

Minutes  
Local Bill Public Hearing  
January 15, 2015  
117 W. Duval Street, City Council Chambers

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m., with opening remarks from Representative Janet H. Adkins, Chair. The prayer was offered by Representative McBurney and Pledge of Allegiance by Representative Jones.

PRESENT: Senators Bean and Gibson  
Representatives Adkins, Fant, McBurney, Ray and Jones (2:04 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 Representative Fant for introduction of J-1 (by request), relating to the Avondale Transition District. The chair called upon Matt Jackson, who explained the bill and spoke in favor of the proposed legislation. Council President Yarborough reported council action on the bill. Representative Fant made closing remarks on the bill. A motion was made and J-1 was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

The Chair introduced J-2 (by request), relating to kite boarding at Huguenot Memorial Park. The Chair called upon Scott Shine, who explained the bill and spoke in favor of the proposed legislation. Council Member Love spoke in favor of the bill. Council President Yarborough reported council action on the bill. The Chair made closing remarks on the bill. A motion was made and J-2 was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

The Chair recognized Representative Ray for introduction of J-3 (by request), relating to the duties of the Civil Service Board. The chair called upon Derrel Chatmon, who explained the bill and spoke in favor of the proposed legislation. Council President Yarborough reported council action on the bill. Representative Ray moved amendments for the bill. Derrel Chatmon explained the amendments. Both amendments were approved unanimously on a voice vote. Sheriff Rutherford spoke in favor of the bill. A motion was made and J-3 was unanimously approved as amended on a voice vote.

Speakers on issues other than local bill:

Lori Boyer, Council Member – discussed amendments to the Charter and questioned whether to pursue a council referendum or a legislative amendment in order to enact those amendments. She also explained the time sensitive nature of the passage of the amendments in order to be on the May 2015 ballot. Representative Ray expressed concern over the ability of the legislature to pass

a legislative amendment in time for the May 2015 ballot. Senator Gibson said the public needs to be informed of these potential changes and give input. Senator Bean discussed time concerns, but affirmed the possibility of taking up the bill. Representative McBurney detailed another possibility for the bill was for a member to present the bill instead of the delegation. Representative Jones requested further details regarding the ballot deadlines and details about the new proposed positions. Senator Gibson questioned the reasoning behind pursuing a legislative amendment over a council referendum. CM Boyer explained it's due to the technical nature of the amendment.

John Rutherford, Sheriff – discussed key legislative areas including mental health, electronic oaths, homeowner's rights, school bus safety programs, and medical marijuana.

Paul Crawford, Office of Economic Development – discussed the coming sunset of the Florida Enterprise Zone legislation and requested its renewal.

Mike Dulin, AMIKids Jacksonville – thanked the delegation for its support and discussed program activities

Christopher Ralph, Health Law Services – discussed the need for creation of clear medical marijuana laws which includes incorporating sound THC research, home delivery and rollout with a focus on medical tourism.

Aundra Wallace, CEO Downtown Investment Authority – discussed State of Florida Historic Fund program and requested continued funding for historic buildings downtown.

Bryan Campbell, Executive Director, Duval County Medical Society Foundation – requested budget allocation for Surgeon General's Healthiest Weight Initiative. Senator Gibson questioned how money was intended to be divided up by the initiative. Bryan Campbell said organizations would have to apply and Jacksonville could serve as a model for other cities.

Gracie Kearse McCastler – discussed increasing the age to drop out of school for high school students and questioned if F.S. 1003.21 has been revised. Chair Adkins said the issue may be up for discussion this session and recommended Ms. McCastler watch the K-12 Subcommittee on January 21<sup>st</sup>.

Moriah Barnhardt, Health Law Services (via cellphone) – discussed personal experience with caring for her daughter who was diagnosed with cancer and how medical marijuana should be considered a legal option for treatment.

Chair Adkins announced there will be a mental health workshop on January 29<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM. Representative Jones suggested the Chair reach out to Judge Karen Cole to participate in the workshop.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:19 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.