

City of Jacksonville, Florida
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BOARD
Special Meeting - Monday, April 15, 2013
4:55 p.m.

Meeting Summary

Members Present:

Steven Jenkins, Chair
Michelle Tappouni
Lucinda Sonnenberg, Ph.D.
Gary Bowers, M.D.
Bobby Baker, P.E.
Nick Howland (via conf. call)

Members not Present:

Tony Bellamy, P.E.

Staff/Resources Present:

Scott Trebatoski Acting Division Chief
James Richardson, Program Administrator
Ruby Tucker, Executive Secretary
Cherry Shaw, OGC
Jim Robinson, Director of Public Works
Betsy Deuerling, Environmental Engineer Scientist

Visitor(s):

Douglas Speed, Interested Citizen
Kim Newmann, JEA
Merritt Partridge, Partridge Well Drilling
Ted Mikalsen, Interested Citizen
Steve Patterson, Florida Times-Union
Pat Partridge, Partridge Well Drilling

Call to Order

Chair Jenkins called the Special Meeting to order at 4:55 p.m.

Chair Remarks

Chair Jenkins shared that several EPB Members requested a special meeting in regard to the proposed Phase II Reorganization presentation made by the Office of Mayor at the April Board meeting and other concerns such as: relationship between the Board and the Office of Mayor, the resignation of the former EQD Chief, Vince Seibold and the general responses as presented by the CAO and the DCAO regarding the proposed Phase II Reorganization plan.

Proposed Phase II Reorganization

A lengthy discussion occurred with board concerns and questions regarding 1) what is the proper posture if the Board has questions or makes a request for information, 2) how do the changes impact staff's responsibilities to the Board, 3) the qualifications and credentials for the new Environmental Services Chief not including an environmental background, 4) potential conflicts of interest that will exist under the new structure. Jim Robinson, Director of Public Works, addressed the questions and concerns presented by the board and shared in the discussion.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Board discussed sending correspondence sharing their concerns and seeking responses to unanswered questions remaining. They collectively drafted a letter with their concerns and questions to be directed to Mayor Brown. There was also discussion that the City Council should be made aware of the position the board has taken. It was decided that a cover letter should also be prepared and addressed to the City Council with the Mayor's letter as an attachment.

Chair Jenkins entertained a motion to approve the draft letter to Mayor Brown expressing the EPB's opposition of the move of EQD to Public Works with their concerns and request for a response to the board's questions and a cover letter to the City Council. The motion was properly seconded and approved by the body.

Next Scheduled Board Meeting

Monday, May 13, 2013

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Ruby Tucker, Executive Secretary I
Environmental Protection Board