

Special Citizens Oversight Committee (COC) Meeting

Thursday, August 14, 2003

Meeting Minutes

Chair Ron Salem called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and thanked the group for attending the special meeting at short notice.

Mayor Peyton thanked the committee for their commitment to the oversight of The Better Jacksonville Plan and for their time.

The Mayor took a moment to express his condolences to the loss of BJP Project Manager Taye' Brown.

Mayor Peyton invited the COC to discuss the Courthouse budget in detail and offered his availability to answer questions.

Mayor Peyton continued to say the \$282 million number for the new County Courthouse Complex was never intended to be the actual budget but includes all "wish list" items. Value engineering is on going to save money and to eliminate features as needed.

The team has worked diligently to determine a realistic budget of \$232 million. The estimate was reduced \$23 million with the decision to delay completion of 10 courtrooms until there is a need for expansion. Deletion of the expansion wings reduced the budget \$4 million. Reducing ceiling heights from 18 feet to 16 feet saved an additional \$2 million, and the team also found efficiencies by reducing corridor widths.

In the end, there will be a quality building that everyone can all be proud of and a safe building that will serve the community with respect and dignity.

The project is 10 percent over the \$211 budget provided by The Better Jacksonville Plan. Eight percent of this increase is due to inflated land costs and 2 percent to construction overruns.

Not one penny more will be funded by The Better Jacksonville Plan.

Other resources have been proposed to fund the additional \$21 million:

- \$16 million would be generated from bonding rent savings.
- \$2 million would be provided from city drainage funds.
- \$3 million would be utilized from existing courthouse trust funds.

After a short discussion, it was agreed by the committee to support the Mayor's plan as long as The Better Jacksonville Plan funded only the \$211 million. The Mayor committed to this and that the overall budget will not exceed \$232 million.

Mayor Peyton thanked the committee again for their time and turned the meeting back to Chair Ron Salem.

The COC requested that the October committee meeting focus on the BJP intersection improvement projects.

The meeting was adjourned.