

COUNCIL MINUTES

SPECIAL JOINT MEETING WITH ADVISORY COMMITTEES

January 3, 2017

A special meeting of the City Council of the City of Jacksonville was held Tuesday, January 3, 2017 at 5:15 PM at the Jacksonville Youth Center, 804 New Bridge Street. Present were: Mayor Sammy Phillips, presiding; Mayor Pro-Tem Michael Lazzara and Council Members: Jerry Bittner, Randy Thomas, Bob Warden, Angelia Washington and Jerome Willingham. Also present were: Richard Woodruff, City Manager; Ronald Massey, Deputy City Manager; Glenn Hargett, Assistant City Manager for Communications and Community Affairs; Gayle Maides, Finance Director; Wally Hansen, Public Services Director; Mike Yaniero, Director of Public Safety; Susan Baptist, Director of Recreation Services; Michael Liquori, Director of Parks; Carmen Miracle, City Clerk; and John Carter, City Attorney.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Phillips called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilman Bittner, seconded by Councilwoman Washington and unanimously approved to adopt the agenda as presented.

IMPROVING OUR CARING COMMUNITY

The members of the City's Advisory Committees, as well as the public, were invited to attend and participate in a joint meeting with the City Council for a strategic session on Improving Our Caring Community. (See Exhibit A for Attendance Roster.)

Mayor Phillips thanked all of the attendees for their service and support. He recognized the Youth Council members in attendance and said he was pleased to have them provide their input and ideas. He hoped this would be an enriching experience for all.

Mr. Glenn Hargett, Assistant City Manager, provided background on the City's motto of a "Caring Community" and how it came to appear on the City Seal.

Mr. Richard Woodruff, City Manager, said in order to look forward it was important to also look back. As a Caring Community we had to make sure those words were not only words on a piece of paper or words on a City Seal.

Every year the City tried to meet with all of the advisory groups to discuss issues and ideas related to the City. In the past, the committees had identified approximately 76 items they wanted to work on. Last year there was a report on how those items were progressing. The City Council recognized the importance of receiving regular input from their citizen advisors and keeping them informed of City plans. They needed to focus on moving the City forward as a “Caring Community”. He wanted them to provide actions that could be taken to remain a Caring Community and improve upon that.

Mr. Woodruff said the evening would be divided into three parts. The first assignment would be to look back at what they believed were the most successful components of making Jacksonville a Caring Community. Staff members were appointed as Scribes and would be writing down the items that made the City a Caring Community. Between sessions one and two, they would have a working dinner.

Assignment 2 would be looking forward toward activities they believed the City should engage in that would make us a better Caring Community in the next five years.

If time allowed. Assignment 3 would be to ask each advisory group to assemble with their respective groups and look at the recommendations for the future to determine what each advisory committee or board could specifically do to help implement one, two, or three of the items presented.

The entire meeting was presented live on G10TV and was available in its entirety on demand on the City website.

Mr. Woodruff restated Assignment 1 as follows: **“Identify Current Actions that Demonstrate Jacksonville is a Caring Community”**.

Each table group proceeded to discuss the assignment. Mr. Woodruff asked the tables to select a spokesperson to report. The following reports were provided:

Sarah Holden, reported for Tables #1 & #2:

- Recreation and Parks
 - Programs and Facilities
 - Youth and Adult Programs
- Community Beautification
 - Landscaping
 - Downtown and Housing Redevelopment there
- Community Outreach
 - Christmas Cheer
 - Parades and ceremonies

Tati'yana Manguel, reported for Table #5 as follows:

- Volunteerism
- Memorials and Observances
- Youth Council
- Holiday Cemetery program (Wreaths across America)
- Medical Clinic and Christmas Cheer

Lori Ready-DiGiovanni, reported for Table #6:

- Greenways
- Freedom Fountain and Memorials
- Recreation and Parks Events
 - Senior Services
 - Splash Pad
- Landscaping
- Jacksonville Landing
- Roadway Improvements and Gateway (Landscaping)
- Soup Kitchen and other volunteer activities
- 2nd Marine Division Parade
- Jacksonville Youth Council, Sturgeon City Institutes, Wilson Bay Cleanup
- Police Presence and Community Policing
- Partnership with Base

Laurette Leagon, reported for Table #4 as follows:

- Military Relationship
 - Such as Lejeune Memorial Gardens
- Downtown Events
 - Bringing Communities Together
- Access to Public Schools and Libraries
- Public Transportation
- Services for Less Fortunate
- Faith Collaborations
- Great Chamber of Commerce
- Public Safety Involvement with Community

Carol Hurst Long, reported for Table # 7 as follows:

- Memorial Garden Area
- Community Entrance and Enhancements
- Strong Nonprofits
- NC Serves
- 75th Anniversary of the 2nd Marine Division

- Splash Pad
- Schools
- Partnerships

Jim Wheeler, reported for Table # 3 as follows:

- Clean & Green Program
- Splash Pad
- Elimination of Slum and Blight
- Landscaping – Gateway – Beirut Memorial Grove
- City Partnership with Nonprofits
- Amphitheater
- Greenways, Bike Trails and Paths
- Mowing DOT Right of Way
- Affordable Housing
- Jacksonville Landing
- City Website/G10/Connection
- Police and City Partnership
- Citizen Academy
- Advisory Committees and Boards
- Christmas Cheer
- Soup Kitchen
- Homeless Shelter

Assignment 2: **Identify New Actions that would Improve Jacksonville as a Caring Community.** After group discussion the following reports were provided:

Steve Forney, reported for Table # 3 as follows:

- Public-private partnership for indoor pool
- Visit other places and Cities and bring back ideas and best practices
- Improving code enforcement for with code enforcement, Police and Sanitation. Problem: trash and ugliness
- Civic and Events center similar to Duplin County
- Increase Economic Development beyond retail (Appearances help)
- Increase diversity and inclusiveness in the community
- Create Human Relations Commission
- More sidewalks and Crosswalks
- Transitional Housing for homeless and victims of domestic violence
- More involvement with ex-offender and re-entry programs

Taylor Rutter, reported for Table # 7 as follows:

- Teen Community Center
- Youth Employment and college co-op programs

- Help bring youth back home
- Public WiFi or access to technology
- Jobs
- Inter-generational cooperation
 - Pass on information from one generation to another
- Opportunities for retired persons
- New Job Requirements
 - For jobs to be brought to the area
- Opportunities for extended activities
- Better communication of existing activities

Bernard Lane, reported for Table # 4 as follows:

- Bus Stop shelters
- Downtown Flooding Issues
- Traffic Concern at Court and New Bridge Street
 - Desire for mirror
- Matching Façade Grants
- Expand City's Senior Services
- Multipurpose Center
- Expand Soup Kitchen and Women's Center
- Theater and Arts

Tati'yana Manguel, reported for Table # 5 as follows:

- Better Jobs and Industry
- Sports and Similar Facilities
 - YMCA
 - Boys & Girls Clubs
- Better Communication: Reference Volunteering, Nonprofits, Nonprofit needs
- Large Venue for Entertainment & Sports
- Better housing and temporary housing
- Expand Clean & Green for Neighborhoods
- Community resources

Benita Thornhill, reported for Table #1 & #2 as follows:

- Meeting Space, Conference Space, Convention Space
- Athletic Complex which will produce tournament play
- Partnerships for joint use of facilities City, County and Military
- High School activities that don't just include sports
- Monthly awareness forums for the public events
 - Monthly meeting with different topics
 - Mental wellbeing,
 - Physical

- Hypertension
- Diabetes
- Affordable Housing
- Domestic violence etc.
- Yard cleanup

Lori Ready-DiGiovanni, reported for Table # 6 as follows:

- Civic Center
- Drug Use prevention programs at high schools
 - With law enforcement
- Better Amtrak Hub
- More safety stations throughout City (911 Call Stations)
- Increase JYC visibility in schools
- Affordable Amusement park
- More events for youth – Volunteer opportunities at schools
- More teen safe spaces – more teen centers, YMCA
- More safe trails (open)
- More emphasis on slum and blight

William Artis, reported for Table #8 as follows:

- Entertainment for young adults
- Sports Complex
 - Will attract Industry
- Non-chain restaurants
- Waterfront Development activities,
- More cultural activities, arts activities, etc.
- Open space art planning
- Better attention for victim services
- Farmer's Market at Riverwalk Park
- More activities on the River

Due to time constraints, Mr. Woodruff asked that at their next committee meeting, each committee discuss Assignment 3: **What Can Your Committee or Board do to Act on one or more of the Ideas Heard in Assignment 2**. He asked them to give their comment cards to their scribes for preparation of a summary.

Mayor Phillips said he had heard some very good ideas that would be very valuable. He said they all had a common goal to make Jacksonville a better place and a more caring

community. There had also been meetings with local clergy to obtain their input in our caring community efforts. He thanked everyone for attending and participating.

Mr. Woodruff announced Tati'yana Manguel, one of the Youth Council members, and Councilwoman Washington's mentee, had received a full scholarship to attend the University of Baltimore.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Bittner, seconded by Councilwoman Washington, and unanimously adopted to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 PM.

Adopted by the Jacksonville City Council in regular session this 7th day of February 2017.

Sammy Phillips, Mayor

ATTEST:

Carmen K. Miracle, City Clerk