Minutes of City Council Briefing
Monday, March 10, 2025 – 5:30 P.M.
City Hall 1st Floor Conference Room
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 (late)	Dan Janson
	Greg Sutton (absent)	John Wagner	Bruce Wouters

Also present were City Manager Mike Staffopoulos, Deputy City Manager Karen Nelson, Human Resources Generalist Amber Lathem, City Attorney David Migut, Assistant to the City Manager Molly Alleger, Police Services Division Commander Thomas Bingham, Director of Parks and Recreation Jason Phitides, Director of Planning and Development Heather Ireland, Fire Marshal Steve Sciotto, 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's Annual Performance Evaluation

Human Resources Generalist Amber Lathem summarized the evaluation process for City Attorney David Migut. The Council provided feedback regarding Mr. Migut's performance for his first year of employment. Mr. Migut outlined his upcoming goals and thanked the Council for their support. It was the consensus of the Council to give Mr. Migut a 3% pay increase for his annual evaluation. Ms. Lathem stated the evaluation would be on the agenda for the March 17, 2025, City Council meeting for formal consideration.

Citywide Signage Design Concept Review

Assistant to the City Manager Molly Alleger summarized the Citywide signage design initiative. Senior Project Planner with Community Solutions Group (CSG), Ana Kimelton, reviewed different sign concepts. A conversation ensued regarding the concepts, and it was the consensus of the Council for CSG to further refine the concept based on the feedback provided and present it to the Council for review at a future Council Briefing.

Banning Smoking on the Beach

Police Services Division Commander Thomas Bingham reviewed smoking ban ordinances of other jurisdictions. A conversation ensued regarding enforcement options. It was the consensus of the Council for Mr. Bingham to draft an ordinance banning smoking on the beach and present it at a future briefing for review by the Council.

Urban Trails Update

Director of Parks and Recreation Jason Phitides provided an overview of the Urban Trails survey results from November 2024. Mr. Phitides asked for direction from the Council regarding the Urban Trails. The consensus of the Council was to continue with an Urban Trails initiative, revisit elements of the Urban Trails Master Plan, and re-prioritize the Trail corridors. Mr. Phitides explained the guidelines, requirements and restrictions of accepting the Florida Recreation Development Assistant Program (FRDAP) grant. It was the consensus of the Council to schedule a future Council Briefing to discuss the next steps of the Urban Trails project and whether or not to accept the FRDAP grant. After the future briefing, a Community Town Hall would be scheduled for community feedback about the project.

Short Term Vacation Rental Review
Director of Planning and Development Heather Ireland provided an update regarding short-term vacation rentals. Ms. Ireland provided information regarding a new proposed online program, GovOS, to replace the current program, Host Compliance, to better identify short-term vacation rentals and begin an online registration of all short-term vacation rentals. A conversation ensued about the details and capabilities of the GovOS program and other topics. Fire Marshal Steve Sciotto stated he anticipates an increase in property inspections but would be able to handle the increased workload with his current staff.

Committee Assignment Report
City Manager Mike Staffopoulos provided an update on the Opioid Settlement Project, stating the City of Jacksonville (COJ) has not made a decision regarding how to best use the funds. Mr. Staffopoulos told the Council he would provide further information when received.

Mayor Hoffman stated she and City staff met with representatives from Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to discuss some local concerns and to better open the lines of communication with FDOT. Mr. Staffopoulos stated the topic of semi-truck parking on A1A (3rd Street) was discussed, and Police Chief Gene Paul Smith would provide the Council with a summary of the discussion at a future date.

Ms. Hoffman spoke about "Deck the Bins," a student engagement public art program proposed through Deck the Chairs. This program would allow children to design vinyl banners promoting anti-trash on the beach, and the banners would be attached to the trash cans in the downtown area. It was the consensus of the Council for staff to get more information on the program and possibly support it for this summer. A conversation ensued about placing baskets near the beach walkovers for the public to collect trash while on the beach. It was the concensus of the Council not to use baskets.

Council Member Golding provided an update regarding Senate Bill 1242, regarding the termination of Community Redevelopment Agencies.

Council Member Dan Janson provided an update regarding the status of the City's Pension plan.

Mr. Staffopoulos provided an update regarding the Penman Road project. He stated a copy of the final design for the commercial corridor was sent to Director of Public Works Dennis Barron. Upon receipt of the final design, it was requested the COJ present the final design to the Council for review and for the COJ to work with Mr. Barron regarding utility issues of the construction. Mr. Staffopoulos stated the Penman Road construction should not negatively impact the Beaches Energy substation landscape project. Mr. Staffopoulos informed the Council Mr. Barron was trying to coordinate a time for the COJ to meet with the Council to review the final plan for the commercial corridor.

Miscellaneous City Manager's Items
N/A

Future Briefing Topics
Mr. Staffopouls provided the Council with an updated Council Briefing and Special Council Briefing schedule with topics to be discussed.

Ms. Hoffman informed Council Members they all would be invited to the annual City Hurricane Preparation Tabletop Exercise later this year.

The Briefing adjourned at 7:11 P.M.

Submitted by: Jodilynn Byrd
Deputy City Clerk

Approved:

Christine H. Hoffman, MAYOR

Date: 3/17/25