

**City of Jacksonville Beach  
Minutes of City Council  
FY 2016 - Budget Workshop  
Tuesday, August 4, 2015 – 5:00 PM**

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Mayor Latham called the Budget Workshop to order at 5:04 p.m.

City Council members in attendance:

Christine Hoffman	Phil Vogelsang	Keith Doherty
Bruce Thomason	Jeanell Wilson	Lee Buck

Staff in attendance:

City Manager George Forbes, Deputy City Manager Trish Roberts, Budget Officer Ashlie Gossett, Finance Officer Karen Nelson, Fire Chief Gary Frazier, Fire Marshal Steve Sciotto, Fire Captain Dave Whitmill, Fire Captain Ryan McAvoy, Police Chief Pat Dooley, Police Commander G.P. Smith, Police Commander Mark Evans, and Assistant to the City Manager Sheri Gosselin.

The City Manager requested permission to do both the Public Works and Parks & Recreation workshop on Monday, August 10, 2015. He stated that Councilmember Hoffman missed the workshop for Parks & Recreation last year and would be unable to attend on Tuesday, August 11, 2015. Following no objection, Mr. Forbes stated that the budget workshop for Public Works and Parks & Recreation would be on Monday, August 10, 2015, and a budget workshop for just Beaches Energy Services would be held on Tuesday, August 11, 2015.

### **Fire Department**

The City Manager went over the Proposed Budget and Business Plan for the Fire Department. The Fire Department is staffed and equipped to respond to one single serious fire or EMS event or three simultaneous emergency calls. We have automatic mutual aid agreements with City of Jacksonville and St. Johns County. Chief Frazier added we also have an agreement with Mayport Naval Station. The department is in charge of all disaster emergency training, such as hurricane disaster training, and the city's radio system. Mr. Forbes said that now that other fire departments are hiring again, our Auxiliary Firefighter program is down to four. The program has helped the department save on overtime costs. Overtime costs will have to increase to make sure we are adequately staffed. Chief Frazier said there are a maximum of ten auxiliary positions and we currently have four active members. Councilmember Doherty asked if we have hired anyone from the Auxiliary program. Chief Frazier replied that we have not had any employees leave in approximately four years.

Councilmember Thomason asked if it would be beneficial for the City Council to know about their role in the event of a hurricane. Mr. Forbes responded that should the outlook of a storm get serious, he could call an emergency meeting of the City Council. Chief Frazier added that Mr. Forbes and City Council would get daily briefings in that scenario. The fire chief advised that the City begins to prepare for major storms or hurricanes six to seven days out.

Chief Frazier went over the department's accomplishments. He stated there were no fire deaths in the past 12 years. He said they have an aggressive fire prevention program, which includes a smoke detector program which is done twice a year and they have good a response time to fire calls. We have a fire sprinkler ordinance that is stricter than the state standard. Mr. Forbes added that commercial buildings over 7,000 sq. ft. or three stories are required to be sprinkled, and we have four or five older condos that are not sprinkled. Another popular program is the child safety seat program, doing approximately 200 per year. We are the only fire department in Northeast Florida offering this service. Councilmember Wilson asked if people bring their own car seats. Chief Frazier responded that the department does buy some car seats to keep in stock. If someone comes in with a child and they don't have a car seat, the fire department is not going to let the child go without the ability to be properly restrained.

Chief Frazier stated that all of the department's units are ALS units. He added the StreetWise software allows information from dispatch to be displayed directed into vehicles.

Chief Frazier went over the department's goals. Mr. Forbes went over the types of calls, noting that 70% of calls are medical. Chief Frazier said that a diesel emission filtration system was just installed with funds from a firefighter grant. Councilmember Wilson asked where the filters are located. Chief Frazier responded that they are in big boxes are above the trucks.

Mr. Forbes went over budget issues. He stated there was an increase of \$248,000 due to overtime, pension contributions, and leave payouts. Chief Frazier said the radio tower had been hit by lightning three times the past year. He said that money is being put in each year for a new radio system in 2018. The police radios will be replaced first as they are the oldest. Chief Frazier said that the Training Lieutenant's vehicle will be replaced.

Chief Frazier went over the fire apparatus replacement program. He said next year one engine will be replaced.

Mr. Forbes stated that \$30,000 used to be budgeted every year for emergency supplies in the event of an event such as a hurricane (i.e. ready meals and supplies for staff working the event). However, this money was usually unspent, so instead he is authorized to spend unallocated monies for a major storm event in the budget resolution.

Councilmember Vogelsang asked where the \$200,000 put aside for radios is documented. Chief Frazier responded it is under Capital Projects.

Councilmember Wilson asked about the multi-unit residential fire in St. Johns County. Chief Frazier responded that Jacksonville Beach Fire responds as a result of an Auto Aid Agreement with St. Johns County. We have a similar agreement with the City of Jacksonville. St. Johns County Station 10 would respond, if needed, to a call on the south end. Jacksonville Fire Rescue would respond to a call, if needed, on the north end. Mr. Forbes added the police department has a similar arrangement with the Sheriff's Office. There is also a state mutual aid agreement.

Mayor Latham thanked Chief Frazier and the department for doing a great job.

## **Police Department**

Chief Pat Dooley stated that the department's main goal is to create an environment where our citizens feel safe. He reviewed the factors that influence the crime rate such as social economics, the courts, state attorney, and the jail system.

Chief Dooley provided an overview of the divisions. There were over 52,000 Patrol Division calls for service in 2014, and there has been a steady increase. Chief Dooley said the addition of the Downtown CAPE program has been helpful. Councilmember Vogelsang asked if the numbers can be attributed to the fact that there are more employees. Chief Dooley responded yes and the fact that they are doing more proactive work. Chief Dooley went over the divisions of the department. He there is one DUI unit, two active K-9 units, and four part-time police officers.

Chief Dooley noted that the department provided five officers per day during the recent search for a missing child in Jacksonville.

Chief Dooley said there is difficulty in finding qualified people that want to work in the Communications Section. Mayor Latham asked if there was a high turnover rate in Communications. Chief Dooley responded that it is a high stress position and people get into the job and don't really understand what they are getting into.

Mr. Forbes asked Chief Dooley to explain the chain of evidence. Chief Dooley explained that they have to record not only who is able to touch each item of evidence, but anyone that potentially could touch the evidence. It could jeopardize every case they don't properly document the chain of custody.

Chief Dooley said that they just recently had an onsite review from the accreditation agency and they were in compliance of the 480 standards.

Mr. Forbes asked what is the standard for use of force. Chief Dooley responded that officers get good training, and they review each use of force incident no matter how minor it is. He went on to explain that they brought in outside trainers to train in de-escalation procedures and they went into the minority community and worked with pastors that were helping in Jacksonville to make that connection. Councilmember Buck noted that officers also get a backup. Chief Dooley responded that if someone is thinking about doing something, it is less likely they will act if there is more than one officer to deal with multiple people.

Councilmember Doherty asked what Chief Dooley thought about the possibility of a state mandate that all officers wear body cameras. Chief Dooley said that has already been in front of the legislature. He does not see that happening in the near future, adding that it needs to be determined when does the video become a public record. He said the cost is extremely high, mainly for storing all the videos and determining how long the videos are to be kept. Chief Dooley said it is an unfunded mandate.

Mr. Forbes stated that animal control is a county function. However, all beach cities have their own animal control officer, which brings a higher level of service. Councilmember Wilson asked about dogs on the beach. Mr. Forbes stated that they do a good job patrolling the beach, but that can't be there 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Chief Dooley responded that volunteers go out in the morning and go out again in the afternoon. However, it is rare that they are at the spot where a violation is occurring. He added if a complainant would call when they see an issue, they

can quickly send someone to the spot. Mr. Forbes said there are very few incidents of dogs biting people. Councilmember Thomason asked if there was a problem with the county picking up animals. Chief Dooley responded that it is no longer a problem.

Mr. Forbes stated that the paid parking company is doing a great job and that the program is paying for itself. He added that we receive a high level of service from them.

Councilmember Wilson asked if we have to pay for school crossing guards. Chief Dooley replied yes. He added that it is not technically required to have crossing guards.

Chief Dooley went over the department's accomplishments. He stated that traffic crashes are at a 20 year low. Councilmember Buck brought up something he saw on television that a city in California did where police were on the side of the road looking like a homeless person, but they are holding a sign which said, "I am a Police Officer," in an effort to catch drivers who are texting while driving.

Chief Dooley mentioned that Target has dropped its sponsorship of all National Night Out events. The police department plans to add the static displays the department has from that event to the Kids Halloween Party.

Councilmember Vogelsang asked if the department tracks their investigative costs for arrests. Chief Dooley responded that they do track the costs, but find they are not getting much reimbursement from the State Attorney's Office.

Chief Dooley went over the customer service survey results. Chief Dooley stated that each division is required to do a minimum 10 surveys per quarter. For any responses that have questions or comments that can say the officer could have done something better, the commander is required to call the person back.

Mr. Forbes touched on the department performance measures. Councilmember Buck inquired if the additional police presence downtown during events is seen as a police state. Mr. Forbes responded there is a fine line. Chief Dooley added it all depends on a person's perception. If there is a big event and nothing happens, it may appear to some to be a police state, adding that he believes most people feel the police are doing a good job.

Councilmember Vogelsang asked if we have a forfeiture unit. Chief Dooley responded that we do through the Community Response Team.

Councilmember Wilson asked if the radio system for police and fire are separate systems. Chief Dooley responded they use the same system, but different channels. He said the consoles have to be replaced in the dispatch center and a microwave added. Mr. Forbes described his one plus five year effort to put money aside each year for the replacement cost.

Mayor Latham expressed appreciation for the work the department does.

The workshop adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

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Tuesday, August 4, 2015

Submitted by: Sheri Gosselin  
Assistant to the City Manager

Approved:

/s/ W C Latham

William C. Latham, Mayor

Date: August 17, 2015