

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

Special City Commission Meeting
December 6, 2004

The City Commission met in a formal session Monday, December 6, 2004, at 7:30 p.m. in the Alcazar meeting room at City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Mayor, George Gardner, and the following were present:

1. Roll Call:

George Gardner, Mayor/City Commissioner
Susan Burk, City Commissioner
Donald A. Crichlow, City Commissioner
Errol D. Jones, City Commissioner
William Lennon, City Commissioner
Joseph L. Boles Jr., City Commissioner

William B. Harriss, City Manager
James P. Wilson, City Attorney
Martha V. (Nell) Porter, City Clerk
Timothy A. Burchfield, Chief Administrative Officer
John Regan, Chief Operations Officer
Mark Litzinger, City Comptroller
Mark Knight, Director, Planning and Building Department
Tim Shields, Facilities Manager
William H. Harding, Director, Public Works
Dr. William Adams, Director, Heritage Tourism
James Whitehouse, Staff Attorney
Paul K. Williamson, Director, Public Affairs
Loran Leuders, Chief of Police
James Owens, Fire Chief
Karen Rogers, Recording Secretary

Also Present: Judge Michael Traynor
Judge Robert Mathis
Judge Patti Christensen

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Reverend Gregory L. James, Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church, delivered the invocation and Commissioner Lennon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Presentation and departing comment:

Mayor Gardner stated that Commissioner Lennon had been a City Commissioner for ten-years, served on the Planning and Zoning Board and Code Enforcement Board, as well as numerous civic organizations. He read and presented a plaque and commemorative St. Augustine coins to the Commissioner in honor of his departure.

Commissioner Lennon

Commissioner Lennon delivered a departure speech addressing *what the City Was Really About*, in which he recognized all City Staff and singled out certain staff members for their helpfulness, contribution to the City and for being good friends that he shared family and laughter with. He said that he had spent 10 years growing older with the most professional group he had ever known, and a group that chose to work for the people of St. Augustine. He extended his appreciation to City Staff and those citizens and seniors that involved themselves with civic organizations and matters involving City Government. He said that he was proud to have been a part of the City Government and to serve the people of the community.

4. Oaths of Office

4.A/ Oath to Commissioner Boles by Judge Traynor

Mr. Boles was accompanied by his mother, Ms. Maureen Boles while Judge Traynor administered the oath of office.

4.B/ Oath to Commissioner Jones by Judge Traynor

Commissioner Jones was accompanied by his wife Ms. Joyce Ramsey while Judge Traynor administered the oath of office.

4.C/Oath to Commissioner Burk by Judge Christensen

Commissioner Burk was accompanied by Mr. Pat Wolf while

Judge Christensen administered the oath of office.

4.D/ Oath to Mayor Gardner by Judge Mathis

Mayor Gardner was accompanied by his daughter Ms. Kerri Gardner Merone, son Mr. George Gardner Jr. and his mother-in-law Ms. Dottie Hart while Judge Mathis administered the oath of office.

5. Election of Vice Mayor

Mayor Gardner nominated all four of the Commissioners to serve as Vice-Mayor, and after two written ballots Commission Burk was elected Vice-Mayor for a second term.

6. Mayor assigns Commission seating.

The Commissioners took their seats with Commission Boles taking Commissioner Lennon's former place at the Commission table.

7. City Commission Policies and Procedures

7.A/ Resolution 2004-30, concerning policies and procedures relative to meetings, public hearings, contribution of funds and expenditure of funds.

William B. Harriss, City Manager, suggested that the Commission make a motion for the policy change that had been made during the current budget year providing the Commissioners with a \$2,500 individual travel budget that required no Commission approval. He said that once \$2,500 had been exhausted Commission approval would be required for further funds. He stated that the modification kept staff out of

any approval requirements for Commission travel needs. He added that if the Commission traveled as a group the cost was covered in the Commission budget as a separate line item.

MOTION

Commissioner Crichlow MOVED to approve Resolution 2004-30 with the aforementioned modification. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Boles and approved by UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

Commissioner Jones stated that he wanted to put forth another modification to the enabling resolution. He noted that during the past year the City had issued 51 proclamations to service organizations and citizens that served the community. However, he said that often the Commission as a whole was not aware of the proclamations until they were actually presented during a Commission meeting; therefore, the Commissioners had no input concerning an official business. He submitted that, in all fairness to the Commissioners, proclamations go before the Commission and with no objection they could move forward with appropriate recognition. He added that the proclamations should read *from the City Commission of the City of St. Augustine* and be signed by the Mayor.

Commissioner Burk questioned whether the proclamations would be voted on by the Commission prior to presentation.

Commissioner Jones replied affirmatively and said that the Commission should be made aware of

all proclamations prior to their issuance.

Mayor Gardner questioned how the Charter referenced proclamations.

Jim Wilson, City Attorney, replied that he was not certain that the Charter addressed proclamations. He said that proclamations were basically honorary, but they could add a provision to the resolution stating that *all proclamations shall be issued in the name of the City Commission of the City of St. Augustine and shall be approved by a vote of the City Commission.*

Mayor Gardner said that he was the author of all the proclamations. He said that requests for proclamations were often received a few days or a week prior to presentation, and if they added Commission approval they would have to cut back on the proclamation, which he did not consider a good idea. He questioned whether Commissioner Jones thought that he had issued proclamations in error. He concluded that the suggestion could be damaging to the City's effort to give recognition to various groups and individuals.

Commissioner Jones replied that there was no issue involved; it was a matter of protocol in fairness to all Commissioners to be informed, as proclamations were issued on behalf of the City of St. Augustine. He suggested that anyone requesting a proclamation be prepared to submit the request in a timely fashion.

Commissioner Burk questioned whether proclamations would be presented to the Commission for approval prior to the meeting during which it would be presented.

Commissioner Jones said that the Commission should be made aware of a presentation prior to actual presentation.

Commissioner Boles questioned the notion of making thank-you notes to the community a big huge process.

Commissioner Crichlow questioned whether any Commissioner could currently promote a proclamation.

Mr. Harriss replied affirmatively, and he said that the City did not have a lot of rules regarding proclamations.

Commissioner Crichlow agreed that the Commissioners should be notified in advance. He added that proclamations were generally in the agenda when the Commissioners received them Thursday prior to meetings.

Commissioner Jones said that the identified proclamations were not always in the agenda packet.

Commissioner Crichlow suggested that they list the proclamations so the Commissioners could address any problems related to them.

Commissioner Jones added that once a proclamation was placed on the agenda it was public, and the situation could prove embarrassing. He said that he did not see any problem with being aware of proclamations before they were presented at a meeting.

Commissioner Crichlow agreed, but added that he was not certain that he needed to vote on the matter.

Martha V. (Nell) Porter, City Clerk, said that occasionally a request for a proclamation was short-term.

Commissioner Crichlow noted that the public would have to submit their requests in due time.

Commissioner Jones added that if a person or organization was worthy of recognition they would certainly be aware of the need in due time.

MOTION

Commissioner Crichlow MOVED that presentations of proclamations must be applied for at least 10-days prior to a Commission meeting, and proclamation would be from the City Commission of the City of St. Augustine and signed by the Mayor.

Mayor Gardner noted that not all proclamations were presented during City Commission meetings, as some were presented to a person or organization during an event.

Commissioner Jones replied that the request should be timely, and the Commission should be made aware.

Mayor Gardner said that he would be more comfortable if he knew there was a proclamation or procedure that had offended Commissioner Jones.

Commissioner Jones replied that the only offense was that he had not been made aware. He added that proclamations were on the behalf of the Commission of the City of St. Augustine and all the Commissioners composed the Commission.

Commissioner Jones SECONDED the motion.

VOTE ON MOTION

AYES: Crichlow, Jones, Burk

NAYES: Boles, Gardner

MOTION CARRIED 3/2

8./ Assignments to outside boards and committees.

Mr. Harriss reported that there were five Commission levels of assignments, and he had given each Commissioner the opportunity to express their preference. The assignments were as follows:

- Mayor Gardner – Tourist Development Council
- Commissioner Burk – Sister Cities Association
- Commissioner Boles – Visitor and Convention Bureau
- Commissioner Crichlow – Northeast Regional Planning Council (subject to County Commission confirmation)
- Commissioner Jones – Intergovernmental Committee

MOTION

Commissioner Crichlow MOVED to approve the appointments as presented. Commissioner Burk SECONDED the motion.

VOTE ON MOTION

AYES: Crichlow, Burk, Jones, Boles Gardner

NAYES: None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9./ Closing comments by Mayor and City Commissioners.

Commissioner Boles commented that he was pleased to be a part of the

Commission, and he thought that it was going to be fun.

Commissioner Burk thanked the Commission and the community for their support, and she said that she intended to do a good job.

Commissioner Jones thanked the citizens of the City for their support. He thanked staff for their help, and he acknowledged his wife for all her assistance.

Commissioner Crichlow stated that he had not been sworn in, nor did he win any awards, but he thought he must deserve something for surviving the past two-years. He stated that he looked forward to working with the Commission for the next two-years and serving the community. He added that there would be new goals and projects and the Commission wanted the support and help of the citizens.

Mayor Gardner read as follows:

I am proud to be a part of this City Commission.

You elected representatives who promised no more than to serve the best interests of our community to the best of our ability.

Over the past two years this City Commission has created a dynasty of citizen involvement. It was created by a like-minded majority at this table, who simply believe that our government belongs not to a chosen few, but to all our citizens.

Two hundred years ago, in his farewell address of 1796, George Washington said, "With slight shades

of difference, you have the same religion, manners, habits, and political principles. All the parts combined cannot fail to find, in the united mass of means and efforts, greater strength, greater resource, proportionally greater security."

I hope the hallmark of this City Commission will be to bring together all our shareholders, so that we can insure that, with faith in ourselves and pride in our community, our city will be the kind of place we can proudly say we planned together.

I don't consider us one of the greatest little cities in America. I consider us a great city, period, a national treasure, to be measured against the Charleston's, the Savannah's, the Williamsburg's, Boston's and Philadelphia's of our nation.

It all began here. I hope this City Commission will work to raise the level of pride in all of us, that we are not just another little city, we are the Nation's Oldest City, a city like no other.

God bless you, and God bless our great city.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

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MAYOR

CITY CLERK