

City of Jacksonville Beach
Minutes of City Council
FY 2014 - Budget Workshop
Tuesday, August 6, 2012 – 6:00 PM

Mayor Latham called the Budget Workshop to order at 6:00 pm. City Council members in attendance:

Keith Doherty
Tom Taylor

Steve Hartkemeyer
Phil Vogelsang

Chris Hoffman
Jeanell Wilson

Also present were City Manager George Forbes, Budget Officer Trish Roberts, Public Works Director Ty Edwards, and Cathy Martinich, City Clerk's Office. Present from the Public Works Department were John Birch, Water Plant Division Supervisor, Chuck Hernden, Distribution & Collection Division Superintendent, Phil Brown, Operations/Training Specialist in the Pollution Control Plant Division, and Pat Deighan, Streets Division General Supervisor.

Mr. Forbes announced that the location for the next Budget Workshop has changed, because there is a regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting on the same date. The Monday, August 12th Workshop will be at 6pm, in the South Beach Community Center, to discuss the Police and Fire budgets. Tuesday, August 13th Workshop will be in the Council Chambers Conference Room, at 6:00 pm, to discuss Parks & Recreation and Beaches Energy Services.

Public Works Department

Mr. Forbes began the FY 2014 Proposed Budget for the Public Works Department, with a review of their mission statement. He outlined the organization of the five divisions, which includes Distribution & Collection, Pollution Control Plant, Water Plant, Streets, and Administration. Mr. Forbes reviewed services, goals, accomplishments, and performance achieved by the department, as presented in the 2014 business plan.

Ty Edwards, Public Works Director, reviewed the department accomplishments noting the rebuilt, improved, and enhanced City infrastructure. He mentioned the completion of the Duval Drive Project, the sidewalks funded by the Community Redevelopment Agency on South Beach Parkway south of the JT Butler overpass, and the Central Basin Erosion Control Project. Mr. Edwards discussed the department's upcoming projects and goals for 2014, as listed in the business plan.

Mr. Forbes explained the requirements for federal permits for wastewater and stormwater and state permit for water from the Floridan Aquifer to be used for drinking water. He discussed the importance of the "Keep Jacksonville Beach Beautiful" project. He outlined Performance Measures of Drinking Water, Wastewater, Streets and Sanitation. Mr. Forbes said there is a need to change out water meters in the City, as many are quite old and not working as efficiently as possible. He said repaving projects are planned for both this year and next.

Mr. Edwards and Mr. Forbes reviewed the funding sources from the three enterprise utilities, as shown in the chart and financial summary. Mr. Forbes stated there is also funding from the Local Option Gas Tax and the General Fund.

Next the City Manager reviewed budget issues. He explained that the Local Option Gas Tax sunsets in 2016, significantly impacting essential services if not renewed or new funding identified. Mr. Forbes said that the City has been able to maintain the Stormwater and Garbage rates stable since 1990 and 1993 respectively. Water rates were set in 2012 to include being indexed to the CPI (Consumer Price Index) for annual adjustments.

He said mandates are constantly being issued by the State and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for additional requirements regarding wastewater treated effluent and stormwater effluent that outfalls

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in the St. John's River. Mr. Edwards said there are new regulations concerning numeric nutrient criteria that will be in place soon from the EPA for all lakes, streams and water bodies.

Mr. Forbes reviewed the Distribution and Collection Division. He detailed the operations and maintenance of the Water Distribution System and the Wastewater Collection System, as shown in the business plan. Mr. Edwards gave an overview of the upcoming Water Main Replacement Projects, Water Valve Maintenance Program and Sanitary Sewer System Maintenance Program. Mr. Forbes emphasized that when Public Works performs major repairs or replacements on water and wastewater systems that other infrastructure is also addressed that is in need of repair so that major maintenance is more cost effective.

The Pollution Control Plant Division was reviewed by Mr. Forbes. The division operates and maintains 38 sewage pump stations, and the 4.5 million gallons per day capacity new advanced wastewater treatment facility, with the effluent being reclaimed water quality. Mr. Edwards said they have just submitted the permit renewal application to the State for another five year NPDES permit for depositing the treated effluent in the St. Johns River. The application review process is six months long. It is anticipated that the renewed permit will be issued by the State in the early part of next calendar year. Mr. Forbes mentioned that, along with the permit renewal, there is also a mixing zones study being done for copper and cyanide at the treated effluent outfall at the St. Johns River, shared with Atlantic Beach and Neptune Beach. He stated that the engineer firm (CDM) performing the mixing zones study had recently submitted a request for additional fees to Atlantic Beach (the lead city on the mixing zone contract) that approximately doubled the cost. Even though there is some additional work (required by FDEP) to be done on the model, Mr. Forbes stated that both he and Mr. Edwards were surprised by the amount of the request. Mr. Edwards would be reviewing this matter with CDM and Atlantic Beach to gather more information. Mr. Edwards stated that in this year's budget, there is funding for repair of the above ground outfall pipe at the St. Johns River. Just today, he had been informed by Atlantic Beach that their engineer firm's inspector had reported that the entire above ground pipe with its superstructure needed to be replaced and it would be prudent to consider installing the replacement below ground. Mr. Edwards explained that subsequently this year's project was on hold. Once, Atlantic Beach had determined the costs of replacing the pipe below ground, Public Works would bring the matter back to Council for consideration to adjust the 2014 budget to add the expanded project at mid-year or end of year. Mr. Forbes reviewed the division's budget. Mr. Edwards briefly discussed the Lift Station #7 & #9 projects that will be ready to bid next year.

Mr. Forbes then began the review of the business plan for the Water Plant Division. He reviewed the infrastructure that is operated and maintained by the division and the division's budget. Mr. Edwards commented that the City received its 20-year Consumptive Use Permit to withdraw water from the Floridan Aquifer to process for drinking water. He also discussed the division's capital budget for 2014 and the elevated tank maintenance contract. It was commented that a suggestion had surfaced about the City using the two water towers for advertising, which Mr. Forbes, Mr. Edwards and Mr. Birch confirmed would be difficult due to telecommunication companies leasing antenna space on the towers and possible conflicts with the City's elevated tank maintenance contract, and sign code.

The Streets Division was reviewed next. Mr. Forbes described the infrastructure that the division operates and maintains and the division's mission to provide safe, well-maintained road systems and an effective stormwater drainage system. Mr. Edwards pointed out the department annually resurfaces or seal coats about 7 – 10 miles of roads, repairs and maintains the stormwater drainage system, installs and maintains traffic and pedestrian control signage and markings, maintains pedestrian sidewalks, repairs about 2,000 feet of sidewalk and maintains the environment by collecting garbage. Mr. Forbes said the Streets Division is funded by the General Fund, and the Local Option Gas Tax, tying in with the Division's budget. He noted again that it is crucial that the Gas Tax be extended or an alternate funding source be identified. Mr. Edwards discussed the division's capital budget. He explained that the RFP specifications for the Dune Walkover Repair continuing service contract, to be awarded to several contractors, was nearing completion and should be advertised in the near future. Each year, after annual budget is set for walkover maintenance, the continuing service contractors will be requested to price quote on the list of walkovers selected by the City for maintenance. There was a brief discussion regarding the general details of beach walkover repairs and handicap accessibility.

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Mr. Forbes talked about the Stormwater Utility Program, which provides funding to operate, maintain and improve the City's stormwater collection and treatment system. Mr. Edwards mentioned that the system includes over 70 miles of storm pipe, 21 ponds, 2 stilling basins, the downtown (Beach Boulevard) underground vault and 8 stormwater pump stations. Mr. Edwards briefly discussed the capital budget including the 2 phases of the Ocean Forest Stormwater Improvements Project (Phase 1 construct, Phase 2 design), the improvement project on 9th Ave. N. to Penman Road, and the 10th St. South Commercial Area Improvements Project.

Mr. Forbes next reviewed the Sanitation Utility Program which provides funding for the collection, transportation, and disposal of garbage, yard waste, debris, and recyclables. With regards to the budget, Mr. Forbes explained that capital increased to replace the street sweeper. The sweeper is purchased with a 5-year buy-back option. After 5 years of being operated about 5 days a week, the City budgets to purchase a replacement from the State contract. The vendor inspects the sweeper to be traded-in and gives a trade-in value to offset (reduce) the cost of the new sweeper. Employees are trained in operator maintenance on the new sweeper at the manufacturer's facilities. We also consider purchasing an extended warranty to add to the factory warranty on the new sweeper, which keeps the sweeper in good running shape during the 5-year operating cycle. A brief discussion took place regarding the trash pickup throughout the downtown area and the City.

Mr. Forbes acknowledged the Administration Division of Public Works. Mr. Edwards stated that the staff provides excellent customer service, and make outstanding efforts to solve problems or concerns of our citizens.

The workshop was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Cathy Martinich
City Clerk's Office

Approved:

/s/William C. Latham
William C. Latham, Mayor

Date: August 19, 2013