

**City of Jacksonville Beach**  
**Minutes of Fiscal Year 2017 Council Budget Tour**  
**Friday, July 29, 2016 – 1:30 PM**

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The Council Budget Tour began at 1:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers.

City Council Members in attendance:

Mayor Charlie Latham

Lee Buck  
Christine Hoffman  
Bruce Thomason

Phil Vogelsang  
Jeanell Wilson  
Keith Doherty (*Absent*)

## **Fiscal Year 2017 Council Budget Tour**

### **Budget Overview**

City Manager George Forbes presented an overview of the proposed Fiscal Year 2017 budget. (Copy of PowerPoint presentation on file)

### **ERP Project Status Report**

Business Analyst Michael Nadeau explained that this project will change how the City's data flows. The City is currently using 1980s green screen technology. Mr. Nadeau said the project will be completed in two stages. The first stage implementation is estimated to cost approximately \$2,000,000, and will cover Finance, Purchasing, Payroll, Human Resources, employee self-service, and Utility Billing business applications. Phase one will come before City Council for approval soon.

The second stage of implementation will be for the City's land based business applications: Planning & Development, work orders, citizen relationship, and field mobile capabilities. This stage will require another Request for Proposal and future City Council approval.

As implementation begins, additional positions will be needed to assist departments with the transition to a new business applications system.

### **Palm Tree Maintenance and Cost**

Golf Course Superintendent Gina Williams explained the ArborJet tool used to treat the specialty palms for insects and disease. The tool allows one person to inject a dose through a port in the palm, allowing 100% of the dosage to stay inside the palm. In order to evaluate the effectiveness of the ArborJet tool on the palms, one row in Latham Plaza has been treated using the ArborJet tool, and the other row has received standard treatment.

### **FDOT Drainage Project**

A short video from FDOT was shown providing an overview of the agency's plans to improve drainage along A1A.

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*The remainder of the budget tour was conducted after boarding a bus to visit various sites throughout the city.*

Attendees saw the 8<sup>th</sup> Street North drainage channel where improvements would be made by FDOT. It was noted that some of the trees and vegetation located within the channel would have to be removed for the project. The City Manager advised these drainage improvements will also benefit Neptune Beach and Atlantic Beach.

### **Hopson Road Sanitary Sewer and Water Main Extension**

Public Works Director Ty Edwards discussed the Hopson Road sanitary sewer and water main extension project. He stated that a property owner is willing to give the City an easement to run the lines.

### **Radio Replacement Project**

Fire Chief David Whitmill went over the plan to upgrade the City's 800 MHz radio system. The Dispatch Center consoles will be replaced and the radio system will be upgraded. The upgrade will allow interoperability with surrounding jurisdictions.

### **High Aerial Bucket Truck**

Mr. Forbes explained that the Beaches Energy bucket truck can reach 55 feet. It cannot reach the transmission lines. The transmission system runs 28 miles. A 100 foot articulating bucket truck will last up to 20 years. Council Member Chris Hoffman participated in a demonstration showing the range of a current Beaches Energy Services 55-foot bucket truck.

### **Guana Substation**

Beaches Energy Services Director Allen Putnam explained that there is currently one transformer at the Guana Substation. Mr. Putnam said the addition of a second transformer will increase reliability and improve capacity.

### **Process of Drone Video Inspecting Transmission Lines and Bushing Replacement Project**

Mr. Putnam showed a short video of the transmission line drone inspection. He stated that use of the drone saved the City money for each line. The inspection with the drone took one week versus what would have been one month without use of a drone.

### **Golf Course, Pump Station, New Concessioner**

Parks and Recreation Director Mary Ellen Donner introduced Dr. Eddie Seagle with the University of Georgia. Dr. Seagle did a study of the greens at the golf course. Tour attendees visited Hole #18 with poor density of turf, and Hole #11 with better density of turf. Dr. Seagle answered questions from tour attendees regarding overseeding, soil conditions, irrigation, landfill effects, and nematodes. Ms. Donner stated that approximately one third of the golf course is on an old landfill site. Ms. Donner went over some other options to improve the greens. She has also met with golfer focus groups. The fee structure will also be reviewed. Ms. Donner added that lighting provided by Beaches Energy Services provides the only lighted driving range in the area.

Mr. Forbes stated he is willing to look at whatever it takes to fix the problems. Attendees had a discussion with Dr. Seagle about the direction the City should take to improve the issues at the golf course.

### **Wastewater Plant 2 Improvements**

Mr. Edwards explained the Capital Improvement Plan project for needed maintenance on the ground storage tanks. The paint and concrete is deteriorating inside. The coating is 50%-70% deteriorated. He went over the above ground tank process.

### **Meter Replacement Program**

Project Engineer Robin Smith explained the water meter replacement program. He said that Johnson Controls did an audit study and provided recommendations and costs. A representative from Johnson Controls went over pay back on the program.

### **Skate Park**

Mr. Edwards stated that the skate park design is complete. The design will be going to the Community Redevelopment Agency and then to City Council for approval. Part one was to fill in the pond, which has been completed. Part two is construction of the skate park. Part three will be completion of the park's amenities.

### **South Beach Parkway Road Improvements**

Mr. Edwards stated that the medians will be redone on South Beach Parkway and Jacksonville Drive. There was a discussion about whether a median is planned to prevent drivers from turning left when exiting the shopping center.

### **Downtown Redevelopment Phased Drainage and Infrastructure Improvements**

Mr. Edwards went over the status of Downtown projects.

**SeaWalk and/or Oceanfront Restroom Construction**

Deputy City Manager Trish Roberts stated that the Oceanfront Park restrooms are 80% completed. She also said the park has become a popular site for players of the new Pokémon Go game for smart devices.

Ms. Roberts stated that the SeaWalk Pavilion improvements are 90% complete.

**Note**

Staff attending bus tour: City Manager George Forbes, Deputy City Manager Trish Roberts, Public Works Director Ty Edwards, Planning & Development Director Bill Mann, Beaches Energy Services Director Allen Putnam, Parks & Recreation Director Mary Ellen Donner, Fire Chief David Whitmill, Police Chief Pat Dooley, Director of Human Resources Ann Meuse, Budget Officer Ashlie Gossett, City Engineer Marty Martirone, Accounting Supervisor Eddie Vergara, Payroll/Benefits Administrator Jeri Benjamin, City Clerk Laurie Scott, Business Analyst Mike Nadeau, Golf Course Superintendent Gina Williams, Project Engineer Robin Smith, Assistant City Clerk Catherine Ponson, and Assistant to the City Manager Sheri Gosselin.

Additional attendees: Planning Commission Member Georgette Dumont, Tom Taylor, Kurtis Loftus, and Beaches Leader staff writer Chelsea Wiggs.

The Budget Tour ended at approximately 5:05 P.M.

Submitted by: Sheri Gosselin  
Assistant to the City Manager

Approved:



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William C. Latham, Mayor

Date: August 15, 2016