

ST. JOHNS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
January 12, 2012

The regular meeting was duly posted. Mayor Fred Nielsen called the meeting to order at approximately 6:37pm in the Board of Supervisors Meeting Room at the County Annex.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Fred Nielsen, Vice Mayor Ryan Ashton, Councilman Spence Udall, Councilman Hancock, Councilwoman Kay Hauser, and Councilman Ryan Patterson

ABSENT: Councilman Michael Cirivello

STAFF PRESENT: Interim City Manager Paul Ramsey, City Attorney Bryce Patterson, Finance Director/City Clerk Evan Nelson, Airport Manager Gary Liston, Police Chief Donny Jones, and Deputy City Clerk Kim Cowley.

OTHERS PRESENT: Odet Bloomfield, Betty Clanton, Diane LeFevre, Kristl Jones, Vermont King, and Jessica Poling.

INVOCATION: Gary Liston

PLEDGE: Jessica Poling

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Evermont King spoke regarding his concerns about the sustainable living project and then he thanked the council for the job they are doing.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Consider approval of December 8, 2011.**
- 2. Payment of bills.**

MOTION

Motion was made by Councilwoman Hauser to approve the consent agenda items as stated. Motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Ashton.

Motion passed 5-0.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

3. Consider issuance of a proclamation for 2012 National Mentoring Month.

Brett Curry was unable to join us tonight. Diane LeFevre is here to answer any questions if there are any. No questions were forthcoming and no discussion took place.

MOTION:

Motion was made by Mayor Nielsen that the proclamation be adopted for 2012. Motion was seconded by Councilman Patterson.

Motion passed: 6-0.

4. City Hall Project.

Mr. Ramsey explained that the Brownfield Grant expires in late June which deals with asbestos removal. He asked for the Council's recommendations for the project. Mr. Ramsey asked Mayor Nielsen if he would be willing to contact the County to see what their status is in participating in the building project. Councilman Hancock stated he thought the decision had been made to get contractor bids and asked if any contractors had been contacted. He then stated that his thoughts were that the city needs to move forward. Councilman Patterson advised that the county is looking at cutting several budget areas. Mayor Nielsen directed that more information be gathered regarding the roofing and security of the building, that contractors be contacted to get an estimate. He stated that he would speak with the County and the issue would be further addressed at the next meeting. Councilman Hancock stated that he would like more information sent out to the public to ask for their thoughts and opinions. Councilman Patterson recommended bringing a contractor, with the skills necessary, on staff to organize materials and prisoners for labor as this method has saved money in the past on a county level.

5. Consideration of possible water rate discount program.

Mr. Ramsey asked Mr. Nelson to discuss what had been learned regarding discount programs. Mr. Nelson explained the various responses he got from a consultant and other communities. While some communities have discount programs, several city attorneys were concerned about their legality. He further explained that no one has actually come into the office from the general public to ask for a discount. Mayor Nielsen stated that since no one had come in to the office, and no one showed up to this meeting to speak on the agenda item that nothing be done at present. He said that if someone should come forward in the future with financial hardship the issue should be dealt with at that time, and that he would like to know immediately when someone does come in and make a request.

6. Determine policy for water meter downsize requests.

City Manager Ramsey explained that the city has had 3 requests for meter size changes. Mayor Nielsen asked why they had bigger meters to begin with, and Mr. Ramsey explained. He also expressed concerns regarding availability of manpower to change meters if the city gets a lot of requests to change the meters. He submitted a plan for changing the charges on the bill when the customer pays and then giving the water department time to make the change. Councilman Hancock brought up the need for a time limit. Councilman Patterson asked about the costs of changing out the meters. Mr. Ramsey explained the costs and the different problems that could occur to increase the costs and time. Discussion ensued regarding actual cost involved and charges. The council came to a conclusion that the charge for the meter change should remain the same.

7. Parking Issues at the Little League Field.

Mr. Ramsey proposed leveling the old pond that is next to the Little League Field to provide additional parking. This is to address safety concerns with the current parking situation. Mayor Nielsen gave the go ahead to level the pond.

8. Introduction of U.S. Air Force Angel Thunder Project.

Mr. Ramsey explained that the U.S. Air Force at Davis Monthan came to him and asked if the city would be interested in having their group do a mock search and rescue exercise in our area. He presented a video. Mayor Nielsen asked if anyone has objections to the U.S. Air Force. Without any dissents Mayor Nielsen gave the go ahead to invite them.

9. Financial Report

Mr. Nelson presented an analysis of revenues to show expected amounts and actual received amounts. Discussion ensued regarding expenditures and revenues and their relationship to the actual budgeted amounts. Councilman Patterson commended the department heads on the job they are doing but also recommended that they keep a close eye on overtime. Mayor Nielsen added his commendation as well. Mr. Nelson reminded the council that the budget process would be starting soon. Mayor Nielsen commended Chief Jones for his job on staying within budget in his department. Mr. Nelson updated the council on the ways that the information regarding rentals is getting out to the public. Councilman Hancock asked whether or not we are seeing any revenues from the rentals come in. Mayor Nielsen requested that staff look at the divisions of the sales tax revenue reports to track some numbers on the rentals and provide the information to council at a future council meeting. Councilman Patterson gave the name of Elaine Smith at the Dept. of Revenue Sales Tax Division as someone who can provide the reports necessary to track that detail.

10. City Manager's Report

Mr. Ramsey explained that the City is working with the contractor of the water project on water sampling issues. We are taking bids on the backup generators. We want to put one at the well and one at the treatment plant. Mr. Ramsey spoke

with David Newland regarding the Potash Project. Three companies are handling it in two locations, and there will be a significant number of jobs generated. These jobs will be in the \$50–70K range. The timing of the well project will handle any growth that happens.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Councilman Patterson reported on the last county board meeting. The county discussed: 1. The potash project. 2. The fireworks are going to be taken to the State level to prohibit the use and sale of the fireworks. 3. The re-districting of congressional and legislative districting. Mr. Nelson reported on the progress of the centennial committee.

Councilman Ashton brought up what the procedure is to get items on the agenda.

Discussion ensued about concerns regarding getting both sides of an item heard. Mayor Nielsen recommended that research be done about whether or not there are written rules about how to get on the agenda and thought it might be found in the city charter.

Councilman Ashton expressed his opinion that the city needs to give equal time to the pro and the con on all issues. Councilman Hancock suggested that we put this topic on the next agenda so that we have some discussion regarding this issue and felt that the public needs to hear that discussion. Councilman Ashton asked for a breakdown of the grant so that the council can see where all the money is going.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

Motion was made by Mayor Nielsen to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Councilman Hancock.

Motion passed 6-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03pm.

Fred Nielsen, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kim Cowley, Deputy City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the St. Johns City Council held on the 14th day of July, 2011. I certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Kim Cowley, Deputy City Clerk

*Please Note: Approved minutes are not a verbatim record of what happened at the City Council meeting, they capture a summary of the meeting as well as all actions taken. A recording of the entire meeting is available upon request at the City Clerk's office for three months following each meeting.