

The Council Briefing began at 5:30 P.M. The meeting was held via video conference using the Zoom platform.

The following City Council Members were in attendance:

Mayor: Christine Hoffman (absent)

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

Also present were Deputy City Manager Karen Nelson, Director of Parks and Recreation Jason Phitides, and Office Administrator Molly Alleger.

Purpose of Briefing

The purpose of the Briefing was to update the Council members about ongoing items in the City.

City Manager

Honorary Street Designation Policy

Parks and Recreation Office Administrator Molly Alleger stated the Honorary Street Name Designation Policy was adopted in August of 2020. The policy allowed citizens and groups to honor deceased individuals who contributed to the City of Jacksonville Beach community either through civic involvement, cultural, humanitarian, historical, or military achievement. Ms. Alleger stated staff received several applications to honor "Fallen Wartime Military Veterans" with honorary street designations. The application included the following specific requests:

- Signs are royal blue versus brown
- Waive the \$400 fee, if the applicant provides the sign (meeting City requirements)
- Waive the letter of consent from the Honoree's estate representative after a reasonable faith effort to locate them is unsuccessful
- Remove the 5-year term stipulation. However, City Council reserves the right to amend the term or remove the sign at any time

Conversation ensued regarding the proposed changes. The consensus of the Council was to make the requested changes to the policy and bring the revised policy to the Council for formal consideration.

Memorial Tree and Bench Program

Ms. Alleger stated the Memorial Tree and Bench Program was adopted in December 2019. The program was created to provide opportunities for the public to offer tribute and remember beloved individuals, pets, and special life events by allowing memorial trees to be planted or installing memorial benches in specific public areas in the City of Jacksonville Beach.

Ms. Alleger stated staff recently received a request to place a memorial bench on the beach. However, there are only eleven approved locations for tree and bench placement among

Jacksonville Beach public parks per the current policy. Initially, the beach was excluded from this list due to environmental protection and maintenance concerns.

Ms. Alleger stated staff contacted the City of Atlantic Beach regarding a bench placed on their beach at 3rd Street. They do not currently have a formalized program allowing benches to be placed on the beach and could not provide further information on this bench.

Conversation ensued regarding additional options for memorial benches, such as amending the program to allow additional locations, including beach access points on the west side of the dunes or adding benches to the new beach walkovers.

The consensus of the Council was for staff to research additional locations for benches. Staff would also research the cost differential for adding a bench into any future beach walkovers. Once additional information is compiled, staff would bring the item back to the Council for further review.

Huguenot Tennis Center Hours

Director of Parks and Recreation Jason Phitides stated the Huguenot Tennis Center Court usage has increased from approximately 1,300 players a month to approximately 1,650 players per month. Initially, \$80,000 was budgeted in FY2021 (Fiscal Year) to construct an eighth tennis court and an additional \$45,000 to move the basketball court to the south end of the park.

Mr. Phitides stated as a result of constructive community feedback, staff is seeking alternate solutions to meet the demand for court capacity without the construction of an additional court or relocation of the basketball court. The community's objective was to preserve the green space and the unique footprint within the park.

Mr. Phitides suggested adding additional hours to the courts to allow for additional play. He stated increasing weekday hours by two hours at Huguenot Tennis Center could provide additional court capacity to meet the current demand. This adjustment would increase operating hours by 10 hours per week; 520 hours annually. Mr. Phitides stated the financial impact of the additional hours would be approximately \$8,000 annually.

A conversation ensued regarding budgeting and staffing issues. The consensus of the Council was to bring the proposed amendments of Chapter 20 of the City Code of Ordinance to the Council for formal consideration.

City Attorney Screening and Interview Process

Deputy City Manager Karen Nelson stated the job posting for the City Attorney position would close on May 14, 2021. Ms. Nelson reviewed the proposed process as follows:

- Candidate Screening
- Application Advancement
- Special Council Meeting
- Interviews
- Negotiations

A conversation ensued regarding the negotiation process and details for the job description. The consensus of the Council was to use the same screening and interview process as previously used for the City Attorney position. Also, the consensus of the Council was to use outside counsel for the negotiation process, but further details would be discussed closer to the time of negotiations.

Future Briefing Topics

Ms. Nelson opened the floor to the Council for conversation regarding upcoming topics to be discussed at an upcoming Council Briefing. The following were mentioned:

- Ms. Golding stated the dunes protection project suggested by Coach Brown at Fletcher High School would be discussed at the May 10, 2021 Council Briefing.
- Mr. Stokes asked for clarification regarding a dock or dredging project. Ms. Golding clarified Mr. Staffopoulos was aware of the project request and would further discuss it with the Council as it required policy review and possible revision.

No additional topics were brought up.

Committee Assignment Report

Mr. Stokes stated he received updated information regarding the "Blue Zone" program and would provide the Council with a detailed summary within the next few days.

The Briefing adjourned at 6:40 P.M.

Submitted by: Jodilynn Byrd
Administrative Assistant

Approved: _____

Christine H. Hoffman, MAYOR

Date: _____

5/17/21