
The Council Briefing began at 5:30 P.M. The meeting was held via video conference using the Zoom platform.

The following City Council Members were in attendance:

Mayor: Christine Hoffman

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

Also present were City Manager Mike Staffopoulos, City Attorney Sandra Robinson, Director of Planning and Development Heather Ireland, Director of Public Works Dennis Barron, Superintendent of Electric Utilities Lamar Whitaker, and Chief of Parks Maintenance and Development Trevor Hughes.

Purpose of Briefing

The purpose of the Briefing was to update the Council members about ongoing items in the City.

City Manager

At-Large Seat Vacancy

City Attorney Sandra Robinson spoke about the letter of resignation submitted by Council Member Chet Stokes effective November 7, 2022. Ms. Robinson reviewed the relevant Florida Statutes and the City Charter. A conversation ensued regarding the process of the Council appointing a person to replace Mr. Stokes.

It was the consensus of the Council to have the Mayor, City Manager, and City Attorney put together a timeline and draft a process for discussion at a future briefing.

Right-of-Way Vacation Request

Director of Planning and Development Heather Ireland, Director of Public Works Dennis Barron, and Superintendent of Electric Utilities Lamar Whitaker spoke about the recently approved resolution to move forward with an ordinance to abandon 20 feet of City right-of-way (ROW) on the city block south of Gonzales Park for future residential development. A conversation ensued related to a list of ROWs, easements, alley closures, vacations, and abandonments since 1996, which was provided to the Council, and what determines an “overwhelming public purpose.”

Veterans Memorial

Chief of Parks Maintenance and Development Trevor Hughes spoke about adding additional monuments to the Veteran’s Memorial located at Oceanfront Park. A conversation ensued regarding the type and location of additional monuments or a dedication wall. It was the consensus of the Council for staff to do further research, reach out to local veteran groups for information, and present a concept for expansion at a future briefing.

Committee Assignment Report

Council Member Stokes provided an update regarding the Blue Zone project and stated the beaches were not chosen to be part of the program.

Council Member Golding stated the League of Cities opened the application process for the Policies Committee for the upcoming Legislative Session. She said she had applied to serve on the Municipal Administrative Policy Committee and encouraged the Council to apply for a committee.

Council Member Janson updated Council about the recent Quarterly Pension Board meeting.

Future Briefing Topics

Mr. Staffopoulos asked the Council if they would like the topic of balloon releases to be added to a future briefing for further discussion or if staff should put together an ordinance for the Council's consideration. The Council's consensus was to have an ordinance presented in the future for consideration.

Mr. Janson suggested discussing the upcoming in-person Council Briefing format due to the Governor recently ending the bill allowing virtual meetings. Ms. Robinson stated based on staff research, the Council can no longer meet virtually but could utilize the current format regarding remote participation.

Mayor Hoffman requested an update from Parks and Recreation regarding Gonzales Park and the revision of the Special Events policy.

Council Member Nichols asked for an update regarding pier completion and pier management.

The Briefing adjourned at 7:03 P.M.

Submitted by: Jodilynn Byrd
Deputy City Clerk

Approved: _____

Christine H. Hoffman, MAYOR

Date: _____