

The Council Briefing began at 6:00 P.M. The meeting was held via video conference using the Zoom platform.

The following City Council Members were in attendance:

Mayor: William C. Latham

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

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

Police Department Annual Statistical Review

Chief of Police Gene Paul Smith discussed the Jacksonville Beach Police Department (JBPD) Annual Statistical Review for 2019. He explained the data from 2019 and the findings for what he believed to be driving the increase in calls for service in the community. Chief Smith reviewed his findings:

- Increase for calls for service and police responses are related to self-initiated activity by JBPD officers
- Self-Initiated activity by JBPD officers is resulting in improved City safety by suppressing possible criminal activity
- Traffic stops are the most effective form of self-initiated officer activity

State of the City Attorney Office, six-month report

City Attorney Chris Ambrosio reviewed the status of his goals for the first six months of his employment. Mr. Ambrosio stated he had accomplished his goals with the exception of not having the time to attend Board meetings regularly. Mr. Ambrosio said he had an understanding with each Department Director and Board Member, if his assistance is needed, he would make himself available.

Mr. Ambrosio stated if the workload and projects continue to grow, an Assistant City Attorney may be needed in the future.

New Workspace for the Assistant to the City Manager and Legal Assistant

Mr. Ambrosio stated Elise Brosch had recently been hired as the Legal Assistant for the City Attorney's office. With this additional hire, new workstations have been ordered for the Assistant to the City Manager and the Legal Assistant. Mr. Staffopoulos explained he administratively approved the purchase, and he would need to seek retroactive approval from Council. Mr.

Staffopoulos stated the Northeast corner of the second floor in City Hall, including the new workstations, would not be affected by the upcoming space needs analysis.

COVID-19 Financial Relief Programs

Mr. Staffopoulos reviewed existing programs and recommended programs to provide short-term financial relief to our community as it faces the COVID-19 pandemic. The programs are as follows:

Programs currently in place:

- Late fee charges and services disconnections for non-payment of utility services have been stopped until further notice.
- The Bulk Power Cost Adjustment (BPCA) fee was suspended for April.

Recommendations for additional programs in the next 30-60 days:

- Suspend the BPCA fee again in May.
- Expand the Customer Assistance Relief Emergency (CARE) program. (Funds will be processed administratively by an internal budget modification to transfer budget dollars from savings in power costs to the CARE program)
- Provide rent relief for non-profit tenants at specific city-owned facilities
- Suspend late fees and allow for up to six months grace period for restaurant and industrial park tenants to pay outstanding monthly rental fees.

Mayor Latham stated he would contact the Mayor of Atlantic Beach and Neptune Beach in regards to additional funding for the CARE program (or other community programs) from either City.

Other topics

Mr. Staffopoulos stated the upcoming City Council meeting on April 20, 2020, and the Council Briefing on April 27, 2020, are scheduled for 6:00 P.M. and would be held via video conference.

The briefing adjourned at 7:06 P.M.

Submitted by: Jodilynn Byrd
Administrative Assistant

Approved:



William C. Latham, MAYOR

Date:

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