

The Council Briefing began at 5:30 P.M.

The following City Council Members were in attendance:

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

**Council Members:** Keith Doherty (late)                      Georgette Dumont                      Sandy Golding  
Christine Hoffman (late)                      Cory Nichols (absent)                      Phil Vogelsang

Also present was City Manager Mike Staffopoulos, Deputy City Manager Karen Nelson, City Attorney Chris Ambrosio, and Human Resources Director Ann Meuse.

**Purpose of Briefing**

The purpose of the briefing was to update the Council Members about ongoing items in the City.

**City Manager**

**Pension Ordinances**

Ms. Meuse introduced David Robinson, one of the City's pension attorneys from Sugarman & Susskind. Ms. Meuse explained in 2014 a project was started to rewrite the pension ordinances. Over time, there were so many amendments to the ordinances making them difficult for plan participants to read and understand. The rewrite was completed in 2017. All the changes made have no financial impact to the plans. The City has a non-financial impact statement from the attorney. Ms. Meuse added the Fire ordinance is unique as it does include provisions of the Interlocal Agreement.

Mr. Robinson stated some definitions were added, previous interpretations made from institutional knowledge were incorporated, and the document was restructured to have a better flow. The changes are administrative to make the job of the Board of Trustees easier. Mr. Robinson went over definitions and other changes.

Mr. Robinson answered questions from Council members related to survivor benefits for participants who are still employed, prior to retirement, under New Section 2-164.12. Ms. Meuse stated the ordinances do not change any benefits. They are mainly a rewrite to reorganize and make it clear and more in line with practices already in place. Ms. Nelson said the exception is the Fire ordinance where the language from Article 7 of the Interlocal Agreement relating to firefighter retirement is being incorporated. Mr. Robinson recommended restatement every 7-10 years.

Mr. Ambrosio asked if plan updates would be provided. Mr. Robinson stated usually a question would be posed related to a situation with an employee, which would require interpretation. If the plan language is not clear, a recommendation would be given to amend the language to make it clearer.

Mr. Staffopoulos stated the plan is to bring the ordinances to Council for first and second reading at the two November Council meetings. After the adoption following the second reading, the City would move forward with the transition date for Jacksonville Beach Fire Department to Jacksonville Fire Rescue Department on November 23, 2019.

Council Training

Mr. Staffopoulos stated there are Council members who have expressed interest in attending the Institute for Elected Municipal Officials program through the Florida League of Cities. He plans to bring an agenda item to Council to see how many Council members would like to go and pay for the program out of their travel and training budget. The training is scheduled for January 10-12, 2020, at the Jacksonville Marriott. The cost of the training is \$300.00.

Duval Legislative Delegation

Ms. Golding stated the Duval Legislative Delegation should start having meetings soon preparing for the 2020 Legislative sessions. Ms. Golding was added to their distribution list to receive updates and she suggested other Council members may want to be added to the list as well. Ms. Hoffman stated it would be good to have a unified Legislative agenda for the City. Council members confirmed they received legislative updates via email from the Florida League of Cities. Ms. Nelson stated she had served on the Finance Policy Committee and Mr. Staffopoulos stated he had served on the Urban Administration Committee. Mr. Staffopoulos said additional discussion could be done at another Briefing to see if any Council members want to be involved in the policy committees to help develop the policy statements the Florida League of Cities creates as their lobbying list for when they go to Tallahassee.

The briefing adjourned at 6:21 P.M.

Submitted by: Sheri Gosselin  
Assistant City Clerk

Approved:



William C. Latham, MAYOR

Date:

11/18/19