

**City of Jacksonville Beach**  
**Minutes of Fiscal Year 2016 Council Budget Tour**  
**Friday, July 31, 2015 – 1:30 PM**

---

The Council Budget Tour began at 1:33 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

City Council members in attendance:

Mayor Charlie Latham

Christine Hoffman  
Bruce Thomason

Phil Vogelsang  
Jeanell Wilson

Keith Doherty  
Lee Buck

## **Fiscal Year 2016 Council Budget Tour**

### **Budget Overview**

City Manager George Forbes presented an overview of the proposed Fiscal Year 2016 budget. (Copy of PowerPoint presentation attached)

The remainder of the budget tour was conducted by visiting various sites throughout the city. Several citizens were also in attendance.

### **City Clerk's Archive Building**

Deputy City Manager Trish Roberts explained that the archive building is where the City stores paper records until their destruction. The building is in a low lying area and has to be air conditioned between 70-72 degrees. The City is looking at options such as moving the records to the Operations and Maintenance building or building a storage unit. The Operations and Maintenance building is higher, gated and more secure. There will always be paper records and the City will always have a need to store them.

### **Parks & Recreation Maintenance Improvements**

During a tour stop at H. Warren Smith Cemetery, Parks & Recreation Director Gary Meadors stated that it was brought to our attention that the City was not maintaining the cemeteries very well. He discussed improvements that are planned, including tree trimming. Mr. Meadors stated that we are now catching up on the maintenance, but want to get ahead of it in the future. The City will look at using contract labor instead of hiring new people. Mr. Meadors advised that several Parks & Recreation senior employees are eligible for retirement. He would like to be able to spray for weeds and insect control four times per year. Both cemeteries are using the reuse water from the Pollution Control Plant for irrigation. Mr. Meadors would also like to get on a regular fertilizer schedule. The brown vegetation around the headstones is intentional so crews can easily mow.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Avenue North Outfall**

Public Works Director Ty Edwards discussed the FDOT Drainage Project for north A1A. He described how \$30 million was legislatively allocated for FDOT improvements to the drainage – to perform an engineering study analyzing the drainage system, design the improvements and construct the improvements. Improvements may include culverts, pipes, clearing drains/channels downstream, and upsizing the pipes where channel flows under avenues. Currently, the primary concept for design is the construction of a new 4,500+/- feet long 12' X 7" drainage box culvert on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue North to establish a new stormwater outfall to the Intra-Coastal Waterway. The FDOT Study stated that the storm modelling indicated that the box culvert addition is estimated to reduce ponding on A1A by about 6+/- inches for a five-year, eight-hour intensity storm. Mr. Forbes stated that water and sewer utilities will be relocated along the path of the box culvert, adding that while the construction will help, we still will have problems in very heavy rains.

Mr. Edwards stated that the FDOT staff anticipated that the construction project may take approximately 1.5+/- years. The underground box culvert is to be installed as an FDOT-designed, bid, awarded, and constructed project. Mr. Edwards reiterated that a lot of utilities will be relocated. He mentioned that the City may wish to consider purchasing two empty parcels at the end of 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue North. Purchasing the parcels would allow for the construction of an outfall pond at the end of the new box culvert which would enhance the drainage and maintenance of the new drainage infrastructure and mitigate impact to the environment as the stormwater flows into the Intra-Coastal Waterway.

### **Wingate Park**

Mr. Meadors stated we are considering using artificial turf at South Beach Park, and possibly at the football fields in Wingate Park. Mr. Meadors explained the turf is like a carpet with rubber material in the grass. Mr. Forbes said the South Beach project would be a pilot program that Council would approve. Councilmember Thomason asked what the maintenance for artificial turf cost was compared to having grass. Mr. Meadors advised the cost for grass is approximately \$60,000 per year with labor and water. The cost of artificial turf maintenance is approximately \$10,000 per year.

Mr. Meadors also stated that due to issues with the landfill on which it sits, the grass in the green hole #1 at the golf course was burned out and would need to be rebuilt. Councilmember Buck asked if the landfill would affect other greens. Mr. Meadors said it is uncertain.

### **Beaches Energy Service – Regulatory Compliance**

Tour attendees visited the Systems Operations Center (SCADA). Beaches Energy Services Director Allen Putnam explained that the SCADA system is a digital representation of our entire electrical system. In October, Orlando Utilities Commission (OUC) will take over operation of Beaches Energy Services transmission to help us comply with NERC requirements. Mr. Putnam said there are new regulations all the time. He explained it would cost \$2.6 million for us to do this ourselves and the cost would continue to go up. It will cost approximately \$1 million per year per the agreement with OUC. The cost of NERC compliance is significant.

### **Golf Course**

Tour attendees visited Hole #1 at the golf course. Mr. Meadors introduced Golf Pro Sandy Suckling and Golf Course Superintendent Gina Williams. In the last two weeks, he noted the hole may have had some contamination from landfill. We want to take the steps to prevent this in the future. Councilmember Doherty asked if this would happen to every hole. Mr. Meadors replied he hoped not, that they don't plan on it. Mr. Forbes explained that Hole #1 is contaminated and would have to be taken up and a liner put in and the green rebuilt. Mr. Meadors added it will take 8-12 weeks to grow a green. Councilmember Doherty asked how long it took for the green to get to its current state. Mr. Meadors replied two weeks. Ms. Williams stated that she took a soil sample and found nematodes at greens #2, #16 and #17, and added that there is no product that will completely control them. The nematode level was triple the threshold limit. Ms. Williams informed the tour group that nematodes eat, chew, and feed on the roots of the grass. Councilmember Doherty asked how business was doing at the golf course. Mr. Suckling advised business is down. They have offered discounted rates due to the four temporary greens. Councilmember Wilson asked what the other temporary holes are besides #1. Mr. Meadors replied #2, #16, and #17.

Mr. Meadors advised that the golf course is working with GolfNow for marketing.

### **Industrial Park**

Property & Procurement Officer Jason Phitides stated there are 3½ acres that the City is looking to lease. It is \$1.02 per sq. ft., or \$155,000 per year. One option being looked at is a volleyball park.

### **Wastewater Treatment Plant Facilities Improvements**

Tour attendees made a stop at the Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations Building. Mr. Edwards explained the budget items for new filter feed pumps, new sun shades over the final polishing filters, new baffle walls in the chlorine contact tank(s), and new jacketed insulation of hot exposed pipes. He added that the plant capacity is 4.5 million gallons per day and our actual flow is now approximately 2.3 million gallons per day. The Sequential Batch Reactor process is working very well and we are staying well below our NPDES permit levels.

### **Water Meter Replacement Program**

Mr. Edwards stated that the City is ready to embark on a water meter replacement program for our inventory of 10,600+/- water meters, moving from old technology mechanical type water meters to modern magnetic/fluidic oscillation water meters. Many of the old meters have been in use over 25 years and are not accounting for all the water flowing through them. Mr. Forbes added cities have to account for lost water in order to meet FDEP regulating requirements. Samples of both an old water meter and a potential new water meter were displayed. Mr. Edwards stated that the replacement program may cost \$4+/- million over time. We are ready to advertise in the near future for Requests for Qualifications/Proposals, under the provisions of the state law titled "Guaranteed Energy, Water, and Wastewater Performance Savings Contracting Act" (FS 489.145). Eligible consultants are to be those pre-qualified at the state-level. As a general overview, the selected / awarded "Guaranteed Savings" consultant for our RFQ/P would audit our

water/sewer systems then develop a menu of potential improvements and anticipated costs with expected savings resulting from the improvements. The City would then select improvements from the menu, and the city/consultant would develop an agreement with selected improvements, costs and guaranteed savings to be implemented over a certain period of time.

### **South Beach Park Enhancements**

Mr. Meadors explained the proposed skate park, stating that the design would include shade structures and a picnic area. He said the bowl would be low and not really visible from the street. He added the South Beach Park location provides benefits such as parking, drainage, restrooms and the Parks & Recreation office on site. The current drainage pond is not part of the City's stormwater system and not required. Councilmember Doherty asked what will be done with the wildlife in the pond. Mr. Meadors answered that there are some ducks, turtles and fish, and they normally relocate on their own. Mr. Meadors also pointed out that the pond is very shallow, only 2½ feet deep and almost dry. Mayor Latham asked if there were any protected species, such as the Gopher turtle. Mr. Meadors said he does not know if there are any Gopher turtles.

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

Mr. Edwards went over the proposed improvements in the area, including proposed turn lane and median work Jacksonville Drive to Sanctuary Blvd. He also went over stormwater projects in the area. Tour attendees had the opportunity to see the newly installed access vault in the middle of the Sand Castle Shopping Center on top of twin 72" diameter concrete drainage pipes, 950+/- feet long. Then, on the south side of JTB, Mr. Edwards described work to be done where the drainage comes out from under JTB and location of severe erosion along JTB, where new steel cantilevered bulkheading with new access maintenance road is necessary. He pointed out depressions in road (on Marsh Landing Parkway in vicinity of Longhorn Restaurant). Then, at the City pond, behind the bank, he explained that the bulkhead is seriously deteriorated, roadway around pond is depressing toward the pond, and the road base is eroding through the bulkhead. The plan is to rebuild the drainage with cantilevered steel bulkheads adding a trash collector to minimize the amount of trash flowing into the pond, and modifying the outflow control structure for the additional inflow due to Ocean Terrace Subdivision. (The Ocean Terrace developer funded the design work.) It is anticipated that redevelopment funding is to be used for construction of the pond improvements.

### **16<sup>th</sup> Avenue South Enhancements**

Mr. Meadors stated that a shower tower was planned at 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue South and pointed out two possible locations and the advantages of each.

### **Oceanfront Park**

Mr. Meadors explained that a shower tower, restrooms, playground area, and shade shelters were planned. Mayor Latham asked if the shower tower would be made out of concrete rather than wood. Mr. Meadors responded that it would be made of steel.

**Downtown Redevelopment Road and Drainage Improvements**

Redevelopment Specialist Steve Lindorff went over proposed infrastructure work for Project #1 from Beach Boulevard to 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, east of A1A. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> of several projects to be designed and constructed from Beach Boulevard through 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. He added the project design is currently under review with the Public Works team and nearing completion. Mayor Latham asked what is the estimated construction time expected per project. Mr. Lindorff estimated 12-16 months per project. Mr. Edwards stated that in the Tour Packet it is estimated at 24+/- months for Project #1. Projects will be divided into phases to mitigate disruption to impacted residents as well and to manage the traffic/parking concerns. There will also be impacts to the construction schedule due to activities/festivals in the downtown redevelopment area which is near the beach. It is anticipated that construction time in the follow on projects should be less as contractor(s) gain experience dealing with these issues.

**Note**

Staff attending bus tour: City Manager George Forbes, Deputy City Manager Trish Roberts, Public Works Director Ty Edwards, Parks & Recreation Director Gary Meadors, Beaches Energy Services Director Allen Putnam, Community Redevelopment Specialist Steve Lindorff, Police Chief Pat Dooley, Human Resources Director Karen Nelson, Director of Human Resources Ann Meuse, Planning & Development Director Bill Mann, Budget Officer Ashlie Gossett, Fire Marshal Steve Sciotto, City Engineer Marty Martirone, Accounting Supervisor Mike Nadeau, Payroll/Benefits Administrator Jeri Benjamin, Property & Procurement Officer Jason Phitides, City Clerk Laurie Scott, and Assistant to the City Manager Sheri Gosselin.

The Budget Tour ended at approximately 4:35 p.m.

Submitted by: Sheri Gosselin  
Assistant to the City Manager

Approved:

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

Date: August 17, 2015

---