

Minutes of City Council Briefing
Monday, December 11, 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, Police Services Commander Thomas Bingham, Deputy City Manager Karen Nelson, Assistant to the City Manager Molly Alleger, and Police Chief Gene Paul Smith.

Purpose of Briefing

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

City Manager

Project Opioid Update

City Manager Mike Staffopoulos provided a summary of the previously discussed expenditure of the opioid settlement funding. Mr. Staffopoulos and Council Member Horn have had conversations with representatives of Project Opioid to discuss the next steps of the project. Neptune Beach and Atlantic Beach cities have been added to the conversation.

A conversation ensued regarding the next steps. The consensus of the Council was to ask the North East Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) to perform a strength, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis to determine community needs related to the opioid crisis. The SWOT analysis would be specific to the three beach cities.

Paid Parking Year-End Review 2023

Police Services Commander Thomas Bingham provided an overview of the 2023 year-end review of the Paid Parking Program. A conversation ensued regarding the changes made for 2023, and the consensus of the Council was to keep the current paid parking program as is for 2024.

City Attorney Search Discussion

Deputy City Manager Karen Nelson provided an update regarding the open City Attorney position. Ms. Nelson summarized the applications reviewed. A conversation ensued regarding the options for the Council regarding the next steps of the interview process.

It was the consensus of the Council for staff to email the Council a copy of the proposed interview questions for applicants. Staff would check the availability of the Council to arrange interviews for all three qualified candidates at the earliest convenience of the Council.

Draft Request for Proposals for Ticketed Events

Assistant to the City Manager Molly Alleger reviewed the draft Request for Proposals (RFP) regarding fully ticketed events at Latham Plaza. A conversation ensued regarding whether the RFP process should occur after Latham Plaza's redevelopment. It was the consensus of the Council to move forward with the RFP process now, and staff would present the Council with the results of the RFP before selecting a vendor.

Gateway Signage Initial Discussion

Ms. Alleger explained the Citywide Gateway Signage project included five signs identified in the City's Capital Improvement Plan for either modification or new construction. She identified the sign locations and regulatory agency governing each location as follows:

- Beach Boulevard at Adventure Landing (Easement on private property; easement document and City code)
- Beach Boulevard at Penman Road (City Property; City code)
- A1A (3rd Street) at 19th Avenue South (City Property; City code)
- A1A (3rd Street) at the Duval County Line (DOT Median; FDOT regulations)
- A1A (3rd Street) at Seagate Avenue (DOT Median; FDOT regulations)

A conversation ensued regarding design options and suggestions. It was the consensus of the Council for staff to move forward with the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process to identify a design firm for the project.

CRA Project Funding

Mr. Staffopoulos explained there was currently no written policy designating funding for Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) projects affecting other departments within the City, resulting in unplanned expenses. Mr. Staffopoulos stated he was seeking guidance from the Council regarding a current CRA project involving Beaches Energy Services (BES), resulting in unexpected costs for BES and who should be responsible for paying the costs.

A conversation ensued, and the suggestion of the Council was for staff to put together a draft policy for the Council's review and discussion.

Future Briefing Topics

Mr. Staffopoulos reviewed the Council Briefing calendar [on file] of upcoming briefing dates and topics.

Miscellaneous City Manager Items

Police Chief Gene Paul Smith informed the Council about the need for a replacement vehicle for Animal Control. Due to a lack of inventory, auto dealerships would not hold any vehicles for customers. Chief Smith requested approval to submit a Purchase Order (PO) to a dealership to hold a vehicle. He suggested the PO be presented to the Council for approval at the December 18, 2023, City Council meeting and the PO be executed on December 19, 2023, for the purchase. It was the consensus of the Council to allow Chief Smith's request.

Council Member Janson stated he was previously approved to attend the recent National League of Cities Conference but was informed that City of Jacksonville Beach (COJB) was not a member. He stated a discussion was had about COJB becoming a member at a previous Council Briefing. Mr. Staffopoulos stated the staff would review the previous discussion and revisit the topic.

Committee Assignment Report

Mayor Hoffman informed the Council about an upcoming farm share distribution event and an upcoming meeting about social services provider gaps. She would forward more information to the Council and ask for support and participation from the Council.

Council Member Golding spoke about making information regarding the Penman Road and Urban Trails projects more visible and readily available to citizens. She suggested the City of Jacksonville (COJ) post more information on its website and the COJB post more information on both topics on its website and in its newsletter.

Ms. Golding spoke about upcoming Senate Bill 208 regarding Short Term Vacation Rentals, a bill about residential building permits, and repealing local business taxes.

Ms. Golding stated she attended a recent workshop and shared different tips on effectively communicating with legislative officials.

Mr. Janson explained while at a recent conference, he obtained information regarding better violation reporting for short term vacation rentals. He shared the information with Ms. Golding, who would follow up with more detailed information to share with the Council.

Mr. Janson reported the Land and Economic Development Committee of the Florida League of Cities' (FLC) policy priorities have shifted from sovereign immunity to impact fees.

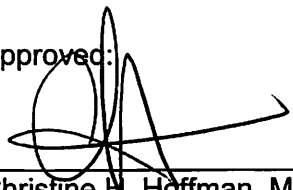
Mr. Staffopoulos stated the FLC would set appointments for City officials to meet with their legislators, and he reviewed the respective tier priorities.

Mr. Staffopoulos stated he sent an informational email to all Council Members regarding completing the Form 6 Financial Disclosure.

The Briefing adjourned at 6:38 P.M.

Submitted by: Jodilynn Byrd
Deputy City Clerk

Approved:


Christine N. Hoffman, MAYOR

Date: 12/18/23