

# ST JOHNS COUNTY CIVIC ROUDTABLE MEETING

February 11, 2019

Minutes of Meeting:

Chairman Lofgren opened the meeting at 9:00am.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the meeting of January 14, 2019 were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: A current balance of \$266.97 was reported.

Chairman Lofgren introduced our guest speaker St Johns County Commissioner Jeremiah Blocker. Mr. Blocker is a decorated combat veteran who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom, after which he returned home and graduated from the University of Miami School of Law. After graduating from law school, Jeremiah worked as a Prosecutor in the State Attorney's office. He continues to serve in the Air Force Reserve as a JAG officer with the rank of Major.

As Commissioner Mr. Blocker listed challenges St Johns County faces today.

- 1) Growth – The increase of 10,000 residents per year has strained the counties ability to maintain services. Jeremiah noted that many residents

work in Jacksonville (Duval County),but live in St Johns. The need for a good land management plan is paramount.

- 2) Infrastructure – The 2007 to 2008 downturn in the economy slowed the needed improvements in our roads etc. According to Mr. Blocker we are now playing catch-up and need additional funds. Clay county received voter approval to obtain the money for needed projects.
- 3) Sherriff Department – New training center approved by the County Commissioners in 2018 will help meet future needs for law enforcement.
- 4) Clean Water - Continues to be a major issue though out the state.
- 5) Beach erosion – Fight for state and Federal dollars to maintain the beaches that provide value for all St Johns County residents. Expressed need for a comprehensive beach re-nourishment program.
- 6) Conservation – Preserve the natural beauty of Florida and its wildlife.

Our members had many questions concerning the rapid and often uncontrolled growth in our county. Feel many projects are “rubber stamped” without pros and cons discussed.

80,000 homes approved – do not know about construction of new projects until the bulldozers arrive!

Zoning meetings need for more information to residents.

Survey opinions of resident who do not attend Zoning meetings.

Impact fees – not bondable because of unpredictable nature of income source.

Commissioner Blocker fielded many more questions and offered to talk to local HOA's if requested.  
Jeremiah's email is [BCC4JBLOCKER@SJCFL.US](mailto:BCC4JBLOCKER@SJCFL.US)

US Senate Committee Appointments:

Rick Scott: Armed Services, Commerce, Science, Transportation, Homeland Security, Govt. Affairs and Budget.

Marco Rubio: Foreign Relations, Intelligence, Commerce, Science, Transportation, Small Business

House of Representatives:

John Rutherford: Armed Services, Appropriations

Frankel & Crist – Appropriations

Stephanie Murphy – Ways and Means

Darren Soto: Energy and Commerce

SJC Planning and Zoning Board Meeting:

March 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm 500 San Sebastian view in the county auditorium St Augustine, FL 32084.

Our next St Johns County Civic Roundtable meeting is Monday March 11, 2019 at 9:00am

Meeting adjourned at 10:45am

Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis Froio, Secretary