

**City of Jacksonville Beach
Minutes of City Council
FY2022 - Budget Workshop
Tuesday, August 10, 2021 – 5:00 P.M.
Via Video Conference**

City Manager Mike Staffopoulos called the Budget Workshop to order at 5:04 P.M.

The following City Council Members were in attendance:

Mayor: Christine Hoffman

Council Members:	Georgette Dumont	Sandy Golding	Dan Janson (absent)
	Fernando Meza	Cory Nichols	Chet Stokes

Also present were Director of Beaches Energy Services Allen Putnam, Director of Parks and Recreation Jason Phitides, and Golf Course Superintendent Trevor Hughes.

Beaches Energy Services

Director of Beaches Energy Service (BES) Allen Putnam mentioned the customer growth trend had been minimal over the past few years. However, he stated several new large customer projects had been added, and several more were to come, bringing additional revenue.

Mr. Putnam noted the price for natural gas in 2021 was projected to be at \$3.04/MBtu; however, the current price was closer to \$4.00/MBtu. He advised the increase was mainly due to the COVID-19 pandemic and many oil rigs being shut down. Mr. Putnam further advised BES was doing a great job keeping energy rates below state average through conservation and energy efficiency programs.

Mr. Putnam reviewed Regulatory Issues and highlighted the following:

- Reliability Standards
- Critical Infrastructure Protection – Adding a new IT Cybersecurity position
- Modernizing Electric System Infrastructure

Mr. Putnam stated a proposed change in the Capital Improvement Plan for BES based on a Strategic Plan was recently submitted and would be coming to Council for approval shortly.

Mr. Putnam reviewed industry trends. He advised BES would continue to use underground utilities for resiliency. BES was pending approval of a \$10 million grant which would allow them to excel in the underground plan by a few years.

Mr. Putnam expounded on the national desire to go green and the difficulties of achieving zero net carbon in 2050 being nearly impossible.

Mr. Putnam explained House Bill 919 and how it affects BES.

Conversation and questions ensued regarding miscellaneous topics.

Parks and Recreation

Director of Parks and Recreation Jason Phitides highlighted four projects:

- Urban Trails
- Sunshine Park
- Implementation of the Park Assessment
- Gonzales Park

Urban Trails

Golf Maintenance Superintendent Trevor Hughes reviewed the plan for the Urban Trail system. He stated at the time of completion, the hope was to have 25 miles of Urban Trails within the City.

Sunshine Park Playground

Mr. Hughes explained a public outreach event would be planned to receive public input on the new additions and upgrades at the park. He stated the timeline was planned as follows:

- Present Council with a final plan in October 2021
- Break ground in December 2021
- Grand Opening in March 2022

Implementation of the Park Assessment

Mr. Phitides stated up to \$5 million had been budgeted in the Capital Improvement Plan for the next five years to address issues found in the recent park assessment. Mr. Phitides stated staff had been reorganized to better address maintenance issues brought up in the assessment. He stated the new QR codes placed in all the parks had been a great asset.

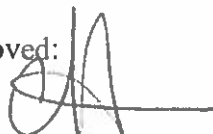
Gonzales Park

Mr. Phitides reviewed the need for more public input and community outreach regarding the park redesign. He stated the goal would be to reach a final plan by the end of 2021 and break ground in early 2022.

Conversation and questions ensued regarding miscellaneous topics.

The Workshop adjourned at 6:10 P.M.

Submitted by: Jodilynn Byrd
Administrative Assistant

Approved: 

Christine H. Hoffman, MAYOR
Date: 9/7/21