



**MINUTES  
SPECIAL CITY COMMISSION MEETING  
CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE BEACH  
March 2, 2016 5:00 PM.**

City Hall  
2200 A1A South  
St. Augustine Beach, FL 32080

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor O'Brien called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor O'Brien asked led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor O'Brien, Vice Mayor George, Commissioner Samuels, Commissioner England, Commissioner Snodgrass

Also Present: City Manager Royle, City Clerk Raddatz, Police Chief Hardwick, and Public Works Director Howell.

Mayor O'Brien advised that the meeting would be held differently and explained that the Commission would hear the City Attorney candidates, then would adjourn to continue the Regular City Commission meeting from March 1, 2016 and then the Commission would go into the Shade and discuss security matters for City offices.

**IV. INTERVIEW OF CITY ATTORNEY CANDIDATES**

A. 5:00 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.: Ginn & Patrou, St. Augustine Beach

Mayor O'Brien requested Attorney John King to the podium.

Attorney John King, with the firm of Ginn & Patrou, advised that he was responding to the Request for Qualifications for the City. He explained that Ginn & Patrou was only four to six minutes away from St. Augustine Beach and gave a brief Power Point presentation of the firm (Exhibit I). He introduced Attorneys Scott Patrou and John Ginn. He explained his background advised that he lived in St. Augustine for 22 years and went to Flagler College in 1984-1988 and was a member of the Florida Bar as well as California Bar. He explained that currently his practice is a general practice which deals mostly with real estate and corporate contracts as well as pre-litigation and real estate matters and gave his previous law positions. He commented that when he was preparing for this meeting he reviewed the videos of the meetings and minutes, read the city code, Vision Plan, Comprehensive Plan, Strategic Plan, and the budget in order to get a better idea of the issues the City is facing. He advised that if he was hired by the City he would not take any clients with a conflict. He

commented that his fees would be close to the present City Attorney's fees. He commented that he does not have public sector experience but would learn quickly. He explained that he has interacted with the public sector entities, such as, the St. Johns County School Board, Code Enforcement and the Building Departments at St. Johns County, St. Johns River Water Management District, etc. He remarked that ordinances were a large part of the City Attorney's work, which would be similar to writing bylaws for corporations. He remarked that the firm has four attorneys, which would meet the Commission's Request for Qualification (RFQ) criteria, and their main office was within 1.5 miles of the City. He explained that it would be a team approach, but he would be the point person. He advised that all his team members are interested in keeping St. Augustine Beach the same, which everyone enjoys.

Attorney John Ginn introduced himself to the Commission and advised that he has lived in St. Augustine all his life and loves the beach and wants the City to continue to grow. He explained that 70 percent of his time was spent in his real estate practice, but has experience in drafting conservation easements, legal descriptions, etc.

Attorney Scott Patrou thanked the Commission for allowing his firm the opportunity to be hired as the City Attorney. He explained that he would not be leaving the area because he has a lot of family in the area. He advised that his firm would be available to the City whenever they are needed. He commented that his firm has not been employed by a governmental entity; however, they have been involved in quasi-judicial hearings, interpreting contracts, drafting ordinances, etc.

Attorney King added that their firm could give a fresh outlook and a new perspective on a current issues.

Mayor O'Brien opened the Commission discussion by advising that he liked that the members of the firm live here and work in the community; however, he was concerned that the firm did not have direct experience in government. He advised that the Commission asks the City Attorney to answer questions immediately and City Attorney Burnett answers them.

Attorney King advised that he respects City Attorney Burnett for his experience and he would endeavor to do the same as quickly as they could if his firm is selected.

Vice Mayor George asked how his firm would distribute the representation for the different Board.

Attorney King advised that he would personally attend all the meetings of the boards, which would help with familiarity and bring the firm up to speed quickly.

Vice Mayor George asked what litigation experience the firm has.

Attorney King explained that his firm had a lot of litigation and advisory experience, such as, filing with the court and handling probate matters.

Vice Mayor George asked whether his firm would be able to handle the trial aspect for the City or would they have to send it to another firm.

Attorney King stated that his firm does a lot of litigation and gave some examples. He explained that they would try to be as cost efficient as possible. He advised that if he had to reach out to another firm, then it would be at his cost not the City, unless there was not a local resource that the Commission needed.

Vice Mayor George asked if his firm has any Board certifications or voluntary section memberships.

Attorney King advised that none of the attorneys in the firm were Board certified; however, his firm members were involved in voluntary organizations.

Vice Mayor George advised that she has heard a lot of great comments about his law firm and thanked him for coming.

Commissioner Samuels asked if they would be willing to appoint a member of their firm to get Board Certified.

Attorney King advised they would apply for a Board Certification.

Commissioner Samuels advised that experience was important and the Commission did need immediate responses to questions. She advised that having a government certification would make his firm more advantageous to the Commission.

Attorney King advised that it would make his firm more marketable and he would look into what was involved in it.

Commissioner Samuel explained that her concern would be calling the City Attorney for immediate answers.

Attorney King advised that if the Commission retained his firm, he would learn the Sunshine Law cases so he could respond immediately to the Commission's questions. He explained that he doesn't have a need for it at the moment, so he wouldn't undertake that unless his firm was retained.

Commissioner Samuels advised that the Commission needs a parliamentarian and wanted to know if his firm could fit that bill.

Attorney King advised that he thought his firm could.

Commissioner England advised that in Attorney King's resume it mentioned that he had done compliance and regulatory issues and she asked when the last time he read a regulation.

Attorney King advised that he worked for an import export business in Canada and he spent a lot of time going through tax regulations. He explained that he was hired in

1997 to run the Southern California Tax Deferred Exchange Company and within three days he gave a seminar on tax exchanges.

Commissioner England asked if his firm would be willing to take as many continued education credits or webinars on his own to learn about government requirements as quickly as possible.

Attorney King advised that he would.

Commissioner England asked if any of the members of the firm ever constructed a home.

Attorney King advised that he has constructed a custom home and went through the full building process.

Commissioner England asked if his firm represented any developers.

Attorney King advised no.

Commissioner Snodgrass asked how Attorney King's peers or clients describe his work ethics, communications and decision making style.

Attorney King advised that he would hope they would describe him as looking at the big picture, meaning that litigation was about economics and how it would affect his clients. He advised that he used to be a certified mediator, but he explained that being a mediator was the best way to resolve the problems.

Commissioner Snodgrass asked Attorney King to explain a time when he was involved in a sensitive complex matter with a client and what was the outcome.

Attorney King advised that when he was doing tax deferred exchanges for a client and had to explain to IRS the way it was setup and why and there was a good outcome.

B. 5:45 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.: Hassell-Legal, Daytona Beach

Mayor O'Brien requested Attorney Jim Wilson to the podium.

Attorney Jim Wilson introduced himself, Brad Hassell and Greg Foss from Hassell-Legal Law firm. He advised that he has been a City Attorney for the City of St. Augustine, the City of West Melbourne, and the Town of Orchid. He explained the expertise of the firm and their experience in municipal government. He gave his history with the City of St. Augustine and several examples of litigation that he had been successful with for the cities of St. Augustine and West Melbourne. He commented what his philosophy was and that his role was not to tell the Commission what to do, but to make sure that the Commission completes their tasks legally and ethically. He remarked that if he was selected as the City Attorney, he would have the City as his main client and would be available 24 hours a day seven days a week.

He remarked that he has been part of the community for 21 years and was proud that Attorney Hassell and Attorney Foss would come tonight to support him.

Attorney Hassell commented that he has practiced in Florida since 1979. He advised that he came to the State of Florida because the State of Florida requested him to establish the Fifth District Court of Appeals in Daytona Beach. He advised that since 1982, he has been representing clients in federal and state courts from Jacksonville to Daytona. He advised that his firm tried to assess disputes early in the process in order to find the most efficient and fairest way to resolve the dispute before litigation. He commented that his firm was one of the pioneers in mediation and arbitration. He explained that one of his specialties is assessment of insurance coverages and that he has been Board Certified in civil trial law since 1994.

Attorney Foss commented that he was involved in traditional type practice and then has been involved in code enforcement cases for Brevard County. He advised that he was a finalist for appointment to the County Attorney for Brevard on two occasions and worked as a City Attorney for Melbourne and Cape Canaveral and had been appointed to several offices. He commented that he has worked for a national company as a General Counsel managing other attorneys dealing with development and construction processes. He advised that he worked out of the Executive office with Governor Jeb Bush and with a company on the New York Stock Exchange, which provided helicopter transportation. He explained that he was retired, but was asked by Attorney Hassell to be a resource for him and he accepted.

Mayor O'Brien asked for any Commission questions.

Commissioner Snodgrass asked Attorney Wilson what were some of his frustrations with the City of St. Augustine.

Attorney Wilson advised that government could be frustrating, but his philosophy was to work through the challenges. He explained that once the public knows his doors are open to them, they could work through the issues. He commented that he was very fortunate that the items at the City of St. Augustine worked out very well most of the time. He remarked that he does not hold grudges or stay angry with people and would never lose his composure in the workplace.

Commissioner Snodgrass asked why he left the City of St. Augustine.

Attorney Wilson advised that he worked at St. Augustine for 12 years and there were some issues regarding a landfill, so he felt that at that point in his career it was time for a new start; however, he advised that he still has a great respect for everyone who works at the City of St. Augustine.

Commissioner Snodgrass asked how his colleagues would describe his strategic thinking, communication skills and decision making skills.

Attorney Wilson advised that they would feel that he was a problem solver and looks for ways to do things creatively. He commented that he likes to fix things.

Commissioner England explained that the City was about to rewrite all of the Land Development Codes, Charter, etc., and she asked if he was prepared to take that amount of time for such a large scale project.

Attorney Wilson advised that he would be perfectly willing to do the project and he had the time.

Mayor O'Brien asked where he lived.

Attorney Wilson advised he lives four miles away and was not planning to leave. He explained that he does have an office downtown and would spend more time there if he receives this position.

Mayor O'Brien asked if Attorney Wilson has kept up on governmental information.

Attorney Wilson advised that he thought so, but doesn't follow the City of St. Augustine religiously since he left; however, he still keeps in contact with staff members who work there.

Mayor O'Brien asked about his fee being \$3,000 for the first 20 hours of work. He advised that he was concerned about having an open-ended checkbook and asked if he would be able to accomplish everything within the 20 hours.

Attorney Wilson advised yes, but he would advised the Commission if there was a problem ahead of time if he needed to bill more.

Vice Mayor George asked if the firm represents any large developers that might be doing business in this area and wondered if the firm's aviation certification would be in conflict with the City.

Attorney Wilson advised that the aviation law would not conflict with the City because there was no airport and explained that he has no developers as clients.

Vice Mayor George asked if his firm's members have represented any developers or builders.

Attorney Wilson advised that one of the law firm members has represented builders, but not developers. He advised that he signed a certification that the firm has no conflicts and that the City would be their priority.

Vice Mayor George asked how the firm would distribute the responsibilities of the different City boards.

Attorney Wilson advised that his intent was to be at all the meetings; however, Attorney Underhill may be involved in some of the Code Enforcement Board meetings. He advised that he would keep his firm members up-to-date with everything, in case there was an issue that he could not attend a meeting.

Commissioner Samuels asked if he would consider a flat retainer fee because the other two firms have agreed to a flat fee.

Attorney Wilson advised that he could do the basic retainer as a flat fee as long as the other factors such as litigation would be billable. He explained that he would charge similarly to City Attorney Burnett's fee where there are two phases that would be billable.

Commission Samuels asked if the firm would charge for travel.

Attorney Wilson advised no.

Discussion ensued regarding the two ordinances from the City of St. Augustine that were brought to court.

Attorney Wilson advised that they didn't go to court when they were written by him; however when they were changed they were challenged. He thanked the Commission for the opportunity.

C. 6:30 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.: McCabe Law Group, Ponte Vedra Beach

Mayor O'Brien requested Attorney Michael McCabe to the podium.

Attorney McCabe advised that he started practicing law in 2005, but prior to that he was a civil engineer and did large aviation and design work. He explained that the firm he worked for paid for his law school education and he practiced in-house counsel for them. He commented that in 2009 he came back to Jacksonville, Florida where he was from, and now resides in Ponte Verde Beach. He advised that his civil engineering background led him into a great position for municipalities who have construction and design issues. He advised that he litigated a case for Attorney Dobson and once the case concluded, Attorney Dobson asked him to work for him and later he took over his practice. He advised that in 2010, he represented the Town of Hastings as the City Attorney. He commented that his firm has three locations, one in Ponte Verde Beach. He advised that the main clients of the firm was real estate, governmental matters, appellant law and administrative law. He commented that he serves as the magistrate for St. Johns County, an Associate Counsel for the Industrial Development Authority and the Construction Board of Adjustment and Appeals. He advised that he does review bond issuances and stated his responsibilities for the Town of Hastings. He advised that he would be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. He commented that he was very excited about the opportunity to work for the City. He then commented that he intentionally created his contract to be similar to the present City Attorney's contract and explained his contract.

Mayor O'Brien asked for any Commission questions.

Mayor O'Brien asked how many people were in his firm.

Attorney McCabe advised that they have 14 employees total including four staff attorneys. He advised that he will be hiring another attorney on April 1, 2016.

Mayor O'Brien asked if he would be the one representing all the City meetings.

Attorney McCabe advised yes, and he would have Attorney Dobson as backup.

Mayor O'Brien asked whether his knowledge would be impacted since he did not live in the City.

Attorney McCabe advised that the communities where he lives and the City are little different and feels that he was not entirely disconnected because he just lives on the north end of the County.

Mayor O'Brien asked what the Town of Hastings would say about him as a City Attorney.

Attorney McCabe advised that they would say he was responsive, he was competent and would have great reviews.

Mayor O'Brien asked Attorney McCabe if he watched any of the Commission meetings.

Attorney McCabe advised no.

Vice Mayor George asked if any of his positions would conflict with being the City Attorney.

Attorney McCabe advised no, but he has been thinking that he may have to resign from the magistrate's position.

Vice Mayor George asked if he would resign from the magistrate's position.

Attorney McCabe advised yes.

Commissioner Samuels advised that she wished he watched the Commission meeting because the City Attorney needs a tough skin.

Attorney McCabe said that he could review them.

Commissioner Samuels advised that the City of Hastings is a small town and they have agriculture issues, which doesn't compare to the City of St. Augustine Beach. She asked Attorney McCabe if he sees himself as a mediator and parliamentarian.

Attorney McCabe advised that he could do both jobs well.



Commissioner England asked Attorney McCabe to describe a recent issue at the Town of Hastings that was contentious and how he handled it.

Attorney McCabe advised that there has been a problem at the Town of Hastings regarding some residents wanting to consolidate with the County and others didn't. He explained that he maintains control.

Commissioner England asked how he would juggle the Town of Hastings meetings with our City meetings.

Attorney McCabe advised that they do not conflict except where they might have special meetings for the budget.

Commissioner Snodgrass asked what were his most sufficient achievement and how did he handle it.

Attorney McCabe advised that the magistrate position was a big achievement for a young attorney and that he enjoys being a judge for the County. He commented that he received a number of rewards and advised that he likes helping people.

Commissioner Snodgrass asked what Attorney McCabe uniquely bring to the City.

Attorney McCabe advised that he brings his engineering background with designed build knowledge, his law degree, and having experience with the Town of Hastings. He thanked the Commission for the opportunity and advised that he hoped that he would receive the Commission's vote.

#### D. Public Comment

Mayor O'Brien opened the Public Comment Section. The following addressed the Commission:

Tom Reynolds, 880 A1A Beach Blvd., commented that when the City sent out the scope of work to the City Attorney candidates there was not a question if a citizen could ask a question by phone or email to the City Attorney. He advised that he sent all the candidates email and only received two answered. He commented that the first firm did not answer, but he liked Attorney King's response. He remarked that he didn't like the answer from the first firm because he said that sometime the public gets confused, but that was not true. He further commented that twice Attorney Wilson said "you guys" but there were three lady Commissioners. He advised that the third firm did not bring anyone with him. He advised that he doesn't care which firm was picked, but he wanted the firm to know that the statute of limitations on ethics violations was three years and the statute of limitations on Florida Election Commission complaints was two years. He requested that the new City Attorney have an email box that says City of St. Augustine Beach, make sure they don't use the City logo and make sure they don't use a link to advertise their law firm. He advised that the same residents would be watching them and when they make a mistake he would pounce on them because he expects people to do their jobs.

Ed Slavin, PO Box 3084, advised that he would rate the second firm the highest, then the third firm, and lastly the first firm. He explained that the City needs someone with experience and not someone doing on the job training. He commented that Attorney Wilson was the kind of attorney the City wants.

Mayor O'Brien closed the Public Comment section.

#### E. Decision of Which Firm to Hire

Mayor O'Brien asked for Commission discussion.

Mayor O'Brien advised that experience would be very helpful to the City and he stated that all the candidates are good lawyers.

Commissioner Snodgrass advised that all three firms were top notch. He explained that the first firm were impressive and strong, even though they lacked the municipal experience, the third firm was very impressive and the engineering background would be beneficial if the City needs help in that area; however, he stated that Attorney Wilson was experienced and highly qualified. He advised that he would vote for Attorney Wilson's firm.

Commissioner England advised that she was grateful to all the presenters for their interest in the City. She advised that her regulatory background was why she wanted to be a Commissioner and thanked the first firm for their interest. She commented that the City has unique challenges that would require more experience than the norm. She also was concerned regarding Attorney McCabe representing the Town of Hastings as well as the City due to time issues.

Commissioner Samuels thanked all the candidates. She advised that Attorney Wilson has been in the audience ever since the Request for Proposals went out. She was impressed with the first firm who wanted to learn on the job and advised they should be rewarded, but the City needs more experience. She commented that the third firm would not do well because the City Commission does change dates and it would be difficult to share his time with the Town of Hastings. She remarked that she wants someone who was devoted to the City and who would be available. She advised that she would vote for Attorney Wilson's firm.

Vice Mayor George stated that she knew all three applicants and they have very good reputations in the community. She explained that the most recent dealing she had with one of the candidates was with Attorney McCabe, who was very professional. She advised that she would vote for Attorney Wilson, especially since he was willing to change his retainer to a flat fee.

Mayor O'Brien commented that he was impressed by the passion of all three firms and restated his opinions about the candidates. He advised that he would vote for Attorney Wilson's firm because he would be the best fit for the City.

**Motion:** to accept the applicant of Hassell-Legal law firm with Jim Wilson being the primary City Attorney **Moved by** Vice Mayor George, **Seconded by** Commissioner Snodgrass.

Discussion ensued regarding the terms of the contract and it was decided that the contract would be placed on the next Commission meeting agenda for approval.

Mayor O'Brien asked for a roll call vote.

City Clerk Raddatz called the roll.

Commissioner Samuels	Yes
Commissioner England	Yes
Vice Mayor George	Yes
Commissioner Snodgrass	Yes
Mayor O'Brien	Yes

Motion passed 5 to 0.

Mayor O'Brien announced that this was the last meeting of the Special City Commission meeting and adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m. without a motion.

Mayor O'Brien continued the Regular City Commission meeting from March 1, 2016.

## VII. PRESENTATIONS

### A. Special Events:

- 1) Request for Approval of Permit for Northeast Florida Bicycle Club's Run Through City on Sunday, April 24, 2016

Mayor O'Brien introduced the Item V.D.1 and asked for the representative to come to the podium.

Mr. Terry Takken, representing the Northeast Florida Bicycle Club, gave a presentation (Exhibit 1).

Commissioner Snodgrass asked what time was the event and how long it would take.

Mr. Takken advised the bicyclists would be in St. Augustine Beach starting at 7:30 – 8:00 a.m. to the intersection of SR-312 at 8:57 a.m., then approximately 190 of the bicyclists would be coming back through A1A Beach Boulevard from 8:09 – 10:37 a.m.

Discussion ensued regarding whether cones would be put out, if any roads would be closed, to have the applicant coordinate with Police Chief Hardwick,

whether residents would be able to get out of their homes during the event, whether there would be additional police officers helping in the event, to make sure the City has a signed hold harmless agreement and to sweep the bike path before this event.

Police Chief Hardwick advised that Commander Parker reviewed the application in his absence. He explained that the event would not block any roads and the bicyclists would be allowed the same state laws entitled to bicyclists.

Commissioner Snodgrass commented that he thought that the roads would be jammed packed on A1A Beach Boulevard and believes that there would be a line turning left to get to the beach, which would cause traffic problems.

Discussion ensued regarding having flashing boards to make residents aware of the bicyclists from 8:30 – 10:30 a.m., whether the City could deny this event because it doesn't begin or end in the City, the traffic laws, bicyclist safety, why this application was brought to the Commission, and that the Police Department could only follow the traffic laws regarding bicyclists.

**Motion:** to approve the permit with proof of insurance, **Moved by** Mayor O'Brien, **Seconded by** Vice Mayor George.

Mayor O'Brien asked for a roll call vote.

City Clerk Raddatz called the roll.

Commissioner Samuels	Yes
Commissioner England	Yes
Vice Mayor George	Yes
Commissioner Snodgrass	No
Mayor O'Brien	Yes

Motion passes 4 to 1.

Attorney Wilson came back to the City Commission and thanked them for their vote.

City Attorney Burnett asked if Attorney Wilson's contract could be approved at the April 4, 2016 City Commission meeting and at that time Attorney Wilson could take over the meeting.

Attorney Wilson agreed.

City Attorney Burnett advised that he has known Attorney Wilson for a long time, so he would help with his transition to the office and would be available to him in the coming months if needed.

Commissioner Samuels advised Attorney Wilson that he was approved with the caveat that he approves a flat fee retainer.

Attorney Wilson agreed and advised that he would be at the April 4, 2016 City Commission meeting.

Police Chief Hardwick asked regarding the bicyclist permit what he could legally do if the Commission said no. He advised that there would be more of these events in the future and if the bicyclists are following traffic laws, he would not be able to prevent them from having the event as long as they follow the traffic laws for bicyclists.

City Attorney Burnett advised that Attorney Wilson would have to review that issue.

Mayor O'Brien advised Dr. Patricia Gill that the awarding of the architectural firms would be done in the Shade due to the fact that security improvements for City offices would be discussed.

Discussion ensued regarding whether the Commission could award a contract in the Shade.

City Attorney Burnett advised that the contract should include an "Exhibit A" which would be redacted from the public in order not to show the security improvements. He advised that the law on this has not been litigated well and has a very limited Attorney General's Opinion. He explained that this matter went to the Fifth District Court of Appeals because the Attorney General's Opinion was challenged and the Fifth District Court of Appeals agreed with the Attorney General's Opinion. He suggested that once the closed meeting has been completed to then advise the firms to have their contract with the security information on an Exhibit A and then that page redacted for the April 4, 2016 meeting.

## XII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Location of Streetlights: Consideration of Changing Current Policies and Approving Location of New Lights on Certain Street

Mayor O'Brien introduced Item 1 and asked City Manager Royle for a report.

City Manager Royle advised that he would like to delete the policy from the Policy and Procedures Manual and allow the Public Works Director and the City Manager the authority to place a street light where they deem correct. He commented that if the public had a compliant, then it would come before the Commission for their approval.

Public Works Director Howell advised that in his memo there were four items cited and each one was in favor of the person making the request for lighting.

Mayor O'Brien opened the Public Comments section. The following addressed the Commission:

Dr. Pat Gill, 218 B St., advised that she would like to delete policy, but wants to know the costs involved regarding the lights and what impact does it have on the budget. She then asked why hiring an architect firm would be a security issue.

City Manager Royle advised that there was \$100,000 budgeted for security improvements for City offices.

Mayor O'Brien advised that the public would know what the amount would be because they would get bids.

Mayor O'Brien closed the Public Comments section.

Commissioner Snodgrass advised that he would like general guidelines to insure consistency.

Vice Mayor George explained that there would be some discretion regarding certain features of a site.

Commissioner Snodgrass advised that he didn't disagree with that, but general guidelines should be in place with some discretion for the Public Works Director and the City Manager.

Commissioner England asked about the costs involved.

Public Works Director Howell advised that Florida Power and Light (FPL) provides street lighting as long as it is their standard street lighting, which would be no underground power, and their standard light styles. He explained that the City does not pay for the light bulbs or the installation, only the electricity.

Vice Mayor George asked whether Public Works Director Howell agrees with the policy.

Public Works Director Howell advised that the policy doesn't match what the City has and there are lights closer than what the policy states for safety reasons.

Commissioner Snodgrass suggested to revise the policy and add language that the Public Works Director would use his/her discretion. He advised that he feels it was best to provide guidelines with consistency, but with flexibility on the circumstances.

Vice Mayor George asked Public Works Director Howell to do a cost analysis on whether it was saving money to the City by leasing the light poles versus owning them.

Public Works Director Howell asked whether Vice Mayor George wanted it to be citywide or only those that are installed.

Discussion ensued regarding the FPL Franchise Agreement, types of lighting and underground power options being done by the City.

Commission agreed to have the policy revised with flexibility and guidelines and to have the new policy come back to the Commission for approval.

### XIII. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Mayor O'Brien asked for staff and Commissioner Comments.

Public Works Director Howell advised that Public Works Department would be implementing one of the beautification processes at the D Street plaza by putting in trees.

Police Chief Hardwick advised that he has started his budget workshops with Chief Financial Officer Burns for 2017.

City Attorney Burnett asked Police Chief Hardwick to explain the program Women Against Crime or WAC.

Police Chief Hardwick explained how the Police Department was reaching out to the community by holding self-defense classes and how it has taken a life of its own within the community.

City Attorney Burnett advised that the St. Johns Law Group would like to donate to the Police Department the full amount for the equipment of \$1,741.38 for Women Against Crime or WAC by reducing his last invoice to the City for that amount.

Commission thanked City Attorney Burnett for his generosity.

Police Chief Hardwick commented that he has worked with City Attorney Burnett for a long time and he knows his father who he protected overseas in Iraq when he was in the military combat. He commented that City Attorney Burnett has been a partner for law enforcement and a true professional to the Police Department, his profession, and to the City. He remarked that it has been an honor to work with City Attorney Burnett and he greatly appreciates the donation. He advised that he would put a poster up on every class that WAC was supported by the St. Johns Law Group.

Commissioner Samuels asked if the Hold Harmless Agreements were being signed for the WAC participants.

Police Chief Hardwick advised that they were.

Commissioner Samuels advised that she was in receipt of a letter from the Tourist Development Council (TDC) explaining that her term was expiring and whether the Commission would like her to continue on the Council.

The Commission advised that they would like her to continue her position with the TDC and would provide the letter needed by the TDC explaining the Commission's support.

Commissioner Samuels advised that the TDC was now hiring someone for their Strategic Plan and that she has been appointed to the Governing Board of the Coalition for the Homeless.

Vice Mayor George advised that at the Visitors & Convention Bureau (VCB) meeting they advised that the numbers in tourism were up in St. Johns County and that there was a low income and homeless housing facility being constructed with 100 housing units and a building for administrative Offices that would house numerous agencies like Department of Children and Families and Salvation Army in St. Johns County. She advised that the VCB was focused on pending litigation regarding diverting the tourist development tax funds for different purposes. She commented that it would give legal standing to any remitter that gives tourist taxes to challenge the use of the funds, which would mean that all of the County's tourist funding would be frozen until it had been resolved.

Discussion ensued regarding the bed tax percentage, beach renourishment costs, how the bed taxes were split up within Anastasia Island, what Anastasia Island generates in bed taxes, TDC funding for fireworks for the Beach Blast Off event and for holiday lighting, whether the Beach Blast Off event would be allowed to have a grant from TDC as a cultural event, having City Manager Royle follow up on the holiday lighting money from TDC for the City, establishing a debt paid down account where money could be held over a period of years that would only be used to pay down debt, verbal updates on finances from the Chief Financial Officer after six months of the fiscal year which would include the state of the Maratea property financing, the bond being 10 years short of the debt for the Maratea property and whether to have another referendum vote, updating the compensation survey for all employees, setting up salary ranges for all employees, how rich the employee insurance program was, employees' salaries being average, having a list of other cities pay grades and insurances as they relate to the City.

Commissioner England requested to have Chief Financial Officer Burns give a report on the debt every six months. She also requested formal presentations from department heads when items come in front of the Commission of the pros and cons on the issues, the costs involved, and the department heads recommendations.

Snodgrass agreed. He also recommended that City Manager Royle defer or delay items so that the meetings are not as long.

Discussion ensued regarding whether to go to two meetings a month, having the meetings more efficient, having the City Clerk receive speaker cards before the start of the meeting and not during an item, having a policy written that gives procedures for public comments, announcing to the audience before the any items are discussed at the meeting that if people would like to speak, to fill out a speaker form and give it to the City Clerk, to give the Wifi network address on the dais for the listening audience so they can see the backup materials, and to place a full book of the backup materials in the Commission room for the public to refer to.

Mayor O'Brien advised that he received a phone call from a representative of Florida Power and Light to meet with him one on one. He explained to him that the City residents



were not comfortable with that and that any discussions regarding the franchise agreement would be scheduled at a public meeting. He also advised that he was troubled by number of outbursts from several people at the March 1, 2016 Commission meeting. He advised that this would not be tolerated in the future and he would ask the police to remove them from the meeting until they can conduct themselves in a manner that was appropriate. He stated that proper decorum would be taken seriously.

Commission agreed.

Vice Mayor George agreed, but also asked for the Commission to be sensitive to the residents as well.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor O'Brien asked for a motion to adjourn.

**Motion:** to adjourn the Regular City Commission meeting. **Moved by** Mayor O'Brien, **Seconded by** Commissioner Snodgrass.

The Regular City Commission meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

V. INTERVIEW OF ARCHITECTURAL FIRMS FOR SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS TO CITY OFFICES

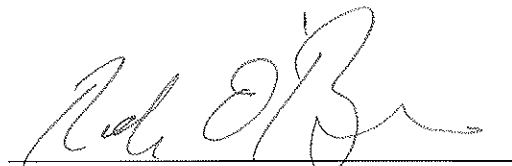
This item was done in a Shade session do to security improvements being discussed.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor O'Brien asked for a motion to adjourn.

**Motion:** to adjourn. **Moved by** Commissioner Samuels, **Seconded by** Commissioner Snodgrass. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

  
Rich O'Brien, Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk