

JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2024
JACKSONVILLE CITY HALL EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM
315 S. RAGSDALE
12:00 PM

Meeting Items

CALL TO ORDER	Mayor Gorham called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. At the time of the call to order, the body had a quorum (Mayor Randy Gorham, Councilman Mindy Gellock, and Councilman Letitia Horace present) Absent: Tim McCrac, Mayor Pro-Tem Rob Gowin, Councilman
INVOCATION	Invocation was performed by Mayor Randy Gorham
CITIZEN PARTICIPATION	No citizen participation
QUARTERLY POLICE REPORT PRESENTED BY POLICE CHIEF JOE WILLIAMS	The Quarterly police report was presented by Chief Joe Williams. Chief Williams opens with positive news that the numbers are looking better. Based on the top 7 data points (Murder, Rape Robbery, Assaults, Burglary, Theft and Motor Vehicle Theft), the overall total offenses are down - 17.72% year over year (376 vs 457). The city is currently experiencing 26.49 part one crimes per 1000 capita. The last five-year comparison is as follows: 2023 (26.48), 2022 (30.78), 2021 (20.93), 2020 (19.06), 2019 (19.90). The City of Jacksonville's current experience is slightly below the average of our benchmark cities, 27.62. (Henderson 36.59, Longview 29.17, Palestine 20.01, Tyler 26.01, Kilgore 28.09, and Athens 25.86). Traffic patrol and stops have increased, with more than half (52%) resulting in education and a written warning. Motor vehicle accidents have increased year over year 233 vs 223 (4.48%). However, the number of injury accidents has decreased by -1.64%. The Mayor asked if these numbers were reflected in the city limits only or if they reflected the total responses, as he understands that the police department may respond outside the city limits. Chief Williams indicated that the numbers were reflected inside the city limits only. Calls for services have increased by 33.27% (16,502 vs 12,382). The response time goal is less than 4 minutes for emergency calls and 8 minutes for non-emergencies. On average for the year, emergency response time is 3.91 and non-emergency is 6.58. Things that impact this number are staffing and location of the unit when the call is received. The Mayor asked if the calls for service numbers included calls wherein an officer was not dispatched. The Chief responded that it is inclusive of call resolution. The Criminal Investigation Division has submitted 600 cases to the prosecutor's offices for calendar year 2024. The number of arrests remains flat. Training hours are down compared to year over year: 3,466 vs 4,971 (-30.2%).
REVIEW AND DISCUSS THE AGENDA FOR THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING 10TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2024 (SEE ATTACHED PROPOSED AGENDA) NO ACTION TO BE TAKEN – ITEMS MAY BE REMOVED OR ADDED TO THE PROPOSED AGENDA BY CITY COUNCIL, CITY MANAGER, CITY ATTORNEY OR CITY CLERK AS NEEDED ANY TIME BEFORE THE OFFICIAL POSTING OF MEETING AGENDA	The City Manager went through the September 10th agenda with a few highlights. They are as follows: 1. JEDCO will present the business of the month to Oncor. 2. Requested Brett Brewer, the City Attorney, to give an explanation on item C. under consent - Approve Resolution Adoption Policy Regarding Invocations At Public Meetings. The attorney explained that there have been challenges to this practice in recent history and that it was the recommendation of the Texas City Attorney's Association via the conference to adopt such a resolution. In light of the

challenges, The United States Supreme Court has repeatedly held that governmental bodies and their associated bodies have for centuries opened their meetings with a prayer and that the prayer is for the benefit of the body not the public at large. The suggestion is that there should be a policy designating how the selection of the person leading the invocation shall happen. The City of Jacksonville's current practice fits the spirit of the ruling and as such it is recommended that the practice be solidified by adoption of the proposed Resolution.

3. A public hearing on the budget requiring a roll call vote in order to adopt the budget. The budget has not been edited since the last public hearing and will be presented as is.

*Councilman Horace stepped out at 12:30pm. The council waited for her return before resuming discussion. She returned at 12:31 p.m.

4. A public hearing to adopt tax rate. Although the proposed tax rate is listed as .66445, the budget is built on the current tax rate of approximately .63 cents, and it is expected that the .63 tax rate will be the rate that the council adopts.

5. Ordinance establishing a 5mph reduction in speed on Highway 135. The commission passed a resolution adopting the speed reduction for outside the city limits. The city must pass an ordinance adopting the reduction for inside the city limits. After that, the citizens will see the signs changed. No current news regarding the signage change timeline.

6. The sell of the Vactor truck is a necessary step in the process to acquire the new Vactor truck as previously discussed with council. The expected delivery of the new truck has shifted from October 2024 to December 2024.

7. Street closure request for grand opening of The Piney Woods Custom Woodworks. In the future we will have a more formal road closure application process with an associated fee. This road closure is on Main Street between Hwy 79 and Larissa.

8. There will be one addition to the agenda, which is the intent of issuing certificates of obligation for the TWDB (Texas Water Development Board) for the \$3 million non-forgivable portion of the sanitary sewer improvement project. The total cost for the project is approximately \$11 million of which \$8.1 million is forgivable.

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, DISCUSSION

Question from Councilman Horace regarding Chief Williams giving his quarterly report on Tuesday night as well as at the Council Workshop. Mayor recalled that the report would be presented only at the Council Workshop and not at the Tuesday night public meeting. Councilman Horace said that was fine.

ADJOURN

Mayor adjourned meeting at 12:41 pm.