

# **City of Jacksonville**

*1st Floor - Council Chamber  
117 W. Duval Street*



## **Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, July 16, 2019**

**9:30 AM**

**Council Chambers 1st Floor, City Hall**

## **Finance Committee**

*Aaron Bowman, Chair  
LeAnna Cumber, Vice Chair  
Randy DeFoor  
Terrance Freeman  
Tommy Hazouri  
Ju'Coby Pittman  
Ron Salem, Pharm. D.*

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Council with respect to any matter considered at such meeting, such person will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purposes, such person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

**Meeting Convened: 9:31 AM**

**Meeting Adjourned: 11:06 AM**

**NOTE: The next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, August 6, 2019.**

President Wilson welcomed the committee and thanked them for taking on the challenge of Finance. He asked them to please scrutinize the budget carefully and please entertain discussion by and make motions for visiting council members. The agenda meeting is an opportunity to get prepared for the committee meeting by asking questions and requesting information in advance. He requested that council members be patient with the new computer system and let staff get acclimated to how everything works.

Chairman Bowman announced that the school district sales tax bill (2019-380) will be moved to the end of the agenda. Public comment will generally be taken at the end of Finance Committee meetings unless a meeting runs very long.

Council Auditor's Report #766B - Follow-up on JPA Payroll Second Follow-Up: Council Auditor Kyle Billy reported that the original audit identified 4 issues, including payroll payments for overtime and out-of-classification pay not being correctly calculated; the payroll system required some manual calculations that were sometimes done incorrectly; and excessive computer access rights. In response to a question from Council Member Salem about how was this audit ranked overall, Mr. Billy said that it was fairly average and, while it took 2 follow-up reviews, all issues have been remedied and the audit is considered closed.

Mr. Billy discussed Resolution 2019-500 - the TRIM notice tentative millage rate adoption - that will be introduced and needs to be adopted as an emergency on first reading at next week's council meeting. He said the tentative millage rate should represent the largest amount the council thinks it might need to levy to raise the desired revenue; the tentative rate can always be reduced in the future without problem, but increasing the rate after initial publication requires new notification of all taxpayers entailing considerable time and expense. His advice was to set a higher rate initially than might be needed and lower it later in the budget process.

**Title History**

**Item/File No.**

1. [2018-0712](#) ORD-MC regarding Prohibition of the Approval, Grant, or Issuance of Certain Licenses, Permits, Certificates or Zoning Actions to Persons with Unpaid Civil Penalties or Current Violations of the Ord Code; Amend Chapt 307 (Historic Preservation and Protection), Pt 1 (Gen Provisions), Sec 307.111 (Enforcement; Civil Remedies); Amend Chapt 320 (Gen Provisions), Pt 4 (Permits), Sec 320.402 (Application for Permit); Amend Chapt 518 (Jax Propty Safety and Management Code), Pt 1 (Gen Provisions), Sec 518.103 (Applicability); Creating a new Sec 609.110 (Prohibition of Administrative Action); Amend Chapt 650 (Comprehensive Planning for future Development), Pt 4 (Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan), Sec 650.402 (Initiation of Proposal); Amend Chapt 654 (Code of Subdivision Regs), Sec 654.105 (Applicability); Amend Chapt 656 (Zoning Code), Pt 1 (Gen Provisions), Subpart B (Administration), Sec 656.109 (Administration and Enforcement; Interpretation of Zoning Code; Administrative Deviations), and Sec 656.111 (Violations and Penalties); Amend Chapt 780 (Property Tax), Pt 3 (Tax Exemption for Rehabilitation and Properties in Historic Districts), Sec 780.305 (Application). (Grandin) (Introduced by CM Crescimbeni)  
 10/23/2018 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, F, LUZ  
 11/5/2018 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer  
 11/6/2018 F Read 2nd & Rerefer  
 11/7/2018 LUZ Read 2nd & Rerefer  
 11/13/2018 CO Read 2nd & Rereferred; NCSPHS, F, LUZ  
 LUZ PH Pursuant to Sec 656.123, Ord Code - 1/3/19, 1/15/19, 2/5/19, 2/20/19, 3/5/19, 3/20/19, 4/2/19, 4/16/19, 5/7/19, 5/21/19, 6/4/19, 6/18/19, 7/16/19, 8/6/19  
 Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 166.041, (3) (a) F.S. & CR 3.601 - 12/11/18, 1/8/19, 1/22/19, 2/12/19, 2/26/19, 3/12/19, 3/26/19, 4/9/19, 4/23/19, 5/15/19, 5/28/19, 6/11/19, 6/25/19, 7/23/19

**DEFER**

2. [2019-0378](#) ORD Approp \$6,246,725.33 from Various Subfunds to Balance Revenue & Expenses as Part of a Clean-Up of Enterprise Resource Planning, Provide Carryover of Funds to Subsequent Fiscal Years (B.T. 19-045) (McCain) (Req of Mayor)  
 5/28/2019 CO Introduced: NCSPHS,F  
 6/3/2019 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer  
 6/4/2019 F Read 2nd & Rerefer  
 6/11/2019 CO PH Read 2nd & Rereferred; NCSPHS, F  
 7/15/2019 NCSPHS Withdraw 6-0  
 7/16/19 F Withdraw 6-0  
 Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 166, F.S. & CR 3.601 - 6/11/19

**WITHDRAW (At the request of the Administration) 7-0**

**Aye:** 7 - Bowman, Cumber, DeFoor, Freeman, Hazouri, Pittman and Salem

3. [2019-0380](#) ORD Calling a Special Election to Hold a referendum of the Qualified Electors residing in Duval County to be held on 11/5/19 on the Question of Apv a ½ Cent School Capital Outlay Sales Surtax as Levied by the Duval County School Board pursuant to Sec. 212.055 (6), F.S.; Directing the Council Secretary to provide notices to State Government. (Durden) (Req of Duval County School Board)  
5/28/2019 CO Introduced: F,R  
6/4/2019 F Read 2nd & Rerefer  
6/4/2019 R Read 2nd & Rerefer  
6/11/2019 CO PH Read 2nd & Rereferred; F, R  
6/18/2019 F Amend/Approve 7-0  
6/25/2019 CO REREFERRED; F, R  
Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 166, F.S. & CR 3.601 - 6/11/19

**Council Member Cumber moved deferral and listed a number of items that the City Council needs to fully understand before it approves the referendum, including the impact the sales tax will have on the City's credit rating, a detailed list of what schools will be repaired/replaced and in what order, enrollment trend assumptions, provisions for charter schools equity, the timing of the state-mandated OPAGA audit, etc. She felt that it was not entirely clear where the School Board stands on the issue of sharing sales tax revenues with charter schools and said that with the Council immersed in the budget hearing process through August and into early September, it will be nearly impossible to do full justice to this issue in time to schedule a November 2019 referendum. Council Member Salem agreed with the proposal to defer and cited a need for additional information regarding charter schools, construction costs, and a detailed timeline for renovations and new construction; he proposed the creation of a monitoring committee similar to the one that oversaw the implementation of the Better Jacksonville Plan projects. Council Member Hazouri expressed support for the referendum, but only if it is done at the proper time and under the right conditions to ensure its success. He believes there are still substantial unanswered questions and supported deferral until the School Board, Mayor and City Council can all "get on the same page" and move the issue forward together. Council President Wilson suggested that holding the referendum in 2020 would be preferable and proposed holding a joint School Board/City Council meeting in early October to thoroughly discuss all the questions that have been raised. Council Member Pittman agreed with the deferral and said she needs to know more details about the plans to close and replace schools, many of which are in her district. Council Member DeFoor said that what has been presented by the school district thus far is a cost estimate list, not a full-blown, prioritized construction plan.**

**Council Member Freeman said that the students are the most important thing and they need to see that the community cares for and supports them. He said council members are bound to do their due diligence before voting for any legislation, and he needs to know what areas of town will get top priority for work to address decades of neglect. Council Member Bowman thought that a**

joint working group with the School Board is a good idea. He said that special election turnout is always extremely small and that doesn't represent the community's will for a multi-billion dollar issue. The OPAGA performance audit is crucial to the process and must be posted at least 60 days before the election (Sept. 5 for a November 5, 2019 referendum). He understood that Lee County's OPAGA audit took 4 months to complete and post. He noted that many school districts across the US are going to public/private ventures to build and lease schools. IDEA Schools has proposed to open 15 schools in Jacksonville. He believes that the School Board administration building needs to be moved off the riverfront, possibly into leased space, and said that a successful referendum will require a great, well funded marketing effort to pass. Council Member Carlucci advocated for holding the referendum this fall to begin immediately rectifying decades-old problems. In response to a question from Mr. Carlucci, Council Auditor Kyle Billy said that his office has looked at the reasonableness of the School Board's sales tax revenue estimates and finds them reasonable based on current trends and assumptions. Mr. Carlucci said the School Board is present and ready to answer questions today but doesn't get the chance because Council won't ask them directly. He said that School Superintendent Greene has led 4 successful referendum campaigns in the past. He has attended several of the School Board's town hall meetings and was impressed by the information presented there. He said he has posed questions to the school district and gets prompt answers. Council Member Salem said that several important issues – how charters will be treated, how the plan will be overseen by a monitoring committee - are policy issues need to be dealt with by the board, not questions about facts.

#### DEFER

Public Comments (see last page of minutes): Senator Audrey Gibson, Darryl Willie, Terry Brock, Ashley Smith Juarez, Judy Sheklin, Lori Hershey, Rev. Rachel Gunter Shapard, , Dave Hollingshead, , John Nooney, Rev. Aaron Flagg Jr., Ila Ray Merten, Nashon Nicks,

4. [2019-0435](#) ORD Approp \$71,874.00 from KHA Operating Subfund into KHA Budget to fund Afterschool Programming; Auth KHA to contract directly with YMCA of Florida's First Coast, Inc. ("YMCA") to provide Afterschool Programming at Windy Hill, Ramona & Jax Heights Elementary Schools; Invoking the Exception of Sec 126.107(G) (Exemptions), Pt 1 (General Regs), Chapt 126 (Procurement Code), Ord Code, to allow KHA to procure Afterschool Programming from YMCA; Waiving requiremnts of Sec 77.111(a) (Provider Contracts), Chapt 77 (KHA), Ord Code, to exempt Children's Svcs Programming to be provided by YMCA from Competitive Procuremt. (Davis) (Req of Mayor)  
 6/11/2019 CO Introduced: NCSPHS,F,R  
 6/17/2019 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer  
 6/18/2019 F Read 2nd & Rerefer  
 6/18/2019 R Read 2nd & Rerefer  
 6/25/2019 CO PH Read 2nd & Rereferred; NCSPHS, F, R  
 7/15/19 NCSPHS Amend/Approve 6-0  
 7/16/19 F Amend/Approve 7-0  
 7/16/19 R Amend/Approve 7-0  
 Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 166, F.S. & CR 3.601 - 6/25/19

**In response to a question from Council Member Freeman, Assistant Council Auditor Kim Taylor said that all of the sites to be funded are operated by the YMCA. Adam Miller of the Kids Hope Alliance said that the sites are currently being funded by 21st Century Community grants, which will be expiring this year. This bill provides funding for 2 months of operation through September, after which the 2019-20 budget has funding through June of 2020. In January of next year the KHA will issue an RFP for after-school programs to begin next fall.**

**AMEND(NCSPHS)/APPROVE 7-0**

**Aye:** 7 - Bowman, Cumber, DeFoor, Freeman, Hazouri, Pittman and Salem

5. [2019-0436](#) ORD Approp \$892,553.99 from Retained Earnings in Subfund 561 to Subfund 561 - Self-Insurance Acct in order to 1) Return Excess FY18 General Liability Loss Provision to JEA in Amt of \$174,483.51 & to JHA in Amt of \$203,042.53, 2) Return Excess FY 18 Workers Compensation Loss Provision to JEA in Amt of \$496,667.13 & to JHA in Amt of \$18,360.82. (B.T. 19-095) (McCain) (Req of Mayor)  
 6/11/2019 CO Introduced: NCSPHS,F  
 6/17/2019 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer  
 6/18/2019 F Read 2nd & Rerefer  
 6/25/2019 CO PH Read 2nd & Rereferred; NCSPHS, F  
 7/15/19 NCSPHS Approve 6-0  
 7/16/19 F Approve 7-0  
 Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 166, F.S. & CR 3.601- 6/25/19

**APPROVE 7-0**

**Aye:** 7 - Bowman, Cumber, DeFoor, Freeman, Hazouri, Pittman and Salem

6. [2019-0438](#) ORD Approp \$200,000.00 from the Petco Foundation to assist City's Div. of Animal Care & Protective Svcs. in Increasing Community Awareness & the Adoption Rate at the Shelter; Providing for a carryover of funds to FY19-20; Auth & Apv Mayor and Corp Sec to Execute & Deliver the Petco Foundation Grant Investmt Agreemt btwn the City & Petco Foundation; Amend Ord 2018-504-E (the City of Jax Budget Ord) by Amending Attachmt A ("Food and Beverage Expenditures") in order to allow funds to be spent on food and beverage at shelter events; Oversight by ACPS Div of the Neighborhoods Dept. (B.T. 19-096) (McCain) (Req of Mayor)  
 6/11/2019 CO Introduced: NCSPHS,F  
 6/17/2019 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer  
 6/18/2019 F Read 2nd & Rerefer  
 6/25/2019 CO PH Read 2nd & Rereferred; NCSPHS, F  
 7/15/19 NCSPHS Amend/Approve 6-0  
 7/16/19 F Amend/Approve 7-0  
 Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 166, F.S. & CR 3.601-6/25/19

**AMEND(NCSPHS)APPROVE 7-0**

**Council Member Pittman encouraged the council members to visit the Animal Care and Protection facility to see the good work that is being done there.**

**Aye:** 7 - Bowman, Cumber, DeFoor, Freeman, Hazouri, Pittman and Salem

7. [2019-0463](#) ORD-MC Approp \$10,000 from the Florida Boaters' Improvemt Prog (Sec.110.413) for Signage; Amend Chapt 614 (Public Order & Safety), Sec. 614.132 (Regulations on Operation of Boats), Ord Code to establish a Boating Safety Zone around the Shad's Creek Bridge. (Grandin) (Introduced by CM Ferraro)  
 6/25/2019 CO Introduced: NCSPHS,F,JWW  
 7/15/2019 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer  
 7/16/2019 F Read 2nd & Rerefer  
 Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 166, F.S. & CR 3.601 - 7/23/19

**READ 2ND AND REREFER**

8. [2019-0465](#) ORD Apv Acceptance of portions of Ed Austin Regional Park peacefully yielded up to the City by the PAL of Jax; Inc. Pursuant to Lease Agreemt of 5/13/99; Apv & Auth Mayor to Execute & Deliver the License Agreemt btwn the City of Jax & PAL of Jax, Inc. for Ed Austin Regional Park. (McCain) (Req of Mayor)  
 6/25/2019 CO Introduced: NCSPHS,F  
 7/15/2019 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer  
 7/16/2019 F Read 2nd & Rerefer  
 Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 166, F.S. & CR 3.601 - 7/23/19

**READ 2ND AND REREFER**

9. [2019-0466](#) ORD Approp \$345,000.000 (a \$30,000.000 transfer of funds btwn projects in Subfund 32E and \$315,000.00 in available unapprop revenue in subfund 324) for the acquisition of 2 parcels along Orange Picker Rd & Brady Rd, Environmental Remediation & Demolition of any structures for the expansion of the parking lot at Alberts Field, & Rdwy Intersection Improvemts; Auth & Apv Mayor and Corp Sec to Execute & Deliver 1) the purchase & sale agreemt btwn City of Jax and Joseph H. Walsh, III, as personal rep to the estate of Samuel R. Burney, and all such other docs necessary or approp to effectuate the purpose of this Ord to acquire the propty on the corner of Orange Picker Rd & Brady Rd, Approx 1.3± Acre parcel appraised at \$200,000 & being acquired at a negotiated purchase price of \$200,000.00 (the "Burney Property") & 2) the purchase and sale agreemt btwn the City and Joseph H. Walsh, III & all such other docs necessary or approp to effectuate the purpose of this Ord to acquire propty on Orange Picker Rd & Brady Rd, contiguous to the Burney Propty, Approx 1.16 Acre appraised at \$105,000 & being acquired at a negotiated purchase price of \$105,000.00 (the "Walsh Property"); Oversight by Real Estate Div of the P.W. Dept; Amend 2019-2023 5-yr CIP Apv by Ord 2018-505-E to Provide Funding for Proj entitled "Orange Picker/Brady Rd".  
(B.T. 19-102) (McCain) (Req of Mayor)(Co-Sponsored by CM Schellenberg)  
6/25/2019 CO Introduced: TEU,F,LUZ  
7/15/2019 TEU Read 2nd & Rerefer  
7/16/2019 F Read 2nd & Rerefer  
7/16/2019 LUZ Read 2nd & Rerefer  
Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 166, F.S. & CR 3.601 - 7/23/19

**READ 2ND AND REREFER**

10. [2019-0467](#) ORD-MC re Code Enforcemt Citations; Amend Sec 609.104 (Procedures), Chapt 609 (Code Enforcemt Citations), Ord Code, to provide that a copy of a notice of violation be provided to a commercial property owner along with the tenant or lessee where the tenant or lessee has committed a civil infraction. (Johnston) (Introduced by CM Crescimbeni)  
6/25/2019 CO Introduced: NCSPHS,F  
7/15/2019 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer  
7/16/2019 F Read 2nd & Rerefer  
Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 166, F.S. & CR 3.601 - 7/23/19

**READ 2ND AND REREFER**



11. [2019-0468](#) ORD Auth & Apv Mayor & Corp Sec to Execute & Deliver, for & on behalf of the City, the Dev Agreemt for the Reconstrn of Palm Ave btwn the City and Southern Baptist Hospital of FL, Inc. (the "Developer") in order to provide the Developer Auth for the Planning, Design, Engineering, Permitting, CEI, & Constrn of the Palm Ave Improvemts & for City Cost reimbursemt to developer for undertaking said activities; Oversight by the Engineering & Constrn Mgmt Div of the P.W. Dept. (McCain) (Req of Mayor)  
6/25/2019 CO Introduced: NCSPHS,TEU,F  
7/15/2019 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer  
7/15/2019 TEU Read 2nd & Rerefer  
7/16/2019 F Read 2nd & Rerefer  
Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 166, F.S. & CR 3.601 - 7/23/19

**READ 2ND AND REREFER**

12. [2019-0469](#) ORD Approp \$1,600,000.00 from the Tree Protection & Related Trust Fund, Subfund 15F, for the County-Wide Prog called the "630-CITY Tree Planting Prog" also known as the "Level 1 Tree Planting Prog" to provide tree planting in the public r/w's in locations where adjacent propty owners have made requests thru 630-CITY; Apv & Req the Mayor, to Direct the P.W. Dept to continue to administer prog in accordance with criteria herein provided; Provide Carryover of Funds into Subsequent Fiscal Years. (Grandin) (Introduced by CM Crescimbeni)  
6/25/2019 CO Introduced: NCSPHS,TEU,F  
7/15/2019 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer  
7/15/2019 TEU Read 2nd & Rerefer  
7/16/2019 F Read 2nd & Rerefer  
Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 166, F.S. & CR 3.601 - 7/23/19

**READ 2ND AND REREFER**

13. [2019-0471](#) ORD Apv & Auth Mayor & Corp Sec to Execute & Deliver an amended & restated Economic Dev Agreemt btwn The City of Jax & Fanatics Inc.; Oversight by OED. (Sawyer) (Req of Mayor)  
6/25/2019 CO Introduced: F  
7/16/2019 F Read 2nd & Rerefer  
Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 166, F.S. & CR 3.601 - 7/23/19

**READ 2ND AND REREFER**

14. [2019-0472](#) ORD Concerning Surplus Personal Propty of the City; Declaring that certain 2010 Chevy Impalas (VIN 2G1WA5EK2A1199839, Vehicle # 8103-20) Valued at \$4,875; (VIN 2G1WD5EM6A1232110, Vehicle # 209-30) Valued at \$4,500; certain 2011 Chevy Impalas, (VIN 2G1WD5EMXB1189974, Vehicle # 169-30) Valued at \$5,300; (VIN 2G1WD5EM4B1185838, Vehicle # 185-40) Valued at \$4,750; certain 2012 Chevy Caprice (VIN 6G1MK5U3XCL638817, Vehicle # 1010-30) Valued at \$8,325; & 2012 Chevy Impala (VIN 2G1WD5E33C1197441, Vehicle # 4797-20) Valued at \$4,825; to be Surplus to the needs of the City & Auth the Approp Officials of the City to Transfer Title of Said Property to Nassau County School Board, located at 1201 Atlantic Ave, Fernandina Bch, FL as part of an assigned vehicle prog for the Nassau County School Dist Police, at no cost, in accord with 122.812 (C), Ord Code; Desig Fleet Mgmt Div of Finance & Admin Dept to Monitor Actual Use of Said Property; Providing for a Reverter. (Sidman) (Introduced by CM Hazouri)  
6/25/2019 CO Introduced: TEU,F  
7/15/2019 TEU Read 2nd & Rerefer  
7/16/2019 F Read 2nd & Rerefer  
Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 166, F.S. & CR 3.601 - 7/23/19

**READ 2ND AND REREFER**

15. [2019-0473](#) ORD Concerning Surplus Personal Propty of the City; Declaring that Certain 2001 Chevy G3500 Van (VIN 1GAHG39R411167225, Vehicle # 8056-10) Valued at \$5,625 to be Surplus to the needs of the City; Auth the Approp Officials of the City to transfer title of Said Propty to Families of Slain Children of Jax, FL, Inc. for Use as a Transport Vehicle to aid in providing Transportation to assist kids to & from Programs as well as Scheduled trips, at No Cost, in Accord with Sec 122.812 (C), Ord Code; Desig Fleet Mgmt Div to Monitor Actual Use of Said Propty. Providing for a Reverter; Auth Mayor & Corp Sec to Execute Agreemt for Surplussing of City Personal Propty btwn the City & Families of Slain Children of Jax, FL, Inc. (Sidman) (Introduced by CM Ferraro)  
6/25/2019 CO Introduced: TEU,F  
7/15/2019 TEU Read 2nd & Rerefer  
7/16/19 F Read 2nd & Rerefer  
Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 166, F.S. & CR 3.601 - 7/23/19

**READ 2ND AND REREFER**

16. [2019-0474](#) ORD Apv & Auth Mayor & Corp Sec to Exec & Deliver, for & on behalf of the City, the Interlocal Agreement btwn City of Jax & City of Jax Beach for Advanced Life Support & Fire Svcs; Oversight by JFRD; Auth Positions. (R.C. 20-004) (McCain) (Req of Mayor)  
6/25/2019 CO Introduced: NCSPHS,F  
7/15/2019 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer  
7/16/19 F Read 2nd & Rerefer  
Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 166, F.S. & CR 3.601 - 7/23/19

**READ 2ND AND REREFER**

17. [2019-0475](#) ORD Apv & Auth Mayor & Corp Sec to Exec & Deliver a Purchase & Sale Agreement (Agreement) btwn City of Jax & Janice R. Nelson (Seller) & all Closing Docs Relating thereto, & Otherwise take All Necessary Action to Effectuate the Purpose of the Agreement, for the acquisition by the Buyer at the Appraised Value of \$357,000.00 of Real Propty, on Edgewood Ave W, Comprised of Approx 2.64 Acre Parcel for Fire Station 36; Oversight by the Real Estate Div of the Dept of P.W. (Dist 10-Freeman) (McCain) (Req of Mayor)  
6/25/2019 CO Introduced: NCSPHS,F  
7/15/2019 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer  
7/16/19 F Read 2nd & Rerefer  
Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 166, F.S. & CR 3.601- 7/23/19

**READ 2ND AND REREFER**

\*\*\*\*\*Note: Items may be added at the discretion of the Chair.\*\*\*\*\*



## Public Comment

Rev. Aaron Flagg said that a hidden agenda of politics and lies is at work to thwart the school sales tax referendum; the school district is facing an emergency now and the referendum needs to be done now.

Ila Rae Merton said that as a parent and former teacher she has seen the terrible conditions in the schools over many decades; our children deserve better and the schools need work now.

Nahshon Nicks said that Jacksonville's children will never get a competitive education without competitive school facilities; schools are overcrowded and underfunded.

State Senator Audrey Gibson said that if the Legislature wants answers to questions it holds hearings and lets people present information and answer questions. Superintendent Greene is experienced with getting school tax referenda approved. The School Board has produced a facilities plan and she doesn't understand what the City Council's problem is with approving a referendum. Charter schools are being respected in this process. It is City Council's job is to put the question on the ballot and let the public decide the issue. OPAGA is ready to contract for an audit immediately. School attendance patterns have been taken into account by the plan.

Terry Bork said that City Council is violating the Florida Constitution and state statutes by inserting itself into school business – that's the School Board's job. The Florida Attorney General has ruled that "shall" means "shall" with regard to putting the sales tax on the ballot. He understands that OPAGA has been told by someone in the City government that they shouldn't do anything regarding a study before the Mayor signs the referendum bill. If the Council really want answers, it should compile a definitive list of questions and present them to the School Board for response.

Judy Shecklin believes that the School Board's plan is real and definitive and has priorities, She is disappointed that the committee members came in with minds already made up and aren't willing to listen to input.

School Board Chair Lori Hershey said that every time a question is answered, more are piled on. OPAGA delayed the release of its info packet to the School Board because someone at City Hall appears to have interfered with the process and told them to wait. Idea Schools can locate within 5 miles of a closed school but don't have to operate the same kind of school that closed (i.e. a middle school could be opened near a closed elementary school). Duval's recent school grades reduced the number of Idea schools that can locate in Jacksonville from the 15 cited in earlier discussion. She asked when the Council will give the people the opportunity to vote?

Rev. Rachel Gunter Shapard said that public schools are the basis of common good and the good of the community and its economy. Everyone loses when public education suffers and the city's future is at risk. Hold the referendum now.

School Board Member Ashley Smith Juarez said the school district board and staff have given tremendous time and attention to all of the questions the council has been posing and have those answers. Part of the reason for consolidation in the 1960s was to improve equity across the community for everyone. The School Board has thought about equity and fairness in what the schools need. The Council needs to play its proper role and put the referendum on the ballot.

Dave Hollingshead wants the referendum held in 2019. Jacksonville's school facilities are not equal across this community. Let the people vote and if they choose not to turn out for the referendum, they've spoken.

School Board Member Darryl Willie said the board has done its due diligence and now it's up to Council to act. They are here and ready to answer questions if only Council would act. They've addressed fairness for charters and have changed the enrollment assumption timeline. Polling shows that this referendum will pass overwhelmingly. The School Board and City Council need to be partners to get the job done.

John Nooney said the referendum is not ready for a November 2019 vote. It seems like the plan allocates excessive funds to the urban core. He said the School Board building site should be a kayak launch point.

**Rollcall:**

**Present:** 7 - Chair Aaron Bowman, Vice Chair LeAnna Cumber, Council Member Randy DeFoor, Council Member Terrance Freeman, Council Member Tommy Hazouri, Council Member Ju'Coby Pittman and Council Member Ron Salem

**Visiting:**

**CP Scott Wilson, CM Matt Carlucci, CM Randy White, CM Michael Boylan, CM Rory Diamond**

Also in attendance: Jason Gabriel, Peggy Sidman and Stephen Durden - Office of General Counsel; Jessica Matthews, Staci Lopez and Crystal Shemwell - Legislative Services Division; Jeff Clements - Council Research Division; Paula Shoup, Steve Cassada and Louie Marino - Council Staff Services; Jordan Elsbury and Leeann Krieg - Mayor's Office

Jeff Clements, Council Research Division  
jeffc@coj.net 904-255-5137  
Posted 7.18.19 2:00 p.m.