
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 Georgette Dumont Sandy Golding
Christine Hoffman Cory Nichols Phil Vogelsang

Also present was City Manager Mike Staffopoulos.

Purpose of Briefing

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

City Manager Annual Review

Human Resources Director Ann Meuse provided a template for an evaluation she obtained from the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). The following recommendations were made:

- Supervision, staffing, and citizen relations reviews should be anonymous and conducted by department heads and citizens, not the City Council.
- Mr. Staffopoulos should complete his own self-evaluation discussing his objectives, accomplishments, and recommendations.
- Mr. Staffopoulos should be able to review and respond to the evaluations.
- Evaluations from Mr. Staffopoulos and department heads would be handed in before January 21, 2020. Councilmembers' evaluations would be handed in by January 29, 2020. Council would discuss all evaluations at the February 3, 2020 briefing, and be voted on at the Council meeting on the same evening.
- Councilmembers should consider a salary increase of between 3% and 6% to be in line with department heads' raises this year.

Backyard Hens Regulation

Senior Planner Heather Ireland explained the need to amend Chapter 5 of the Land Development Code. Attorney for the City, Denise May, reviewed other municipalities' language and made recommended changes.

The Council agreed to:

- Expand the existing language to indicate hens would not be permitted to trespass on other properties, be released, or set free.
- A one-time \$25 permit for keeping the hens would be required.
- Enclosures would be limited to 100 square feet and would not require a permit.
- Owners would be required to complete the Backyard Poultry Seminar in Duval County.

- Code Enforcement would enforce the ordinance, and the Special Magistrate would hear cases.
- Owners who neglected or abused their animal(s) would have their permits revoked.

City Attorney Duties

City Attorney Chris Ambrosio described his varied duties and explained local governments were entitled to seek reimbursement for their city attorneys' fees for time spent on litigation. A resolution would be needed to authorize the City Attorney to seek reimbursement for those fees. The resolution would strengthen Mr. Ambrosio's ability to recover his fees. Council suggested Mr. Ambrosio should draft the resolution.

Low-Speed Vehicle Research

Mr. Ambrosio stated he agreed with the City of Jacksonville's ordinance, which specifically addressed golf carts, but not low-speed vehicles. He stated a version of the City of Jacksonville's ordinance would be acceptable. Mr. Ambrosio stated the St. Johns County ordinance combined golf carts and low-speed vehicles in a way he did not believe to be correct. In the City of Jacksonville, golf cart use was restricted to golf cart paths. In St. Johns County, they mixed the concepts of golf cart paths and multi-use paths as well as golf cart communities and non-golf cart communities in unincorporated areas of the county. Mr. Ambrosio had found no authority to allow a low-speed vehicle to be used anywhere other than a street.

Lakeside Drive Gate

Council returned to the discussion of the gate issue, and it was suggested making the street wide enough, and the closed gate small enough, to accommodate a low-speed vehicle passing the closed gate. Mr. Ambrosio noted closing the gate would mean this was no longer a "public street," and therefore, the low-speed vehicles would be prohibited from using it. Mr. Ambrosio agreed to continue his research for a workable solution.

South Beach CRA TIF reduction

Mr. Staffopoulos stated the City no longer had the need to collect as much money for the South Beach Redevelopment area. \$4.5 million should be reallocated to their originating sources: \$3 million to Jacksonville and \$1.5 million to the city's general fund.

Chief Financial Officer Ashlie Gossett stated an agreement would need to be executed to reduce the TIF funds.

Mr. Staffopoulos indicated they were seeking to identify legitimate capital projects that made sense for the CRA. They must keep in mind the intent of the CRA: to eliminate slum and blight.

Other Announcements

Mr. Staffopoulos announced:

- The new Public Works Department director, Dennis Barron, would begin on January 6, 2020.
- He agreed to seek an update on the construction on South 2nd Street.
- The city employee holiday luncheon would be held on December 17, 2019, from 11:30 A.M. until 1:00 P.M. at the community center.

- They would begin scheduling the City of Jacksonville Beach Vision community meetings, and at least one Council member should attend each meeting.

The briefing adjourned at 6:54 P.M.

Submitted by: Jodilynn Byrd
Administrative Assistant

Approved:



William C. Latham, MAYOR

Date: January 21, 2020