

**Minutes of City Council Briefing
Monday, October 9, 2023 – 5:30 P.M.
City Council Conference Room, 1st Floor
11 North 3rd Street, Jacksonville Beach, FL**



The Council Briefing began at 5:30 P.M.

The following City Council Members were in attendance:

Mayor: Christine Hoffman

Council Members:	Sandy Golding	Bill Horn	Dan Janson
	Fernando Meza	Cory Nichols	Greg Sutton

Also present were City Manager Mike Staffopoulos, City Attorney Sandy Robinson, Deputy City Manager Karen Nelson, Assistant to the City Manager Molly Alleger, and Deputy City Clerk Jodilynn Byrd.

Purpose of Briefing

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

City Manager

City Attorney Services

City Attorney Sandy Robinson stated she submitted her notice of resignation on October 4, 2023, and her position would be vacant effective December 4, 2023. Deputy City Manager Karen Nelson stated Administration was seeking direction from the Council regarding the continuity of legal services and if the Council desired to seek another in-house City Attorney or contract with an outside attorney or firm for legal services.

A conversation ensued about continued legal services after Ms. Robinson vacates her position. It was the Council's consensus to utilize Mr. Cliff Shepard's legal services in the interim of hiring a new City Attorney.

A conversation ensued regarding the desire of the Council to seek another in-house City Attorney or contract with an outside attorney or firm for legal services. Ms. Nelson reviewed the proposed job description and explained the proposed recruiting, interview, and negotiation process. Ms. Nelson provided the Council with a brochure [on file] of the City Attorney position. It was the consensus of the Council to change the requirement under the Education and Experience section of the job description for the Local Government Law Certification from "preferred" to "required" within a certain amount of time. It was the consensus of the Council to begin the recruiting process to seek an in-house City Attorney.

Opioid Fund Use

City Manager Mike Staffopoulos provided background information regarding Resolution No. 2115-2022 for opioid litigation settlement proceeds. The City of Jacksonville Beach, together with the City of Atlantic Beach, Neptune Beach, and the Town of Baldwin, entered an Interlocal agreement with the Consolidated City of Jacksonville regarding the distribution of Regional Funds under the Florida Plan, a formal agreement implementing a united plan for the allocation and use of opioid settlement proceeds.

A conversation ensued regarding the City receiving the funds from the opioid administrator and which service(s) the funds should be spent on. It was the consensus of the Council to appoint Council Member Horn as the point of contact for this project. Staff would set up a meeting for Project Opioid to speak with the Council at a future briefing regarding fund distribution options.

Deck The Chairs Contract Negotiation

Mr. Staffopoulos explained Deck the Chairs (DTC), through its founder, had requested an agreement renewal for its annual event.

A conversation ensued regarding renewing the agreement and suggested changes. It was the consensus of the Council to renew a multi-year agreement with the ability to extend and to include language eliminating liability if future City construction projects impact DTC.

Pilot Program for Ticketed Events at Seawalk Pavilion

Assistant to the City Manager, Molly Alleger, stated the Council expressed interest at a previous briefing regarding a pilot program for fully ticketed special events. Ms. Alleger explained if a pilot program was approved for a single event, staff would recommend a Request for Proposal (RFP). A conversation ensued regarding what the Council would like to be included in the RFP. It was the consensus of the Council to include the following in the RFP specifically:

- Promote a transportation plan
- Provide a detailed security plan
- Allow for data collection
- One event up to four hours
- Hold the event on an open day and not replace an existing event or festival

It was the consensus of the Council for staff to prepare a draft RFP and bring it back for the Council to review at a future briefing.

Future Briefing Topics

Mr. Staffopoulos reviewed the upcoming Special Council Briefing dates. He reminded the Council of the Special Briefing scheduled for October 23, 2023, with Representative Kiyan Michael and Senator Clay Yarborough. A conversation ensued regarding topics of discussion for the briefing. A consensus of the Council was to focus on the following topics:

- Short Term Vacation Rentals
- Live Local Act
- Sovereign Immunity
- Public Safety recruitment and retention

Mr. Staffopoulos informed the Council of a demonstration scheduled for Monday, October 16, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. for proposed AV equipment upgrades for the Council Chambers. It was the consensus of the Council for Mayor Hoffman to attend the demonstration, and a Special Council Briefing would be held from 5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. on the same day to present the Council with detailed information regarding the proposed AV equipment upgrades.

Mr. Staffopoulos provided the Council with a handout [on file] of upcoming Council Briefing dates and topics.

Council Member Janson asked for a status update regarding the road issue on 13th Avenue South. Mr. Staffopoulos responded he had a meeting scheduled on Tuesday, October 10, 2023, to discuss the issue and would provide Mr. Janson with an update.

Miscellaneous Topics

Council Member Golding expressed her opinion about the City signing a resolution to support moving forward with the Penman Road project. She stated residents have not had ample time to express their opinions. A conversation ensued regarding the intent of the resolution, and it was the consensus of the Council to include specific wording in the resolution regarding more public meetings and regular project milestone updates.

Council Member Nichols mentioned he recently attended a Jacksonville Transit Authority (JTA) seminar. He stated JTA was working with Groundwork Jacksonville to create an Emerald Trail project similar to the City of Jacksonville Beach (COJB) Urban Trails. Mr. Nichols stated he would contact JTA regarding the possibility of incorporating the Urban Trails project with the Emerald Trail project in an attempt to get funding for COJB.

Miscellaneous City Manager Items

Mayor Hoffman mentioned Art Graham, Chair of the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), was up for re-appointment but had chosen not to participate in the interview process. Ms. Hoffman stated CRA member Gary Paetau would be out of town and unable to attend the scheduled interviews. A conversation ensued regarding make-up interviews, and Ms. Robinson explained the section of the Legislative Policy Manual regarding make-up interviews. It was the consensus of the Council to look for additional interview dates.

Committee Assignment Report

Council Member Janson stated he passed the test to become an Intermediate Florida Public Pension Trustee.

The Briefing adjourned at 7:15 P.M.

Submitted by: Jodilynn Byrd
Deputy City Clerk

Approved: _____

Christine H. Hoffman, MAYOR

Date: _____

10/10/23