

**Minutes of City Council Briefing
Monday, May 12, 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 John Wagner (absent) Bruce Wouters

Also present were City Manager Mike Staffopoulos, City Clerk Sheri Gosselin, City Attorney David Migut, Chief Financial Officer Ashlie Gossett, Director of Public Works Dennis Barron, 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

Surf Camps Beach Permits

City Clerk Sheri Gosselin spoke about concerns regarding surf camp beach permits not being included in the Code of Ordinances, but approved to be issued at the City Council meeting held on April 7, 2003.

A conversation ensued, and City Attorney David Migut agreed with the presented concerns. It was the consensus of the Council to update the code to allow a special permit for surf and athletic-themed camps to operate on the beach.

FY2026 Budget Assumptions and Calendar

Chief Financial Officer Ashlie Gossett reviewed the FY2026 Budget Assumptions and the Budget Workshop schedule. A conversation ensued, and it was the consensus of the Council to keep the current budget workshop dates, livestream the Budget Showcase, audio record all the budget workshops and heavily advertise the budget meeting schedule.

Levels of Service

City Manager Mike Staffopoulos and Ms. Gossett explained the pay-go method and the reserves system used in the budgeting process for the City. Ms. Gossett spoke about the strains on the General Fund for this fiscal year. Levels of Service requests would be discussed at the upcoming Budget Workshops.

Miscellaneous City Manager's Items

Mr. Staffopoulos and Director of Public Works Dennis Barron discussed the existing contract with Waste Pro and the need for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) specifically addressing storm debris removal. They also reviewed Waste Pro's past performance in storm cleanup and the current waste removal contract terms. The consensus of the Council was for staff to prepare a draft MOU and present it for review at a future Council Briefing.

Mr. Staffopoulos informed the Council the City of Neptune Beach has requested an updated franchise agreement with Beaches Energy Services. He noted the current agreement was outdated and should be revised to reflect Neptune Beach's current requests. The consensus of the Council was for staff to draft an updated franchise agreement and present it for review at a future Council Briefing.

Mr. Staffopoulos discussed Priority #6 from the 2025 Council Retreat: "Develop and implement a comprehensive communication strategy and a resident advocacy program." He requested clarification on the use of the word "advocacy." A conversation ensued regarding the Council's intended meaning. It was the consensus of the Council to replace the word "advocacy" with "engagement."

Committee Assignment Report
N/A

Future Briefing Topics

Mayor Hoffman asked for an update regarding the 900-day drainage project. Mr. Barron provided an update.

Mr. Barron stated the City of Jacksonville (COJ) would provide an update on the Penman Road project at the next Council Briefing scheduled on June 9, 2025.

Council Member Janson addressed the issue of Beach Body Towing (a towing company used by the Jacksonville Beach Police Department) needing to relocate due to the sale of the property they currently lease. He noted because of limited available space within city limits, the company would likely have to move outside of Jacksonville Beach. Mr. Janson asked whether Code Section 31-54.1 could be amended to allow towing companies contracted by the City to operate from locations outside the city boundaries. Mr. Migut responded he would look into the matter and report back to the Council with further information.

Council Member Sutton inquired about the status of additional fencing at Gonzales Park. Mr. Staffopoulos replied that he had discussed the matter with the Director of Parks and Recreation, Jason Phitides, who informed him they were exploring funding sources for the additional fencing. Once funding was secured, a contractor would be scheduled to start the work.

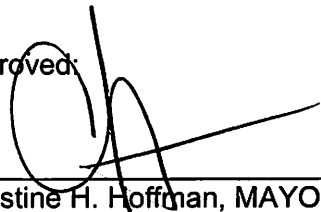
Council Member Golding referenced an email from a resident requesting updates on large city-wide projects. Mr. Staffopoulos stated he would coordinate with the Planning and Development Department to create regular updates for the Council.

Ms. Golding asked about the status of the Live Local Act. Mr. Staffopoulos stated he would do research and provide the Council with an update.

The Briefing adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

Submitted by: Jodilynn Byrd
Deputy City Clerk

Approved:


Christine H. Hoffman, MAYOR

Date:

5/19/25