Village of South Jacksonville

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

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 24, 2025 @ 6:30 p.m.

Call to Order: President Samples called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Police Chief Eric Hansell and recited by all in attendance.

Roll Call: Roll call was taken with all Trustees in attendance. Also in attendance were President Richard Samples, Police Chief Eric Hansell, Fire Chief Richie Evans, Public Works Superintendent Brian English, Code Enforcement Cindy Beddingfield, Treasurer Mindy Olson and Clerk Bentley Landess. Attorney Roland Cross was not in attendance.

Approval of Agenda: President Samples asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Motion to approve by Trustee Coleman, second by Trustee Retzer.

Comments from the Floor: President Samples asked Moving Jacksonville Forward Co-Chair Ben Cox to give an update on the plans for JDC grounds. Ben said earlier this week, he received a phone call after soliciting Steve Stadelman, who is the State Senator in Rockford, IL. Ben asked him where the bill stands. Stadelman said they are still in the implementation stage with the budget being signed less than 60 days ago. Stadelman stated that the money can't be swept away as the 500 million dollars is part of the capital improvement budget.

Ben said the Committee has been putting door hangers on doors around the Village just to get their name out there and provide more information to the community as to what they are doing. Ben added that he has been in contact with Jack Cann, one of Pritzker's people. Ben requested an audience with him and a Deputy Governer Manar to go over concerns and lobby on the behalf of Jacksonville and the Village.

Ben also brought up the status of Educational Daycare Center and The Women's Crisis Center. Both are on state-owned property, they own the buildings. Educational Daycare Center's lease is out and will not be renewed. The Crisis Center still has a lease until 2027. The Crisis Center is wanting to expand or relocate if they cannot expand. They are waiting to hear what they are able to do. Ben Cox will keep the board updated as he has further discussions with the necessary people.

Police Update: Chief Hansell said the Lego contest went well. They had about 30 participants with various age groups. They are also going to do the same thing at Prairie Land. They have the two new guys who started on the 18th and are on track to go to academy. Chief also noted the National Night Out on August 5th. There will be K-9 demonstrations, fire, police, along with other activities. It will run around 5:30-8:00pm at Community Park.

Fire Update: Chief Evans stated last friday morning there was an apartment fire by Mower Medic's place. There was a quick response with a lot of police and fire presence. Evans stated there will be a meeting on Monday to discuss fundraisers. They are talking about the weekend after Labor Day.

Public Works Update: Brian English said that the water tower was inspected on Wednesday. They are waiting on oil and chip, still have yet to hear back on that as well as the parks.

Code Enforcement Update: Sending letters to those who need to mow.

Discussion Items

1. *Rotary Club Oktoberfest Grant:* President Samples said this has been approved multiple times in the past. The amount is the same at $5K. This will be moved to an action item for the next meeting.
2. *Grocery Tax:* Mindy reached out to Beth Hopkins at the Courthouse for more information on the tax. Mindy found the calculation of the potential impact of approximately $22K if this tax is not implemented. Mindy stated that there is probably a 50/50 split between residents and non-residents. Her recommendation is to pass the Grocery Tax. It will not change what everyone else is doing and no one will realize that it is passed or not passed but, it will have a major impact on the Village's financial situation. The money could be used to buy new cameras or radios, etc. Trustee Retzer asked about getting the information out there for public opinion. Mindy stated that it has been posted multiple times, but we don't have anyone here to discuss different opinions.
3. *Budget:* President Samples asked Mindy to provide information on the budget. He made note that this is something that is still being worked on. Mindy noted that some of these she is still waiting on final decisions with department heads. Like with tourism and the park plans and how much that would be. Trustee Stewart stated that we were thinking that for this budget it would be $100K for Godfrey Park. Then, on the next budget, work on other parks. Mindy did leave events open, she asked if the board wanted to put anything in that and if they did, to think about what it would be. For community development and code – Mindy asked if the board wanted to put another demo house in there in case there is one that comes up, we have the money for it. Mindy touched on the water department and the lead lines and the impact they will have on the budget. President Samples said it is difficult because we don't know what they want because it

changes all the time. Brian English stated that we were on a 10-year program, the lines got tested and the Village moved up to a 3-year program. The water tower will also need to be something to plan for – depends on EPA. Brian said that if we have to drain our tower, we may have to tie into the tower on Massey as it could be 2-3 months. Mindy added that there was a large overage from the city. Brian and Mindy are working to figure out what exactly that means. Police and Fire departments, Mindy will meet with Chief Hansell and Chief Evans to confirm what items are necessary.
Mindy also added that there is still no contract with Animal Control. She said the last email she got from them stated that they were having the State's Attorney look over it to try and come to an agreement, but she has not heard anything back. Trustee Coleman stated that one thing he is questioning is how they are justifying the reimbursement. President Samples said that we get a report from them saying they get so many calls – we have no idea where they went or what happened. Mindy Olson said that at least we are hearing something and will continue to work with them to figure out something and she may have an update by the next meeting. Trustee Stewart asked about the tornado siren and if that would fall under police and fire. Chief Hansell said that when they first looked at it, they got a bid of $36K, but that had probably expired. Mindy said that it could fall under another area if needed.

4. *Noise Ordinance:* President Samples brought Ordinance #1132 to look at, and it does cover noise ordinances. Chief Hansell said it is from 11:00pm-7:00am, which is reasonable and covers a lot of situations. Trustee Stewart stated that she would like to look at the special use permit when Attorney Cross gets it ready to see if it works. Chief Hansell said section one would need to be revised with the addition of a special use permit. The fine points would have to be looked at and what businesses and organizations would fall under specifically.
5. *Parks:* President Samples wanted to absolutely verify with the board that they want the courts ripped up at Dewey Park. He also wanted to make sure that the garage on Coronado would come down. The board agreed to make both into green space. Brian will be removing the garage over the next week.
6. *Pickleball Court:* President Samples said someone from Jacksonville passed information along to him. There is an article on the need for more Pickleball courts in Jacksonville. It is extremely expensive to put in a court due to having a specific asphalt coating. As of now, there is more need for park upkeep and planning first before something like this is implemented.

Old Business

New Business

Executive Session: President Samples stated there was a need for Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. President Samples asked for a motion to move out of regular session. Motion to move out of regular session by Trustee Stewart, second by Trustee Retzer. Roll call was taken approving the motion unanimously.

President Samples asked for a motion to move back into regular session. Motion to approve by Trustee Stewart, second by Trustee Preston. Roll call was taken approving the motion unanimously.

President Samples asked for any further business to discuss. There was nothing further to discuss.

Adjournment: President Samples asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion to approve by Trustee Preston, second by Trustee Jordan. 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