

MINUTES OF MEETING

SAINT JOHNS COUNTY CIVIC ROUNDTABLE

APRIL 8, 2013

The meeting was called to order by President Rick Lofgren at 9:00 AM.

The minutes of the March 11, 2013 meeting were accepted as corrected. The Treasurer reported a balance of \$ 2,423.17. Paid members remain at six.

President Lofgren introduced the speaker, Jerry Cameron, Assistant County Administrator, Saint Johns County.

Jerry spoke on the state of the county. He began by saying that since his arrival here in 1996 he has found this to be a wonderful place to live. He recited many accolades about Saint Augustine and the County from various national organizations.

He reviewed the recent history of The County with regards to runaway growth from 1990 until 2007, then how is stopped in 2007. The recent County Commissioners have been focused on attracting more commercial activity with some success. Recent accomplishments have included D.R. Horton, Bass ProShops and Advance Disposal. Jerry stated that he was worried that we could become victims of our own success.

Jerry stated that the county has done a good job in managing the budget during the downturn, however that has resulted in deferring much maintenance which we will now have to catch up.

He stated that property values have begun to turn positive but that it would take 1-1 1/2 years for this to be reflected increased revenue. He said that the use of reserves would be good until 2017.

He felt that the major problems facing the county were:

1. A looming storm water mandate by the Federal Government. The flows in the Saint Johns river are being reduced due to water removals upstream. This has affected the dispersal of groundwater pollutants running into the river. The mandate will require that something be done to reduce this runoff.
2. Transportation infrastructure. We have over 1,000 miles of roads that must be maintained.

Jerry indicated that there were several sources of revenue that could be explored. They included a 1% increase in the sales tax, a 1% increase in the bed tax, a 5th cent gas tax and possible user fees.

Jerry introduced Michel Reyes who will be handling all communications for the County

Jerry responded to several questions from the members of the Roundtable

Other Business

There was no other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM

Ed Olsen - Secretary