



OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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COUNCILMAN HOWLAND MEETING RE: 2025-2026 COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

Minutes

March 11, 2025
3:00 p.m.

Location: Henry Cook Room

In attendance: Council Members Howland, Arias, Peluso, Miller, Salem, Lahnen, Gay, Carrico, J. Carlucci, Pittman, Freeman, Amaro, White, Gaffney, Jr., and Johnson

Meeting Convened: 3:00 p.m.

CVP Howland stated he called the meeting to announce his candidacy for City Council Vice President. He said that in his three years on Council, he has always prioritized public safety, job creation, infrastructure, and fiscal responsibility. He stated that he has served as Chair of Rules and Finance and of the Jacksonville Waterways Commission, and as liaison to JSO, the Police Fire Pension Fund, and the Jacksonville Housing Finance Authority. He stated that he was proud to work collaboratively with his colleagues to pass legislation.

Outside his role as Council Member, he stated that he is devoted to veterans and runs Fire Watch to combat veteran suicide, in partnership with the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs. He said that, if elected, he planned to work closely with the Council President. He stated that he wants to ensure each Council Member's voice is heard. As Chair of Rules and Finance, he stated that he will not take a vote or adjourn a meeting until all members have spoken. He said he will always defend the City's legislative branch, as it is closest to the people.

CM White stated he would support CM Howland's candidacy. CM Salem said he would sign the pledge to support CM Howland's candidacy. He recounted the beginning of his term as Council President and noted that the Council included more first-term Council Members. He said he approached CM Howland about serving as Finance Chair, noted his enthusiasm and commitment to the role, and expected him to be a fantastic Vice President.

CM Lahnen stated he would support CM Howland. He added that CM Howland had been a great Finance Chair and possessed the leadership qualities necessary. CM Carrico expressed his support for CM Howland, recounted his leadership as Finance Chair, and applauded his work combating veteran suicide.

CM J. Carlucci applauded CM Howland's communication skills and his defense of the legislative branch. He said he was happy to pledge his support. CM Freeman pledged his support for CM Howland and recounted the support he received during his own campaign. CM Peluso said that CM Howland ran meetings smoothly, allowed all members to speak, and that he would be a phenomenal Vice President. CM Peluso expressed his hope that VP Howland would defend the Council against the state legislature and federal encroachment, as he would with the other municipal branches. He said he would support his candidacy if he were committed to protecting the Council from those threats. CM Howland said he would consider each case on its merits and stated that it was vital to make government as close to the people as possible.

CM Arias noted that CM Howland was at the forefront of veterans' issues and applauded his work as Finance Chair. He added that CM Howland asked tough questions and pledged to support his candidacy. CM Miller stated that he would support CM Howland's bid for Vice President and that CM Howland is a great representative of the veteran community. He added that CM Howland would complement CM Carrico well. He said there will be tough fiscal decisions ahead and was confident that CM Howland's background would serve the Council well.

CM Gay expressed appreciation for CM Howland's guidance as Rules Chair and stated he has already signed the letter pledging support. CM Pittman noted that this is the first time she has seen such a consensus around a candidate for leadership. She recounted his support during the Kings Road tragedy and thanked him for consistently showing up. She indicated her support for his candidacy.

CM Gaffney, Jr., said CM Howland was kind and fair and noted that he had assisted during the first six months of his term. He said he intends to sign the pledge supporting his candidacy. CM Johnson stated it was an honor to support CM Howland. He applauded CM Howland and CM Carrico's ECAs and noted they were integral to the success of the Council Members. He recounted the legislation he and CM Howland sponsored to erect a marker honoring Johnnie Mae Chappell and stated it was one of the great honors of his life.

CM Amaro recounted CM Howland volunteering for his campaign and said CM Howland provided guidance and encouragement. He stated he would support CM Howland and thanked him for his support.

CM Howland stated that he was honored by the comments and impressed by the level of dedication and leadership among his colleagues. He thanked them all for their support and adjourned the meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 3:29 p.m.

Minutes: Brandon Russell, Council Research
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