

City of Jacksonville Beach
Minutes of Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Workshop
Tuesday, August 9, 2022 – 5:00 P.M.
City Council Conference Room, 1st Floor
11 North 3rd Street, Jacksonville Beach, FL

City Manager Mike Staffopoulos called the Budget Workshop to order at 5:00 P.M.

The following City Council Members were in attendance:

Mayor: Christine Hoffman

Council Members:	Georgette Dumont	Sandy Golding	Dan Janson
	Fernando Meza	Cory Nichols (absent)	Chet Stokes

Also present were City Manager Mike Staffopoulos, Director of Beaches Energy Services Allen Putnam, Director of Parks and Recreation Jason Phitides, Chief Financial Officer Ashlie Gossett, and Budget Officer AJ Souto.

Beaches Energy Services

Director of Beaches Energy Service (BES) Allen Putnam summarized the department goals and advised energy rates are below state average through conservation and energy efficiency programs. Mr. Putnam expressed a need to update all fees and the net metering policy.

Mr. Putnam reviewed the cancellation of a second solar project due to cost and materials. He noted that the Florida Municipal Power Agency (FMPA) would continue to seek other partners to continue the addition of renewable energy.

Mr. Putnam reviewed Regulatory Issues and highlighted the following:

- Modernizing Electrical System Infrastructure
- Natural Gas

A conversation ensued regarding National and State supply and demand issues for natural gas and power outage equipment.

City Council Briefing Item

E-Check Payment Processing in Interactive Voice Recognition System

Chief Financial Officer Ashlie Gossett presented information [on file] regarding the E-Check Payment Processing in Interactive Voice Recognition (IVR) system.

A discussion ensued about cost, convenience fees, customer benefits, Utility Billing, and target dates to implement the new system. It was the consensus of the Council for staff to proceed with the e-check IVR system upgrade with Selectron and issue a notice to proceed to the vendor ahead of formal Council approval in September.

Parks and Recreation

Director of Parks and Recreation Jason Phitides summarized four Strategic Plan Priority, Goal, and Objectives:

- Urban Trails master plan promotion
- Improve and expand nature preserves and water access
- Implement park study results
- Inventory and expand the City's tree canopy

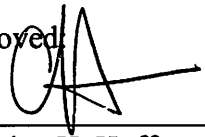
Mr. Phitides stated the goal is to have the final design for Gonzales Park ready to present to Council by the end of 2022 and break ground in early 2023.

Mr. Phitides spoke about the additional responsibilities of the Ocean Rescue Department. He reviewed the requirements and procedures for staffing and beach tower coverage. He stated staff is doing a great job recruiting, scheduling, and revising the training program.

A conversation ensued regarding wages and recruiting methods for Ocean Rescue. Mr. Phitides mentioned the option of bringing back the Jr. Lifeguard program.

The Workshop adjourned at 5:49 P.M.

Submitted by: Callie Rayeski
Administrative Assistant

Approved: 

Christine H. Hoffman, MAYOR
Date: 9/6/22