

ST JOHNS COUNTY CIVIC ROUNDTABLE

MINUTES OF MEETING

October 12, 2015

The meeting was called to order by President Lofgren at 9:00 am.

The minutes of the September 14, 2015 meeting were accepted as revised.

There was no treasurer's report.

President Lofgren introduced Mark and Alicia Bailey from the PAC supporting the 1/2% sales tax for the St. Johns County School Board.

Mark spoke of the need for the tax to fund new schools and the upgrading of existing schools in the county. He stated that the need was compounded by the 180 million dollar reduction in funding from the state over the last four years and the continuing growth in students every year. If the sales tax is passed, it should result in approximately 13 million dollars per year.

Alicia stated that, in order to continue with the best school district in the state, new schools will have to be built to accommodate the rapidly growing student base. She feels that good schools are critical to the county in terms of providing an educated workforce.

President Lofgren then introduced Cyndi Stevenson, our representative to the State House of Representatives. Cyndi reviewed her first days in the legislature and all that she was learning. She highlighted three major areas.

1. Redistricting – She stated that it looks like St. Johns County will be divided into two congressional districts with the split occurring north and south of S.R. 206. It has been very

difficult to accomplish redistricting while following all of the guidelines involved.

2. State Budget – She reviewed the figures for the state budget for 2016. The total budget is approximately 77 billion dollars. She stated one concern in this budget is in the area of health and human services. In this area Medicaid is of particular concern. She does not feel the state can adopt the Federal Medicaid increase without serious budget issues.
3. Florida Economy- She sees the Florida economy works as a growth state. She says Florida needs families and that requires jobs. She noted that since technology has done away with many jobs, it is essential that the state create additional job opportunities in the future.

Other Business

1. The Roundtable voted to go on record as supporting the ½ mil sales tax increase for 10 years as requested by the St. Johns County School Board which will be voted on on November 10. This resolution will be sent to all members.
2. Bill Jones made a motion, seconded by Bill McCormick, that the Civic Roundtable donate \$150.00 to the PAC formed in support of the sales tax increase. The motion passed.
3. Representative Stevenson introduced her staff: Lindsey Jones and Colin Kirkland.
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5. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00.

1. Respectfully submitted,

Ed Olsen

Secretary

Attachments (2)

