

**Minutes of City Council Briefing
Monday, April 15, 2013 – 6:30 PM
City Council Chambers
11 North 3rd Street, Jacksonville Beach, FL**

The Council Briefing began at 6:30 PM.

The following City Council members attended:

Mayor Charlie Latham

Keith Doherty
Steve Hartkemeyer
Christine Hoffman
Tom Taylor
Phil Vogelsang
Jeanell Wilson

Also present were City Manager George Forbes, City Department Directors, and Cathy Martinich, City Clerk's Office

Purpose of the Briefing

The purpose of the Briefing is to update the Council Members on projects, recent developments, upcoming issues, and review of agenda items.

City Manager

Low Speed Vehicles –

Mr. Forbes stated that the low speed vehicle markings are almost completed.

Beach Tilling for Turtles –

The City Manager explained that on April 23rd "*Tiger Hole, Inc.*" would begin tilling the beach, which softens the sand for the sea turtles, as part of the beach nourishment requirements. They will till the entire 4.2 miles of the beach, and will use 16th Avenue South to store their heavy equipment. There will be a 10 foot section left at the dune line for emergency vehicle access. Tilling will begin in the early morning until 11:00 pm. With this schedule, the work should take only a few days in Jacksonville Beach.

East Coast Greenway Signs -

Mr. Forbes said that the Greenway signs will go up the first part of May, along A1A and 1st Street. He stated that this is a marketing program for our area. The signs show bike paths and beautiful Greenway path from the Jacksonville Beach's community to Mayport, and working to connect the pathway from the Florida Keys to Maine.

Council Priority/Vagrancy & Downtown Safety -

Mr. Forbes spoke of the following items regarding the vagrancy problem and safety in the downtown area.

- 1.) Police Department is taking over the parking lot security and keeping downtown safe.

- 2.) Working with the Sulzbacher Center on an innovative program to get frequently arrested vagrants into treatment and housing. The Sulzbacher Center will place people for a five to six month period of time, in housing, and work toward rehabilitating them into the community and not jail. The City will be expected to pay for these services, which will cost approximately \$29,000 thousand dollars.
- 3.) Requesting funds from the CRA (Community Redevelopment Agency) to pay for a downtown CAPE supervisor to be added to the team. The newly appointed Corporal will work closely with the Sulzbacher Center, Mission House, BEAM (Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry.) A short discussion ensued regarding the proposed addition of the Downtown CAPE supervisory position and duties.

Open Access Tariff Agreement -

Mr. Forbes stated that an agreement regarding an Open Access Transmission Tariff Agreement would be on the agenda within the next month. This involves a Federal Law that requires a tariff if someone wants to use Beaches Energy Transmission lines. Mr. Forbes said that he would like to do this in conjunction with the FMPA power partners so that everyone signs the same agreement.

Fire Works –

Mr. Forbes gave the Council an update regarding funds donated towards the fireworks display. He said there will be fireworks on July 4th. Mr. Forbes said that rumors of the City not paying for fireworks and that donation from the community needed to pay the \$25,000 cost for fireworks, was not true. He explained the City is trying to raise money to help off-set the cost of the fireworks display. Mr. Forbes said there is a place on the City webpage for donations to be made toward the July 4th event. He said the City is working toward adding a button on the webpage to accept donations by credit card. It was noted that Mr. Sam Veal has fundraising experience and plans to collect donations for fireworks.

Mayor Latham stated that the previous council eliminated fireworks in the current budget, but we have reinstated money for fireworks. He said it is important to take into consideration the event cost and crowd behavior. Discussion ensued regarding the event.

Mr. Doherty recommended a reduction in the speed limit on A1A during some special events, such as the 4th of July, because citizens have been hit by cars crossing A1A. He pointed out the number of accidents with injuries that have happened during past events. Mr. Forbes stated that the City does not set the speed limit on A1A, but that the police department would monitor the downtown area, slowing and directing traffic as necessary.

Amazon Registry –

Patricia Roberts explained the City is adding a button to the City website which will connect to Amazon's Registry. This will allow on-line donations to be made for fireworks. Implementation is expected soon.

Former George Moore Chevrolet Property -

Bill Mann explained that the PUD rezoning ordinance on the agenda for tonight would require the closure of an alleyway and an easement on two of the properties. He distributed handouts to Council showing both the utility easement and alley abandonment locations, and a copy of the PUD Preliminary Development Plan Standards (LDC Sec 34-348(j)(3)). He said there are old sewer lines within both abandonments that will need to be grouted or removed, and a new manhole must be constructed, all of which will have to happen prior to the properties being redeveloped.

Mr. Forbes explained there would be a “Findings of Fact” presented with the ordinance at the next meeting and also explained the Quasi-Judicial decision making process. He also stated that any discussion council members have regarding this subject must be disclosed, so that both sides have due process. Discussion ensued about the rezoning process.

Fire Department –

Mr. Doherty commented he felt the City would be in extended disagreement/impasse with the Fire Union and asked if there is a possibility of merging the departments with Jacksonville. Mr. Forbes explained that this subject would be discussed in labor negotiations, and at an Executive Session.

Paid Parking –

Mr. Vogelsang said he would like to have discussion and make an amended motion tonight prior to the vote on the paid parking plan. He feels strongly that residents should be able to park for free, by simply showing their identification, proving their residence in the 32250 zip code.

Dog Park –

Mr. Doherty said he has received several calls about the dog park. He recommended an annual fee be paid by residents to use the park. Mr. Doherty said that other Cities have annual membership fees for their dog parks and a gated key fob system could be installed. Mr. Forbes discussed improvements needed at the dog park. Mr. Meadors explained that the cost would be approximately \$12,000 to install the key fob system. He said the plan for updating the dog park was scheduled to be discussed in the upcoming budget meetings.

The briefing adjourned at 7:04pm.

Submitted by: Cathy Martinich
City Clerk’s Office

Approved:

/s/William C. Latham

William C. Latham, Mayor

Date: May 6, 2013