's meeting and noted that the next and final meeting for May would be at River City Baptist Church off Merrill Road and wished everyone a good evening.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:24 PM

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



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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 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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