

2016 Beaches Watch Jacksonville Beach Candidate Questions

Name of Candidate: Tom Taylor

Phone Number: 904-329-0663

Email Address: ttaylorconcrete@gmail.com

Website: working of my face book page

When answering the following questions, please provide specifics as well as supporting data and facts wherever possible.

1) Crime/Public Safety:

- a. In your opinion, what are the most important crime/public safety issues in Jacksonville Beach and what should be done to address them? Please be specific.
 - I believe there are still a lot of neighborhood crimes taking place. We always have so much focus on downtown that the neighborhoods are, at times, neglected. Now that the city council has approved six more officers being paid by the C.R.A. we should be able to get more patrols in our neighborhoods.
- b. Some candidates have said Jacksonville Beach needs more police officers and the police officer salaries should be increased. Do you agree or disagree? Please explain.
 - Both the past and present Police Chief believe that more officers is not the answer. I agree with them. There have been times when the department was not fully staffed. I believe that if we are able to keep it fully staffed, the problem would be solved. . I do agree we need to look at raises.
- c. If you support hiring more police officers and/or increasing police officer pay, how would you propose the City pay for these costs?
 - The six new officers will be paid for by CRA dollars.

2) Parking:

- a. What is your opinion on paid parking in the downtown business district? Please be specific.
 - I have never been a big fan of paid parking and I have made that known. I am good with the system we have right now and the company we are using seems to be very professional. I am in favor of free parking for Jacksonville Beach residents. I am also

in favor of a designated parking lot for Jacksonville Beach residents.

b. What changes would you like to see made to improve the parking situation in the downtown area?

- I am in favor of a mixed use parking garage that would include retail and restaurant space.

3) Central Business District:

a. What changes would you support to achieve a safe, walkable and family-friendly environment in the Central Business District?

- I still believe we need more lighting, police on bikes, more bike racks which will cause less traffic. I would still like to see what making first street one way certain days would do.

4) What kinds of businesses and developments you would like to see in the Central Business District? What, if anything, would you recommend be done to encourage those businesses to come to Jacksonville Beach? Please be specific.

- I still think we need to continue the exercise we started when I was on the council. We hired a company to evaluate what businesses we were lacking as a city. This company also evaluated all the real estate we had and what would work with that square footage. This company would help us find the independent, the chains and we need to sit down with existing businesses to see if there was a better fit for them.

5) Sign Ordinance:

a. What is your opinion of the city's current sign ordinance? Please be specific and explain any changes you would like to see made to the sign ordinance.

- We have been working on this ordinance for years. No matter what you do you are not going to make everyone happy. However when a new business is coming to the beaches this is one of many items that needs to be addressed.

6) Height Limit:

a. Do you believe more high rise buildings (buildings that exceed the 35 foot height limit) should be allowed to be built in Jacksonville Beach? Yes or No.

- No

b. Please explain your answer to (a).

- There are still some pieces of land that are grandfathered over 35' however I don't think the costs work out. I will say that I agree with Glatting Jackson, that in the downtown 50' would be better so parking would be achieved.

- c. If elected, would you take any actions to change the height limit that was approved by 76% of the voters in 2004? If so, what would you change?
- I would not take any action. The people have spoken.
- 7) Events: What is your opinion of the current special events policy and are there any changes you think should be made? Please explain.
- I do believe that this does need to be looked at again. I would like to see special events have more security to take some load off our policeman. I definitely want to see more family events and less alcohol events. I would like to see more events with crowds that benefit our city and not cost our city money. I think we need to set the rules and they need to be followed.
- 8) Outdoor music: Do you support changing the ban on amplified outdoor music and sound at businesses? Please explain your position.
- The city council has already voted and approved on the first reading, this ordinance. I am good with that but I am concerned as to who is monitoring this. I do not believe this should be undertaken by police officers. These men and women are already overwhelmed.
- 9) Since Jacksonville Beach is built out, do you support or oppose increasing the number of town houses and multifamily housing units in traditional single housing unit neighborhoods? Please explain.
- I am not in favor of this change. I think it takes a lot away from our single family neighborhoods and in most cases causes a multitude of complicated issues, such as overcrowding of schools, traffic, infrastructure, etc.
- 10) Jacksonville Beach Fire Department: Do you support the Jacksonville Fire Rescue Department (JFRD) taking over the Jacksonville Beach Fire Department? Please explain.

Personally I had a problem with it when we first started talking about this 3 years ago. My issues were I wanted to make sure the fireman really wanted this and if they do my ears are wide open. However my concerns are our citizens. I wanted to make sure response times would stay the same as we are above average and mostly wanted to make sure they didn't take our good equipment to town and bring us wore out equipment.

- 11) Communication:
- a. What could the city do to improve communication with the citizens of Jacksonville Beach?

- I would love to see more town meetings and workshops. However for the past 10 years it is usually a small percentage of citizens that come and participate.
- b. What would you do to promote communication with your constituents?
- I would like to participate in neighborhood meetings to see what our citizens issues are. Some people feel more comfortable in someone's home or clubhouse instead of council chambers. I believe that we have to get our youth more involved. I also want to sit down with our existing businesses and get their thoughts and ideas.
- c. There used to be public council briefings prior to the City Council meetings. Public Council briefings are no longer being held. Do you support resuming this practice? Why or why not?
- I am good either way with this topic. Usually if there was something I didn't understand, I would get the information prior to the meeting and clarify the topic.
- 12) Are there any other issues you would like to address if elected? Please explain.
- One of my big issues upon getting elected is to meet with the superintendent of Duval County Schools, Scott Shine School Board Member, Cord Byrd and Aaron Bean and see how we get skilled labor classes back in Duval County Schools at the ninth grade level. Every student isn't college material.
 - I want to work hard to not be known as a bar community and become a vibrant business community with a variety of businesses.
 - I want to get the youth more involved in working in our non profits, Beam, Dial-a-ride, Beaches Boys and Girls Club, Etc.