



MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 6, 2019, AT 6:00 P.M.
CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE BEACH, 2200 A1A South, St. Augustine Beach, FL 32080

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor George called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor George asked to Vice Mayor England lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor George, Vice Mayor England, Commissioner Rumrell, and Commissioner Samora.

Commissioner Kostka was absent.

Also present: City Manager Royle, City Attorney Mulligan, Police Chief Hardwick, Chief Financial Officer Burns, City Clerk Raddatz, Building Official Law, and Public Works Director Tredik.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING, APRIL 1, 2019

Mayor George introduced Item IV and asked the Commission if there were any discussion regarding the minutes. Being none, Mayor George asked for a motion.

Motion: to approve Regular City Commission meeting minutes of April 1, 2019. **Moved by** Commissioner Samora, **Seconded by** Commissioner Rumrell. Motion passed unanimously.

V. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS OF THE AGENDA

Mayor George asked if there were any additions or deletions of the agenda. Being none, Mayor George moved on to Item VI.

VI. CHANGES TO THE ORDER OF TOPICS ON THE AGENDA

Mayor George asked if there were any changes to the order of topics on the agenda. Being none, Mayor George asked City Manager Royle to introduce Mr. Tredik as the new Public Works Director.

City Manager Royle introduced William Tredik, Public Works Director, and advised that he started on May 1, 2019. He advised that Mr. Tredik welcomes the chance to meet with the Commissioners individually to bring the Commission up-to-date on the Public Works Department.

Mr. Tredik thanked the Commission for the opportunity. He advised that he lived in the City of St. Augustine Beach for some time and likes the opportunity to contribute in his home town.

VII. PRESENTATIONS

A. Proclamations:

1. To Declare May 2019 as Older Americans Month (Presenters: Pat O'Connell and Tom Torretta from the Council on Aging)

Mayor George introduced Item VII.A.1. and asked Pat O'Connell and Tom Torretta to come to the podium.

Tom Torretta, Council on Aging, 180 Marine Street, St. Augustine, FL, explained that the Council on Aging helps elderly residents to stay in their homes and helps them to be socially engaged. He thanked the Commission for bringing attention to older Americans and for declaring the month of May as Older Americans Month.

Mayor George asked for a motion to approve Older Americans Month proclamation.

Motion: to approve Older Americans Month proclamation. **Moved by** Mayor George, **Seconded by** Vice Mayor England. Motion passed unanimously.

2. To Celebrate the 50th Annual Municipal Clerks Week (Presenter: Beverly Raddatz, City Clerk)

Mayor George introduced Item VII.A.2. and asked City Clerk Raddatz to come to the podium.

City Clerk Raddatz advised that municipal clerks are very important for local government and this was the 50th Anniversary of the Municipal Clerks Week, which is sponsored by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. She commented that she loves her profession and has been in government 30 years. She explained that municipal clerks believe in public service and help serve the Commission, Boards, and the public. She thanked the Commission for giving her the opportunity to be the City Clerk for the City of St. Augustine Beach.

Mayor George opened the Public Comments section. Being none, Mayor George asked for any discussion.

Commissioner Rumrell advised that in the short time he has been here, he appreciates all that Ms. Raddatz does.

Mayor George advised that Ms. Raddatz does the public records requests and she has heard of no complaints. She remarked that Ms. Raddatz is doing a good job in a tough environment.

Mayor George asked for a motion to approve Municipal Clerks Week proclamation.

Motion: to approve the proclamation for Municipal Clerks Week. **Moved by** Vice Mayor England, **Seconded by** Commissioner Samora. Motion passed unanimously.

- B. Request for City to Participate in the Property Appraiser's Homestead Exemption Audit (Presenter: Eddie Creamer, St. Johns County Property Appraiser)

Mayor George introduced Item VII.B and asked Eddie Creamer to come to the podium.

Mr. Creamer, St. Johns County Property Appraiser, 4030 Lewis Speedway B, St. Augustine, FL, advised that he would like to speak to the Commission regarding a homestead exemption audit. He thanked City Manager Royle for scheduling this discussion tonight. He explained that his office manages the exemption process and there are over 70,000 homestead exemptions in St. Johns County. He remarked that homestead exemptions are the gateway to other exemptions, such as senior and veterans' exemptions. He advised that his office takes about 8,500 new exemptions each year either online or in the office. He explained that the exemptions have never seen a comprehensive review and he would like to do a review of all the exemptions in St. Johns County. He commented that his staff is filing exemptions properly by getting the applicant's Florida driver's license; however, the exemption is out-of-date tomorrow because a lot of changes can happen. He commented that St. Johns County does not have a good system to monitor changes, such as deaths, divorce, remarriage, trusts, purchase of property, or a voter's registration outside of Florida. He is proposing a comprehensive audit of the exemptions through a firm that would use national data. He explained that his office would be in control of the data and the firm would advise his office of the possible illegal homestead exemptions. His office would then investigate the information and give their findings back to the firm. Once the investigation is complete, his office would send a notice of intent to lien to the homeowner and the homeowner has 30 days to fix the homestead exemption or they will be fined. State Statutes says that his office would fine the homeowner for penalties and back taxes with 15% interest of the property of this assessed value for the number of years that it has been improperly claimed. The firm works under the Property Appraiser's control and they work on a percentage of what is collected from penalties and interest. He explained that no monies would be given to the firm unless funds are collected. He asked the Commission to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the auditing firm, once they are selected by the Property Appraiser's Office. He advised that he needs the local communities to agree to this, so he could start the selection process with an auditing firm within the next two weeks.

Mayor George opened the Public Comment section. The following addressed the Commission:

Ann Palmquist, 213 10th Street, St. Augustine Beach, FL asked if other counties have done this before because the penalties are severe and advised that this will change the real estate market within the City.

Merrill Roland, 6281 Old Dixie Drive, St. Augustine, FL, gave an example of an illegal rental that had homestead exemption ten years ago and he supports the audit.

Mayor George closed the Public Comments section and asked for further Commission discussion.

Discussion ensued regarding the Florida State Statute penalties will not change; the three percent cap on homestead properties are a benefit to homeowners, but those claiming illegal exemptions should not receive that benefit; residents have to be living at the property for at least six months and one day to claim homestead exemptions; several counties have done the audits because it is an issue state wide; counties have found between one and five percent of homestead exemptions audited are out of compliance; the cap would be assessed as well, if the homeowner is found to have an illegal exemption; audit firm being on a contingency basis; homeowners who have questions on illegal exemptions can call the Property Appraiser's Office; qualifications for homestead exemptions are that it is the homeowner's primary residence, the homeowner is not allowed any other exemption in the United States, must occupy the home on January 1st of the tax year, and cannot rent the home more than 180 days in a given tax year or rent the home more than 30 days in two consecutive tax years; can

reapply for homestead exemption if circumstances change; auditors will be researching Zillow, websites, divorces, etc. to see if the homeowner qualifies for homestead exemption; Property Appraiser's Office gives the homeowners 30 days to comply; if a person dies, the probate or estate normally defines how the property passes and are filed with the Clerk of the Court, which then the Property Appraiser's Office changes the records; St. Johns County has not done an external audit before; auditors would be investigating homestead exemptions only; the auditor's contract will be one year only per Florida Statutes, but will continue monitoring; no cost to the City or St. Johns County for the auditing firm; audit would start in 90 days and would have impact in 2019 slightly and 2020 would increase; the contract would not be a vehicle to collect bed taxes; however, the Property Appraiser's Office would provide the Tax Collector's Office with information when they found a transient rental that is homesteaded illegally; and the homeowner cannot claim homestead exemption if they rent more than six months or more than three times in one year.

City Attorney Mulligan asked if the redline contract given was an example.

Mr. Creamer advised yes, and that the Memorandum of Understanding will come back to the Commission to approve later.

City Attorney Mulligan asked if Mr. Creamer is looking for the Commission's approval to continue the process.

Mr. Creamer advised yes. He explained that he wanted to be transparent, so he did not waste the other jurisdiction's time with the full process if a municipality in St. Johns County does not want this to move forward. He commented that every taxing authority will receive the same Memorandum of Understanding. He explained that the Memorandum of Understanding can be cancelled at any time and will always be under the direction of the Property Appraiser's Office.

Mayor George asked if there was any reason for the City not to sign.

Mr. Creamer advised not in his opinion. He explained that the notice of lien letters would be coming from his office and not the auditing firm.

Mayor George asked for a motion.

Motion: to approve in concept the auditing services proposed by the St. Johns County Property Appraisers Office subject to final approval of the contract. **Moved by** Vice Mayor England, **Seconded by** Commissioner Rumrell. Motion passed unanimously.

City Manager Royle advised that the next Commission meeting will be on June 10th and asked if that would be a problem for Mr. Creamer.

Mr. Creamer advised that he like to start by June 1st; however, it would not be a problem. He explained that he would have the final contract in the City's hands within two weeks if not sooner. He advised that June 10th would be fine.

Mayor George moved on to Item VII.C.

C. Review of Five-Year Transportation Improvement Program (Presenter: Wanda Forrest, Transportation Planning Manager for the Northeast Florida Transportation Planning Organization)

Mayor George introduced Item VII.C. and asked Ms. Forrest to come to the podium.

Ms. Forrest, Transportation Planning Manager, 980 N. Jefferson Street, Jacksonville, FL, showed a PowerPoint program (See Exhibit 1).

Discussion ensued regarding concerns for pedestrian safety on A1A Beach Boulevard; Police Chief Hardwick would email Ms. Forrest with all the concerns regarding bicycle and pedestrian safety; safety flags for pedestrians took 18 months to get authorization for a bucket to hold flags to be installed at the light on A1A South; vehicle concerns; curve cuts being a problem for vehicle site requirements; and bicycle lanes on A1A Beach Boulevard.

Ms. Forrest advised that she would speak to the Executive Director regarding the City's concerns.

Vice Mayor England advised that the Northeast Florida Transportation Planning Organization has the expertise to help the City with their concerns and asked if they would please help us with the City's safety concerns.

Commissioner Samora advised that this is the second year that the City has not had any funding and asked if they could please research these safety concerns.

Ms. Forrest advised that she would be in touch with Police Chief Hardwick for the concerns and bring them back to the Executive Director.

Mayor George moved to Item VIII.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor George opened the Public Comments section. The following addressed the Commission:

Ann Palmquist, 213 10th Street, St. Augustine Beach, FL, asked for an update on the televised streaming.

Mayor George advised that the Commission decided not to continue with Comcast because of the ADA compliance issue as well as the costs and that the Commission wanted to go out to bid for a new services provider that would be ADA compliant.

City Manager Royle advised that the meetings are being recorded and DVD's will be given out for free for those who request it.

Nick Binder, 232 Big Magnolia Court, St. Augustine Beach, FL, asked about the change in the agenda; need six lights for lighting on A1A South; need to address the budgetary issues; and if the City can apply for the Hammock Dunes grant.

Merrill Roland, 6281 Old Dixie Hwy, St. Augustine, FL, advised that he was falsely charge with a crime which involved Officer Smith and he will be filing a lawsuit regarding it.

Jim Cochran, 228 S Forest Dune Drive, St. Augustine Beach, FL, stated facts that didn't come up during the conditional use permit process on 5th Street regarding a transient rental. He advised that he and his wife follow all the rules and was told by staff that there would be no problem getting a business tax receipt in a commercial area (Exhibit 2). He advised that ordinances should be followed. He explained that the property has no use as a commercial venture and he advised that he should not have the burden of attorney fees for an appeal.

Mayor George advised that City Manager Royle will follow up on the A1A Street lighting and asked City Manager Royle to research the Hammock Dune Park grant.

City Manager Royle advised that the City didn't apply because there was not enough money to make it worth the City's time.

Mayor George advised that staff should apply regardless or bring it back to the Commission for them to decide if it is worth applying. She explained that the deadlines should have not been missed.

City Manager Royle explained that the City did apply years ago, and staff would have to research whether there is a deadline on when the City acquired the property and how many years after the City acquired it can it apply for the grant.

Mayor George advised that it would not be appropriate to speak on Mr. Roland or Mr. Cochran's comments because they may be filing a lawsuit.

Mayor George closed the Public Comments section and moved on to Item 1.

IX. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Request by Laurie Sage Royal for City to Vacate Alley on East Side of Boulevard between 2nd and 3rd Streets; Block 9, Chautauqua Beach Subdivision (Presenter: Brian Law, Building Official)

Mayor George introduced Item 1 and asked Building Official Law to give a staff report.

Building Official Law explained that this application is to vacate a portion of the alleyway, but he recommends denial based on the City's code. He explained that the public cannot go through the alleyway from A1A Beach Boulevard and provided the Commission with the Comprehensive Plan and the City's codes on vacating alleyways. He commented that the Comprehensive Planning and Zoning Board recommended 7 to 0 to vacate the alleyway.

Mayor George asked what makes the lot permanently not an alleyway.

Building Official Law advised that lot 13 was already vacated, which is behind the lot in question. He commented that the public cannot walk from the sidewalk easterly. He explained that the public would have to go through private property to continue down the alleyway.

Mayor George asked how it was vacated backwards.

Building Official Law explained that the lot proposed was not in the Property Appraiser's description of the property of the vacated alleyway, but the building was built in 1991 and it predates the City's codes.

Mayor George advised that the building is not on the alleyway.

Building Official Law agreed; however, he said he would question it if it came through the permitting process because he is not sure of the rear lot line. He commented that the City Code is very clear that no alleys be vacated if it leads to the beach, but in this case, the public would not be able to get through without going on private property.

Commissioner Samora asked if a portion of the alleyway has been vacated.

Building Official Law advised no, just one property.

Mayor George remarked that if there is no official conveyance on record the property owners have no legal entitlement, then it would not be the property owners.

Building Official Law advised that the GIS system runs off the Property Appraiser's records and usually it would have an ordinance associated with the conveyance, but this property does not.

Vice Mayor England asked if the permanent structure encroached into the alley.

Building Official Law advised based on the aerial picture, it does not. The Commission would have to make the determination whether the alleyway had been vacated back in 1991 or not.

Mayor George commented that she does not mind considering the request; however, she is not comfortable making a policy decision of opening the possibilities of vacating alleys in contradiction to our current code or acting upon a guess as to whether there is actual vacation of the alley. She suggested having City Attorney Mulligan to research whether the property owners have ownership of that portion of the alleyway.

City Attorney Mulligan explained that a quick title search on his phone revealed that the Property Appraiser's Office did start to include a vacated portion of the road, but it looks inconsistent in his opinion.

Commissioner Rumrell advised that he walked the alleyway and he would have had to walk on private property to get through.

Mayor George advised that she was not clear whether the property owners own the alleyway. She suggested tabling this item until more research can be done on who owns that portion of the alleyway. She also explained that she would not want to jeopardize the beach renourishment grant by starting to vacate alleyways that leads to the beach, unless the Commission wants to rethink the policy of prohibiting vacating alleys east of the Boulevard but advised that that subject was not in front of the Commission at this meeting.

Mayor George opened the Public Comments section. The following addressed the Commission:

Laurie Sage Royal, 1729 Old Beach Road, St. Augustine Beach, FL, advised that she owns the property at 10 2nd Street. She explained that she asked to vacate the alleyway because she had been maintaining it. She remarked that when she found out that part of it may have been vacated or never was a part of the alley, she thought it might have a chance in passing. She commented that if the public could not get through the alleyway, then she would like to maintain it.

Mayor George closed the Public Comments section and asked for further Commission discussion.

Commissioner Rumrell agreed with Mayor George in tabling the item until research could be done on who owns the property.

It was the consensus of the Commission to table this until City Attorney Mulligan can research the property to see who owns the alleyway.

Mayor George moved on to Item 2.

2. Ordinance 19-06, First Public Hearing and Second Reading: to Allow the Setting of Building Permit and Related Fees by Resolution (Presenter: Brian Law, Building Official)

Mayor George introduced Item 2 and asked for a staff report from Building Official Law.

Building Official Law advised that there have been no changes to this ordinance since the first reading and the Comprehensive Planning and Zoning Board recommends approval.

Mayor George opened the Public Comments section. Being none, Mayor George asked if there were any questions from the Commission. Being none, Mayor George asked City Attorney Mulligan to regard the title of the ordinance.

City Attorney Mulligan read the title of Ordinance 19-06.

Mayor George asked for a motion.

Motion: to approve Ordinance 19-06. **Moved by** Commissioner Samora, **Seconded by** Vice Mayor England. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor George moved on to Item 3.

X. CONSENT

3. Resolution 19-05, to Declare Items of City Property as Surplus and to Authorize Their Disposal

4. Budget Resolutions:

A. 19-02, to Amend the FY 19 General Fund Budget to Recognize \$25,000 in Additional Revenue from Tourist Development Council Money for the Sea Oats Project; and to Recognize Additional Revenue from Arbor Day Event Sponsorships; and to Appropriate Additional Funds for the Planning Consultant's Work on Addressing Comments and Attending Meetings for Changes to the Comprehensive Plan

B. 19-03, to Move \$34,506 from the Sinking Fund Contribution of the Debt Services Fund to the Loan Interest Account of the Debt Services Fund

Mayor George asked if any Commissioner would like to pull any items from the Consent Agenda for discussion. Being none, Mayor George asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion: to approve the Consent Agenda. **Moved by** Mayor George, **Seconded by** Commissioner Rumrell. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor George moved on to Item 5.

XI. OLD BUSINESS

5. Urban Forestry Management Plan: Award of Bid to Legacy Arborist Services of Tallahassee for \$19,450 (Presenter: Ms. Alex Farr, Vice Chair, Tree Board / Beautification Advisory Committee)

Mayor George introduced Item 5 and asked Ms. Alex Farr for her report.

Ms. Farr, 3 7th Lane, St. Augustine Beach, FL, Vice Chair of the Tree Board, advised she was representing the Tree Board and explained that they did received a grant of \$8,750, which was a little less than the Board requested. She commented that the Board also budgeted \$10,000 for the matching grant, which totals \$18,750. She explained that the Board would pay for the rest of the costs out of the Board's budget. She explained that the deadline date was changed from December 31, 2019 to August 31, 2019. She commented that the Board is hoping that Legacy Arbor Services can complete the task in time and advised that Legacy Arbor Services will be able to complete all the Board's scope of work.

Commissioner Samora asked if there was a contract for Legacy Arbor Services.

Mayor George advised no, because they just did the Request for Proposal, so it would be up to the staff to proceed if the Commission approves the contract.

Commissioner Samora asked if Legacy Arbor Services could get the requirements done by August 31, 2019.

Ms. Farr remarked that she was waiting on Legacy Arbor Services to see if they could complete the project in that short of time.

Sandra Krempasky, 7 C Street, St. Augustine Beach, FL, Tree Board Chair, advised that the Board may have the potential to ask for an extension. She explained that Legacy Arbor Services said that they could do the project in three months and asked City Manager Royle how long would it take to get a contract.

City Manager Royle advised that City Attorney Mulligan could draft a contract based on the Request for Proposal and the Commission could approve it pending his review and drafting. He advised that the Commission could approve the award of the bid depending upon Legacy Arbor Services meeting the deadline of August 31, 2019.

Mayor George agreed and advised that Legacy Arbor Services needs to meet the deadline or the extended deadline if it is granted.

Ms. Farr explained that this is an important issue because of the sea level rise issue. She commented that trees are one of the main components for being resilient against sea level rise.

Mayor George opened the Public Comments section. Being none, Mayor George thanked Ms. Farr and Ms. Krempasky for there efforts on this project. Mayor George then made a motion.

Motion: to award the bid to Legacy Arbor Services in Tallahassee and to direct staff to get a contract finalized as soon as possible making the contract contingent upon meeting the deadlines required by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Urban and Community Forestry Grant for fiscal year 2019 and to adhere to its deadline and any extended deadline. **Moved by** Mayor George, **Seconded by** Vice Mayor England. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Krempasky thanked Vice Mayor England for preparing the Request for Proposal.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

6. Business Tax Receipts: Ordinance 19-07, First Reading, to Update Classification Titles and Increase Fees (Presenter: Beverly Raddatz, City Clerk)

Mayor George introduced Item 6 and asked City Clerk Raddatz for a staff report.

City Clerk Raddatz gave an account of previous Commission discussions regarding business tax receipts and explained that this ordinance is to increase the business tax receipts by five percent and to update the business tax receipt categories. She explained that the increase would be \$12,000 not \$2,000 as stated in her memo and advised that staff recommends approval.

Commissioner Rumrell commented that he went over this with City Manager Royle and advised that this process needs to be done and appreciates that staff will continue to do this as appropriate.

Commissioner Samora advised that there was one typo in Category 15, word should be billiards not billboards.

Vice Mayor England questioned why some of the categories were deleted.

Discussion ensued regarding some categories not being deleted.

Mayor George suggested keeping all the deleted categories that were over \$26.25, but anything under that amount delete.

The Commission agreed.

Mayor George opened the Public Comments section. Being none, Mayor George closed the Public Comments section and asked City Attorney Mulligan to read the title of the ordinance.

City Attorney Mulligan read the title of the ordinance.

Mayor George asked for a motion.

Motion: to approve Ordinance 19-07 with the stated changes. **Moved by** Commissioner Rumrell, **Seconded by** Commissioner Samora. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor George moved on to Item 7.

7. Resolution 19-01: to Amend Section XI.21 of the Personnel Manual Regarding Workers' Compensation (Presenter: Beverly Raddatz, City Clerk)

Mayor George introduced Item 7 and asked for a staff report from City Clerk Raddatz.

City Clerk Raddatz advised that staff felt the City is not following the typical practices that other municipalities are doing regarding workers' compensation. She explained that the insurance company is paying 66 ⅔ percent to the injured employee and the City is paying the other 33 ⅓ percent without taking any sick, vacation, or overtime from the employee. She explained that this encourages the employees not to come back to work as soon as possible.

Discussion ensued regarding the language in the ordinance they says the employee may use sick, vacation, or overtime leave if they want to get a full paycheck; the City Manager and Police Chief have discretion to change the policy as they deem fit; whether Paragraph B would be legally defensible; workers' compensation employees would be receiving more benefits than employees who are on working status under the current policy; and the City pays for the first seven days the employee is out on workers' compensation unless the employee is out more than 21 days, in which case the insurance company will pay the seven days of salary percentage.

Mayor George agrees that there is a need to make the change. She asked if other cities have a policy that when on workers' compensation the employee would not be entitled to sick and vacation leave.

City Attorney Mulligan advised that he does not feel the City can take away the employees benefits while on workers' compensation.

Chief Financial Officer Burns advised that there is a cap of six months if the employee does not return to work.

City Attorney Mulligan explained that the language could be clearer in Paragraph B and if benefits are unintentionally paid to the employees, they must return those benefits to the City. He advised that he is satisfied with the language if that what it is trying to relate.

Commissioner Samora asked in Paragraph B whether the word shall should be changed to may.

City Clerk Raddatz advised it should be may because it would be under the discretion of the City Manager and Police Chief.

Mayor George agreed because it would be nice to give the employee the option.

Vice Mayor England explained that workers' compensation is an area where there are disagreements and she would like City Attorney Mulligan to review it further and tighten up the language before it is approved. She requested this come back to the June 10, 2019, Commission meeting.

The Commission agreed.

Mayor George opened the Public Comments section. Being none, Mayor George moved on to Item XIII.

XIII. COMMISSIONER / STAFF COMMENTS

Mayor George asked City Manager Royle for any staff comments.

City Manager Royle thanked Communications and Event Coordinator Walker, the Tree Board, and volunteers for a successful Arbor Day. He also thanked Commissioner Kostka for donating ice cream for the event.

Building Official Law advised it has been a busy month with residential permits and that Panama Hatties is near completion.

Public Works Director Tredik commented that he took notes but did not have anything to report.

Police Chief Hardwick advised that he received Ms. Wanda Forrest's email address to send her the City's concerns from Florida Department of Transportation and St. Johns County, which will include the lighting on A1A South. He advised that he will notify the Commission when he receives word back from Ms. Forrest. He explained that he has a long relationship with Mr. Roland on a professional level and all cases are documented. He explained that Mr. Roland was not arrested by his office, but the charges were forwarded to the State Attorney's Office which decided not to go forward with the them. He clarified again that Mr. Roland was not arrested by the St. Augustine Beach Police Department. He remarked that Mr. Roland is not the only person who has gone through this process.

City Clerk Raddatz announced that Christine Raddatz, her daughter, just graduated from the University of South Florida and is now a Microbiologist and wished her all the best.

The Commission applauded for her achievement.

Commissioner Samora advised that he was not able to attend the St. Johns County Visitors and Convention Bureau (VCB) meeting; however, he did meet with Richard Goldman, CEO of the Bureau, to get up to speed. He explained that the main topic of conversation was funding for Forever Florida which was in jeopardy of not being approved in the last legislative session. He advised that the Governor stepped in and funded \$50 million for one more year. He explained that the funding eliminates some of the costs that the VCB would have to fund. He also requested that the striping on the improved parking lots be restriped.

Commissioner Rumrell explained that he went to the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce meeting and remarked that Kilo was there to show what he can do, which was very informative. He advised that Kilo searched for substances and did very well. He also thanked Commissioner Kostka for donating the ice cream at the Arbor Day event. He commented that he likes it so much that the public gets excited about Arbor Day and it is nice to see that. He advised that he is working with Commissioner Kline from the City of St. Augustine regarding their city limiting their hours when bars may serve alcohol and is working with Police Chief Hardwick on that issue, so our City

does not get blindsided. He advised that internet cafés have caused some problems and he didn't want them to proliferate here at the City, so he is working with Police Chief Hardwick to see what could be done.

Police Chief Hardwick advised that these types internet cafés have been investigated by the State Attorney's Office and the State Attorney's Office has made them a criminal offense.

Vice Mayor England advised that there will be a North Florida Transportation Planning Organization meeting on Thursday and she will try to speak to the Executive Director to get some help on the concerns for the City.

Mayor George explained that Sunday – Tuesday there is an international conference about sea level rise at Flagler College. She explained that when she tried to get a ticket for it, it was sold out. She remarked that the City should have had a representative there and it is an embarrassment that we didn't. She also advised that in Jacksonville on Monday – Wednesday there is an international conference on the rights of a child and asked the Commission to be aware of this movement in government. She explained that there is only one school in our jurisdiction, but this is to bring in the thinking of government for children's needs. She advised that Mr. Binder's request regarding Commissioner Comments would be up for discussion at the June Commission meeting. Lastly, she advised that there was a House bill that passed which prohibits local government from banning plastic straws. She remarked that she still would like to request City Attorney Mulligan to give her a briefing at the next meeting on the House bill's effective date and whether it focuses exclusively on plastic straws and whether the City could move forward on Styrofoam, plastic bags, or plastic containers. She explained that she received an email regarding a flood planning grant.

City Manager Royle advised that staff is meeting tomorrow regarding the flood planning grant.

Mayor George advised that she had a meeting with PRIA, an insurance company, which is competing with the Florida League of Cities for general liability, property, workers' compensation, and medical insurances. She explained that she has received complaints that the City has not gotten competitive bidding for these insurances for several years because the City uses one agent. She explained that the City is getting competitive billing from the agent and the FLC, but this is another competitive bidder that the City could meet with.

Commissioner Rumrell asked City Manager Royle to compose an agreement with the City of St. Augustine, the University Florida, or Flagler College to have two seats always reserved for two City Commissioners for seminars or conferences on sea level rise or climate change and our City would do the same in our jurisdiction.

Mayor George advised that this would not be a standard practice to hear public comment during Commissioner Comments but allowed Ms. Palmquist to speak.

Ann Palmquist, 213 10th Street, St. Augustine Beach, FL, asked if the City would be interested in an update on the climate change conference that recently was held and invite the speakers to attend a City Commission meeting.

Mayor George agreed with Ms. Palmquist and asked City Manager Royle to investigate that.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor George asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: to adjourn. **Moved by** Commissioner Samora, **Seconded by** Mayor George. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor George adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.


Undine C. George, Mayor

ATTEST:


City Clerk