



Duval County

Legislative Delegation

Minutes
Local Bill Public Hearing
January 23, 2014
117 W. Duval Street, City Council Chambers

The meeting was called to order at 1:09 p.m., with opening remarks from Representative Daniel Davis, Chair. The prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance were offered by Representative Fullwood.

PRESENT: Senators Bean and Gibson
Representatives Adkins, Davis, Fullwood, McBurney, Ray and Jones (1:16 p.m.)

A quorum was declared.

The agenda was adopted by voice vote.

Following introductions by members, the Chair announced the delegation appointments.

The Chair recognized Dr. Cynthia Bioteau, President Florida State College at Jacksonville, for an introduction and brief remarks.

The Chair recognized Representative McBurney for introduction of J-1 (by request), relating to the Police and Fire Pension Membership. The following people spoke regarding the proposed legislation: Council President Gulliford, Council Member Crescimbeni, Connie Benham and Curtis Lee. All spoke in support of the J-Bill. A motion was made and J-1 was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

The Chair recognized Senator Gibson regarding J-4. She indicated City Council had not taken up the issue and requested that the rules be waived and support the idea of a local bill contingent upon the City Council's positive recommendation. Also, if voters decide to approve the measure then the issue could potentially be on the November ballot. Council President Gulliford indicated that he and Councilman Crescimbeni will introduce the appropriate resolution. Questions and answers followed. A motion was made and adopted on a voice vote to waive the rules for discussion on J-4. Discussion followed regarding the timeline, the authority of the City Council, library funding and the first straw ballot in the history of Jacksonville.

The Chair suggested that because the bill had not gone through the City Council process, he recommends deferring the bill at this time and that a special meeting be called to take up this issue, once City Council a resolution which provides clear direction to the delegation. Council President Gulliford stated it would be offered as a once cycle emergency.

J-2, relating to the providing an exception to space and seating requirements for a liquor license for Biscotti's Café. The chair called upon Matt Jackson, who explained the bill and spoke in favor of the proposed legislation. Alicia Grant spoke in opposition to the bill. A motion was made and J-2 was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

J-3, relating to the providing an exception to space and seating requirements for a liquor license for Casbah. The chair called upon Matt Jackson, who explained the bill and his support for the proposed legislation. Alicia Grant spoke in opposition to the bill. A motion was made and J-3 was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

The chair called on Mary Lou Sutherlin for comments relating to J-4, who spoke in favor of the bill. The Chair reiterated his assurance that once City Council takes action he will call a special meeting.

Speakers on issues other than local bill:

John Delaney, President, University of North Florida spoke capital or construction funding, there is no money to retro-fit or repair existing buildings; universities are funded at different levels per student – some is based on history. The request is for base funding. Also, the Board of Governors adopted a funding model based on nine principles is a concern and negatively impacts smaller schools. The chair inquired what the delegation could do to assist UNF – it was suggested that UNF draft a letter of support for the delegation members to sign. Questions and answers followed.

Jason Roth, Public Policy Director for United Way of Northeast Florida – discussed their public policy and advocacy with an emphasis on early education. They will continue to meet with members and they would like to be a resource for the delegation.

Jacqueline Perry, Executive Director, Beaver Street Enterprise Center – thanked the members for their support over the past 10 years of this business incubator. She shared some successes they have had for start-up and emerging companies.

Dawn Lockhart, CEO, Family Foundations – presented the 1000 report that was based on a five year study for solutions to move families out of poverty. They have identified a 16 to 1 return on profit for success. Please consider this important work and they will be meeting with members in the near future.

John Rutherford, Sheriff – discussed his handout which included the following: points such as the E911 prepaid wireless fees and issues associated with these plans resulting in the loss of revenues; Florida retirement system and remaining competitive to recruit and retain quality law enforcement officers; the prescription drug monitoring database and the success of the program. Sheriff Rutherford offered a suggestion for legislation to modify the law on restricting law enforcement access to information relating to cell phones and the detriment of the law, which has been used as an investigative tool and to rescue citizens. The Sheriff thanked the members for their bipartisan effort to protect citizens with regard to the sexual predators and offenders situation. He discussed the Florida Sheriff's Youth ranch and the need for behavioral health overlay services for those residents. He also informed the member how the collision avoidance system, that has been approved by FDOT, that will be funded by the revenue from the red-light cameras. Discussion followed regarding flaws in the system and due process and timing of yellow lights. Questions and answers followed. The Sheriff concluded by thanking the members for the legislation relating to scrap metal dealers, they have seen amazing success and that thefts are

down over 50% and how good legislation positively impacts the community.

Connie Benham – discussed ROTC Florida Teacher Lead Money, they are now receiving the Money but she is advocating for the 5 years they did not receive that money. She explained her concern with a non-attorney office employee making that decision. Ms. Benham then discussed a handout relating to a report by the TRUE Commission on the City of Jacksonville Banking Fund.

Melissa Jackson spoke regarding the library bill and that it was based on a 2012 JCCI study.

Senator Bean announced that a First Coast Delegation meeting is in the process of being scheduled.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:50 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.