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The Council Briefing began at 6:02 P.M.

The following City Council Members were in attendance:

**Mayor:** William C. Latham (absent)

**Mayor Pro Tem:** Christine Hoffman

**Council Members:** Keith Doherty                      Georgette Dumont                      Sandy Golding  
Cory Nichols                                      Phil Vogelsang

Also present was Interim City Manager Karen Nelson.

**Purpose of Briefing**

The purpose of the briefing was to update the Council Members on issues including the following items:

**City Manager**

**Joint CRA Meeting**

Ms. Nelson stated that she and Mayor Latham would be out of town on the date of the February CRA meeting and it was requested not to schedule the joint CRA and City Council meeting for that time period.

**Interim Police Chief**

Ms. Nelson stated that Police Chief Pat Dooley would be retiring on January 25<sup>th</sup> and Commander Mark Evans will be the Interim Police Chief until the position is filled. Ms. Nelson stated the City would be utilizing the Stars Program through the Florida Police Chiefs Association to conduct a nationwide search for qualified candidates to fill the position. Ms. Nelson stated the recruiting process should start mid-February and is expected to take about four months.

**Downtown Drainage and Infrastructure Improvements**

Director of Public Works Mr. David Millinor offered an overview of the drainage and infrastructure improvement project. A map [on file] showing all areas of the project was handed out and reviewed. A conversation ensued regarding citizen complaints, project timelines, and project duration. Project Coordinator Jim Vernon stated sound reading testing was being done in the area to assure compliance with the City Ordinances.

**Dog Park Update**

Director of Parks and Recreation Mr. Jason Phitides stated the Josh Heinz Foundation would like to make a donation to the dog park. With the donated funds, the Heinz Foundation would like to have a mural painted on the back wall of the dog park. Also, the donation would cover replacement of the benches in the small dog park and lights for the current water fountain in the park. Mr. Phitides stated the mural would be painted by local artists.

Without any objection from the Council, Ms. Nelson stated the City would accept the donation from the Heinz Foundation and Mr. Phitides would organize the project.

Golf Course Update

Golf Course Facility Manager Bruce Mohler spoke in regards to the condition of the golf course and upcoming events and changes. Mr. Mohler stated the golf course is exceeding expectations and the revenue is up by 30% in three months. Mr. Mohler and Golf Course Superintendent Trevor Hughes expressed the need for more resources such as additional staff and better equipment to be able to maintain the new grounds and higher expectations of the golf course.

Communication/Social Media Position

Ms. Nelson stated there is a need for an additional staff position to manage the City's social media, websites and public information. Ms. Nelson stated additional office space had been created at City Hall and that she would like to bring the issue to Council in the near future for consideration.

Fire Department Negotiations

Ms. Nelson stated the negotiations with Jacksonville for fire services are nearing completion and we are close to reaching a preliminary draft proposal. However, there are still items to consider such as pension and transition of personnel.

Mr. Vogelsang requested financials regarding costs involved in transferring the fire services to Jacksonville.

Ms. Nelson suggested individual meetings be held with each Council Member before scheduling a public workshop.

The briefing adjourned at 6:57 P.M.

Submitted by: Jodilynn Byrd  
Administrative Assistant

Approved:



William C. Latham, MAYOR

Date:

02/18/19