

JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 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

**551.087 DELIBERATIONS REGARDING ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT NEGOTIATIONS**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Randy Gorham 6:00 pm

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

INVOCATION

Reverend Omar Gonzales, Pastor of Templo Senda de Luz.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE US & TEXAS FLAGS

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION –

**BUSINESS OF THE MONTH PRESENTED BY JEDCO
PRESIDENT SHANE PACE - SADLER'S KITCHEN**

**JEDCO President Shane Pace presented Councilman Rob
Gowin, the owner of Sadler's Kitchen, with the business of
the month award.**

**PRESENTATION OF A CERTIFICATE OF
ACHIEVEMENT FOR EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL
REPORTING FROM THE GOVERNMENT FINANCE
OFFICER'S ASSOCIATION TO FINANCE
DEPARTMENT - PRESENTED BY MAYOR RANDY
GORHAM**

**Mayor Randy Gorham presented Finance Director Roxanna
Briley with the award. Mrs. Briley said she wanted to
recognize Dianah Surber, in the finance department, for her
efforts heading up the audit this year.**

**A) DISCUSS AND CONSIDER WITH POSSIBLE ACTION
ACCEPTING A DONATION OF A PORTABLE
BUILDING FOR THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX
FROM DYERS PORTABLE BUILDINGS
B) RECOGNITION OF DYERS PORTABLE BUILDINGS
FOR THEIR DONATION**

**City Manager James Hubbard told council the owners of
Dyers Portable building had recently gone through the
citizen police academy. Mr. Hubbard said they were
donating a portable building to the police department.
Mayor Pro tem Tim McRae made a motion to accept the
donation. Second, by Council member Rob Gowin. All voted
"Aye".**

**Mayor Randy Gorham presented Wesley and Chad Dyer, of
Dyer Portable Buildings, with a certificate of appreciation for
their generous donation to the police department.**

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

**Mr. Mike McEwen came forward to commend the city on the
work done downtown and the appearance of the downtown
area. Mr. McEwen suggested putting the physical address on
the notices for property being considered for a zone change.
Mr. McEwen suggested keeping Jacksonville in the name of
the golf course. Mr. McEwen requested more strict code
enforcement and a prohibition on vehicles parking in yards.
Mr. Raymond Franklin came forward to thank the city for
their PSA regarding the shooting of firearms in the air. Mr.
Franklin encouraged citizens, if they had concerns about
something, to write to the city and the police department.
Mr. Charles Flanders came forward to thank the city for the
3D printing training going on at the library. Mr. Flandes
said he would like more training opportunities for the
community. Mr. Flanders said while he understands keeping
yards clean with code enforcement, he encouraged the
council to watch out for too much overreach.
Mr. Steven Arrington came forward to request more patrols
along Pierce Dr. due to speeding vehicles.
Mr. Cedric Franklin came forward voicing his concern about
people shooting firearms in the air. Mr. Franklin said his
roof was hit by stray gun fire and received two bullet holes.**

**CONSENT AGENDA - ITEMS UNDER CONSENT
AGENDA REQUIRE LITTLE OR NO DELIBERATIONS
BY COUNCIL. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**Councilman Rob Gowin made a motion to approve the
consent agenda. Second, by Mayor Pro tem Tim McRae. All
voted "Aye"**

AUTHORIZES THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS
DESIGNEES TO PROCEED WITH CONCLUSION OF
EACH ITEM IN ACCORDANCE WITH STAFF
RECOMMENDATION

MINUTES APPROVAL - NOVEMBER 9, 2023, AGENDA
WORKSHOP; NOVEMBER 14, 2023, CITY COUNCIL
MEETING; DECEMBER 7, 2023, AGENDA WORKSHOP

APPOINT RICHARD JOHNSON TO THE ACCESS
BOARD (MAYORAL)

ANY ACTION OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION IF
NECESSARY

A) SECOND READING OF A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT
OF A JACKSONVILLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION PROJECT INVOLVING AN
EXPENDITURE BY JEDCO IN EXCESS OF \$10,000.00
FOR JEDCO’S PURCHASE FROM TODD RUSSELL
ENRIGHT, DBA, OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT
308 S. MAIN STREET, JACKSONVILLE, TEXAS
B) DISCUSS AND CONSIDER WITH POSSIBLE ACTION
A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER WITH POSSIBLE ACTION
AN ORDINANCE MODIFYING SANITATION RATES

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER WITH POSSIBLE ACTION
AN ORDINANCE MODIFYING WATER AND
WASTEWATER RATES

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER WITH POSSIBLE ACTION
THE PURCHASE OF A BUDGETED DUMP TRUCK

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER WITH POSSIBLE ACTION
AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF NEW AERATORS
FOR THE DOUBLE CREEK WWTP

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
MODIFICATIONS TO THE SCHAUMBURG AND POLK
ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT FOR THE
CANADA STREET RENOVATIONS PROJECT

No action was taken.

JEDCO President Shane Pace reviewed the previously approved purchase of 300 S. Main. Mr Pace told the council this resolution was for support of the purchase of 308 S. Main, which is directly adjacent to and south of 300 S. Main. Mr. Pace said the purpose of the purchase was to control the building and get a suitable tenant for the area. Mr. Pace said there is a lease back to the existing owner of the building which is a three-year lease at a dollar per year. Mr. Pace read the resolution at 6:21 pm. Councilwoman Mindy Gellock made a motion to approve the resolution in support of the purchase of 308 S. Main. Second, by Councilwoman Letitia Horace. All voted "Aye"

City Manager James Hubbard told council that in October 2022 the city had entered into a contract extension with Republic Services. Mr. Hubbard said those negotiations included a 3% annual increase. Councilman Rob Gowin made a motion to approve the rate increase. Second, by Mayor Pro tem Tim McRae. All voted "Aye"

City Manager James Hubbard told council that these proposed rate increases came out of the New Gen Rate study. Mr. Hubbard said in order to keep up with production and infrastructure costs, rates would need to increase. Mr. Hubbard said the gradual increase in rates is easier for households to budget for than not raising rates for several years and then raising them all at once. Mr. Hubbard reviewed a portion of the rate study, the proposed rate changes and the impact the changes would have on households and businesses. Councilwoman Letitia Horace asked if these rates effect the water coops. Mr. Hubbard said those are negotiated as part of a separate contract. Councilwoman Letitia Horace made a motion to approve the proposed rate changes. Second, by Councilman Rob Gowin. All voted "Aye"

City Manager James Hubbard told council the city had sold three dump trucks and staff is recommending the purchase of a new dump truck. Councilman Rob Gowin made a motion to approve the purchase. Second, by Mayor Pro tem Tim McRae. All voted "Aye"

City Manager James Hubbard told council these aerators are for the sewer treatment plant. Mr. Hubbard said they came in under budget. Mayor Pro tem Tim McRae made a motion to approve the purchase. Second, by Councilwoman Letitia Horace. All voted "Aye"

City Manager James Hubbard told the council this item was to replace a 25-year-old lift station off of Tremont St. 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 told the council as part of the Canada St. renovation, an engineering services agreement had been approved by the council. Mr. Hubbard explained, this is for additional engineering to relocate a water line and some surveying near Hwy 69 to better understand what is needed for additional turn lanes and traffic lanes. Mr. Hubbard said the additional engineering would be \$28,000. Councilwoman Mindy Gellock made a motion to approve the modifications to the engineering services agreement for the additional engineering work. Second, Mayor Pro tem Tim McRae. All voted "Aye"

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER WITH POSSIBLE ACTION AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE AND JACKSONVILLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR DEMOLITION SERVICES FOR THE FORMER BONNER PLACE NURSING HOME LOCATED AT 421 S. BONNER STREET

OPEN FORUM FOR MAYOR AND COUNCIL

CITY MANAGER REPORT

ADJOURN

City Manager James Hubbard told council the city is partnering with JEDCO for the demolition of the former Bonner Place Nursing Home. Mr. Hubbard said the existing owner had abated the asbestos and JEDCO will pay for the demolition with the city reimbursing them \$65,000 in ARPA funds once complete. Councilman Rob Gowin made a motion to approve the interlocal agreement. Second, by Councilwoman Letitia Horace. All voted "Aye"

Councilwoman Letitia Horace read a prepared statement regarding the random gun fire in town. Her comments are recorded below.

Good evening. Tonight during the Citizen Participation segment of our meeting we heard from several residents concerned about the occurrence of random gun shots being fired inside the City Limits, and more specifically on the north end of town. I invited these residents, our neighbors, to the meeting tonight specifically to address this issue because it's an area of great concern to many of us. It became even more concerning when I learned not long ago, that one of my neighbors, who you heard from tonight, discovered that a bullet had penetrated the roof of her home. As was mentioned, this bullet didn't come from the homeowner's gun. In fact, they didn't know where it came from. But what they do know is that they're blessed. They're blessed that this stray bullet that fell from the sky only hit their roof and not one of them or one of their grandchildren. But this neighbor isn't the only one that's been affected by random gunfire. You heard others tonight express their concerns as well as the stress and anxiety this type of behavior causes. And so we are here tonight to say enough! Enough is enough! This isn't funny or cute! And it's certainly not cool. It's foolish! So stop it! Stop it before someone is hurt or, worse, killed.

So you might be wondering what we can do about this? For starters, we have worked with the City Staff to develop a PSA Campaign aimed at bringing awareness to this issue. I want to thank the City Staff for coming alongside us and helping us address this matter. To date, a PSA video has been released on the City's Facebook page, and a press release and editorial for the newspaper are coming soon. We are also looking at other ways of getting the word out while continuing to be vigilant around this matter. But the message must be clear, discharging a firearm inside the City Limits is dangerous AND illegal and if you're caught, charges can and will be filed. We know it won't be easy to catch the offenders, but with the JPD's help & the community's vigilance, we are confident that we will be able to drastically mitigate the ongoing occurrence of this behavior.

Now, I fully realize the ones that NEED to hear this message are likely not the ones listening and certainly aren't here tonight, but I'm hopeful! I'm hopeful that those of you that are here will also help spread the word! And if you see something, please say something! If you know someone that engages in this behavior, tell them to cut it out! We are tired of feeling like prisoners in our own neighborhoods and in our own homes. We are better than this. We deserve better than this! And we must demand better than this. Thank you!

Mayor Pro tem Tim McRae commended the city and Christus Mother Francis for the Jingle Jog fun run this past weekend.

City Manager James Hubbard said Jingle Jog this past weekend was a great success. Mr. Hubbard said the police department would be recognized for their first place finish in National Night Out in January. Mr. Hubbard said that demolition of the playground equipment at Buckner Park was complete and the installation of the new equipment should be completed in early 2024. Mr. Hubbard said the road improvement project would begin December 13. Mr. Hubbard repeated the concerns of firearms being shot in the air and urged that they stop.

6:56 pm

Randy Gorham, Mayor
City of Jacksonville

Greg Lowe, City Clerk