



Duval County Legislative Delegation

Minutes
Local Bill Public Hearing
September 24, 2015
117 W. Duval Street, City Council Chambers

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 p.m., with opening remarks from Representative Janet H. Adkins, Chair. The prayer was offered by Representative Fullwood and Pledge of Allegiance by Senator Bean.

PRESENT: Senators Bean and Gibson
Representatives Adkins, Fullwood, McBurney, and Ray (1:08 p.m.)

A quorum was declared.

The agenda was adopted by voice vote.

The members introduced themselves and their staff members in the audience.

The Chair recognized Representative McBurney to present a resolution concerning the St. Johns River Water Management District. Rep. McBurney explained the resolution represents the delegation's continued opposition to the unreasonable taking of water from the St. Johns River which could create a risk to the future health of the river. The Chair called upon Lisa Rinaman, the St. John's River Riverkeeper, who spoke in support of the resolution. Senator Bean pointed out the delegation passed a similar resolution in 2008 and taking water from the St. Johns River continues to be a problem. Discussion turned to the importance of environmental impact studies in accurately determining the effects of siphoning water from the river. A motion was made and the resolution was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

A motion was made to waive the delegation's rules of procedure in order to have the organizational meeting on Dec. 7th. The members discussed the need to move the meeting in order to accommodate interim committee meetings which are occurring earlier this year due to the January 2016 legislative session. The motion was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

The Chair recognized Representative Fullwood for introduction of J-1 (by request), relating to the Riverside Avondale Commercial Character Areas. The Chair called upon Allan DeVault, who explained the bill and spoke in favor of the proposed legislation. Rules Committee Chair Council Member Matt Schellenberg reported council action on the bill. Senator Gibson inquired if there was opposition to the bill and CM Schellenberg explained some of the members wanted the bill to apply to all of Jacksonville, but the majority of Council was satisfied that the bill only applied to Riverside Avondale due to its significant space restraints from being a historic area. Council Member Jim Love spoke in favor of the bill. Representative Fullwood moved the amendment for the bill and explained it was primarily technical in nature. Susan Grandin was recognized to explain the amendment. The amendment was approved unanimously on a voice vote. A motion was made and J-1 was unanimously approved as amended on a voice vote.

Speakers on issues other than local bill:

Doyle Carter, Council Member – explained a zoning problem Jacksonville has had since 2007, when a state law was passed limiting the ability of local government to regulate where mobile homes are allowed. Senator Gibson questioned why this was not a zoning issue, CM Carter clarified local government used to be able to regulate mobile homes through exemption, but that changed in 2007 with a new state law. Representative Fullwood asked if a local law could be passed to address the problem, CM Carter tried that option, but found state law trumped local law.

John Debus, Floridians Against Fracking – spoke in opposition to fracking in Florida and requested a ban on its use in the state.

Mayor Lenny Curry and Council President Greg Anderson – welcomed the delegation and looked forward to working with the members in the future.

Kenneth Adkins, Pastor – spoke regarding the process of regaining the right to vote and expressed his disappointment with a comment that was recently made by one of the members.

Deborah Thompson, National Association of Black Women in Construction, Inc. – discussed issues with the micro finance loan program and suggested a number of changes to improve access to the program.

Geoffrey Sample, St Johns Water Management District – said the SJWMD appreciates the delegation's resolution and will take it under consideration.

Representative McBurney thanked the SJWMD and St. Johns Riverkeeper for their support.

Senator Gibson expressed concern with the issues redistricting is bringing forth and emphasized legislators representing Jacksonville need to stay focused on Jacksonville's interests.

Representative Ray echoed Senator Gibson's concern and pointed out that in redistricting the Legislature is operating within the confines of the orders of the Florida Supreme Court.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

Note: A recording of these proceedings is on file in the delegation office, City Hall, Jacksonville, and is available to the public and media. Also a MP3 link is on the delegation website.