

**Minutes of City Council Briefing
Monday, January 8, 2024 – 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 Greg Sutton

Also present were Deputy City Manager Karen Nelson, Interim Legal Counsel Cliff Shepard (via phone), City Clerk Sheri Gosselin, Director of Public Works Dennis Barron, Chief of Parks Development and Maintenance Trevor Hughes, Director of Parks and Recreation Jason Phitides, Events Coordinator Alyson Riley, Assistant to the City Manager Molly Alleger, and Fire Marshal Steve Sciotto.

Purpose of Briefing

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

City Manager

City Council Member Vacancy – District 1, Seat 4

Interim Legal Counsel Cliff Shepard provided the Council with an interpretation of the Charter language regarding the appointment for a vacant Council seat. Deputy City Manager Karen Nelson reviewed the process and application packet for the Council Seat 4-District 1 Appointment [on file].

A conversation ensued regarding the timeline and the application process. It was the consensus of the Council for staff to proceed with the suggested timeline for accepting applications, with the swearing-in of the appointed council member tentatively scheduled for the regular Council meeting on February 19, 2024.

City Property for Construction Use

Director of Public Works Dennis Barron explained Temporary Construction Use Permits (T-CUP) are used when a contractor does not have enough space to use for materials or equipment storage on a construction-related project site. Mr. Barron explained the pros and cons related to the issuance of T-CUP permits and stated a policy discussion was needed due to the historical application of the permits.

A conversation ensued regarding the current policy and fees. It was the consensus of the Council for staff to develop a fee structure and procedures for T-CUP permits. The fee schedule would be brought back at a future briefing for review.

Stormwater Rates

Mr. Barron reviewed the history of the stormwater rates. He stated Public Works (PW) and Finance have previously informed the Council they planned to do a rate evaluation in FY2024 to consider stormwater rates and adjust the rates and/or the Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) sizing.

Mr. Barron stated PW would be working with Jones Edmunds and Associates to evaluate the current stormwater program and offer alternatives to adjust it. Mr. Barron expects to return to a future Council Briefing in mid-summer with various options for consideration to allow for any

ordinance and/or resolution changes to be in effect before the beginning of FY2025 (before October 1, 2024).

Gonzales Park Update

Chief of Parks Development and Maintenance Trevor Hughes provided an update regarding the Gonzales Park renovation and provided a handout [on file]. Mr. Hughes stated due to additional pickleball courts, proposed playground improvements, additional shade structures, and inflation of materials, an additional \$500,000 would be needed to complete the park renovation.

A conversation ensued regarding the use of private donations and the possibility of reallocating current funds from other projects in the FY2024 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). It was the consensus of the Council to take immediate action to acquire the current donations, reprioritize future projects, allowing the completion of the Gonzales Park project, and pursue additional grants and private funding.

Urban Trails Update

Director of Parks and Recreation Jason Phitides reviewed the feedback from the recently held community meeting regarding the Urban Trails project. Mr. Phitides informed the Council individual responses would be sent out addressing citizen concerns presented at the community meeting.

A conversation ensued regarding the feedback and comments from the community meeting. The consensus of the Council was an overall trail width of 7.5 feet and for staff to look at each route and affected road of the Urban Trail individually and address specific concerns for each location.

Special Events Update

Events Coordinator Alyson Riley provided a brief history of the City's summer jazz concert series and why the event was phased out. Ms. Riley spoke about an opportunity for the City to partner with 99.9FM Gator Country to produce a country music festival. A conversation ensued regarding the event's details, and the Council's consensus was to support the production of a City-sponsored country music festival.

Ms. Riley also presented the Council with information regarding another City-produced event staff was working on called "Seawalk Sessions." She explained the Seawalk Sessions intended to promote weekday traffic to the Seawalk-Latham Plaza while supporting local artists. A conversation ensued regarding the cost to the City, alcohol at the event and the event set-up. It was the consensus of the Council for staff to discuss the Seawalk Sessions with the Police Department, to meet with the Legal Department regarding insurance liability waivers for performers, and to continue to plan the events.

National League of Cities Membership Discussion

Assistant to the City Manager Molly Alleger informed the Council of the annual membership price for the City to join the National League of Cities (NLC) and asked if the Council supported the membership. A conversation ensued, and the consensus of the Council was for Ms. Alleger to register the City to join the NLC and for Council Member Janson to be the representative of the Council.

Miscellaneous Items

Council Member Meza asked for an update regarding the recent fire at the lifeguard station. Fire Marshal Steve Sciotto and Ms. Nelson provided the Council with an update.

Council Member Golding stated she recently attended a Florida League of Cities committee meeting. She provided the Council with an update regarding pending and new bills added to the Legislative Session.

Mayor Hoffman provided a brief update regarding the winter storm.

Ms. Hoffman spoke about the opportunity to appoint a new Council Member. She expressed her interest in appointing someone who was already serving or active within the community.

Ms. Golding provided an update regarding the previously addressed semi-truck parking issue on South 3rd Street (A1A) near Ponte Vedra Boulevard. She stated "no parking" signs were installed, and road striping had been added to the area.

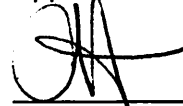
Council Member Janson informed the Council he was asked to sit on the Duval County Citizens Sales Surtax Oversight Committee and explained the committee's purpose.

Mayor Hoffman informed the Council a draft contract was sent to City Attorney applicant David Migut, and the City was awaiting a response.

The Briefing adjourned at 7:15 P.M.

Submitted by: Jodilynn Byrd
Deputy City Clerk

Approved:



Christine H. Hoffman, MAYOR

Date: 1/16/24