



MINUTES

CONTINUATION MEETING AND WORKSHOP

MONDAY, MAY 24, 2021 AT 1:00 P.M.

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE BEACH, 2200 A1A South, St. Augustine Beach, FL 32080

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor England called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor England led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor England, Vice Mayor Samora, Commission Rumrell and Commissioner Torres.

Commissioner George was absent.

Also present were: City Manager Royle, Assistant City Attorney Taylor, Police Chief Carswell, City Clerk Raddatz, Finance Director Douylliez, Building Official Law, and Public Works Director Tredik.

IV. CONTINUATION OF MAY 3, 2021, REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING

1. City-Wide LED Streetlight Conversion: Request to Approve Contract with FP&L for Phase 1 for Lights Along A1A Beach Boulevard (Presenter: Bill Tredik, Public Works Director)

Mayor England introduced Item 1 and asked for a staff report from Public Works Director Tredik.

Public Works Director Tredik showed a PowerPoint presentation (Exhibit 1). He showed the locations for Phase 1, which would be in the mixed-use districts and Phase II throughout the residential neighborhoods in the City. He explained that there are different types of pole tops and aesthetic features that the Commission could select. He advised that FPL would change the 183 high pressure sodium lights to LED lights and showed the differences in color temperatures in the PowerPoint presentation. He remarked that this change would save the City approximately \$50 a month. He advised that there has been a lot of discussion regarding the 4,000 Kelvin lights and said that they

disturb sleep patterns and are more intrusive to wildlife because they are a whiter light. He recommended FPL installing 3,000 Kelvin lights because it is a softer light and more like an incandescent light versus a florescent light. He then showed some differences in lighting from the Internet. FPL can put 3,000 or 4,000 Kelvin lights in with no difference in pricing. The Commission would have to decide what they want throughout the City. Some cities selected 4,000 Kelvin lights and were unhappy and switched back to 3,000 Kelvin lights. He advised that the fixtures could be upgraded to one wattage higher, which would give a higher level of lightening, but the City would not save money on the conversion and would cost the City \$240 more a month. If the Commission only wanted to raise the illumination on the Boulevard, the City could break even on the costs. He commented that he thinks it would be fine to keep the wattage the same unless the Commission wants the Boulevard to be brighter. He recommended the 3,000-Kelvin color temperature. He asked that the Commission allow City Manager Royle to sign the LED lighting agreement with FPL to convert the 183 existing high-pressure sodium streetlights to LED 3,000 or 4,000-Kelvin color temperature.

Mayor England asked what should be considered regarding turtle season.

Public Works Director Tredik advised that staff is not doing anything east of the Boulevard until Phase II. Some of the streets that go down to the ocean would receive turtle lights when Phase II is done. He commented that he wants a consistent light pattern, not a white and yellow pattern and explained that there would be a few lights that would have to be turned off on the Boulevard during turtle season.

Mayor England advised that when the lights are turned off it creates black spots along the Boulevard, which she would like to avoid for pedestrian safety.

Public Works Director Tredik advised that on 10th Street parking lot, the lighting was visible on the beach, but that is not being converted at this time. He explained that there were only two lights that needed to be turned off and only one in the conversion area.

Commissioner Torres clarified that there is no cost for the conversion and there would be a savings when the LED lighting is installed. If the Commission purchases the 3,000-Kelvin lighting, would the City break even.

Public Works Director Tredik advised that the 3,000-Kelvin would have not affect the pricing, and it would only be the preference for the City.

Commissioner Torres asked what FPL's timeline would be since FPL has been backed up doing these conversions.

Public Works Director Tredik advised that he does not have a timeline but said that it would be about six months.

Commissioner Rumrell asked Police Chief Carswell if he was happy with the 3,000 Kelvin lighting compared to the 4,000 Kelvin lighting.

Police Chief Carswell advised yes. He discussed it with Public Works Director Tredik, and he agrees with him.

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

Brud Helhoski, 691 A1A Beach Blvd., St. Augustine Beach, FL, explained that the picture gives no indication of what the lighting really does. He asked if FPL could place a 3,000-Kelvin at an intersection and then a 4,000-Kelvin at another intersection first before placing them all in. He said if you convert them all, the neighbors might complain about the lighting. He requested the Commission take their time and not rush the project. After 9:00 p.m. there is not a lot of pedestrians.

Mayor England asked what his streetlight was because that was bright.

Mr. Helhoski advised it was 4,000 Kelvin. It is intrusive because the light is angled to the west side of A Street. It is on A Street and not A1A Beach Boulevard, customers complain about the light and his staff has received headaches from it.

Mayor England closed the Public Comments section and asked if the wattage is higher on A Street.

Public Works Director Tredik advised that the light is 133-watt, 4,000 Kelvin. He explained that most of the Boulevard has 100-watt high pressure sodium lights, but those would be replaced with 41-watt LED's. He explained that about a third of the illumination is what most of the Boulevard would be. He did shut off the light because he is planning to switch the 100-watt sodium light with a 41-watt LED with a 3,000-Kelvin and shield it, so it does not shine in Jack's BBQ direction. FPL assured him that there is a shield and can be angled differently. He explained that FPL will be changing the lighting on A1A Beach Boulevard anyway, so it might be possible to eliminate that light completely.

Mayor England asked about the angle being changed.

Public Works Director Tredik advised that FPL can turn the light down or angle it differently especially during turtle season.

Mayor England advised that the Commission needs to give staff guidance between Option 1 and Option 2.

Public Works Director recommended replacing with the same illumination and save \$50 per month at 3,000 Kelvin.

Mayor England asked for a motion.

Motion: to support the staff recommendation of replacing the existing level of illumination the current sodium lights with LEDs at the 3,000-Kelvin color. **Moved by** Vice Mayor Samora, **Seconded by** Mayor England. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor England moved on to Item 2.

2. **Public Parking:** Discussion of Where to Allow and Not Allow Parking and Creating Five-Year Plan for Improvements (Presenters: Max Royle, City Manager; Bill Tredik, Public Works Director)

Mayor England introduced Item 2 and asked for a staff report from City Manager Royle.

City Manager Royle stated this item is not about paid parking, only about more accessible parking. He showed in his memo all the parking spaces that could be considered. He advised that the parkette near Jack's BBQ could be considered for a parking improvement project because it floods. A realtor who represents the lots between 4th and 5th Streets advised that the owner is not going to construct a mixed-use development in that area and would be open to the City purchasing it for \$3 million dollars for the land with ten lots. That would be \$200,000 per lot and the City paid more for the lots on 10th Street in 2006 or 2007. He then requested Public Works Director Tredik to give a PowerPoint presentation.

Public Works Director Tredik showed his previous PowerPoint presentation on parking (Exhibit 2) and explained potential parking spaces, improvement of current parking spaces, and construction costs. He advised that there may be grant funding in the next year for these types of projects. He explained that there is a potential of 162 more parking spaces throughout A1A Beach Boulevard. He commented that with the River to the Sea Bike Trail parking will be even more important. Ocean Hammock Park and Hammock Dunes Park will be important places as well for bikers. Hammock Dunes Park has wetlands and has more challenges because of the environmental permitting that is necessary, so it is not on the provided list, but could be in the future.

Mayor England advised that the Vision Plan had potential changes.

Public Works Director Tredik advised that he is aware of the plan but does not know the parking selections from it tonight.

Vice Mayor Samora asked if his list aligns with the parking study that was done a few years back.

Public Works Director Tredik advised that he was not familiar with that study, but he would look at it.

Vice Mayor Samora advised that St. Johns County and the City paid for that and it may be beneficial to see how it coordinates with your information. He asked if Ocean Hammock Park parking would be done in Phase II and when does it have to be done according to the grant.

Public Works Director Tredik advised there are timelines, but the grantors have been generous with the City to extend the timelines. He explained that he extended it for another year or two. They will extend it if the City is showing progress. He advised that he is about to start the restrooms and doing the designs for Phase II currently. He said at some point they will not want to extend, but he is comfortable that the City is in good shape right now.

Commissioner Rumrell spoke with St. Johns County Commissioner Henry Dean regarding Pope Road. He advised that Mr. Howell, the previous Public Works Director, came up with a parking plan for angled parking spots along Pope Road. He asked staff to talk with Mr. Caldwell at St. Johns County to try to stop people from parking on the bend as they come around Embassy Suites. He advised that the parking plan had 20 to 25 parking spaces for Pope Road. He asked if staff and Mr. Caldwell could discuss it at a meeting.

Public Works Director Tredik advised that there was a study done for Pope Road presented a year ago by St. Johns County. He explained that that was back-in parking on the north side. He commented that he did not believe that was in any capital project list currently. He advised that he would like to work with St. Johns County on that. Some of the concerns he had about the study was it brought parking all the way to Mickler Boulevard, which is a residential single-family area.

Commissioner Rumrell advised that he thought it would be good to have St. Johns County and the City work together on that project.

Commissioner Torres advised that he has been advocating for parking improvements on A1A Beach Boulevard and A Street on the west side of the Boulevard. The aesthetics are inconsistent between the east and west side of the Boulevard regarding the bathrooms. The entrance of 1st Street gets very congested with parking. He explained that the area is not functional, and he would like disciplined parking even if parking spaces will be less. He would like this as a high priority. He also would like to improve parking on 1st Street and A1A Beach Boulevard as well.

Mayor England advised that Pier Park is a place for the events and parking is needed. On A Street there is supposed to be like a Town Center. The Vision Plan had a lot of suggestions how to improve the look of that area. It was supposed to be a focal point of the City. She suggested to write a plan and give it to the Comprehensive Planning and

Zoning Board to help prioritize the projects. The beach goers can drive on the beach and City Manager Royle has counted 500 spaces. She suggested having more parking on the north end of the City for when the City has events and wanted to prioritize A Street, 16th Street, and areas closer to Pier Park. That way there are more spaces for events like Music by the Sea and for beach goers. She requested a point system in writing as a five-year plan and bring it to the Comprehensive Planning and Zoning Board.

Public Works Director Tredik advised as the budget season is approaching, he has parking improvements in the primarily budget, but not which project. He said that 4th Street was the easiest to implement; however, if the Commission would like him to move forward with A Street, he could do the design and permitting in next year's budget and research funding opportunities for construction the following year. He explained that if we do the total project, it might be more than the budget would allow in one year.

Vice Mayor Samora advised that the Commission has been talking about parking for a long time and not making much progress. He said that there are two categories, one is improvement of aesthetics and functionality like A Street and 4th Street, which do not add to the parking, and the other is adding parking spaces. He would be disappointed if there was only a design and not add parking spaces. He would like to look at both and would like a plan that shows additional parking spaces in this budget cycle.

Public Works Director Tredik advised that that would cost more in the budget this year.

Mayor England agreed with adding parking spaces where the City has their events. She explained that the list has 16th Street, 8th Street, and 4th Street, but a point system must be done to prioritize and then given to the Comprehensive Planning and Zoning Board and then bring it back to the Commission.

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

Brud Helhoski, 691 A1A Beach Blvd., St. Augustine Beach, FL, advised that his concern is people coming off A Street and driving up to Jacks BBQ. He explained that parking spaces will be lost, but he would like the handicap spaces to be in front of the older part of Jacks BBQ and facing towards Jacks BBQ. He asked that when the lot is improved, to please let him know and do it during off-season. He explained that 70% of the parking spaces are taken by employees of the local area and filled up before the beach traffic starts. At night it empties out and the majority of the people come to Jacks BBQ. He would not like traffic to go directly in front of Jacks BBQ.

Mayor England closed the Public Comments section and asked if most of the customers at Jacks BBQ are pedestrian walkups.

Mr. Helhoski advised yes, also bicyclist, pedestrian, motorcyclist, and scooters. He said when he charged for parking in his back lot there was still room for his customers. Holiday weekends were the only time it was full.

Mayor England asked if the parking behind the restaurant is going to be improved.

Mr. Helhoski advised yes, but in the future because he has his hands full right now.

Public Works Director Tredik advised that there will be at least four parking spaces lost at Jacks BBQ because traffic cannot come out at the intersection. When the design work is completed, we will work with the community around there for the best options.

Mayor England advised that safety is essential and do not forget a buffer needs to be on A1A Beach Boulevard, which could be a fence with a vine instead of bushes.

City Manager Royle recapped that the Commission wants a five-year parking plan, to put in the FY22 budget designing and permitting, improving existing parking spaces, and finding more parking spaces.

Mayor England also mentioned to create a point system through the Comprehensive Planning and Zoning Board which will come back to the Commission.

City Manager Royle advised that for FY22, staff can focus on the 8th Street plaza because that is significant as well as Ocean Hammock Park which will give 20 more parking spaces.

Mayor England said that parking spaces are important at Pier Park.

City Manager Royle advised that he and Mr. Tredik will have a meeting with St. Johns County regarding Pope Road in order to get more spaces by Pier Park.

Mayor England asked about 16th Street having more parking spaces.

City Manager Royle advised that there is one row of parking on 16th Street already.

Mayor England asked about 8th Street.

Public Works Director Tredik said that there is potential for ten parking spaces in front of Seaside Anastasia at 16th Street. That project would cost approximately \$40,000 - \$50,000 for ten parking spaces. He explained that one of those streets could be put in the budget for design phase next year. The Commission could approve the ranking and then the projects could start.

Vice Mayor Samora explained that he wants new parking spaces not design and permitting. If there is not enough in the budget, then the City will have to sort that out.

Public Works Director Tredik advised that he will budget for actual construction.

Vice Mayor Samora advised that he wants to have a point system, take it to the Comprehensive Planning and Zoning Board and come back to the Commission at the next meeting. Keep this on track so that we can add parking for next fiscal year to the budget.

City Manager Royle advised that 8th Street on the west side the Commission should keep in mind how much parking the Commission wants versus beautification. There are nicely landscaped plazas along the Boulevard that contribute to the City's look. The D Street plaza is in front of a house and the owner may not want a parking lot in front of her front door. There are several things to consider.

Mayor England advised that that should be a part of the Vision Plan and Comprehensive Planning and Zoning Board should agree with what plazas should remain landscaping or rest areas for pedestrians and what should be additional parking spaces.

Commissioner Torres thought that parking improvements have been in the budget for years. He agreed with City Manager Royle that he does not want the Boulevard to be only parking spaces for events. He understands high traffic events, but vision was the Pier Park area is not appealing. There is sand on the Boulevard every morning and he was hoping to get that done in this budget year.

City Manager Royle advised that there will be a two-direction project, improvement of existing parking spaces and acquisition of new parking spaces. He commented to the Commission the problem with the community garden on the plaza on 1st Street and A Street. If parking is proposed there, there will be the same problems and recommended not to look at those plazas for the time being.

Mayor England advised that the walk space on 2nd Avenue should be preserved as much as possible. She would like to keep in mind the Vision Plan regarding A Street as the Town Center and work with the community to improve that.

City Manager Royle advised that residents are complaining about people parking along 2nd Avenue, so "No Parking" signs have been put up.

Vice Mayor Samora asked how many parking spaces on 2nd Avenue.

City Manager Royle advised that it is hard to tell because people park in a lot of different directions. The City put new signs up between A Street and C Street because of residents' complaints, which took away parking spaces.

Commissioner Rumrell advised that there must be a balance. Have the Boulevard look nice, but if we do not add spaces then people park in the residents' neighborhoods. The goal is to get people out of the neighborhoods and into the streets. Maybe there could

be a hybrid plan with the plazas and the parking lots to get people from parking in neighborhoods. He suggested working with St. Johns County regarding the bend on Pope Road where people walk out, and cars are going 45 mph on a curve.

City Manager Royle advised that working with St. Johns County would be a key priority to have them put parking on Pope Road in their capital plan.

Vice Mayor Samora agreed with a balance and the City needs a five-year plan that allocates money for improvements, whether is it aesthetic improvements such as A Street and 4th Street and to have additional parking as well. He commented that the City has enough park lands and parkettes to create a balance. He would like some movement and a long-range plan for it.

Mayor England asked to include in the plan the number of parkettes, the number dedicated to landscaping and rest spots, and the number of parkettes that would be developed for parking.

Public Works Director Tredik advised that he has the direction that is needed.

Mayor England moved on to Item 3.

3. Ordinance 21-05, First Reading, to Vacate Alley between B and C Streets, West of A1A Beach Boulevard to 2nd Avenue (Lots 1-16, Block 40 Coquina Gables Subdivision) (Presenter: Brian Law, Building Official)

Mayor England introduced Item 3 and asked for a staff report from Building Official Law.

Building Official Law recapped the history of Ordinance 21-05 and advised that there will be another hearing.

Discussion ensued regarding the process of ordinances.

Mayor England opened the Public Comment section. Being none, Mayor England closed the Public Comments section and asked City Attorney Taylor to read the preamble.

City Attorney Taylor read the preamble.

Mayor England asked for a motion.

Motion: to approve Ordinance 21-05 as read. **Moved by** Commissioner Rumrell, **Seconded by** Vice Mayor Samora. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor England moved on to Item 4.

4. Ordinance 21-06, First Reading, to Vacate Alley between A and B Streets, and between 3rd and 4th Avenues (Lots 1-16, Block 49, Coquina Gables Subdivision) (Presenter: Brian Law, Building Official)

Mayor England introduced Item 4 and asked for a staff report from Building Official Law.

Building Official Law recapped Ordinance 21-06.

Mayor England opened the Public Comment section. Being none, Mayor England closed the Public Comments section and asked for Commission discussion.

Vice Mayor Samora asked if the additional letter of support was received.

Building Official Law advised yes, at the last hearing for this ordinance.

Mayor England asked City Attorney Taylor to read the preamble.

City Attorney Taylor read the preamble.

Mayor England asked for a motion.

Motion: to approve Ordinance 21-06 as read. **Moved by** Commissioner Rumrell, **Seconded by** Vice Mayor Samora. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor England moved on to Item 4.

5. STAFF COMMENTS

Mayor England asked City Manager Royle to comment.

City Manager Royle advised that over several meetings staff has applied for many grants mostly by the Public Works Department. He requested from the Commission an assistant from Public Works Director Tredik because of his workload. He commented that he would be in remiss as a manager not to asked for it. Mr. Tredik needs a high-level employee with experience in Civil Engineering who would be his assistant. The current Assistant Public Works Director is in the DROP program and will be leaving the City for retirement. This new assistant would help with the grant applications on drainage, weir, etc. He advised that the City is in danger if it does not hire an assistant because something may fall through the cracks because it is too much for one person. The new employee would take over some of the detailed work and would be trained for succession planning for when Mr. Tredik retires.

Mayor England advised that there is no doubt that the City has many projects going on. She asked if the City hires an engineer, where does the City get the help for the grant writing.

City Manager Royle advised that Public Works Director Tredik does engineering projects and Ocean Hammock Park projects. The Finance Director and the City Manager may do part of the projects, but the engineering projects are done by Public Works Director Tredik alone. That the most immediate need is for grants at this time because of the vulnerability the City faces with the sea level rise issue, the weir project, and drainage projects.

Mayor England advised that the new employee not only to manage the projects but to have an engineering degree to go after the grants.

City Manager Royle advised that the Assistant Public Works Director handles the day-to-day routine of the department. Once he retires, then the new employee would take over those responsibilities. He commented that we need someone to administer the grants. The grants have to be administered correctly so the City does not have to give the money back.

Finance Director Douylliez advised that the grant applications are technical and have to be done by an engineer. The departments will work together to manage the projects, such as the weir that has five stages. She explained that the contractor submitted an invoice for \$100,000 for Phase I and the Finance Department would have to handle that aspect. The deliverables, such as making sure that the contractor has done the scope of work that the grant requires, would require a person who has an engineering degree to keep the projects moving forward. Public Works Director Tredik gets grants, but if they are not done in time and to specs, the grantor will want their money back. We need the projects done in the budget year so there are no carryovers from year to year in the budget.

Mayor England asked when this employee would be hired.

Finance Director Douylliez advised that the City Manager would like to start the employee in the fourth quarter of this budget or July 1st. There are savings in other departments that could cover the costs.

Commissioner Rumrell advised that he has given Public Works Director Tredik a lot and he has done it on time and has a good track record in Tallahassee now. He asked if this would cutdown on outsourcing consultants.

Public Works Director Tredik advised that the City could save if some of the smaller projects were to be brought inhouse. Some of those contracts would save \$20,000 to \$30,000. He advised he has the skills, but not the time for everything. He will be bringing

two CMT contracts next month to the Commission because he does not have the time to complete them.

Commissioner Rumrell said that would pay for that new employee, too.

Public Works Director Tredik advised that after getting the grant there is more paperwork, project meetings, and photos to be done to manage the grants. He advised that the position would pay for itself. He stated he would like someone with two to three years' experience, who could sit for the Professional Engineer test in a couple of years.

Commissioner Rumrell agreed and supported the position.

Commissioner Torres agreed with the position since staff has found ways to budget for it, then he is in favor of it.

Vice Mayor Samora advised that the City has a Public Works focus for the next several years, such as Ocean Walk. He commented that every meeting there have been big projects that the Public Works Department has to do. So, he would agree with hiring a person who has an engineering degree.

It was the consensus of the Commission to move ahead on hiring a person for the position.

Mayor England advised that City Manager Royle and her spoke with St. Johns County and asked whether they have put the fire station in their five-year capital project plan. City Manager Royle, however, has not seen the paperwork, so he would follow up on that. She explained that City Manager Royle and she had a meeting with the Cultural Council, and they want to move ahead with applying to make the old city hall designated as historical. She asked if any Commissioner objects to that.

Vice Mayor Samora asked what comes with it, such as upkeep and restoring the building.

City Manager Royle advised that it would not encumber the City in any way. Christina Parrish, from the Cultural Council said that if the City wanted to remove the building, it still could be removed. She said that it would help with grants if it were on the register.

Mayor England advised that she did not see any harm with getting the building on the register.

Vice Mayor Samora commented as long as it has been vetted.

Mayor England advised that the City has five years before the lease is up and the Commission would have to decide its use. On the Civil Rights Memorial, Christina Parrish has been working with Commissioner George to expand the input to Lincolnville and organizations that may have people who are still living that were a part of that era.

Finance Director Douylliez advised that she is still monitoring the American Rescue Plan on what it can be used for. She explained that the \$2.9 million will not come to the City but is being distributed to the State of Florida for distribution. She is going to attend a webinar in July, which the Commission can attend, to see how to use the money. The auditors advised that infrastructure would be the best use of the money.

Mayor England asked to keep the Commission informed and even if a special meeting is necessary to decide where the money should go. She suggested having the webinar in the Commission room so everyone could participate.

City Manager Royle advised that they will keep the Commission informed.

Chief of Police Carswell had nothing to report.

City Clerk Raddatz had nothing to report except turnover recently in the HR Department.

Building Official Law advised he had nothing to report.

City Attorney Taylor advised he had nothing to report.

Public Works Director Tredik advised that the weir construction is close to starting. The City is waiting for the final contract to be signed. One of the grants for Ocean Walk is in Tallahassee waiting for Governor DeSantis to sign or veto. He advised that if it is vetoed, the City can still move forward on another grant. He applied for a grant to stop the storm surge from coming into the north side of the City, which is a \$550,000 project to HMGP.

Mayor England asked what the next steps are for the Vulnerability Study.

Public Works Director Tredik advised the City would need final approval from the state and the City will then get reimbursed for the study. Then the staff will start developing the projects the study recommends. He plans on doing a stormwater update to the Master Stormwater Plan. The projects will cost a lot and the Commission would have to discuss how to fund them over the next five to ten years. He can apply for grants but some of them are matching at different ratios.

Commissioner Rumrell advised that nine people were rescued over the weekend in our City. He thanked Ocean Rescue, the St. Augustine Beach Police Department, St. Johns County Fire Rescue, and the Sheriff's Office. He believed everyone survived. He said that the St. Augustine Beach Police Department was in the water first thing Saturday morning. He talked to the Sheriff's Office and Beach Services for St. Johns County about reissuing the flags they use to have in the past for mile markers, so people know where they are that the person is having problems. Visitors do not know where they are at sometimes. He working to get those flags put up and is asking the condos to also put the flags up.

Finance Director Douylliez advised that the Art in the Park event was a success, and the vendors did very well. She advised that the artists are asking for more events like that. She also announced that there will be a new event called Full Moon Friday Luau on June 25th.

Mayor England advised that it was a wonderful event, and it was beautiful weather. She said it is really nice keeping with the theme on the flyers.

Vice Mayor Samora advised that he attended the Tourist Development Council (TDC) and he wanted to get the information out in case anyone would want to go to St. Johns County to support an increase in the one cent bed tax. The TDC recommendation is to have three-tenths of a cent would be used for advertising for the Visitor and Convention Bureau (VCB), one tenth would be used for the Art Cultural and Heritage, one tenth would go to leisure and recreation, and the other half would go for big events and would include parking and transportation. It will go in front of St. Johns County Board of Commission and needs a super-majority to pass. He asked anyone who supports it to please go to the meeting or notify your County Commissioners.

V. ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING

Mayor England asked for a motion.

Motion: to adjourn to meeting. **Moved by** Commissioner Torres, **Seconded by** Vice Mayor Samora. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:24 p.m. and then moved on to Item VI.

VI. CONVENE WORKSHOP MEETING

1. Discussion of Recycling Operations in the City (Presenters: Max Royle, City Manager; Bill Tredik, Public Works Director)

Mayor England introduced Item 1 and asked for staff reports from City Manager Royle and Public Works Director Tredik.

City Manager Royle advised that recycling is more complicated than what it might seem. The questions are what to recycle, how to educate the public on what to recycle, and where the recycling should go.

Public Works Director Tredik showed the PowerPoint presentation (Exhibit 2). Currently the City contracts with Advanced Disposal now known as Waste Management. The contract ends May 2022. He explained that the costs of recycling have increased, but the cart prices have come down since last year. He then gave the history for the City in recycling. This year the volume as decreased and there is no clear reason, but he believes there are multiple reasons. The recycling contracts over the City's history has increased.

He advised that he believes the contract with Waste Management will increase in 2022. Tonnage to recycle is also increasing to recycle. He advised that if the increase continues by May 2022, it would be \$5.38 for a residential bin. Commercial bins have increased by 20%. He advised that if the increases continue by May 2022 there could be a \$50,000 increase. He explained that glass is not profitable currently, plastics have a weak demand depending on the type of plastic, paper and cardboard almost stopped being recycled during COVID, while metal is recycled. He explained that the City could offer the same service as an option, have a variation of the current service by trying to reduce what it collected, to bring recycling inhouse which would require additional staffing, or to temporarily suspend recycling. Keeping the contract with an outside agency will increase the costs. The City could only collect certain materials that will increase the chances of items not going into the landfill from contamination. Even if there is a recycling contractor, the Public Works Department would have to add an additional employee to help with the volume of solid waste pickup. If the City brought recycling inhouse, the City could save \$30,000 - \$50,000. The City would have complete control over the recycling, such as changing what the City wants to recycle and not taking it if it is contaminated. The City could stop the delays with the contractor by having recycling inhouse. If the City recycles inhouse, staffing will have to increase by two employees and an additional collection truck. The Public Works Department has one truck slated for a couple of years, but with recycling inhouse the purchase would have to be done next fiscal year. He advised that if a vehicle breaks down another truck could be used for that collection. Some of the trucks are near the end of their life and older ones break down. Another option would be to collect metals, plastics, cardboard, but not take everything. He explained the process of educating the public on recycling for what the City would collect. The transient rentals might be challenging, but it would eventually work out. The City could always stop recycling which would save the City \$45,000 over the current contract. That option is not popular because it is not environmentally friendly, and the City would still have to hire a person because of all the recycling going into solid waste. His recommendation would be to bring it inhouse and feels it would be a balanced approach. He explained that with the purchase of a truck and two employees the cost would be the same as contracting it out.

Mayor England asked if there was research on what other cities our size are doing regarding recycling. She explained that the Villages stopped recycling and are taking everything to an incinerator.

Public Works Director Tredik advised that others are changing what they collect. He believes that all the cities are different and take different approaches for what works best for them. The market for recycling is hard to justify if a lot of it goes to the landfill anyway.

Mayor England advised that St. Johns County and the City of St. Augustine published a full-size ad on what can be recycled.

Public Works Director Tredik advised that they are using the sorting facility at Bunnell, but more would be able to be recycled and not go to the landfill if they used a more expensive facility. Bunnell is increasing their sorting facility, but they might increase their costs as well. St. Johns County uses Advanced Disposal or Waste Management now.

Mayor England opened the Public Comment section. Being none, Mayor England closed the Public Comment section and asked for Commission discussion.

Vice Mayor Samora asked what the tipping fees are for recycling at Bunnell and Waste Management.

Public Works Director Tredik advised Waste Management is \$102 a ton and Bunnell was \$45 a ton but recently he was quoted \$52. Landfill tipping fees are \$45 in Bunnell. He advised that Public Works has been taking solid waste materials to Bunnell and the City saves a lot.

Vice Mayor Samora asked if recycling goes inhouse what kind of scalability would there be in the future.

Public Works Director Tredik advised that there is only a need for one truck for now and in the future. We will be able to continue doing the job with the extra truck and two employees. The City would have to allocate more driving time to recycling versus landscaping. He feels that he could maintain the same level of service with retooling of job responsibilities. He explained that the City could always add a person later if needed, but he does not want to add another person for just coverage. Advance Disposal collects two days a week and if inhouse he would like it to be done in three days to have a more realistic service.

Discussion ensued regarding yard waste being manageable.

Commissioner Rumrell wants to see what the costs are for recycling and solid waste for the City. He requested going out to bid on solid waste and recycling so the City would know the true costs. St. Johns County pays \$250 and has big bins for both. He asked to redirect staff to do things in the City because Public Works is getting behind on other projects. He advised that the residents do not like the bins because they want to roll them to the curve, and they cost more. He explained that that should be part of the bid. He asked why the City would go back to two-day solid waste pickups instead of the recycling. He said that most of it is going in the landfill anyway. The Public Works staff is impeccable on their service. He advised that the non-ad valorem should go up to pay for the solid waste collection so the City could use the funds for other projects like flooding.

Commissioner Torres agrees with doing a Request for Proposal and then look at the budget.

Finance Director Douylliez advised that she would need the numbers before July when the budget meetings will start in mid-July. There would not be enough time for the RFP to go out; however, after the first of the year, an RFP could be done, and the Commission would need to do a budget adjustment. She explained that a new truck takes almost a year before it is received. The Public Works Director may have to make other arrangements until the truck is onsite.

Public Works Director Tredik advised that the staff could do the job with three trucks temporarily; however, if one breaks down that would be a problem.

Mayor England advised if that happened, the City could stop temporarily until the truck is received or fixed. She said that the City is paying too much per bin for material that is essentially trash.

Public Works Director Tredik advised that if the City contracts everything out, then the City would be hard pressed to remobilize if the costs go up. If the Commission goes in that direction, they need to commit to it for the future.

Commissioner Torres advised that costs are going up for everything. If the costs are lower now to do it inhouse, why don't we do it earlier, such as the first of the fiscal year. Staffing has been a problem for most businesses.

Vice Mayor Samora suggested putting the RFP out to see what the market is. There is time to do that. He likes bringing recycling inhouse because of the flexibility the City would have. He advised that the Commission has the flexibility with the non-ad valorem as well to charge what is needed.

Finance Director Douylliez advised that the vehicle cost in the proposal is only half for the lease, which is \$50,000 a year. There will be an added expense to the solid waste side, which means that the non-ad valorem may have to go up.

Discussion ensued regarding the costs of the bins; the costs of the leased vehicle; having a contract would mean five years of service; having more flexibility doing the service inhouse; switching bins to carts or offering both; changing the days of service for recycling; whether the vehicle has a hybrid with an arm; side loader would be challenging for the City's tree canopies; whether to only collect metal and plastics and switch over to carts.

Mayor England opened the Public Comments section. Being none, Mayor England moved on to Item VII.

VII. ADJOURNMENT WORKSHOP MEETING

Mayor England asked for a motion.

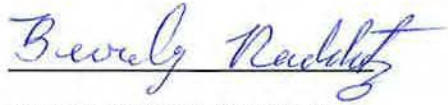
Motion: to adjourn to meeting. **Moved by** Commissioner Rumrell, **Seconded by** Commissioner Torres. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:09 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Margaret England", written over a horizontal line.

Margaret England, Mayor

Attest:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Beverly Raddatz", written over a horizontal line.

Beverly Raddatz, City Clerk