

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

City Commission Special Meeting
Wednesday, February 6, 2019

The City Commission met in formal session Thursday, February 6, 2019 at 9:00 A.M. in the Alcazar Room at City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Nancy Shaver, and the following were present:

1. Roll Call: Nancy Shaver, Mayor/City Commissioner
Leanna S. A. Freeman, Vice Mayor/City Commissioner
Nancy Sikes-Kline, City Commissioner
Roxanne Horvath, City Commissioner
John Valdes, City Commissioner

John Regan, City Manager
Timothy A. Burchfield, Assistant City Manager
Isabelle Lopez, City Attorney
Darlene Galambos, City Clerk
David Birchim, Director, Planning and Building
Jim Piggott, General Services Director
Mike Cullum, Director, Public Works
Mark Litzinger, Director, Financial Services
Meredith Breidenstein, Director, Budget & Performance Management
Paul K. Williamson, Director, Public Affairs
John Cary, Assistant City Attorney
Barry Fox, Police Chief
Carlos Aviles, Fire Chief
Robin DiAngelis, Recording Secretary

2. General Public Comments

The Commissioners heard from the following members of the public:

(None)

3. Review Strategic Plan

Mr. Regan suggested starting the meeting with each Commissioners objectives, goals and vision which would enable staff to form a more comprehensive second draft of the Strategic Plan.

Mayor Shaver asked that the plan include key performance indicators.

Commissioner Sikes-Kline said she wanted a more proactive approach to preserve a safe, vibrant historic downtown character. She noted her concerns as follows:

- Strained Resources – Police, Fire and Solid Waste Departments
- Financial drain on citizens due to tourists
- Quality of life and the City's reputation
- Noise and crime
- Shift from retail to food and beverage establishments
- Police resources shifting to downtown and away from neighborhoods
- Changing millennial behaviors/preferences
- Proliferation of open air venues
- Parking policy – charging by day, free by night – increased evening activities

Commissioner Sikes-Kline offered some proposed solutions for inclusion in the Strategic Plan beginning with engaging the stakeholders. She felt the downtown area had three different economies; daytime, evening, and late evening. She was particularly focused on the two night economies because the activities were different including the draw on City resources. She would like to poll other cities and their practices to develop a tailored plan of action for St. Augustine. She also said the City should consider a downtown Business Improvement District (BID).

Mr. Regan said that during discussions with Commissioner Sikes-Kline and Police Chief Barry Fox, they had been using the working title "Proactive Planning to Preserve a Safe, Healthy, Vibrant, and Balanced Historic Character.

Commissioner Sikes-Kline said she would like to consider a Citizens Academy to further communicate and promote citizen engagement and education. She also noted cyber security.

Mr. Regan stated that staff had launched an initiative to update the Information Technology Department and studying systems of deployment, including safety.

Commissioner Freeman felt the City needed to give residents incentives, such as recreation, providing cultural experiences or discounts.

Mayor Shaver felt that the City needed to engage citizens in resiliency, and what the City could give to the community.

Commissioner Freeman also said that while each Commissioner was working on different resiliency and sustainability issues, she felt it would be more productive to come together to prevent duplication of efforts.

Commissioner Valdes expressed appreciation for the comments and input of the other Commissioners.¹

¹ There was a short recess from 10:31 to 10:36 a.m.

Commissioners discussed:

- Building codes that support sea level rise
- Lifting houses and how it affected the character of the City
- Workforce housing
- Resiliency and Adaptation
- Sustainable best practices
- Satellite parking
- Environmental issues
- Recycling and single use plastic
- Mobility
- Infrastructure
- Sea Level Rise Master Plan
- Cultural resources
- Post and Pre Disaster Plan
- Affordable housing
- Homelessness
- Historic preservation
- Event Planning
- Comprehensive Plan
- Capital Plan financing
- Arts, Education and Community
- Strategic Plan
- Communication with citizens

4. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 A.M.


Leanna S.A. Freeman, VICE MAYOR²


Darlene Galambos, CITY CLERK

² Transcribed by Robin DiAngelis

