

City of Jacksonville

117 W Duval St
Jacksonville, FL 32202



Meeting Minutes - Amended

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

2:00 PM

Council Chambers 1st Floor, City Hall

Rules Committee

Brenda Priestly Jackson, Chair

Randy DeFoor, Vice Chair

Aaron Bowman

LeAnna Cumber

Garrett Dennis - Excused Late Arrival

Rory Diamond

Randy White

CP Sam Newby

Legislative Assistant: Maritza Sanchez

Legislative Services Manager: Bernadette Smith

Chief Office of General Counsel: Paige Johnston

Research Assistant: Colleen Hampsey

Administration: Rachel Zimmer

Council Auditor's Office: Trista Carraher

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.

Present: 7 - Chair Brenda Priestly Jackson, Vice Chair Randy DeFoor, Council Member Aaron Bowman, Council Member LeAnna Cumber, Council Member Garrett Dennis, Council Member Rory Diamond and Randy White

Meeting Convened: 2:05 PM

Meeting Adjourned: 4:03 PM

Attendance:

CM Gaffney (2021-0544), CM Salem (2021-0760), CVP Freeman, CM Ferraro, CM Pittman, & CM Carrico

Item/File No.

Title History

1. [2020-0326](#) RESO Supporting the Passage of a Policy Designating City Hall as a “Hit Free Zone,” Training of Employees for an Appropriate Response, & Posting Signage at City Hall Identifying Property as a “Hit Free Zone” Area; Urging Creation of a Pilot Program. (Johnston) (Introduced by CM Dennis)
6/9/20 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, R
6/15/20 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer
6/16/20 R Read 2nd & Rerefer
6/23/20 CO Read 2nd & Rereferred: NCSPHS, R
10/18/21 NCSPHS Withdraw 6-0
10/19/21 R Withdraw 8-0
10/26/21 CO Withdrawn 18-0

WITHDRAW

- Aye:** 8 - Priestly Jackson, DeFoor, Bowman, Cumber, Dennis, Diamond, White and Newby
2. [2020-0584](#) ORD-MC Creating a New Chapt 79 (Jacksonville City Council Citizen Review Board), Ord Code; Establishing a New Chapter Creating a Council-Appointed Citizen Review Board to make Recommendations to Council. (Johnston) (Introduced by CM Dennis)
9/22/20 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, R
10/5/20 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer
10/6/20 R Read 2nd & Rerefer
10/13/20 CO PH Read 2nd & Rereferred: NCSPHS, R
Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 – 10/13/20

DEFER

3. [2020-0705](#) ORD-MC Regarding the Jacksonville Ethics Code; Amending Chapt 602 (Jacksonville Ethics Code), Part 8 (Lobbying), Ord Code, to Rename Part 8, Establish Subpart A, & to Add a New Subpart B (Political Consultants) to Provide for a City Registration Process for Political Consultants. (Johnston) (Introduced by CM Dennis)
11/24/20 CO Introduced: R
12/1/20 R Read 2nd & Rerefer
12/8/20 CO PH Read 2nd & Rereferred: R
Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 – 12/8/20

DEFER

4. [2021-0544](#) ORD MC-Amending Sec 116.101 (Official Holidays), Pt 1 (Holidays), Chapt 116 (Employees & Employee Benefits), Ord Code, to include a New Paid Holiday "Juneteenth"; Providing that the Code Change is Subject To Collective Bargaining. (Johnston)(Introduced by CM R. Gaffney) (Co-Sponsors CM's Freeman, Carlucci, Pittman, Salem, Becton, Boylan, Newby, Dennis, Carrico, Morgan, Bowman & Priestly Jackson)
8/10/21 CO Introduced: F, R
8/17/21 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
8/17/21 R Read 2nd & Rerefer
8/24/21 CO PH Read 2nd & Rereferred: F, R
9/8/21 F Approve 7-0
10/19/21 R Approve 6-2 (CMs DeFoor & Diamond)
10/26/21 CO Approved 16-2 (CMs Diamond & Ferraro)
Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 – 8/24/21

APPROVE

There was a brief discussion regarding this bill, which would add an additional paid holiday for City employees to recognize Juneteenth. Juneteenth marks the day when federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas in 1865 to take control of the state and ensure that all enslaved people be freed, two and a half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. Juneteenth honors the end to slavery in the United States and on June 17, 2021, it officially became a federal holiday. CM Diamond spoke in opposition because he feels the added holiday is to costly for the City.

CM Bowman and CP Newby spoke in support and asked to be added as co-sponsors.

It was suggested that the Juneteenth holiday could be traded for an already existing holiday, like the personal day City employees get each year. Brian Hughes, Mayor's Office, said that would be problematic with union negotiations and could put the agreements reached through collective bargaining at risk. CM Gaffney, the bill sponsor, spoke about how the time has come for this holiday to be recognized and celebrated.

Aye: 6 - Priestly Jackson, Bowman, Cumber, Dennis, White and Newby

Nay: 2 - DeFoor and Diamond

Scrivener's

1. Pg. 1, lines 15, 17, and 19: correct title of Chapter 116

2. Pg. 1, lines 20 and 22: strike ellipses

5. [2021-0706](#) ORD-MC- TBK as "Govt. Reduction Bill," Relating to At-Large Residence Areas Council Members & Setting a Public Referendum; Amending the Chart. of the City of Jax, Ch. 92-341, Laws of FL, as Amended; Eliminating at-Large Residence Areas Council Dist. Commencing 1/1/2031; Providing for Transition; Repealing Conflicting Ords & Requiring the Enactment of New Implementation Ords; Providing for Referendum Apv. of This Ord; Providing for a Financial Impact Stmt. to be Devel. and Placed on the Ballot, Directing the Sup. of Elections to Place the Referendum QN on the Spec. Elec. Ballot on 2/22/2022. (Johnston) (CM Dennis)
9/28/21 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, F, R
10/4/21 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer
10/5/21 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
10/5/21 R Read 2nd & Rerefer
10/12/21 CO PH Read 2nd & Rereferred:NCSPHS, F, R
Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 –10/12/21 & 11/9/21

DEFER

6. [2021-0707](#) ORD-MC- TBK as “Eliminating Excess Elections,” Relating to the Terms & Elections of City of Jax County Officials & Setting a Public Ref.; Amending the Chart. of the City of Jax, Ch. 92-341, Laws of FL, as Amend.; Changing the Date of Assuming the Offices of the Mayor, Council Members, & the Sheriff, Sup. of Elections, Property Appraiser, & Tax Collector to 1/1 Following Fall Even-Yr. Gubernatorial Elections Commencing 1/1/2031, & Every 4 Yrs. Thereafter; Providing for Transition; Repealing Conflicting Ord. & Requiring the Enactment of New Implemented Ords; Revising the Lengths of the Terms of Office of the City Council Members, Mayor, Sherriff, Sup. of Elections, Property Appraiser, & Tax Collector. Assuming Office on 7/1/2027, to Terms of 7/1/2027 – 12/31/2030; Providing for No Change in Term Limits; Providing for Referendum Appr. of This Ord; Providing for a Financial Impact Stmt. to be Developed & Placed on the Ballot; Directing the Sup. of Elections to Place the Referendum Qn. on the Special Elec. Ballot on 2/22/2022. (Johnston) (Introduced by CM Dennis)
 9/28/21 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, TEU, F, R, LUZ
 10/4/21 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer
 10/4/21 TEU Read 2nd & Rerefer
 10/5/21 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
 10/5/21 R Read 2nd & Rerefer
 10/5/21 LUZ Read 2nd and Rerefer
 10/12/21 CO PH Read 2nd & Rereferred:NCSPHS, TEU, F, R, LUZ
 Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 –10/12/21 & 11/9/21

DEFER

7. [2021-0715](#) ORD- MC re: the Sheriff’s Powers & Duties; Amending Ch. 37 (Off. of the Sheriff), Pt. 1 (Organization), Sec. 37.101 (Sheriff’s Powers & Duties), Ord. Code, re: the Sheriff’s Auth. To Make & Enter into Certain Types of Agrmts; Providing for Codification Instructions. (Staffopoulos) (Introduced by CP Newby by Req. of Sheriff)
 9/28/21 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, R
 10/4/21 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer
 10/5/21 R Read 2nd & Rerefer
 10/12/21 CO PH Read 2nd & Rereferred:NCSPHS,R
 10/18/21 NCSPHS Approve 6-0
 10/19/21 R Approve 8-0
 10/26/21 CO Approved 18-0
 Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 –10/12/21

APPROVE

Aye: 8 - Priestly Jackson, DeFoor, Bowman, Cumber, Dennis, Diamond, White and Newby

- Expands the Sheriff’s current ability to enter into agreements with law enforcement agencies to now include local independent authorities, not-for-profit corporations, and for-profit entities
- Excludes agreements entered into for the purpose of procuring goods or services from for-profit entities

8. [2021-0717](#) ORD- Approp. \$125,000.00 From the Trial Ridge Landfill Mitigation Fund (\$25,000 to Normandy Athletic Assoc., \$25,000 to Marietta Bullsbay Athletic Assoc. Inc., \$25,000 to Argyle Athletic Assoc., \$25,000 to Whitehouse Civic Assoc., & \$25,000 to Argyle Forest Youth Sports Assoc.) to Provide Funding to be used for the Purchase of New Equip. & Uniforms for Sports Programming or Repair & Reno. Of Existing Equip.; Providing for Oversight by the Parks, Rec & Community Serv. Dept. & Dist. of Funds Upon Invoices/Complying with Bidding Provisions of Ch. 126, Ord. Code/Reverter of Any Unspent Funds; Invoking the Exception of (126.107 (G) (Exemptions), Ch. 126 (Procurement Code), Ord. Code, to Direct Contract with Athletic Assoc. (Johnston) (Introduced by CM White) (Co-Sponsors CMs DeFoor, Freeman & R. Gaffney)
 9/28/21 CO Introduced: F, R
 10/5/21 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
 10/5/21 R Read 2nd & Rerefer
 10/12/21 CO PH Read 2nd & Rereferred: F, R
 10/19/21 F Amend/Approve 4-0
 10/19/21 R Amend/Approve 8-0
 10/26/21 CO Amend/Approved 18-0
 Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 –10/12/21

AMEND/APPROVE

Aye: 8 - Priestly Jackson, DeFoor, Bowman, Cumber, Dennis, Diamond, White and Newby

AMENDMENT

Correct name of Whitehouse Athletic Association

- Capital equipment purchased by the Associations pursuant to this Ordinance shall become property owned by the City and inventoried by the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department
- The Associations have the option to receive the funds as a reimbursement or go through the City for procurement

9. [2021-0720](#) ORD- Approp. \$100,000.00 in Fund Bal. From the Environmental Protection Fund (the "Fund") to the Environmental Protection Fund Operating Acct. to Provide Funding for Edu. Outreach Activities, AWA Travel, Training, Supplies, Subscriptions, Dues & Memshp. Fees for Environmental Protection Board (the "Board") Mems & Staff, Purpose of Approp.; Providing for a Carryover of Funds Through 9/30/2024; Providing for Waiver of Sec. 111.755 (Environment Protection Fund), Pt 7 (Environment & Conservation), Ch. 111 (Special Revenue & Trust Accts.), Ord. Code, to Auth. the Board to Utilize Funds from the Fund for Travel, Training, Supplies, Subscriptions, Dues & Memshp. Fees for Board Mems. & Staff; Providing for Waiver of Sec. 360.602 (Uses of Fund), Pt. 6 (Environmental Protection Fund), Ch. 360 (Envi. Reg.), Ord. Code, To Auth. the Board to Utilize Funds from the Fund for Travel, Training, Supplies, Subscriptions, Dues & Memshp. Fees for Board Mem. & Staff; Req. Annual Rpts. (B.T. 21-119) (Staffopoulos) (Introduced by CP Newby by Req. of Mayor) (Co-Sponsors CM R. Gaffney)
- 9/28/21 CO Introduced: TEU, F, R
 10/4/21 TEU Read 2nd & Rerefer
 10/5/21 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
 10/5/21 R Read 2nd & Rerefer
 10/12/21 CO PH Read 2nd & Rereferred:TEU, F, R
 10/18/21 TEU Approve 4-0
 10/19/21 F Approve 4-0
 10/19/21 R Approve 8-0
 10/26/21 CO Approved 18-0
 Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 –10/12/21

APPROVE

Aye: 8 - Priestly Jackson, DeFoor, Bowman, Cumber, Dennis, Diamond, White and Newby

- **Waives Code Sections 111.755 and 360.602 to allow for the expenditure of funds not related to education and outreach**
- **Appropriation includes \$5,000 for food to provide lunches, snacks and beverages at the outreach events (JEPB Symposium, Environmental Luncheon, etc.). The funds are intended to cover any cost overruns not covered by registration fees.**

10. [2021-0726](#) RESO- Confirm the Mayor's Reappt. of Harriet T. Brock, a Duval Co. Res., to the Jax Housing Auth. as a Resident Rep., Pursuant to Ch. 51A, ORD Code, for a 2nd Full Term to Exp. 9/16/2025. (Sidman) (Introduced by CP Newby at Req of Mayor)
 9/28/21 CO Introduced: R
 10/5/21 R Read 2nd & Rerefer
 10/12/21 CO Read 2nd & Rereferred: R
 10/19/21 R Approve 7-0
 10/26/21 CO Approved 18-0

APPROVE

Aye: 7 - Priestly Jackson, DeFoor, Bowman, Cumber, Diamond, White and Newby

Absent: 1 - Dennis

REAPPOINTMENT

Has attended 32 of 32 meetings or 100% during first full term of 9/11/18 – 9/16/21

11. [2021-0727](#) RESO- Providing Notice to the FL Fish & Wildlife Conserv. Comm. that the Jax City Council Intends to File & Take Action on Legs. Creating Anchoring Limitation Areas on Certain Areas of the Waters of Duval Co.; Directing the Legs. Serv. Div. to Fwd. a Copy of This Reso. to the FL Fish & Wildlife Comm. (Grandin) (Introduced by CM DeFoor) (Co-Sponsor CM Pittman) (JWC Apv)
 9/28/21 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, R, JWC
 10/4/21 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer
 10/5/21 R Read 2nd & Rerefer
 10/12/21 CO Read 2nd & Rereferred:NCSPHS, R
 10/18/21 NCSPHS Approve 6-0
 10/19/21 R Approve 8-0
 10/26/21 CO Approved 18-0

APPROVE

Aye: 8 - Priestly Jackson, DeFoor, Bowman, Cumber, Dennis, Diamond, White and Newby

Scrivener’s

- 1. Pg. 1, line 13 and pg. 2, lines 15 and 18: insert “Conservation” after “Wildlife”
- 2. Pg. 1, line 30: strike “is”
- 3. Pg. 2, line 17: insert “of” after “copy”

- Provides notice to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission that the City intends to create four Anchoring Limitation Areas in the Ortega River, located generally between the Ortega Bridge and Timuquana Rd. Bridge
- Florida Statutes require the City provide at least 30 days’ notice before introducing an ordinance to establish an anchoring limitation area

- 12. [2021-0728](#) RESO- Confirm the Mayor’s Appt. of M.C. “Ceree” Harden, III to the JAX Port Auth., Pursuant to Art. 5 (Jax Port Auth.), Chart. of the City of Jax, Replacing John Allen Newman, for a Part. Term Exp. 9/30/2023. (Sidman) (Introduced at Req of Mayor) (Co-Sponsor CMs Salem & R. Gffney)
 9/28/21 CO Introduced: R
 10/5/21 R Read 2nd & Rerefer
 10/12/21 CO Read 2nd & Rereferred: R
 10/19/21 R Approve 7-0
 10/26/21 CO Approved 18-0

APPROVE

CM Gaffney asked to be added as a co-sponsor.

Aye: 7 - Priestly Jackson, DeFoor, Bowman, Cumber, Diamond, White and Newby

Excused: 1 - Dennis

APPOINTMENT

13. [2021-0755](#) ORD- Approp \$100,000.00 from Trail Ridge Landfill Mitigation Funds to Provide Funding to Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc. for Costs Related to Improve for a POW/MIA Memorial Pkwy, Jax, FL 32221; Apv & Auth Execution of Amend 3 to Cecil Commerce Center Lease Agrmnt to Set Forth Payment by City for Site Work Obligated by Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc.; Provide for Oversight by the Off of Economic Dev, Disbursement of Funds & Carryover/Reverter of any Unspent Funds; Invoking the Exception of 126.107 (G) (Exemptions), Pt 1 (Gen Reg), Ch 126 (Procurement Code), Ord Code, to Allow for Payment to Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc. for Work Performed & Improvements Made to the POW/MIA Memorial; Waiving Sec 110.112 (Adv of City Funds; Prohibition Against), Pt 1 (the City Treasury), Ch 110 (City Treasury), Ord Code, to Allow for Adv Payment by the City. (Johnston) (Introduced by CM White)
10/12/21 CO Introduced: TEU, F, R
10/18/21 TEU Read 2nd & Rerefer
10/19/21 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
10/19/21 R Read 2nd & Rerefer
10/26/21 CO PH Read 2nd & Rereferred:TEU, F, R
Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601-10/26/21

READ 2ND & REREFER

14. [2021-0757](#) ORD- Approve a Change in the Polling Place Loc for Precincts 201, 302, 305, 506, 510, 605, 806, 908, 1110, 1114, 1213 & 1315 to be Effective Starting for the 12/7/2021, 1st Spec Unitary Election, in the City of Jax, Duval County FL, as Req by the Sup of Elections Pursuant to Sec 352-102, Ord Code. (Sidman) (Introduced by CP Newby at Request of Sup of Elections)
10/12/21 CO Introduced: F, R
10/19/21 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
10/19/21 R Read 2nd & Rerefer
10/26/21 CO PH Read 2nd & Rereferred:F, R
Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601-10/26/21

READ 2ND & REREFER

15. [2021-0760](#) ORD- Approp \$11,516 from the COJ General Fund – General Svcs District Fund Bal for the Mental Health Offender Prog (“MHOP”); Apv, & Auth the Mayor, or His Designee, & Corp Sec to Execute & Deliver, an Agrmnt btwn the COJ & the 4th Judicial Circuit Courts of FL to Provide for a Mental Health Jail Initiative Coordinator; Invoking the Exception in Sec 126.107 (G), Ord Code, to Allow Direct Contract w/the 4th Judicial Circuit Courts of FL to Provide for a Mental Health Jail Initiative Coordinator; Providing for Oversight by the Ofc of Grants & Contract Compliance; Req 1-Cycle Emerg Passage.(Sidman) (Introduced by CM Salem)
 (Co-Sponsors CMs Freeman, R. Gaffney & Boylan)
 10/12/21 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, F, R
 10/18/21 NCSPHS Emergency/Amend/Approve 6-0
 10/19/21 F Emergency/Amend/Approve 4-0
 10/19/21 R Emergency/Amend/Approve 8-0
 Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601-10/26/21

EMERGENCY/AMEND/APPROVE

CM Salem explained that this appropriation is from leftover fund balance to be used to continue funding in fiscal year 21/22 for the MHOP coordinator. MHOP is a jail diversion program for misdemeanor offenders with mental health issues, intended to break the cycle of repeated misdemeanor arrests and provide them the wrap-around support they need to successfully treat their illness and reintegrate back into the community.

Aye: 8 - Priestly Jackson, DeFoor, Bowman, Cumber, Dennis, Diamond, White and Newby

AMENDMENT

1. Clarify funding source in explanation of appropriation
2. Clarify purpose of funding
3. Correct scrivener’s errors
4. Attach funding agreement as Exhibit 2

- Ord. 2020-733-E appropriated \$50,000 to the Fourth Judicial Circuit Court to fund a Jail Coordinator position for the Mental Health Offender Program through 9/30/21
- This legislation appropriates the unspent balance as of 9/30/21 for the Courts to continue funding this position in fiscal year 21/22

16. [2021-0761](#) ORD- MC-re Ch 118 (City Grants), Ord Code; Creating a New Sec 118.107 (Nonprofits to Rec Funding Through a Competitive Evaluated Award Process), Pt 1 (General Provisions), to Chapt 118 (City Grants), Ord Code; Creating a New Sec 602.413 (Addnt'l Disclosure Requirements for Council Members Employed by Nonprofit Orgs Receiving Funding from City), Pt 4 (Conflicts of Interest), Chapt 602 (Jax Ethics Code), Ord Code. (Johnston) (Introduced by CMs Diamond, Ferraro, Carlucci & DeFoor)
 10/12/21 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, F, R
 10/18/21 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer
 10/19/21 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
 10/19/21 R Read 2nd & Rerefer
 10/26/21 CO PH Read 2nd & Rereferred: NCSPHS, F, R
 Public Hearing Pursuant to Chapt 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601-10/26/21

READ 2ND & REREFER

17. [2021-0765](#) RESO- Honoring & Commemorating the Life & Achievements of Noted Jax Civil Rights Leader Lloyd N. Pearson, Jr. (Clements) (Introduced by CM Priestly Jackson) (Co-Sponsor CMs Salem, Freeman, Dennis, Bowman, DeFoor, White, Newby, Diamond, Ferraro, Morgan, Becton, R. Gaffney, Carrico, Boylan, Salem, Cumber, Pittman, Carlucci & Ferraro)
 10/12/21 CO Introduced: R
 10/19/21 R Approve 8-0
 10/26/21 CO Approved 18-0

APPROVE

CMs Diamond, White, Newby, Dennis, Bowman and DeFoor asked to be added as co-sponsors.

Aye: 8 - Priestly Jackson, DeFoor, Bowman, Cumber, Dennis, Diamond, White and Newby

18. [2021-0766](#) RESO- Confirm the Mayor's Reappt of Wendy O. Hamilton, a Duval Co. Resident, to the Jax Port Auth, Pursuant to Art 5, Charter of Jax, for a 2nd Full term to Exp 09/30/2025. (Sidman) (Introduced by CP Newby at Req of Mayor)(Co-Sponsor CM Salem)
 10/12/21 CO Introduced: R
 10/19/21 R Read 2nd & Rerefer
 10/26/21 CO Read 2nd & Rereferred: R

READ 2ND & REREFER

19. [2021-0767](#) RESO- Concern the Vacation of a Portion of the Plats of Jax Heights Improve Co. Pursuant to Sec 177.101 (3), F.S.; Returning a Portion of the Lands Shown on Said Jax Heights Improve Co. Plat to Acreage; Making Findings. (Wilson, IV) (Introduced by CM White)
10/12/21 CO Introduced: R
10/19/21 R Read 2nd & Rerefer
10/26/21 CO Read 2nd & Rereferred: R

READ 2ND & REREFER

20. [2021-0769](#) RESO- Confirm the Appt of Desiree Jones, as a Member of the Safety & Crime Reduction Comm, filling a Seat Formerly Held by Sabrina Edwards Pursuant to Chapt 78, Ord Code, for 1st Full Term Ending 06/30/2023. (Distel) (Introduced by CP Newby)
10/12/21 CO Introduced: R
10/19/21 R Read 2nd & Rerefer
10/26/21 CO Read 2nd & Rereferred: R

READ 2ND & REREFER

21. [2021-0770](#) RESO- Confirm the Mayor's Appt of Jason R. Teal as the General Counsel Pursuant to Sec 7.03 of the Charter of the City of Jax; Req 1 Cycle Emerg Passage. (Sidman) (Introduced by CP Newby at Req of Mayor)
10/12/21 CO Introduced: R
10/19/21 R Emergency/Approve 5-3 (CMs Priestly Jackson, DeFoor & Dennis)
10/26/21 CO Emergency (Waived C.R. 4.1103)/Approved 17-1 (CM Priestly Jackson)

EMERGENCY/APPROVE

There was a lengthy discussion regarding this bill, which if passed will appoint Jason Teal to be General Counsel to fill the vacancy created by Jason Gabriel's resignation. The nature of the emergency is the 90 day window for the interim/acting position.

Chair Priestly Jackson said that the bill may be deferred in light of Council Rule 4.1103 (see below) which specifies that the Clerk of Court, Property Appraiser, Sheriff, Supervisor of Elections, Tax Collector and Chairperson of the Duval County School Board be notified about the appointment or reappointment of the General Counsel. Chair Priestly Jackson also shared her frustrations about the speed and transparency of the General Counsel Qualification Review Committee. CMs Diamond and Cumber questioned the method of notification, whether actual or constructive notification is required. No 'actual' formal notification was sent to those individuals but the legislation was filed and posted publicly and also covered by the press, which can be viewed as 'constructive' notification. CM Cumber noted that council rules are not case law, but legislative policies. CM Bowman encouraged the committee to proceed with interviewing Mr. Teal and not to stall further.

Paige Johnston, OGC, explained that this is a resolution so it cannot be amended to waive the council rule. Instead it could proceed, be voted down at the next council meeting, and re-filed as an ordinance with passage upon introduction. Prior to the October 26th council meeting, actual notification will be sent to the required parties, and the council meeting will provide the forum if any of them wish to provide feedback on the appointment.

CM Dennis said that he supports Mr. Teal, but that the process and rules should be followed.

Chair Priestly Jackson expressed how that is the goal of the Rules Committee. Brian Hughes, Mayor's Office, noted that there is no defect in the resolution language and that it matches the format of the resolutions used to appoint/reappoint the General Counsel on the last three occasions.

The committee agreed to proceed with the appointee interview.

Jason Teal, OGC, took a few minutes to explain his background, institutional knowledge and extensive experience gained in his 21 years with the office.

CM DeFoor asked about ethical integrity and about an incident wherein Mr. Teal signed a letter of engagement as the acting General Counsel but before Mr. Gabriel left. Mr. Teal explained that he was given certain responsibilities in the

final weeks of Mr. Gabriel's tenure and that he was directed by Mr. Gabriel to sign that document in his absence.

CM Cumber spoke highly of her interactions working with Mr. Teal, particularly on public safety legislation.

CM Bowman expressed his support for Mr. Teal, as did CVP Freeman.

CM Gaffney said nice things about working with Mr. Teal.

CP Newby indicated his support for Mr. Teal, as did CMs Salem, Ferraro, Carrico, Pittman and Boylan.

CM White spoke about the benefits of promoting from within an organization.

Chair Priestly Jackson shared her misgivings in regard to the letter signing event

CM DeFoor spoke about, and also the appearance of impropriety for a recent raise/promotion for an attorney in the office with whom Mr. Teal has a personal relationship. Mr. Teal explained that the relationship was disclosed last year in keeping with City policy, and that the raise was given to a select group of staff who were found to have a wage gap among equally ranked colleagues. The pay increases were approved by a committee, not Mr. Teal independently. Chair Priestly Jackson said that at this point she could not support Mr. Teal's appointment because of the aforementioned issues.

COUNCIL RULE 4.1103 CONFIRMATION OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

Upon the introduction of any resolution confirming the appointment or reappointment of the

General Counsel, Legislative Services shall notify the Clerk of Court, Property Appraiser, Sheriff,

Supervisor of Elections, Tax Collector and Chairperson of the Duval County School Board and

encourage them to provide oral or written input and guidance to the Rules Committee and any other

committee considering said appointment or reappointment, as to the fitness of the appointee to be

General Counsel.

Council committees considering the confirmation of a General Counsel appointee should

consider the appointee's relative qualifications, including but not limited to his or her integrity,

professionalism, academic credentials, standing in the community, management skills, and capacity

to work with, and objectively and properly represent, all constituent clients in the consolidated

government structure.

Aye: 5 - Bowman, Cumber, Diamond, White and Newby

Nay: 3 - Priestly Jackson, DeFoor and Dennis

APPOINTMENT**Scrivener's**

1. Pg. 1, line 18: insert "Bar" after "Florida"

2. Pg. 2, line 1: insert "University" after "State"

22. [2021-0771](#) RESO- Apv the Local Housing Asst Plan as Required by the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Prog Act, Sects. 420.907-420.9079, F.S., & Rule Chapt 67-37, FL Admin Code; Auth the Mayor, or His Designee, to Execute any Necessary Docs & Certs Reqd by FL Housing Finance Corp; Auth the Submission of the Local Housing Asst Plan for Review & Apv by the FI Housing Finance Corp. (Staffopoulos) (Introduced by CP Newby at Req of Mayor)
10/12/21 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, R
10/18/21 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer
10/19/21 R Read 2nd & Rerefer
10/26/21 CO Read 2nd & Rereferred:NCSPHS, R

READ 2ND & REREFER

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

NOTE: The next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Pursuant to the American with Disabilities Act, accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. Please allow 1-2 business days notification to process; last minute requests will be accepted; but may not be possible to fulfill. Please contact Disabled Services Division at: V 904-255-5466, TTY-904-255-5476, or email your request to KaraT@coj.net.

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Reearch
CHampsey@coj.net 904.255.5151
Posted: 10.22.2021 5:00 pm