

Minutes of Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Workshop
Monday, August 4, 2025 – 4:00 P.M.
City Council Conference Room, 1st Floor
11 North 3rd Street, Jacksonville Beach, FL



City Manager Mike Staffopoulos called the Budget Workshop to order at 4:02 P.M.

City Council Members in attendance:

Mayor: Christine Hoffman

Council Members: Bill Horn Sandy Golding Dan Janson
Bruce Wouters John Wagner (late) Greg Sutton (late)

Also present were City Manager Mike Staffopoulos, Police Chief Gene Paul Smith, Director of Parks and Recreation Jason Phitides, Chief of Parks Development and Maintenance Trevor Hughes, Director of Beaches Energy Services Allen Putnam, and Chief Financial Officer Ashlie Gossett were present.

Police Department

Police Chief Gene Paul Smith highlighted the recent accomplishments for FY2025 and reviewed the objectives and departmental goals for FY2026. He noted the four additional positions filled were crucial to Surge and DUI enforcement. Chief Smith also noted the recent completion of the 50th Citizens' Police Academy class, an increased focus on community engagement, and the positive impact it has had on relationships with residents. Chief Smith expressed his excitement for the upcoming improvements tied to the Police Department Technology Plan, including the monitoring of unpermitted events and license plate readers.

Parks and Recreation

Director of Parks and Recreation Jason Phitides reviewed the goals and objectives for FY 2026, including improvements to Gonzalez Park and the Carver Center. Mr. Phitides noted the construction of the Jacksonville Drive corridor of the Urban Trails project would commence in the next few weeks. He highlighted the implementation of the Park's Assessment Study, noting it is around 65% complete, and the plan to continue community outreach during implementation. Mr. Phitides addressed managing the increased demand for field space, the additional staff needed for Ocean Rescue, the increase in service level for the restrooms at Gonzalez Park, and the upcoming improvements to the Carver Center. He noted the success of this year's Country Fest, an increase in the budget for the FY2026 Fourth of July Celebration. Chief of Parks Development and Maintenance Trevor Hughes, spoke on the performance of the Golf Course.

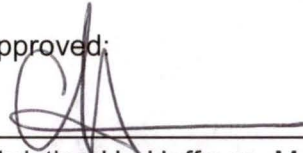
Beaches Energy Services

Director of Beaches Energy Service (BES) Allen Putnam highlighted the FY2026 goals, including participation in the Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3) program, and having received a score of 100% in the RP3 Program for the first time last year. He spoke on maintaining residential rates at or below the state average and continuing their 11-year record of an outage time of less than 60 minutes per year, for which Beaches Energy Services recently received an award. Mr. Putnam spoke about the renewed focus on safety, the Substation Renewal and Upgrade Program and the ten-year Capital Operations and Maintenance Plan. Additionally, Mr. Putnam highlighted the partnership with the Florida Municipal Power Association (FMPA), which Mr. Putnam is currently chairman of, and Florida Gas Utility, which provides the City's power and natural gas.

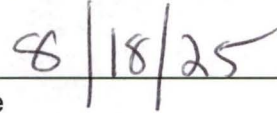
The workshop adjourned at 5:44 P.M.

Submitted by: Monica McDaniel
Operations Support Specialist I

Approved:



Christine H. Hoffman, MAYOR



Date