



**CITY OF JACKSONVILLE BEACH
FLORIDA**

MEMORANDUM TO:

The Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council
City of Jacksonville Beach, Florida

Council Members:

The following Agenda of Business has been prepared for consideration and action at the Regular Meeting of the City Council on **Monday, March 2, 2015, at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers, 11 North Third Street, Jacksonville Beach, Florida.**

**Opening Ceremonies: Invocation
Salute to the Flag**

Roll Call

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- City Council Workshop held February 16, 2015
- Regular City Council Meeting held February 16, 2015

2. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

3. **COURTESY OF THE FLOOR TO VISITORS:**

4. **MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL:**

5. **CITY CLERK:**

6. **CITY MANAGER:**

- (a) Approve Repairs of the Green on Hole #1 at the Golf Course
- (b) Approve the Addition of a Part-time Staff Assistant Position to Assist with Special Events
- (c) Approval of Program of Projects for Inclusion in the FY 2015-2016 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application to the City of Jacksonville.

7. **RESOLUTIONS:**

RESOLUTION NO. 1944-2015

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE BEACH, FLORIDA, OPPOSING SEISMIC AIR-GUN TESTING IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN.

8. **ORDINANCES:**

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

/s/George D. Forbes
CITY MANAGER

GDF:lds
02/26/15

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at any meeting, such person may need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, such person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

The public is encouraged to speak on issues on this Agenda that concern them. Anyone who wishes to speak should submit the request to the City Clerk prior to the beginning of the meeting. These forms are available at the entrance of the City Council Chambers for your convenience.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 286.26, Florida Statutes, persons with disabilities needing special accommodation to participate in this meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at (904) 247-6299, ext. 10, no later than 12:00 PM, Friday, February 27, 2015.

Minutes of City Council Workshop
Review of Audit Report for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2014
Monday, February 16, 2015 – 6:30 PM
City Council Chambers

Mayor Latham called the workshop to order at 6:30 PM.

The following City Council members were in attendance:

Chris Hoffman
Phil Vogelsang
Keith Doherty
Jeanell Wilson
Lee Buck (absent)
Bruce Thomason

Also present were City Manager George Forbes, Finance Director Harry Royal, auditor Joe Welch of Purvis Gray & Company, Laurie D. Scott and Nancy Pyatte, City Clerk's Office.

Purpose of Workshop

The purpose of the workshop was to review the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014. (Copy on file)

Mr. Welch, of Purvis Gray & Company, presented a detailed review of the Audit Report. In summary, he stated that the City received an unqualified opinion on their financial statements and the audit showed no findings of noncompliance.

Mr. Welch recognized Harry Royal for his hard work and dedication to the city's financial well-being and remarked that Harry exhibited the highest level of professionalism and ethics.

Mr. Forbes advised that the City is doing well, but still faces challenges with future projects. To illustrate, Mr. Forbes expressed the need to continue maintaining our streets so that they are kept in good condition, city-wide Enterprise software will need to be purchased, and the current radio system will need to be updated to a digital platform. For these reasons, the city will need to continue to budget conservatively.

The workshop adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Submitted by: Laurie D. Scott
City Clerk

Approved:

William C. Latham, MAYOR

Date: March 2, 2015

**Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting
held Monday, February 16, 2015 at 7:00 P.M.
in the Council Chambers, 11 North 3rd Street,
Jacksonville Beach, Florida.**



CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Charles Latham called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

OPENING CEREMONIES:

Mayor Latham asked for a moment of silence for Councilmember Lee Buck who was in the hospital; followed by the Salute to the Flag.

ROLL CALL:

Mayor: William C. Latham

Council Members:	Lee Buck (absent)	Keith Doherty	Christine Hoffman
	Bruce Thomason	Phil Vogel sang	Jeanell Wilson

Also present was City Manager George Forbes, City Clerk Laurie D. Scott and Asst. City Clerk Nancy Pyatte.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Ms. Wilson, seconded by Ms. Hoffman, and passed unanimously, to approve the following minutes as presented:

- Regular City Council Meeting held February 2, 2015.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Latham –

Mayor Latham made the following announcements:

- Congratulations to Sandy Golding and St. Francis Animal Hospital for a successful “Chariots of Fur” event on February 7th. It gets bigger and better each year, and Cookie and I are looking forward to next year’s event already.
- Great turnout for the Bowl-A-Thon tournament for the Beaches Exchange Club. I want to thank all the council members that participated, Phil Vogelsang, Bruce Thomason, Lee Buck, Keith Doherty and City Manager George Forbes. We had a great time and earned approximately \$5,000 for the Exchange Club’s campaign against child abuse.

Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting
held on Monday, February 16, 2015

- Congratulations to World of Beers for their grand opening on Sunday February 8th. I was honored to “tap the cask” at the event.
- At the TPO on Tuesday, I’m proud to announce that the Board approved JTA’s request to add funding to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for discretionary funding for the St. John’s River Ferry in an amount exceeding four million dollars.
- I was honored to represent Jacksonville Beach at the annual “State of the Beaches” luncheon sponsored by the Chamber.
- Congratulations to Jacksonville Beach resident Donna Deegan for successfully completing the 8th Annual 26.2 with Donna Breast Cancer Marathon.

Councilmember Jeanell Wilson –

- Attended a meeting in Mayport on Thursday where efforts are underway to designate Mayport Community Fishing Village and some surrounding areas as a CRA (Community Redevelopment Area).
- Attended reception on Friday for 26.2 with Donna for Breast Cancer at One Ocean.

Councilmember Phil Vogelsang –

- Attended the Bowl-A-Thon along with other council members.
- Participated in Jacksonville Beaches Flag Football League. Announced their team was the league champions for the second year in a row. Thanked local Jacksonville Beach business Pita Pit for their sponsorship.

Councilmember Keith Doherty –

- Commented that he was in agreement with the sentiments expressed by Ms. Wilson on the information on the Community Redevelopment for Mayport. For years it has been referred to as Historic Mayport and it needs to be a tourist destination. Hopefully the consequence of redevelopment would be to bring in more visitors and provide security for the ferry’s future.
- Attended the Bowl-A-Thon along with other council members.
- Attended the Chariots of Fur event. Remarked it was well attended by individuals and families and hopes it grows in the future.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR TO VISITORS:

Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting
held on Monday, February 16, 2015

Mayor Latham read the following policy regarding public comments:

“This portion of the agenda is designed to allow citizens an opportunity to bring matters to the attention of the City Council. It is not reasonable to expect that the Council will engage in or debate or deliberate about matters on which Council has not received any prior information as part of this agenda. Before addressing this Council, please state your name and address for the record. You are asked to limit your comments to five (5) minutes. Public comment cards are conveniently placed at the entrance to the Chambers and should be submitted to the Clerk at the far left of the dais.”

Speakers:

- Tony Hall, 1567 Ashford Oaks Way, Jacksonville Beach, addressed the City Council regarding Cradle Creek boardwalk needing repairs, designating bike lanes for 13th Avenue S. and 16th Avenue S., and inquired as to the possibility of starting the construction of the Street Course first for the Skate Park. Additionally, Mr. Hall suggested the City and the Police Department should start to prepare for the upcoming spring break and summer seasons.

Mayor Latham explained the bicycle issue is being sponsored by the TPO (Transportation Planning Organization). The City was able to obtain a quarter million dollar grant for an engineering study to determine where the bike paths need to be. The majority of the roads in the city are state roads and we need to coordinate requests through state agencies.

The City built the access road from Lakeside Drive to Seagate Avenue to be used for emergency purposes. The gate at Lakeside Drive received considerable discussion. Some citizens requested that the gate be permanently opened, while others would like it to remain closed.

The citizen’s comments in this matter are as stated:

- Ruth Forrest, 2729 Lois Lane, Jacksonville Beach, presented Council with a petition and spoke for removal of the gate.
- Maryann Pease, 1714 Indian Woods Drive, Neptune Beach, spoke for keeping the gate open.
- Pat Heilmann, 1857 Kings Road, Jacksonville Beach, spoke for keeping the gate open.
- Nani McLathery, 2080 Lakeside Drive, Jacksonville Beach, spoke for keeping the gate open.
- Michael Mayes, 2015 Lakeside Drive, Jacksonville Beach, spoke for keeping the gate closed.
- Kevin Brown, 1833 Kings Court, Jacksonville Beach, spoke for keeping the gate closed.
- Reenie Murphy, 1870 Nightfall Drive, Neptune Beach, spoke for keeping the gate closed.
- Gary Rouse, 2014 Lakeside Drive, Jacksonville Beach, spoke for keeping the gate closed.
- Lisa Rouse, 2014 Lakeside Drive, Jacksonville Beach, spoke for keeping the gate closed.
- William Randolph, 1835 Nightfall Drive, Neptune Beach, spoke for keeping the gate closed.
- Marlene Shad, 2056 Lakeside Drive, Jacksonville Beach, spoke for keeping the gate closed.
- Mary Frosio, 1830 Nightfall Drive, Neptune Beach, spoke for keeping the gate closed.
- Cheryl Carleton, 2055 Lakeside Drive, Jacksonville Beach, spoke for keeping the gate closed.
- George Langstaff, 1852 Nightfall Drive, Neptune Beach, spoke for keeping the gate closed.

- Dave Polovina, 2069 Lakeside Drive, Jacksonville Beach, spoke for keeping the gate closed.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL:

- (a) Presentation of Resolution of Esteem to Harry Royal by Mayor Latham.
Mayor Latham read and presented the resolution to Mr. Royal.

CITY CLERK:

CITY MANAGER:

- (a) **Acceptance of the Independent Auditor's Report on the General Purpose Financial Statements of the City of Jacksonville Beach for the Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2014.**

Motion: It was moved by Ms. Wilson, seconded by Ms. Hoffman, to approve the Independent Auditor's Report on the General Purpose Financial Statements of the City of Jacksonville Beach for the Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2014.

Discussion: Mr. Forbes reported that the Council met at a workshop prior to this meeting to discuss the auditor's report. The auditor's report stated the city is in excellent financial condition. One of the highlights of the report was the city's pension reform.

Mr. Joe Welch of Purvis & Gray reported the City received an unqualified opinion on their financial statements and the audit showed no findings of non-compliance. Mr. Welch complimented the council, management and Mr. Royal's staff for their hard work.

Ms. Wilson expressed interest in receiving this report earlier to allow time to properly review the information.

Mr. Forbes acknowledged her request, and advised the council receives their copy as soon as it is put together.

Mr. Doherty suggested it would be a good idea to follow Mr. Forbes' lead in proceeding with financial caution, even though we had a good year.

Roll call vote: Ayes – Doherty, Hoffman, Thomason, Vogelsang, Wilson and Mayor Latham; motion carried unanimously.

- (b) **Monthly Financial Report – Month of January 2015**

Motion: It was moved by Ms. Wilson, seconded by Ms. Hoffman, to approve the Monthly Financial Report – Month of January 2015.

Discussion: Mr. Forbes reported the Finance Department will be submitting the auditor's report to the Government Financial Officer's Association for the Certificate of Achievement Award for Financial Reporting. He stated we have received this award consecutively for twenty years. Last year we were only one of 1,908 cities, (36,010 cities in the United States) that received this award nationwide and it has to do with the efforts of Mr. Royal.

Mayor Latham complemented Mr. Royal on the excellent job he has done in putting together the final financial report.

Roll call vote: Ayes – Hoffman, Thomason, Vogelsang, Wilson, Doherty, and Mayor Latham; motion carried unanimously.

(c) Appointment of One Councilmember to Serve on the General Employees' Pension Board of Trustees

Motion: It was moved by Ms. Wilson, seconded by Ms. Hoffman, to approve Councilmember Thomason to serve on the General Employees' Pension Board of Trustees.

Discussion: Mr. Forbes explained the city has three (3) pension boards - police, fire, and general. On the General Employees' Pension Board there are five (5) trustees on the board. Two (2) are appointed by the City Council, two (2) are elected by the general employees and those four appoint a fifth Trustee. Mr. Forbes advised we have been short one member for some time, and Mr. Forbes asked Councilmember Thomason if he would accept the appointment, and Councilmember Thomason agreed.

Ms. Hoffman stated for the record that it is an honor to serve on the General Employees' Pension Board as the second city councilmember and is looking forward to serving with Mr. Thomason in their efforts to continue to get the unfunded liability down through sound investment policies.

Roll call vote: Ayes – Vogelsang, Wilson, Doherty, Hoffman, Thomason, and Mayor Latham; motion carried unanimously.

(d) Authorize the City Manager to Sign the Transmission Operator Alliance Agreement Establishing Orlando Utilities Commission (OUC) as the Transmission Operator ("TOP") for Beaches Energy Services, and Approving the Alliance Agreement

Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting
held on Monday, February 16, 2015

Motion: It was moved by Ms. Wilson, seconded by Ms. Hoffman, to approve authorization for the City Manager to Sign the Transmission Operator Alliance Agreement Establishing Orlando Utilities Commission (OUC) as the Transmission Operator (“TOP”) for Beaches Energy Services, and Approving the Alliance Agreement.

Discussion: Mr. Forbes explained New NERC Critical Infrastructure Protection (“CIP”) standards (Version 5), present significant challenges to electric utilities. On the transmission side, many utilities, particularly small to mid-sized operators, have yet to deploy robust NERC Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) programs and will struggle to meet the requirements of CIP Version 5.

Following several months of discussion and negotiation, a mutual agreement has been reached among Beaches Energy Services (member), Orlando Utilities Commission (member/agent), and Kissimmee Utility Authority (member), to adopt a Transmission Operator Alliance Agreement (“Alliance Agreement”).

This Alliance Agreement, which introduces operational and administrative efficiencies into each member’s operations and compliance efforts, will save thousands of dollars for the customers of all three member utilities, significantly reduce the risk of operational and cyber security regulatory compliance violation penalties, and avert the need for additional Beaches Energy staff to deal with the growing compliance workload.

Beaches Energy Services analysis shows an up-front cost savings of more than \$1.46 million dollars by entering into the agreement versus implementing our own solution. Additionally, an estimated cost savings of \$190,000 per year in operating and maintenance costs will be saved by adopting this agreement.

Mr. Forbes reported that late Friday afternoon, after the City Council agenda had already been approved and distributed, he received [from OUC] the agreement with minor red-lined changes. The red-lined changes were for the most part, errors in spacing, misspellings, capitalizations, and non-capitalizations. No substantial changes were made to the agreement. Mr. Forbes presented the changes for the record.

Brief discussion followed about the Executive and Operational Committees, who are our representatives for these committees, costs, potential risks, liabilities and opportunities for other utilities to join the partnership. Mr. Forbes and staff addressed those concerns.

Mayor Latham recognized Mr. Forbes and staff for their advance work on this project. Their ability to pull together a great opportunity to save us money speaks well of their ability to look ahead proactively at what faces us and take the right steps.

Mr. Forbes expressed gratitude and appreciation for Mr. Steve Lancaster's hard work.

Roll call vote: Ayes – Thomason, Vogelsang, Wilson, Doherty, Hoffman, and Mayor Latham; motion carried unanimously.

(e) Ratify the Amendment to the Collective Bargaining Agreement with Laborer's International Union of North America (LIUNA), Local 630, Effective March 1, 2015

Motion: It was moved by Ms. Wilson, seconded by Ms. Hoffman, to Ratify the Amendment to the Collective Bargaining Agreement with Laborer's International Union of North America (LIUNA), Local 630, Effective March 1, 2015.

Discussion: Mr. Forbes explained two (2) minor changes to the union contract positions. First, creating a Senior Permit Specialist in the Building Department, and make a job change to re-do the job description for the person who is in charge of our Traffic Markings/Signage Supervisor and to address the additional duties this position will have in the future. Other actions included moving two (2) union supervisory positions to non-union positions. This move has already been approved by the union.

Mr. Thomason inquired as to the difference between the titles of Traffic Paint and Traffic Markings.

Mr. Forbes explained that the Traffic Markings/Signage Supervisor will be doing several additional duties such as the problems we've had with graffiti. He will be moved up to crew leader status and will be working on graffiti maintenance, traffic markings, and traffic control signs, stop signs, and yield signs.

Roll call vote: Ayes – Wilson, Doherty, Hoffman, Thomason, Vogelsang, and Mayor Latham; motion carried unanimously

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 1943-2015

Mayor Latham requested that the City Clerk read, Resolution No. 1943-2015, by title only; whereupon Ms. Scott read the following:

**“A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE
BEACH POSITION CLASSIFICATION AND PAY PLAN FOR
MANAGERIAL, PROFESSIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND
UNCLASSIFIED (NONUNION) CITY POSITIONS, EFFECTIVE
MARCH 1, 2015.”**

Motion: It was moved by Ms. Wilson, seconded by Ms. Hoffman, to adopt Resolution No. 1943-2015, amending the City of Jacksonville Beach Position Classification and Pay Plan for Managerial, Professional, Administrative and Unclassified (non-union) city positions, effective March 1, 2015.

Mr. Forbes reported that this will establish pay grades for classifications for the Property and Procurement Officer, the System Administrator/Public Safety, the City Clerk and the Business Relations/Conservation Coordinator positions.

Ms. Wilson confirmed we are not adding new employees – but rather reorganizing and providing a couple of people with raises they deserve.

Roll call vote: Ayes – Doherty, Hoffman, Thomason, Vogelsang, Wilson, and Mayor Latham; motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCES:

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business coming before the Council, Mayor Latham adjourned the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

Submitted by: Laurie D. Scott
City Clerk

Approval:

William C. Latham, MAYOR

Date: March 2, 2015

City of
Jacksonville Beach
2508 South Beach
Parkway
Jacksonville Beach
FL 32250
Phone: 904.247.6236
Fax: 904.247.6143

www.jacksonvillebeach.org

TO: George D. Forbes
City Manager

FROM: Gary Meadors
Recreation & Parks Director

DATE: February 19, 2015

SUBJECT: Approve repairs to Hole #1 at the Golf Course

ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve repairs of the green on Hole #1 at the Golf Course.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Jacksonville Beach operates an 18-hole golf course located on South Penman Road. In 2009, the golf course greens were replanted with Emerald Dwarf hybrid Bermuda grass. However, for a number of reasons, the grass on hole #1 has not performed as well as expected.

The proposed repair work will remedy several factors that have contributed to the problems with the green:

- ✓ The soil will be replaced to a depth of 12" with a sand & peat mixture to create a better growing medium (in 2009 the existing sand was left in place).
- ✓ The irrigation system around the green will be changed to provide improved coverage when there are high winds (2009 no changes were made).
- ✓ The emerald dwarf Bermuda grass will be changed to TifEagle, which is a more aggressive lateral growth turf grass that is less susceptible to nematode damage.
- ✓ The undulations in the green that were created for improved aesthetics will be reduced to create more pin placement options which will reduce wear.

The contractor that will be handling the work is MacCurrach Golf Construction which has a continuing service agreement with the City that was approved by the City Council on 4-16-2012.



The total cost of these repairs is \$27,000. Funding will come from current year's budget (\$11,000) and from the General Fund unanticipated account (\$16,000). The golf maintenance repair and maintenance budget will be adjusted by \$16,000 at mid-year.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the repairs to the green at Hole #1 at the Jacksonville Beach Golf Course as described in the memorandum from the Director of Parks & Recreation, dated February 19, 2015.



City of
Jacksonville Beach
2508 South Beach
Parkway
Jacksonville Beach
FL 32250
Phone: 904.247.6236
Fax: 904.247.6143

www.jacksonvillebeach.org

TO: George D. Forbes
City Manager

FROM: Gary Meadors
Recreation & Parks Director

DATE: February 22, 2015

SUBJECT: Special Events Staff

ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve the addition of a part-time Staff Assistant position to assist with special events.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Jacksonville Beach coordinates, sponsors, and manages an estimated 75 events each year. This work includes scheduling dates, issuing permits for the events, reviewing site plans, verifying trash collection and safety requirements, insurance, collecting deposits and fees and refunding of deposits after the event. Parks & Recreation currently has one employee dedicated to managing special events. Managing these events requires specialized knowledge of the City's special events policy, and multiple sections of the City's Code of Ordinances as well as the practical considerations managing event producers and vendors.

In order to smooth the transition as several Parks & Recreation employees approach retirement, it is recommended that the Department be allowed to hire one part-time Staff Assistant. This position will train closely with our special events staff and provide assistance in the office, while a staff member is out on extended medical leave. The position is being recommended to work 25 hours per week. The cost to fund this position is \$14,129 for the remainder of this fiscal year with the budget to be adjusted at mid-year. The current year funding for this position will come from the General Fund unanticipated.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the hiring of a part-time Staff Assistant position to assist with special events as described in the memorandum from the Director Parks & Recreation dated February 22, 2015.





City of

Jacksonville Beach

2508 South Beach

Parkway

Jacksonville Beach

FL 32250

Phone: 904.247.6236

Fax: 904.247.6143

www.jacksonvillebeach.org

MEMORANDUM

TO: George D. Forbes
City Manager

FROM: Gary Meadors
Parks & Recreation Director

DATE: February 10, 2015

SUBJECT: Proposed Community Development Block Grant Projects for
FY 2015-2016

ACTION REQUESTED

Public Hearing and City Council approval of program of projects for inclusion in the FY 2015-2016 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application to the City of Jacksonville.

BACKGROUND

The City participates with the City of Jacksonville, along with the other Beach cities, in sharing the Entitlement Funding this area receives from Federal Community Development Block Grants. The CDBG monies must be spent to improve the quality of life for people with low and moderate incomes. The City's portion is utilized to fund the **Carver Center Program** and the **Community Assisted Policing Effort (CAPE) Program**.

The City's CDBG FY2014-2015 grant award amount was \$138,875 to fund these two programs. Our request for full funding for these two programs at the same service level during FY2015-2016 requires approximately \$144,051. We are required to rank the proposed programs by priority. Below is the breakdown of the proposed funding request for the FY2015-2016 CDBG grant application:

Proposed Projects	Requested Funding	Priority Rank
Carver Center Program: Salary and benefits for one Recreation Supervisor, salary and workers comp for two part-time tutors	\$83,459	#1
Community Assisted Policing Effort: Salary & benefits for one police officer	\$60,592	#2
TOTAL REQUESTED FUNDING	\$144,051	



RECOMMENDATION:

1. Approve the Mayor and City Manager to submit a Community Development Block Grant application for fiscal year 2015-2016, as discussed in a memorandum from Parks & Recreation Director Gary Meadors, dated February 10, 2015.
2. Allow the City Manager the flexibility to adjust program funding levels consistent with their priority rank and to manage variations in funding by the City of Jacksonville, adjusting the City's application accordingly.

City of

Jacksonville Beach

City Hall

11 North Third Street

Jacksonville Beach

FL 32250

Phone: 904.247.6268

Fax: 904.247.6276

www.jacksonvillebeach.org

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Latham
City Council Members

FROM: George D. Forbes, City Manager

SUBJECT: Resolution 1944-2015 Opposing Seismic Airgun Testing in the Atlantic Ocean

DATE: February 5, 2015

ACTION REQUESTED

Adopt Resolution 1944-2015, opposing seismic airgun testing in the Atlantic Ocean.

BACKGROUND

Florida's marine resources are vital to its economic vitality and tourism. Those resources are a big part of the reason tourism is such a significant economic force in our local economy. Seismic air-gun testing is the first step in offshore drilling. It is used to locate oil and gas deposits deep below the ocean floor. A vessel tows a seismic airgun, which shoots extremely loud blasts of compressed air through the ocean and miles under the seafloor, every ten seconds, 24 hours a day, for days to weeks on end. The volume level and the constancy of the sound emitted during this testing can injure or disturb vital behaviors in fish, dolphins, whales and sea turtles. The marine population affected by this testing includes the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale population.

Offshore drilling could pose a major threat to our natural resources and coastal economy should a spill occur. The attached resolution opposes seismic airgun testing and urges President Obama's administration to stop this process and focus on ensuring the vitality of vulnerable local economies along the Atlantic Coast.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Adopt Resolution 1944-2015, opposing seismic airgun testing in the Atlantic Ocean.

GDF:tr



Introduced by: _____

Adopted: _____

RESOLUTION NO. 1944-2015

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE
BEACH, FLORIDA, OPPOSING SEISMIC AIR-GUN
TESTING IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN.**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Jacksonville Beach, Florida wishes to be a good steward of the coastal environment and its natural resources; and

WHEREAS, seismic air-gun testing is being proposed for the exploration of oil and natural gas off the Atlantic coast; and

WHEREAS, the use of air-guns to conduct these seismic tests threatens to harm and possibly kill fish populations, profitable fisheries and marine mammals, including critically endangered North Atlantic right whales whose population stands at 500 whales in the entire world; and

WHEREAS, seismic air-guns fire intense blasts of compressed air, almost as loud as explosives, at a rate of every one to twelve seconds, twenty-four hours a day for days and weeks on end. The seismic air-gun blasts can be heard for hundreds of miles in the ocean and may drive whales to abandon their habitats, go silent and cease foraging over vast areas. At shorter distances, seismic air-guns may cause permanent hearing loss, injury, and event death for whales, dolphins, sea turtles and fish; and

WHEREAS, the proposed seismic air-gun testing will result in serious negative impact to our marine resources which form the foundation of economic vitality for communities all along the Atlantic Coast; and

WHEREAS, tourism is a major economic force in the City of Jacksonville Beach, and offshore drilling poses a major threat to our coastal economy and natural resources and, should a spill occur, the natural environment that supports our local economy would be severely damaged and the quality of life that both residents and visitors have come to expect would be negatively affected for the foreseeable future.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL, ON BEHALF OF THE CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE BEACH, FLORIDA, opposes seismic air-gun testing and urges the President's Administration to stop this process and focus on ensuring the vitality of vulnerable local economies along the Atlantic Coast because we

cannot continue to put our ocean, environment, beaches, marine resources and local economies at risk

This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

AUTHENTICATED this 2nd day of March, 2015.

William C. Latham, MAYOR

Laurie D. Scott, CITY CLERK

OCEANA'S RECOMMENDATIONS

- The U.S. Department of the Interior should halt permitting plans for seismic airgun testing for oil and gas in the Atlantic Ocean.
- State and federal policymakers should instead focus on expanding offshore wind development off the Atlantic coast. Offshore wind provides more jobs and energy than offshore drilling without the risks to the environment from seismic airguns, oil spills and emissions.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

Write a letter to President Barack Obama!

Sample Letter:

Dear President Obama,

Please do not allow seismic airgun testing in the Atlantic Ocean.

Seismic airguns pose a grave threat to marine wildlife, including dolphins, endangered whales, and valuable fish stocks. Your administration suggests that 138,500 marine mammals will be harmed by seismic airguns, and that is unacceptable.

Instead, please continue pushing hard for offshore wind development. Offshore wind is clean, renewable, and will bring needed jobs.

Sincerely,

Your Name

Send your letter online at: www.whitehouse.gov/contact
 Send your letter by U.S. mail to:
 President Barack Obama
 The White House
 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
 Washington, DC 20500

ABOUT OCEANA

Oceana, founded in 2001, is the largest international organization focused solely on ocean conservation. Our offices in North America, Central America, South America and Europe work together on a limited number of strategic, directed campaigns to achieve measurable outcomes that will help return our oceans to former levels of abundance.

We believe in the importance of science in identifying problems and solutions. Our scientists work closely with our teams of economists, lawyers and advocates to achieve tangible results for the oceans.



Oceana Global Headquarters
 1350 Connecticut Ave NW, 5th floor
 Washington, DC 20036

www.oceana.org/seismic

ONLY YOU CAN SAVE ME FROM



SEISMIC AIRGUNS



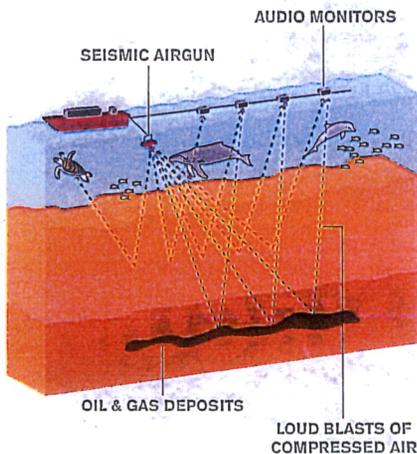
SEISMIC AIRGUN TESTING IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN

138,500

DOLPHINS AND WHALES WILL BE INJURED

HOW IT WORKS

Seismic airgun testing is used to locate oil and gas deposits deep below the ocean floor.



A vessel tows a seismic airgun, which shoots extremely loud blasts of compressed air through the ocean and miles under the seafloor, **every ten seconds, 24 hours a day, for days to weeks on end.**

HOW LOUD IT IS

SEISMIC AIRGUN TESTING

190 dB (250 dB in water)

100,000 times more intense than a JET ENGINE



JET ENGINE

140 dB

10,000 times more intense than a MOTORCYCLE



MOTORCYCLE

100 dB

10,000 times more intense than TALKING



TALKING

60 dB



ITS IMPACTS

Seismic airguns are so loud and constant that they can injure or disturb vital behaviors in fish, dolphins, whales and sea turtles. In some cases, this could lead to death.

PROPOSED AREA

Seismic airgun testing is being considered from Delaware to Florida, but its impacts would be felt along the entire East Coast.



INJURIES ON WILDLIFE

- Temporary and permanent hearing loss
- Abandonment of habitat
- Disruption of mating and feeding
- Beach stranding and death

IMPACTS TO THE ATLANTIC OCEAN

- Injury to 138,500 dolphins and whales
- Injury to nine critically endangered North Atlantic right whales (only 361 left)
- Disruption of threatened loggerhead sea turtle nesting
- Displacement of commercially valuable species and decreased catch rates for coastal fisheries