

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, City Attorney David Migut, Director of Public Works Dennis Barron, Director of Beaches Energy Allen Putnam 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

Ethics Ordinance Biannual Review

City Attorney David Migut stated the current ethics ordinance requires review by the City Council and City boards each year, with any necessary updates considered in November of even-numbered years. He proposed meeting with the boards over the coming months to provide ethics training and gather feedback on the ordinance.

A conversation ensued and the consensus of the Council was to amend the review requirement from annually to biannually (every two years) and to make any gender references therein neutral. Council also supported the City Attorney's proposed timeline and recommended returning with the ordinance at the October 2026 briefing if substantive feedback is received from City boards; otherwise, the item will be brought forward at the first Council meeting in November 2026.

Although the conversation ensued implying the Code of Ethics was adopted by ordinance, the Code of Ethics for Public Officials was adopted by Resolution No. 2048-2020.

Public Works Capital Projects Communication and Code Enforcement

Council Member Wouters presented photographs of code enforcement issues through a PowerPoint presentation and distributed printed copies to the Council.

A conversation ensued regarding the identified code enforcement issues and whether the City Council's authority to appoint and ratify certain department directors should be expanded to include the Planning and Development Director and Public Works Director. The discussion later broadened to include all department director positions.

Mr. Migut and City Manager Mike Staffopoulos responded to Council questions and provided clarification regarding the City's organizational structure and current practices.

No consensus was reached to move forward with a change to the City Council's authority to ratify department directors.

Beaches Energy Services Rate Review

Mr. Staffopoulos and Director of Beaches Energy Services (BES) Allen Putnam provided an overview of the Capital, Operations, and Maintenance (COM) analysis which served as the basis for evaluating the utility's current rate structure.

Navid Nowakhtar, Member Services, Strategic Planning and Analytics Director for the Florida Municipal Power Agency (FMPA), provided a brief presentation on FMPA.

Jacob Thomas, P.E., Principal with GDS Utility Consultants, presented the findings and recommendations of the BES Rate Study. A conversation ensued regarding the proposed rate adjustments, and Mr. Thomas and Mr. Putnam responded to questions and provided additional clarification.

The consensus of the Council was to proceed with the proposed three-year rate increase plan and asked staff to bring the proposal forward at a future Council meeting for formal consideration.

Committee Assignment Report

Council Member Golding provided an update on homestead property tax legislation. A conversation ensued and it was the consensus of the Council to schedule a special briefing on the homestead property tax issue.

Miscellaneous City Manager's Items

Mr. Staffopoulos announced the retirement notice of Chief of Police Gene Paul Smith, effective January 31, 2027, and stated he would contact Council members individually regarding the search process.

Mr. Staffopoulos stated staff would be seeking approval at the June 15, 2026, Council Meeting for travel authorization for elected officials to attend the upcoming Florida League of Cities' Annual Conferences and Policy Committee meetings. A conversation ensued regarding committee assignments.

Future Briefing Topics

Mr. Staffopoulos reviewed the calendar for upcoming Council Briefing topics through October 2026.

Council Member Janson brought up the 287(g) Federal Program regarding immigration and requested it be added to an upcoming Council Briefing.

Ms. Golding provided an update regarding the number and location of sea turtle nests located in Jacksonville Beach. Ms. Golding asked about the status of the pvc pipes and ropes that were installed a few years ago that are now buried by sand in front of the dunes. She stated Kevin Brown (volunteer with Sea Turtle Patrol) volunteered to help dig out the pvc pipes and ropes to make put them back in place to continue to protect the dunes. Mr. Staffopoulos stated he would follow-up with Ms. Golding regarding the request.

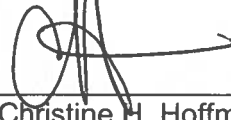
Mr. Wouters asked the Council if anyone was interested in having the ADA dune walkovers cleared. Mr. Staffopoulos responded by stating staff is working with the Department of Environmental Protection and the Army Corps of Engineers for guidance on best practices for clearing out the walkovers without disturbing the dunes.

Mayor Hoffman reminded Council members of the upcoming City luncheon, the Players by the Sea ribbon-cutting ceremony, and Country Fest, and encouraged Council members to attend these events.

The Briefing adjourned at 8:02 P.M.

Submitted by: Jodilynn Byrd
Deputy City Clerk

Approved:



Christine H. Hoffman, MAYOR

Date:

~~7/26/25~~ 7/20/26

