

COUNCIL MINUTES
SPECIAL WORKSHOP MEETING

February 3, 2015

A special workshop meeting of the City Council of the City of Jacksonville was held Tuesday, February 3, 2015 beginning at 5:30 PM in Meeting Rooms A and B of Jacksonville City Hall. Present were: Mayor Sammy Phillips presiding; Mayor Pro-Tem Michael Lazzara and Council Members: Jerry Bittner, Randy Thomas, Bob Warden, and Angelia Washington. Council Member Jerome Willingham was unable to attend. Also present were: Richard Woodruff, City Manager; Ronald Massey, Deputy City Manager; Gayle Maides, Finance Director; Glenn Hargett, Assistant Manager for Communications and Community Affairs; Wally Hansen, Public Services Director; Mike Yaniero, Director of Public Safety; Susan Baptist, Director of Recreation Services; Michael Liquori, Director of Park Facilities; Carmen Miracle, City Clerk; and John Carter, City Attorney.

*A video recording of the Council Meeting is presently available for review on the City's website.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Sammy Phillips called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Lazzara, seconded by Councilman Thomas, and unanimously approved to adopt the agenda as presented.

800 MHz

Mike Yaniero, Director of Public Safety reported on the 800 MHz system project delay. Initially the program was to be fully implemented in October, 2014; now the completion target date was February 17, 2015. All five towers were operational and the County was currently operating under the system. The capacity the County could use was reduced because the City held most of the licenses and those licenses had not been transmitted to the new 800 MHz system. Part of the problem in completing the transition and making the system fully operational dealt with coverage and testing of the system. Once the system was fully implemented, there would be 95% coverage in all the major buildings within the County area.

Chief Yaniero said the City also worked on coordinating the project with Camp Lejeune who was upgrading their radio system. Jacksonville would be the first DOD community that was interoperable with Base first responders. A patch system was used before, but now communications would be improved with both Base Fire and Police.

Mayor Pro-Tem Lazzara asked if the trunking system was also 800 MHz. Chief Yaniero said that the Base operated on a different channel, but purchased multiple band radios; when operating with us, they would be talking on our 800 MHz system. Our system was still trunked, but with digital and not analog signals. The system was more robust because the frequencies were divided giving more capacity and redundancy. This system should be robust for the next 10 to 20 years.

Mayor Phillips asked for more clarification since before we had to work off of different frequencies instead of an open frequency. Chief Yaniero stated that talk groups were created and a bank of different channels included. This gave the opportunity to communicate on a main channel. Portable radios were installed in each of the guard stations on Base so they would hear the broadcast in real time instead of it going from dispatcher to dispatcher. This would help make things more seamless in providing safety to the community. He didn't feel there would be a problem of talk over.

Councilman Bittner asked if there was a limitation on the number of channels. Chief Yaniero said there was a limitation, but he didn't feel we would reach capacity in his lifetime. There was always the ability to expand the system.

Chief Yaniero was very pleased with the system because of the redundancy involved. There were two brains to the system that pulled the frequencies. One was located at the Center for Public Safety and the other was at the Emergency Operation Center (EOC). If one brain went down, the other would pick up without losing any communications. If one tower went down, the tower would redirect the signals. Each tower site had generators as well as commercial power. Motorola guaranteed that within the City we would have between 95-100% coverage with portable units. This was something that the City struggled with in the past in areas such as the hospitals, mall, and the jail.

Mayor Pro-Tem Lazzara asked if the State Patrol was still on the Viper system. Chief Yaniero stated that the highway patrol was part of our agreement, so we would be able to

communicate with them. Ron Massey, Deputy City Manager stated Viper was an 800 MHz system.

The only thing that had not been solidified was the connection with Jones and Lenoir Counties. Onslow County was working out the details. Part of the agreement with them would include cost sharing in the system.

Councilwoman Washington asked if there was any collaboration with Pender County. Chief Yaniero stated that Pender and New Hanover Counties recently upgraded their systems. Surf City which was partially in Onslow County and operated off the Pender County system would also be a part of our system for interoperability.

Mr. Woodruff clarified that the primary reason for pushing off the final inspection was because it was winter and we were waiting until the leaves were back on the trees to check for interference. He stated there were many times when people did not see the City and County working well together, but here was a great example of how working together and investing taxpayer dollars at a cost close to \$14 million was a benefit for all taxpayers and residents of Onslow County.

Mr. Massey stated that when the agreement was entered with the County to share in building the system, a joint City County ComBoard was developed with three members from the City and three members from the County to oversee the operation of the system. The City ran the old system, while the County only operated on it. It was important to jointly manage this new system because some of the functions the City wanted the system to perform were a little different than how the County operated.

Mayor Phillips asked who the members of the ComBoard were. Mr. Massey said it was made up of the Deputy County Manager, County Emergency Manager, County Director of Communications, the Deputy City Manager, Director of Public Safety, and the Deputy Fire Chief.

Councilman Bittner said Chief Yaniero mentioned how robust the system was and asked if the interference of foliage on the trees was a critical element in a test or related to contractual specifications. Chief Yaniero stated that Motorola guaranteed 95% coverage in the City and if they couldn't provide coverage, for example in the stairwells of the hospital, Motorola guaranteed they would come back and fix the building by putting a specific device in the stairwells. This also included the hospital on Base. Motorola already realized that the concrete

and metal involved in the jail created interference and devices were installed for communication. The locations of the towers were also proposed by Motorola for the 95% coverage.

Mr. Woodruff stated that Motorola's final payment wouldn't be released until we were sure the system worked which provided a financial incentive to finish the testing.

FY16 TASK ASSIGNMENTS

At the January 20, 2015 Budget Workshop, Council was asked to give their thought on tasks they may want Staff to accomplish. Several comments were made, but by looking at some of the items that came out of the Summit more tasks may come to mind. Mr. Woodruff asked Council for their thoughts on the 24 changes to the community recommended at the Summit.

1. Better shopping – Mr. Woodruff asked if Council wanted to do more in regard to Economic Development or to continue working with the Economic Development Council (EDC) as we presently did. Also was there anything that should be done in Permitting, Building, and Planning to have a better reputation as a developer friendly community.

Mayor Phillips asked what type of activities would be involved for additional economic development. Mr. Woodruff stated that as an example, rebuilding downtown instead of building new carried additional costs associated to converting a building. Staff could look at setting up a limited grant program for conversion of the building to meet code, so developers would consider downtown instead of going out on Western Blvd.

Mayor Phillips said he thought the EDC did a good job in our region, but we had to look at ourselves for developing downtown.

Mr. Woodruff stated that with Council's approval, staff would bring back ideas on how to incentivize people to locate downtown.

Mayor Phillips stated the City needed to actively pursue possibilities along the riverfront and at the old Onslow Inn Site. He asked Carmen Miracle, City Clerk to look back in the record and provide information on the Downtown Loan Program that happened around 2005-2006.

Mayor Pro-Tem Lazzara said that to tie into that, we needed to get back to the tasks the Downtown Group came up with in regard to infrastructure improvements like realignment of the road, streetscaping and power line improvements.

2. Cable Options - Even though the City was not in the cable business, Mr. Woodruff suggested that Council may want to consider installing dark conduits as the City reinvested in the water and sewer system. The conduit could be leased out to those in the cable business. The

main advantage would be to hold down damage to our water and sewer lines as cable companies were installing their lines. Staff would explore this and bring back more information.

3. City Wi-Fi - Councilman Bittner congratulated Chris Koltyk on the modification to the cell phone usage saving the City \$22,000 a year. Mr. Woodruff stated that an analysis was done on the City's cell phone usage and Mr. Koltyk was able to negotiate a contract with our provider on our minute usage. This was one of the 3 E's staff worked on every day.

4. Preserve History – Councilman Bittner stated that one of things Jacksonville suffered from was a written historical record. He suggested an annual report from the highlights of the City to create a chronological history of the significant events that occurred through the years.

Mayor Phillips stated he didn't think enough was made of the birthdate of the City. The City was founded in 1849, but we never make a big deal of it where a lot of other cities make it a part of their civic pride. Councilman Bittner said that he worked in a city that celebrated their centennial and a local bank commissioned a writer who researched their complete history and wrote a book about their 100 years. He thought this might be a good project for the Tourism Board.

5. Increase Tourism Opportunities – Mayor Pro-Tem Lazzara asked for Council's continued support of the Jacksonville Tourism Development Authority in their efforts to increase the heads on beds campaign and bring more activities and tourism opportunities through sports venues in our community. Mr. Woodruff stated he would have Susan Baptist, Director of Recreation Services work on sports programs she could identify that could help bring people in on a tourist basis.

Mayor Pro-Tem Lazzara stated there was tremendous new activity and they were continuing to grow with sporting events and runs.

6. Major City Events – Mr. Woodruff stated Council authorized three events – National Night Out, Winterfest, and the Jacksonville Jamboree. A significant effort was also spent on the Beirut Memorial and 9/11 events. Mr. Woodruff asked if Council wanted to be involved in any additional events.

Mayor Pro-Tem Lazzara asked if the City ever had a fourth of July celebration or was it always a County and Base event. Mr. Woodruff said he asked that same question when he arrived but found that National Night Out ended with the fireworks.

Mayor Phillips stated the City's major event was National Night Out and felt we should promote Winterfest more.

Councilman Warden asked if there would be any benefit in tying in Andrew Jackson's birthday with an event since the City was named after him.

Councilman Thomas stated that the Jacksonville Landing had only been used for one tournament so far, and it had good potential for additional events.

Mayor Pro-Tem Lazzara stated that the Sports Commission was working on bringing other fishing tournaments there.

7. Protect Names of Youth Offenders – Mayor Phillips stated that this was dictated by State General Statute and our police department did a great job, so he didn't see this as being a problem.

8. Expand Trails and Bike Routes – Mr. Woodruff stated there recently was a pre-bid conference on the Lejeune Greenway and Trail where seven vendors were present. Staff was also looking at expanding the Challenge Course to come down into the wooded area near the water tank at the Commons.

Councilman Warden stated he would like to see a trail from downtown to the Camp Geiger side of the City with possibly Riverwalk as a starting point going out along the bypass to the Beirut Memorial Grove or expanding the current trail back to the Commons area along the Parkway right-of-way.

9. Solicit Business to Support Urban Communities – already discussed.

10. More Leadership Engagement in Lower Income Communities – Councilman Warden stated staff was doing a good job in being involved with Onslow Community Ministries efforts in the New River area.

Mayor Phillips stated that neighborhood meetings had been done in the past and should be considered to get ideas and concerns.

Mr. Woodruff said the task should be changed to more leadership engagement throughout the community. We needed to be involved everywhere.

11. Encourage Business Expansion in other areas – already discussed.

12. Better Relations with the County – Mayor Phillips felt that what staff was doing now was working well. He felt relationships appeared to have improved quite a bit.

13. More Parking Downtown – already discussed.

14. Better Control of Housing Development – Except for zoning powers, there was little that could be done to tell the free market that they couldn't build houses.

15. Better Traffic Control – this was being realized with the new traffic signal controls.

16. Improved Infrastructure – the Capital Improvement Program worked on improvements for water and sewer.

17. Quicker Street Repairs - the City was doing the best it could on improving streets with available funding.

18. Increase Recreation YMCA YWCA – In regard to City recreation, Mr. Woodruff asked if there were any additional programs that should be looked into. Councilman Warden stated he would like staff to work on getting a splash pad somewhere in the City in FY16. It might work best at Jack Amyette as it was in the master plan.

Mr. Woodruff stated that an assessment of the Northeast Creek boardwalk would be provided to Council. It was toured last year, but money and time had not been available for repairs.

Councilman Warden asked if we advertised that citizens were allowed to fish off of the boardwalk at Sturgeon City. Mr. Woodruff stated he would check on that as he was not sure.

19. Lower taxes

20. Increased Industry and Manufacturing Jobs

21. Public Pool – Mr. Woodruff stated the City wasn't ready to invest in a public pool, but the splash pad and things of that nature needed to come first

22. City or Convention Center – already discussed.

23. Improve Older Developments – already discussed.

FY16 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Deanna Young, Capital Projects Administrator stated the draft Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) was available for Council's review. Using the PowerPoint presentation attached to the original minutes as Exhibit "A," she provided a short overview of the program. Out of all of the projects, only seven Public Services projects were new to the CIP. The CIP would be reviewed in more details within the next few weeks. Mr. Woodruff stated that the CIP would be adopted at the same time as the budget, and based upon comments tonight, the program would be updated to include one splash pad in the FY16 Budget.

WATERFRONT UPDATE – DENR

Using Exhibit “A,” John Carter, City Attorney updated Council on the waterfront land along Anne Street. The blue area on the map showed City owned property that had been leased to the Wildlife Commission for the boat landing and the green area showed County owned property. These two parcels were covered by a Federal LWCF Grant. On January 28, 2015 a meeting was held between the City and County Managers, City and County Attorneys, John Poole and Tim Johnson with the Recreation, Grants and Outreach Program of NCDENR and Mike Christenberry of CAMA to talk about a process called conversion which would lift a grant from one property to another. Federal regulations did not favor conversions, but the gentleman represented that they would work with us in this process. DENR would review the documents to make sure that they were “right,” but the documents had to be submitted to the Federal government for final approval. The real issue with these grants was that they placed a permanent restriction on that property stating it had to be used for recreational purposes in perpetuity.

Mr. Woodruff said that it was reported to Council earlier that land they already owned could not be used, but Senator Harry Brown intervened on behalf of the City and told DENR we needed to use some common sense in government. That was why they were now helping us figure out the maze so that we could use Jacksonville Landing as the conversion land. There may be hope that this land conversion could be used, but it was not guaranteed.

Mr. Carter reminded Council that this was a County-City project that we would be working on together. He further reviewed the conversion process and recommendations.

Council indicated that staff should proceed with the possible conversion.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Lazzara, seconded by Councilman Thomas, and unanimously adopted to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 PM.

Adopted by the Jacksonville City Council in regular session this 17th day of February, 2015.

Sammy Phillips, Mayor

ATTEST:

Carmen K. Miracle, City Clerk

Exhibit "A"

Jacksonville City Council



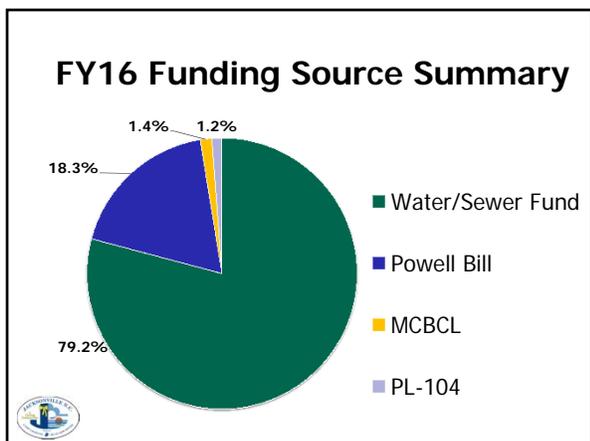
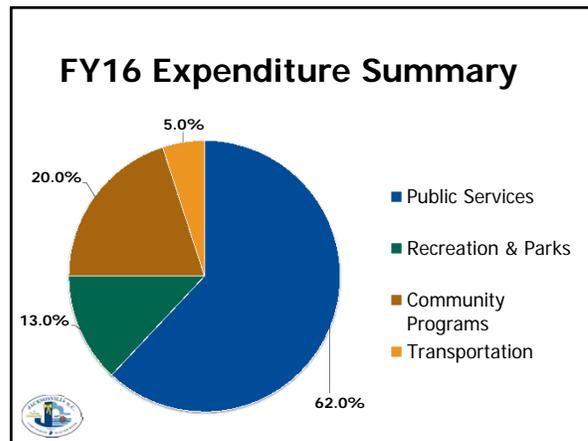
**Special Workshop Meeting
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**FY16
Capital Improvement Plan**

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

- **5 year** planning window
- Shows cost or expenditure **estimates**
- Identifies **probable** sources of financing
- **Evaluates, prioritizes and schedules projects**

FY16 Proposed Projects

Department	Number of Projects
Community Programs	1
Public Services	12
Recreation & Parks	3
Transportation	4





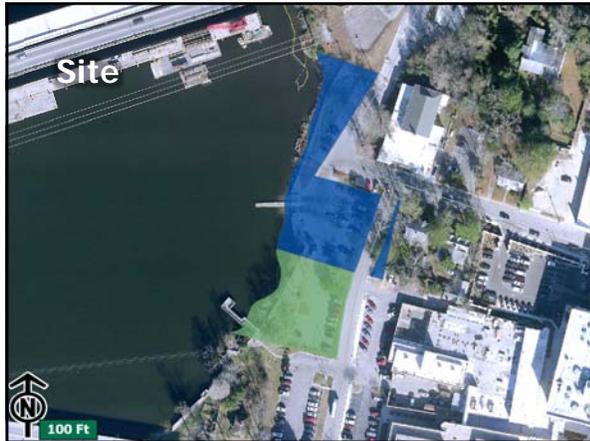
Waterfront Land Update

Location Downtown:

Anne Street waterfront district

Contains parcels owned by the County and the City

Formerly the Wildlife landing



History

Federal Land Water Conservation Grant

\$50,000 Awarded 1986

- Bulkhead
- Boardwalk
- Picnic shelter
- Benches



Requirement-LWCF Grant

Permanent Use as Recreation:

Grant conditions require that property be used for recreational purposes in perpetuity



Challenges

- Downtown Redevelopment
- Limited Waterfront Available
- NC Wildlife Commission closed ramp
- LWCF Grant Stipulations



Opportunity

Conversion Process

Must Demonstrate:

**Equal
Land
Value**

**Equal
Facilities**



Jacksonville Landing



Conversion Process

- Appraisals
- Environmental Assessment
- Surveying
- Process Application & Preparation of Documents
- Joint application (County & City)

Timeline: 6-14 Months



Recommendation

1. Coordinate the process with Onslow County
2. Assemble all current documents
3. Review & Conduct Appraisals
4. Conduct Environmental Assessment
5. Conduct Surveys
6. Updates to Council

