

**Minutes of City Council Briefing**  
**Monday, July 8, 2024 – 5:30 P.M.**  
**City Council Conference Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor**  
**11 North 3<sup>rd</sup> 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      John Wagner

Also present were City Manager Mike Staffopoulos, Chief Financial Officer Ashlie Gossett, Director of Public Works Dennis Barron, Deputy City Manager Karen Nelson, Chief of Police Gene Paul Smith, 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**

**Millage Rate Discussion**

Chief Financial Officer Ashlie Gossett explained the budget assumption had been to keep the millage rate flat at \$3.9947. However, year-over-year increases in property value provided an opportunity to consider a minor decrease in the rate while still meeting the City's strategic and financial objectives. Ms. Gossett stated if the millage rate was reduced to \$3.8947 mills, the budget would be \$438,000 less. Two options were presented to the Council for consideration.

A conversation ensued regarding the options presented and additional ways to spend the \$438,000 or to return the funds to the Property Appraiser. Chief of Police Gene Paul Smith and Deputy City Manager Karen Nelson provided feedback on recruiting and retention efforts for Police staff.

It was the consensus of the Council for staff to complete the DR-420 form including the current millage rate of \$3.9947 mills. Further discussion with the Council would take place at an upcoming budget workshop.

**Adopt-A-Road Program**

Director of Public Works Dennis Barron explained to the Council the City of Jacksonville (COJ) currently manages an Adopt-A-Road program for the entire Duval County area. The current COJ program covers all roadways in Duval County, except for Florida State Highways, which are managed through the Florida Department of Transportation.

A conversation ensued regarding whether the City of Jacksonville Beach (COJB) should create its own Adopt-A-Road program or continue allowing COJ to operate the program, including COJB roads.

It was the consensus of the Council for staff to research and discuss partnership options with COJ, create a sample COJB Adopt-A-Road program and present the information to the Council at a future briefing to further discuss the options.

**Dune Protection Post Dredging**

Mr. Barron provided an update on the status of the dunes and dune protection program post dredging. A conversation ensued regarding the direction of installation of the dune protection

roping and signage and it was the consensus of the Council for work to begin at the north end of the dunes and move south.

#### Committee Updates

Council Member Janson provided an update regarding the 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue road project.

Council Member Golding provided an update regarding Senate Bill 280 (short-term vacation rentals) stating the bill was vetoed by the Governor.

Ms. Golding stated she contacted COJ Engineer Michael Derbaum to get updated information regarding the future Penman Road project. She was informed changes and updates had been made to the project design, but detailed information was not available. Mr. Barron added he has been contacting COJ but has not received any updated information on the Penman Road project.

#### Future Briefing Topics

City Manager Mike Staffopoulos informed the Council a briefing is typically not held in August due to budget workshops. However, he intends to add a briefing after the August 6<sup>th</sup> budget workshop as there are a few items the staff would like to bring to the Council's attention.

Mayor Hoffman suggested the topic of banning smoking on the beach be added to a future briefing for further discussion. It was the consensus of the Council to add this topic to a briefing agenda for further discussion.

Ms. Hoffman suggested the topic of semi-truck parking on A1A (3<sup>rd</sup> Street) and the City's options for banning or restricting semi-truck parking be discussed at a future briefing. It was the consensus of the Council for City Attorney David Migut to research the topic and provide feedback at a future briefing.

Council Member Sutton asked for an update on the Life-Saving building repairs and branding. Mr. Staffopoulos stated he would provide the Council with an update.

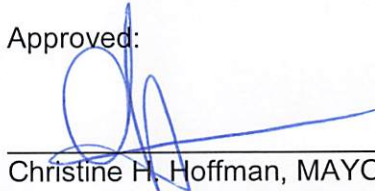
#### Miscellaneous City Manager Items

N/A

The Briefing adjourned at 7:13 P.M.

Submitted by: Jodilynn Byrd  
Deputy City Clerk

Approved:

  
Christine H. Hoffman, MAYOR

Date:

7/15/24