

Merritt, Rachel

From: Wilson, Scott
Sent: Sunday, December 15, 2019 11:09 AM
To: CM; SS
Cc: Gabriel, Jason; Sidman Martin, Margaret; Miller, Carla; 'busey@smithhulsey.com'; Elsbury, Jordan; Billy, Kyle; Taylor, Kim
Subject: JEA Recapitalization
Importance: High

Council Members:

We received a copy of the letter Mayor Curry sent to the JEA Board of Directors Thursday. Mayor Curry has asked the board to turn this entire conversation over to us as the elected legislative body of our consolidated government. I expect the JEA Board will decide whether or not to comply with this request at their next board meeting on Tuesday. We are currently in the early stages of a fact finding process led by Council Member Michael Boylan. I want the workshop to continue its work prior to us considering legislation related to the recapitalization of JEA.

I have strongly encouraged JEA CEO Aaron Zahn since July to hold public hearings where they can explain to the public why there is a need to have this conversation and allow the public to ask questions. I have also told Mr. Zahn not to expect this body to move quickly on a process that they have spent months, if not years working on. JEA has placed much emphasis and dedicated a lot of resources while examining all options of recapitalization. If we are being asked to now evaluate all of their work and make the decision; we need time to prepare ourselves for that conversation.

We have chosen our legal team of Smith, Hulsey & Busey. I am waiting on a return call from General Counsel Jason Gabriel so we can finalize this appointment. I am asking all council members to discontinue public dialogue related to the recapitalization of JEA until our independent law firm has been formally retained and has read and prepared themselves to represent us. They will work with our Office of General Counsel and the many law firms employed by the JEA.

I am formally asking Council Member Cumber to cancel her noticed meeting scheduled for 1pm Tuesday December 17, 2019. Any legislation filed related to the recapitalization shall be deferred at committee level until the workshops have concluded and our attorneys are up to speed and prepared to represent us.

Thank you all for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your President. It is an honor and privilege I do not take lightly. While I recognize one council member will disagree, I strive to serve and govern in a fair manner, respecting every single member of this body.

Scott Wilson
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