Mayor Richard Samples	*Trustee J.W. Coleman*	*Trustee Paula Belobrajdic-Stewart*
Clerk Mindy Olson	*Trustee Michael Preston*	*Trustee Tom Jordan*
Attorney Roland Cross	*Trustee Open*	*Trustee Steve Retzer*

Village of South Jacksonville

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 4, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Approval of Agenda

Comments from the Floor

Mayor's Report

- *Fire Department Update*
- *Police Department Update*
- *Public Works Update*
- *Code Compliance/Enforcement Reports*
- *Treasurer's Report*

Action Items

1. *Approval of the Appointment of Christina Butler to Fill Open Trustee Position on the Board for the Term May 1, 2025 – April 30, 2027.*
2. *Approval of Ordinance Implementing a Non-Home Rule Municipal Retailers' Occupation Tax and a Non-Home Rule Municipal Service Occupation Tax at the rate of 1%.*

Mayor's Report

- *Fire Department Update:* Chief Evans reported that Saturday, September 20th 10:30 a.m. will be the fundraiser for the Fire Department. They will be selling food until they run out.
- *Police Department Update:* Chief Hansell reported 442 calls for the month of August. The two new officers are at the academy and doing well. The other officer is in his FTO training and that is going well. They are getting ready for Prairieland – they will be reaching out to Richie and Brian to get everything they need to be prepared.
- *Public Works Update:* Brian reported that they turned the water off at the splash pad. The park remains open until the Board decides to shut it down – depending on weather and heat. IRC is coming the first part of this next week. Posts are out for cars so there is nothing in the way.
- *Code Compliance/Enforcement Reports:* Cindy reported that she is currently working on all potential problems with the Classic Diner on Main and behind the Sleep Inn. Getting fences repaired and gates fixed. The contacts for people who haven't mowed their yards have slowed down. There is court on Monday for Ardis Livingston for two ordinance violations at 222 E. Pennsylvania. Tomorrow, Trustee Preston will be doing a ride along with Cindy.
- *Treasurer's Report:* Mindy reported that she has been working with the auditors – that will be presented in October. Everything is looking as it should.
- *Building Permits:* President Samples reported that for the month of August we had $176,418 in building permits issued. We took in $723.70 – ranging from roofing, one addition, demolition on a house, siding, one solar roof, etc.

Action Items

1. *Approval of the Appointment of Christina Butler to Fill Open Trustee Position on the Board for the Term May 1, 2025 – April 30, 2027.:* President Samples asked for a motion to approve. Motion to approve by Trustee Retzer, second by Trustee Jordan. Roll call was taken approving the appointment of Christina Butler unanimously. Christina Butler was then sworn in to fill the open Trustee Position for the Village of South Jacksonville.

2. *Approval of Ordinance Implementing a Non-Home Rule Municipal Retailers' Occupation Tax and a Non-Home Rule Municipal Service Occupation Tax at the rate of 1%.:* President Samples stated that it is his opinion that the intention of passing this is to replace only the 1% tax on the grocery tax. Mindy Olson stated that the state of Illinois calls it the Occupation Tax which is for businesses to do business in the state of Illinois. It has nothing to do with the type of occupation you have. The services also in the state of Illinois are exempt from tax. When it says Retailers' Occupation Tax that is essentially for businesses that do retail. When you file a sales tax return there is an exempt part in the back that you put all the exempt things – services, labor, deliveries are all exempt from tax. The Ordinance language has to follow the language of the state. It is only a 1% tax on the groceries and a few of the medical aspects we have talked about. She also stated that the Village will lose about $22,400 if this is not passed.

   President Samples asked Attorney Cross if there was anything he would like to add. Attorney Cross noted that to be fair, we do not know what it will or will not bring in

for a year or two. To Mike Woodyard's comments, Attorney Cross noted that this is always modifiable. At this point, we are only trying to replace the tax on groceries. A year from now, if we think the tax is hitting to hard, we can dial it back, it just needs reported to the Department of Revenue. We just do not know how much it will truly bring in – the Department of Revenue gives an estimate based on looking back on past tax collection. Trustee Stewart asked about the timeframe if we do not pass it now. Attorney Cross said there are two windows every year. If it is passed now and get it to the Department of Revenue by October 1st it would start on January 1st. If it is not passed, there is another time to do it by April 1st. You can always revisit. Trustee Retzer asked if we expected any extra burden on the taxpayers. Mindy Olson stated absolutely not.

Mike Woodyard added that there have been a lot of tax increase in the state of Illinois. He said it won't necessarily impact him, but what about those living off social security where every penny counts. President Samples stated that it is the intention of the Board to replace the tax that the state gave up, not to add any addition tax to the residents of South Jacksonville. Mike stated that is not how he has interpreted the ordinance. Attorney Cross stated that he believes it goes beyond just groceries. Mindy Olson added that it does include some medical supplies. Trustee Stewart stated that hearing that there are two windows means we have time. She is in favor of waiting. Trustee Coleman stated that he agreed. He is concerned with what the state of Illinois is talking about taxing. There is talk of taxing services at 6.25% - chiropractor, interior decorator, etc. He would like to pause ours to see what kind of impact it has and he is worried about something else popping up and hitting our taxpayers at a higher rate. Trustee Retzer stated he has been wrestling with going both ways on this decision. He noted that we could also do .5%. President Samples asked for a motion to approve. Motion to approve by Trustee Jordan. There was no second – the motion dies due to no second. President Samples asked for a motion to approve a new variation of the Ordinance, brought up by Trustee Retzer. President Samples asked for a motion to approve at .5% versus 1%. Motion to approve by Trustee Retzer, second by Trustee Jordan. Roll call was taken with Trustee Jordan, Trustee Retzer and Trustee Preston voting in favor of approval. Trustee Coleman, Trustee Stewart and Trustee Butler voted against approval. President Samples voted against the approval and stated it was due to him not wanting .5%.

Discussion Items

1. Benton & Associates – Brian Cannon to discuss water tower inspection:

Brian shared an outline of the inspection of the water tower and costs. President Samples asked if we continued on without doing any work, how long would it last. Brian said they are not completely sure, but there is a possible leak. They tested the water outside and saw there was chlorine in the test, indicating a leak. They tested again later and it was dry. It would need to be tested further to see if it is a true leak or not. Normally, a tank lasts 50-60 years – we are at 57. He would not recommend not doing anything. High priority items – grout repairs, concrete repairs, foundation repairs done first could buy more time. There is funding available – a facility report would need to be done before you could receive funding. The bulk of the costs comes from coatings. They did a sample of the exterior coating and there is lead. Roughly $650,000-$670,000 is just from coatings. Trustee Stewart asked if they could get an estimate on what a new water tower would cost. Brian stated that would depend on the size of your tank.

2. *Budget:* Mindy provided funds that changed. Police is updated as well as fire to reflect the increase in 911 items. President Samples proposed to have a COTW and budget meeting on September 18th with a public hearing prior at 6:30p.m. for department heads to report on what they need.

3. *Animal Control:* President Samples and Mindy Olson went to talk to the County Commissioner. Lisa from Animal Control emailed and stated they are going to keep the agreement as it is. They are going to send two reports a year, no exceptions. As far as after-hours services, that will be under the discretion of the animal control services if it needs to be taken care of immediately or if it can be handled the next work day. If we stop the service and reinstate later, they will hit the Village with fees. We do owe for the month of July and August. President Samples stated that his opinion, they should opt out. He asked for any discussion on the issue. The Trustees stated that they were in agreeance. Chief Hansell asked Attorney Cross how this would impact the contract with the officers who will have to respond to these calls. Attorney Cross stated that is arguable it's a term and condition of employment and they may have to bargain it. There would be a training aspect. Looking at the budget, you could get a guesstimate of what training would cost. Mindy stated that if we get to the point where this becomes a major issue, we can always pay the reinstatement fee and get the services back for $400.

4. *Woods Drive*: President Samples provided a copy of an email sent to Attorney Cross about Woods Lane. The Village has maintained this road and get no money for it when it is Woodson's road. We have it set up to oil and chip the road this year. Trustee Coleman asked if there was any way to get the money reallocated to the Village. President Samples stated that the Commissioners were going to look into it. They came back and gave the alternative to annex the property. By doing that, we assume the responsibility which we already have, we just do not get paid for it. They just need to change the road district from 10 to 15. Attorney Cross will continue to look into it.

Old Business

New Business

Executive Session: The Board will adjourn into Executive Session to discuss a litigation matter under Section 2(C) (11) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)), and to discuss a personnel matter under Section 2(C) (1) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)). IF NEEDED

Adjournment: President Samples asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion to approve by Trustee Retzer, second by Trustee Butler. Roll call was taken approving the adjournment unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Richard Samples, Village President

Attest:

Bentley Landess, Village Clerk

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Absent: 0