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OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

117 West Duval Street
City Hall, Suite 425
Jacksonville, FL 32202

TDD: (904) 255-5200

Meeting Date: February 12th, 2025

Topic: Meridian Waste and Related Matters

Location: 117 West Duval Street, Council Chambers

In attendance: Council President Ron Salem, Council President Randy White, Council Vice President Kevin Carrico, Council Member Nick Howland, Council Member Joe Carlucci, Council Member Rahman Johnson, Council Member Micheal Boylan, Kim Taylor and Phillip Peterson (Council Auditor's Office), Micheal Fackler and Mary Staffopoulos (Office of General Counsel)

For a complete list of attendees, please refer to the sign-in sheet.

Meeting Convened: 2:00 PM

City Council Member Ron Salem called the meeting to order and asked the attendees to introduce themselves for the record. CM Salem highlighted a list of 41 items for the Council Auditors to address and mentioned a resolution of no confidence on Mr. Fackler, deferred to March.

CM Salem asked Mr. Fackler to confirm whether he was aware of the separation of powers issue prior to December 10th, 2024, when a vote took place regarding the same. CM Salem explained his perspective: the city council voted on an issue when, if they had known that that issue had been raised by the Administration, there may have been a movement to defer it until further information was given. CM Salem stressed that this could set the City up for an avoidable lawsuit.

Micheal Fackler discussed the separation of powers issue, noting internal discussions since October and the decision not to raise concerns before the December 10 vote. Concerns were raised about the City Council's representation and the potential for legal challenges. The discussion included the mayor's line-item veto power, the impact on the budget process, and the need for clear legal guidance to avoid future conflicts.

CM Rory Diamond asked Mr. Fackler if there was anything in the budget that he could argue the Mayor could ignore an appropriation. Mr. Fackler said the question raised is an empowerment issue, and that is similarly not quite 100% straightforward. There is an impoundment prohibition that prevents an executive branch from disregarding the will of the legislative body and their directives in apportioning money for specific purposes. CM Diamond asked Mr. Fackler if the Mayor has the power to impound any line item in a typical Jacksonville budget. Mr. Fackler said that his team has not looked closely into this issue.

The meeting discussed the appeals process for a Fourth Circuit court decision, with potential appeals to the Fifth DCA and Supreme Court. The mayor's office decides on appeals, viewing it as an executive function. The conversation also covered the roles of attorneys, with all serving the consolidated government, and the need for better communication and objectivity in legal support for the City Council. Concerns were raised about the current system's fairness and the need for a more balanced approach. Suggestions included a mediation process



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and appointing deputy General Counsels to represent different sides of issues. The meeting concluded with a call for improved collaboration and transparency.

With no further discussion, CM Salem adjourned the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:45 PM

Minutes: Nikki Evans – completed on February 19th, 2025

Attached: Sign-in Sheet

cc: Council Members/Staff
Merriane Lahmeur, Chief, Legislative Services Division
Jeff Clements, Chief of Research
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