

Minutes of the June 13, 2011 SJC Civic Roundtable Association

Meeting called to order at 9:04 AM

Minutes were approved by acclamation

Treasurers Report – We currently have 53 members with 22 paid. Our current bank balance is \$4492.57

Guest Speaker - County Administrator Michael Wanchick

Mr. Wanchick's presentation can be viewed in it's entirety on line at www.sjcfl.us/townhall/media/2011townhallppt.pdf - here are a few highlights

- County is still dealing with lower property tax values and declining revenues
- Because of population growth, the need for services is still high
- Only 41% of tax revenue comes to the BCC
- This is the 5th consecutive year of declining property values

The BCC is still focused on the High Five Concerns

1. Jail Capacity
2. Emergency Response
3. Communications (radio system)
4. Storm Water mandate
5. Transportation Infrastructure

Possible suggestion for generating more revenue include...

- Increase in millage rate
- 1 cent gasoline tax
- Increase in tourism / bed tax

Suggestions / questions from membership included a gas tax, a increased fee for owners of dangerous breed dogs to fund animal control and issuing citations for violations of county ordinances instead of uniform traffic citations through the state court system.

A straw poll was taken among members present regarding options – of the 14 members present – here are the straw poll results for each of the following items...

Millage increase to close revenue shortfall – 14 yes

Funding new radio system 12 yes

Funding Fire Safety as a priority – 12 yes

Millage increase to maintain solid position in General Fund – 12 yes

Below are the committee reports for June as submitted

Recap from the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners Meeting May 17, 2011 submitted by Rick Lofgren

Meeting called to order by the Chair.

Presentation of a Proclamation declaring May 16-20, 2011 as AmeriCorps week.

Special Award was given to Patrick McCormack, St. Johns County Attorney for his 25 years of service in the US Navy. He is a Turtle Shores resident and we are very proud of his service to the Country and also St. Johns County.

Presentation of a Proclamation declaring May 2011 as Foster Parent Awareness Month.
Presentation of a Proclamation declaring May 2011 as Civility Month.

Lindsay Haga, AICP, Development Review Director presented the case regarding an Appeal of a decision by the PZA pursuant to Section 9.07.03 of the Land Development Code. The PZA denied the zoning Variance to reduce the required side yard setback. The PZA denied it twice with votes of 5-0 and then again 4-3. Bottom line the owners built a deck without permission and refused a stop work order. Motion denied by the Commissioners 5-0.

Was very impressed with the way Commissioner Bryan articulated an action plan for the owner to get with the proper county officials to solve the problem going forward.

Michael Roberson, Planner 1, Growth Management brought up REZ 2008-26 Big Oak. Request to rezone 4.2 acres from Open Rural to Industrial Warehouse to allow for all light industrial uses available within the IW zoning district. PZA finds the request to rezone to IW meets the requirements of the Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code. PZA approved 6-1. The owner will relocate his business to this location. Motion approved 5-0.

Doug Timms, Director of the Office of Management and Budget proposed for the Board to consider establishing an Audit Committee consisting of each of the County's Constitutional officers or their designee, one member of the County Commission or designee, the County Finance Director and the County Director of Management and Budget. Cyndi Stevenson was selected to fill the position for the County Commissioners.

Phong Nguyen, Transportation Planning Manager reported on the 2011 Roadway and Transportation Enhancement List of Priority Projects for the fiscal years 2016-17. The County Commissioners are charged with prioritizing the projects. There were no recommended changes from the 2010 priorities for the highway list however one change to move project E3 to second and E3 to third on the prioritized enhancement list. Motion carried 5-0.

Patrick McCormack, County Attorney and Mary Ann Blount, Land Management Systems Director presented the ordinance establishing procedures and requirements for Real Property Acquisition, Disposition, Exchange and Leasing, providing for related matters;

providing an effective date. The ordinance will Streamline the conveyance of property with other governmental agencies and reduce the cost of outside appraisal services and provide the County to take advantage of market opportunities when in the best interest of the County. Provide a broader procedure for disposition of surplus property. Motion carried 5-0.

Patrick McCormack, County Attorney asked to consider a Resolution authorizing the execution of an Interlocal Agreement between St. Johns County and the Economic Development Commission of Jax and allowing for financing, refinancing or refunding of bonds for the Bolles School. Motion carried 5-0.

Melissa Lundquist, BCC Manager asked to consider 2 appointments to the Recreation Advisory Board. They are Alfred Rio and Gale Bradshaw and both were approved 5-0.

Another add on to the agenda was for the E911 State Grant Applications with a No match. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioners brought up several points of interest. TPC week had about 200 CEO/CFO from many large corporations and St. Johns County asked them to consider locating or relocating here to our County. It was a successful event. They want this to be a yearly event.

Viet Nam Scholarship dinner awarded 11 scholarships.

Memorial Day weekend is the St. Augustine Air Show.

There was a Job Fair in the county and 100 companies were represented. And the turnout was very good.

3 New Eateries in Vilano Beach, Over the Ditch, Beaches of Vilano and a Cuban Restaurant have or are scheduled to open.

Big increase in Tourism for St. Johns County in 2011.

Mr. Wanchick presented his choice for Economic Development Director for the County. He reviewed salary of \$89,061 and a \$5,000 relocation expense. Motion carried 4-1. Stevenson voted no. She asked that they consider a local candidate and save the \$5,000.

Wanchick also discussed a compensation study for all County employees.

Patrick McCormack discussed the Noise Ordinance and will bring back a plan in July. He also discussed Tort Reform and asked the Board for permission to develop better procedures to handle lawsuits and cut down on cost to the county. Board gave consensus.

BCC Meeting adjourned.

Education Committee Report from Jim McLane

Our school system continues to be bright spot as the FCAT test results are in. Our students are among the very best in state. Kudos to Superintendent Joyner, school administrators and teachers for their efforts. It was also reported that our Secretary of Education has stated that if the Federal Government does not make changes in its mandates, the Secretary plans to remove the spending handcuffs from local schools on how they have to spend money.

Other business:

The Early Learning Coalition will be having their annual meeting luncheon June 23rd at noon at The St Augustine Record – the meeting is open to anyone that would like to attend.

Meeting adjourned