

JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2023
JACKSONVILLE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
315 S. RAGSDALE
6:00 PM

Meeting Items

5:15 PM CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION CITY HALL
CONFERENCE ROOM-PER OPEN MEETINGS ACT-PER
TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION:

551.071 CONSULT CITY ATTORNEY

551.072 REAL PROPERTY

551.074 PERSONNEL MATTERS - CITY MANAGER
ANNUAL REVIEW

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Randy Gorham 6:03 pm

Present: Mayor Randy Gorham, Mayor Pro tem Tim
McRae, Councilman Rob Gowin, Councilwoman Mindy
Gellock, Councilwoman Letitia Horace

INVOCATION

Dr. David Erickson of Jacksonville College gave the
invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE US & TEXAS FLAGS

Mayor Randy Gorham led everyone in the pledges to the
United States and Texas flags.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

BUSINESS OF THE MONTH PRESENTED BY JEDCO
PRESIDENT SHANE PACE - MADIX

JEDCO President Shane Pace presented several
representatives from Madix Inc. with the business of the
month award.

RECOGNITION OF PLANNING AND ZONING
COMMISSION CHAIRMAN CLAUDE ARMSTRONG
FOR 46 YEARS OF SERVICE

Mayor Randy Gorham presented Mr. Armstrong with a
plaque commemorating his 46 years of service to the City of
Jacksonville.

PRESENTATION OF TEXAS SENATE RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING MR. HUBERT ROBINSON'S 20 YEARS
OF SERVICE ON THE CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Randy Gorham presented Mr. Robinson with the
Texas State Senate Resolution recognizing his 20 years of
service to the City of Jacksonville.

RECOGNITION OF RETIRING FIRE CHIEF KEITH
FORTNER FOR OVER 20 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE
CITY OF JACKSONVILLE

Mayor Randy Gorham presented Mr. Fortner with a plaque
honoring his 20 years of service as a fire fighter and fire chief
for the City of Jacksonville. In addition, EMS Coordinator
Alicia Wetsell, presented Mr. Fortner with a photograph and
said a duty ax had been ordered but did not arrive in time to
present tonight. Police Chief Joe Williams presented Mr.
Fortner with a plaque.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

No one came forward.

CONSENT AGENDA - ITEMS UNDER CONSENT
AGENDA REQUIRE LITTLE OR NO DELIBERATIONS
BY COUNCIL. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA
AUTHORIZES THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS
DESIGNEES TO PROCEED WITH CONCLUSION OF
EACH ITEM IN ACCORDANCE WITH STAFF
RECOMMENDATION

Councilwoman Mindy Gellock made a motion to approve the
consent agenda. Second, by Councilwoman Letitia Horace.
All voted "Aye"

MINUTES APPROVAL - JULY 11, 2023, REGULAR
COUNCIL MEETING; AUGUST 4, 2023,
AGENDA/BUDGET WORKSHOP

APPROVE THE CHEROKEE COUNTY APPRAISAL
DISTRICT 2023-2024 BUDGET

APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF ELLA WHITAKER
AND SHEILA JOHNSON TO THE HOUSING
AUTHORITY BOARD

APPROVE A STREET CLOSURE MONDAY, OCTOBER
31, 2023 FOR TRUNK OR TREAT

ANY ACTION OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION IF
NECESSARY

No action was taken.

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT PRESENTED BY

Finance Director Roxanna Briley presented the council with

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION BY POLICE CHIEF
JOE WILLIAMS REGARDING RECENT TRAINING
INITIATIVES

A) PUBLIC HEARING - HEAR AND RECEIVE INPUT
REGARDING AN APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL USE
PERMIT TO ALLOW FOR A WIRELESS CELL TOWER
LOCATED AT 116 NORTH QUEVADO STREET.
B) DISCUSS AND CONSIDER WITH POSSIBLE ACTION
AN ORDINANCE GRANTING THE REQUESTED
SPECIAL USE PERMIT

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER WITH POSSIBLE ACTION
PROPOSING A TAX RATE AND SETTING SEPTEMBER
12, 2023 AT 6:00 PM AS THE DATE AND TIME TO HOLD
A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE
AND BUDGET. TAKE AN INDIVIDUAL VOTE OF EACH
COUNCIL MEMBER REGARDING THE PROPOSED
TAX RATE

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER WITH POSSIBLE ACTION
APPROVING THE 2023-2024 JACKSONVILLE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BUDGET

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER WITH POSSIBLE ACTION
APPROVING A CONTRACT FOR THE REMODEL OF

the fiscal third quarter report.

Police Chief Joe William told the council that on July 27 he became aware of a video of some of his officers' interactions with a first amendment auditor. Chief Williams explained that first amendment auditors go around taking photographs and videos in public places. Their intent is to test, mostly police departments, if their first amendment rights are violated. Chief Williams gave a narrative of the interactions in the video and of the interaction itself. Chief Williams said the incident is under investigation and that the investigation should be wrapped up soon. He told council that after the incident, he put together training for the police department as to what a first amendment auditor is and how to interact with them. He also spoke to the city manager and he suggested all employees receive the training. Chief Williams said he had presented the training to several employees and would be having more training sessions with city employees. Chief Williams said the department has learned a great deal from this call. Councilwoman Letitia Horace asked Chief Williams if he planned to release the full bodycam video since the YouTube video was edited, to leave out some context the entire body cam footage may show. Chief Williams said he did not have any plans to release it, but he would speak with the city attorney to see if anything needed to be redacted. He also said he would be more than happy to provide the full video for the council. Councilwoman Letitia Horace asked what kind of training is being provided for the city employees. Chief Williams said the training is about how to interact with these auditors, who the auditors are and what their first amendment rights are. Chief Williams said he did meet with the auditor after the incident and informed him of the investigation and the steps being taken to educate not just police officers, but all of the city staff. Chief Williams said the comments on the auditor's YouTube page regarding that encounter were mostly positive.

City Manager James Hubbard reviewed the request and planning and zoning recommendation with the council. Mr. Vincent Huebinger, from Verizon Wireless, came forward to outline to the council the need for an additional tower between downtown and the one north of town. Mr. Hubbard asked what size and type of tower would be constructed. Mr. Huebinger stated it was a 125' high monopole tower. Councilwoman Letitia Horace asked how long the tower would be there? Mr. Huebinger said they were planning on it being at the location for 30 years. Mayor Randy Gorham opened the public hearing at 6:54 pm. No one came forward to speak on the matter. Mayor Randy Gorham closed the public hearing at 6:54 pm. Mayor Pro tem Tim McRae made a motion to approve the ordinance granting the SUP with the stipulation that the tower be a monopole tower. Second, by Councilman Rob Gowin. All voted "Aye"

City Manager James Hubbard told everyone the budget workshop went well. Mr. Hubbard reviewed the highlights of the budget and the different types of rates that could be proposed. Mr. Hubbard showed everyone the 10-year historical value of the property tax rates. Councilwoman Mindy Gellock made a motion to propose a tax rate of .63799 and set a date of september 12, 2023 at 6:00 pm to hold a public hearing on the proposed tax rate and budget. Second, by Mayor Pro tem Tim McRae. Mayor Randy Gorham pointed out the proposed rate is very close to what it was 10 years ago. A recorded vote of individual council members was taken regarding the tax rate and hearing date:
Mayor Randy Gorham "Aye"
Mayor Pro tem Tim McRae "Aye"
Councilman Rob Gowin "Aye"
Councilwoman Mindy Gellock "Aye"
Councilwoman Letitia Horace "Aye"

JEDCO President Shane Pace reviewed the proposed budget with the council. Councilman Rob Gowin made a motion to approve the JEDCO budget. Second, by Councilwoman Mindy Gellock. All voted "Aye"

City Manager James Hubbard said the document was not ready for the council to take action on it. Councilman Tim

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER WITH POSSIBLE ACTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF FIRE HYDRANTS AND ALL ACCESSORIES FOR REPLACEMENT OF SOME EXISTING FIRE HYDRANTS WITHIN THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER WITH POSSIBLE ACTION APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF A NEW PACKAGE LIFT STATION FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE CURRENT TREMONT LIFT STATION.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER WITH POSSIBLE ACTION APPROVING THE ENGAGEMENT OF ETEX AS THE INTERNET PROVIDER FOR THE CIVIC CENTER & BUCKNER PARK

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER WITH POSSIBLE ACTION AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING BLOCKING BOAT RAMPS AND RESTRICTING PARKING NEAR BOAT RAMPS ON LAKE JACKSONVILLE

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER WITH POSSIBLE ACTION A REQUEST TO REPLAT LOTS 4 & 5 OF BLOCK A SOUTH SHORE SUBDIVISION

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER WITH POSSIBLE ACTION A CHANGE TO THE PERSONNEL POLICY REGARDING CERTIFICATION PAY

OPEN FORUM FOR MAYOR AND COUNCIL

CITY MANAGER REPORT

ADJOURN

McRae made a motion to postpone this item. Second, by Councilwoman Letitia Horace. All voted "Aye"

City Manager James Hubbard told council this item was above \$50,000 and that is why it was up for their consideration. Mr. Hubbard reviewed the quotes with the council and said Ferguson Waterworks was the low bidder. Mr. Hubbard also stated these fire hydrants will be purchased with ARPA funds. Councilman Rob Gowin made a motion to approve the purchase of the fire hydrants. Second, by Mayor Pro tem Tim McRae. All voted "Aye"

City Manager James Hubbard reviewed the proposed purchase with the council. Mr. Hubbard said the current lift station is 20 years old. Councilman Rob Gowin made a motion to approve the purchase of the lift station. Second, by Mayor Pro tem Tim McRae. All voted "Aye"

City Manager James Hubbard said the event center does not currently have internet access. Mr. Hubbard said the internet access for Buckner Park is for a new camera system. Mr. Hubbard said ETEX was the low bidder. Mayor Pro tem Tim McRae made a motion to engage ETEX as the internet provider for the civic center and Buckner Park. Second, by Councilwoman Mindy Gellock. All voted "Aye"

City Manager James Hubbard said the need for this ordinance came from non-trailer vehicles parking in the spaces intended for vehicles with boat trailers and parking and blocking the ramp. Mayor Randy Gorham made a motion to approve the ordinance regulating parking at the boat ramps. Second, by Mayor Pro tem Tim McRae. All voted "Aye"

City Manager James Hubbard said this replat simply moves the property line to align with an existing fence. Mr. Hubbard stated that both lessees are in agreement with the re-plat. Councilwoman Letitia Horace made a motion to approve the re-plat. Second, by Councilwoman Mindy Gellock. All voted "Aye"

Assistant City Manager ReNissa Wade said this change is part of the strategy map that speaks to the recruitment and retention of people. Mrs. Wade said the current policy disincentivizes employees to obtain additional water and wastewater certifications by paying a lower amount for additional licenses after the initial license is obtained. This will make the pay the same no matter how many water or wastewater certificates an employee obtains. Councilman Rob Gowin made a motion to approve the changes to the personnel policy regarding certificate pay. Second, by Councilwoman Letitia Horace. All voted "Aye"

Mayor Randy Gorham commended the city manager and staff for their work on the budget workshop. Mr. Gorham said he has been to workshops that lasted 2 days and this workshop was completed in three or four hours.

City Manager James Hubbard told everyone the city is currently hiring. Mr. Hubbard said the splash day was a success. Mr. Hubbard recognized the employees who were working in the heat this summer. He also recognized the work of the bulky truck driver and the cleanup efforts following the storm a couple of months ago.

7:43 pm

Randy Gorham, Mayor
City of Jacksonville

Greg Lowe, City Clerk