

The City Council of the City of Titusville, Florida met in regular session in the Council Chamber of City Hall, 555 South Washington Avenue, on Tuesday, February 25, 2025.

Mayor Connors called the City Council meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Present were Mayor Andrew Connors, Vice-Mayor Herman A. Cole, Jr., Col USAF Retired, and City Council Members Jo Lynn Nelson, Megan Moscoso, and Dr. Sarah Stoeckel.

Also present were City Manager Scott Larese, City Attorney Richard Broome, and City Clerk Wanda Wells. Assistant City Clerk Jolynn Donhoff completed the minutes of the meeting.

Mayor Connors requested a moment of silence. He then led those present in the *Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag*. City Clerk Wells read the procedures for public comment and participation.

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SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Employee of the Month - February 2025 - No action was requested. Finance Director Teri Butler Tammy Wayner recognized Finance Budget Manager Tammy Wayner as the Employee of the Month for February 2025. She highlighted the nomination and together, she and Mayor Connors presented Ms. Wayner with a plaque and gift.

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Joynerville and Beyond: The African American Community of Titusville - No action was requested. Background information from the Council agenda packet, included that the City of Titusville, Florida, (City) had applied for and received a Small Matching Grant from the Florida Bureau of Historic Preservation, Division of Historical Resources (DHR), for a project that involved the comprehensive research and documentation of the history, events, and landmarks within the City's historic African American neighborhood and commercial district. The project location, referred to as Joynerville, was situated southwest of downtown Titusville in Brevard County along the east coast of Florida.

The City of Titusville contracted with Stantec to complete this documentation in February 2024. Project deliverables consisted of a study report, narrative for future interpretive signage/historic markers, branding, recording of oral histories, construction of a community timeline, mapping of historic sites, and uploading information on the contributing structures to the City's history webpage and the "*Explore Historic Titusville FL*" mobile app. Stantec conducted the archival research, field survey, and oral interviews between March and August 2024. Titusville's historic African American community once had a vibrant commercial district along present-day South Street. Radiating outward from this hub, were other locations where the community came together, such as churches, social lodges, schools, and clubs.

At least four neighborhoods, including the Joynerville Subdivision and the Lincoln Park Subdivision, were gradually constructed around this hub. The City had identified Titusville's African American Neighborhoods as an underrepresented part of the City's historic preservation efforts and sought grant funds to document the history of the community.

The City of Titusville had acknowledged that the best way of recording the history of the community was through the voices of the community and ensured that oral histories were an important component of the project. This report represented the study report, documentation of the historic background research, results of the oral interviews, a timeline of the community, maps documenting historic locations throughout the community, and recommendations for education planning and future preservation would be provided to City Council at the regular City Council meeting for special recognitions and presentations on February 25, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

The Historic Assets Map, which included the sites identified as part of this project, was provided in Appendix A. This information would be used to prepare proposed text for interpretive signage or historic markers, the City's webpage, and the City's mobile app. This survey and report were intended to be used as tools for the preservation of Titusville's historic African American community.

Further to the above, staff provided a video presentation at the Council meeting on *Joynerville and Beyond* project. The video discussed the origins and history of early members of the community, schools, businesses, business leaders, events, development of the area, and the importance of passing on this history to future generations. The video also discussed key ideas or proposals to document and bring awareness to the community and to public spaces, including interpretive sign program signifying such history, photos, website, etc.

Next, Santec Representative Kimberly Hinder gave a presentation on the *Joynerville and Beyond Report* that highlighted the following information:

- Project overview
 - History of African American community
 - Public workshop
 - Oral history
 - Mapping
 - Preservation recommendations
- Displacement and Civil Rights
- Community Involvement
- Educational Programming
- Archive Preservation
- Designation and Recognition
- Legacy Businesses
- Community Recognition
- Heritage Education
- Walking Tour

- Interpretive Sign Program
- Further Research and Survey

Council commended the presentation and the importance to the community and future.

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PETITIONS AND REQUESTS FROM THE PUBLIC PRESENT

Toni Shifalo commented on Joynerville and Beyond: The African American Community of Titusville. Ms. Shifalo, a Member of the City's Historic Preservation Board and also a resident of the area previously known as Joynerville, commented on the Historic Preservation Board's involvement and championing the Joynerville and Beyond Project. She was pleased others within and outside the City were taking notice and appreciating the history. Ms. Shifalo also commented on her previously living in Atlanta, socializing with the late John Lewis (A Civil Rights Leader and Politician) and her involvements and concerns on diversity, equity, and inclusion. Ms. Shifalo was pleased the project was bringing awareness to prior historical areas and structures, some still standing. Additionally, she commented on personal involvement in championing for Civil Rights.

Lynn Golden commented on Joynerville and Beyond: The African American Community of Titusville. Ms. Golden discussed her conversations with a 96-year old relative (her aunt---a retired school teacher), who along with many others were collecting pictures and calling individuals. Ms. Golden advised her aunt and other members of the community desired building a Black Historical Building in their neighborhood, in the area behind the Blues Grocery/Titusville Market (701 S. Deleon Avenue). When it was discovered the property in the area was not owned by the City, Ms. Golden advised her aunt indicated that she would donate a portion of her own property, in order that a historical wall might be built along the City sidewalk. Grant money and other funding was presently being sought to achieve these types of goals, etc.

Member Nelson and Ms. Golden discussed ideas for properties that might be identified for building a Black Historical Building or structure to achieve these goals. Mr. Gibson's original home or property and the Ben Warren home across from the court house. Staff advised the property owner of the Ben Warren house requested demolishing the home that formerly stood on the property, likely due to hiring an engineer or other professional to render an opinion about the former residence. It was not the City that requested demolition per staff.

Stan Johnston briefly discussed his prior involvement in championing Civil Rights with Ms. Golden and others in the community. Next, he distributed information that discussed policy or *Code Section 12-11. – Obstructing waterways* and his concerns the City had violated this section of the *Code of Ordinances*, as explained. Third, Mr. Johnston discussed an email he sent to individuals at the City days prior to the meeting that discussed his concerns for Mockingbird Lane in the SNJ Oaks Project. He was concerned for a road access that ran into/stopped at a fence. Mr. Johnston further discussed concerns for the location for power lines for the project, a pole, surveyor diameter measurements, etc.

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With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Andrew Connors, Mayor

ATTEST:

Wanda F. Wells, City Clerk