

**Minutes of Special City Council Meeting
held Thursday, September 3, 2020, at 6:00 P.M.
via Video Conference
Jacksonville Beach, Florida**



STATEMENT OF THE MAYOR:

Mayor Charlie Latham made the following statement:

“Governor DeSantis’ Executive Order No. 20-193, extended the Governor’s authorization for local government bodies to continue to conduct meetings without an in-person quorum at any specific location and to hold meetings using communications media technology (CMT).

On April 6, 2020, the City of Jacksonville Beach Council approved at their public meeting the use of CMT and alternative start times to conduct their Council meetings and briefings.

Accordingly, this City Council meeting is being held in a modified manner using CMT. The Council, staff, and the public are not physically present in City Hall tonight.

In a moment, the City Attorney will explain the CMT procedures and adaptations for public attendance and public comment that have been put in place.

The City Council members and City personnel are appearing through CMT.”

Mayor Latham invited City Attorney Chris Ambrosio to state the CMT procedures and adaptations being utilized for this meeting.

Mr. Ambrosio explained the CMT instructions and opportunities for the public to attend and participate were published on various platforms in a public notice [*on file*] and went over the options.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Charlie Latham called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

Mayor:	Charlie Latham		
Council Members:	Keith Doherty (Absent)	Georgette Dumont	Sandy Golding
	Christine Hoffman	Cory Nichols	Phil Vogelsang (Absent)

Also present were City Manager Mike Staffopoulos, City Attorney Chris Ambrosio, City Department Heads, and City Clerk Laurie Scott.

PURPOSE OF MEETING

Mayor Latham stated the purpose of the meeting was to:

- 1) Adopt a proposed Millage Rate for FY2021
- 2) Adopt a tentative Operating Budget for FY2021

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- 3) Resolution 2066-2020: Adoption of a Joint Resolution between the City of Jacksonville Beach and the City of Neptune Beach

City Manager Mike Staffopoulos went over the budget highlights:

- The millage rate is being held at \$3.9947
- The proposed budget is less than 0.5% higher than the current fiscal year
- The proposed General Fund Budget is within 1% of the current fiscal year
- The Utility debt is on track to be paid off in October 2020
- Electric rates have been reduced by \$25 per 1,000 kilowatt hours since March 2010
- Garbage and Stormwater rates have not been raised in the last 25 years
- Jacksonville Beach's millage rate falls below the statewide average compared to similar communities around the state

Mr. Staffopoulos stated there were some changes made as a result of the workshops that were held with the Council and action taken by the CRA (Community Redevelopment Agency).

- Additional \$60,000 funding provided for the CARE Fund for utility bill assistance
- Additional \$370,000 funding for the Downtown and Southend CRA districts for proactive repair and maintenance activities

The total budget amount is being increased by \$430,000, bringing the revised tentative budget total to \$164,824,450.

Mayor Latham read the following statement:

The first item to be discussed is the Proposed Millage Rate.

- The budget for the City of Jacksonville Beach was prepared using a millage rate of \$3.9947 mills. The rolled-back rate is \$3.7942 mills. The proposed millage rate of \$3.9947 mills is 5.28% more than the rolled-back rate.

The second item to be discussed is the Tentative Operating Budget.

- The tentative operating budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 is \$164,824,450.

Public Hearing

At this time, Mayor Latham opened a Public Hearing on the Proposed Millage Rate and Tentative Operating Budget.

The following spoke regarding the agenda items:

- Gary Paetau, 725 Bonaire Circle, Jacksonville Beach

Mayor Latham closed the Public Hearing.

PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE – FY 2020-2021

Motion: It was moved by Ms. Hoffman, seconded by Mr. Nichols, to adopt the Proposed Millage Rate of \$3.9947 mills.

There was no discussion by Council.

Roll call vote: Ayes – Dumont, Golding, Hoffman, Nichols, Mayor Latham
The motion carried.

TENTATIVE OPERATING BUDGET – FY 2020-2021

Motion: It was moved by Ms. Hoffman, seconded by Mr. Nichols, to adopt the Tentative Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 of \$164,824,450.

Council Member Golding requested more information about the fire services budget be included in the 2021-2022 budget book. She stated although it is contracted services, it was still tax dollars included in the budget. She would like to see stats like the number of fire deaths and response time year-to-date. The consensus from Council members was they would like to get all the stats maybe in an annual report, rather than in the budget. Mayor Latham suggested the topic could be discussed at a briefing.

Roll call vote: Ayes - Golding, Hoffman, Nichols, Dumont, Mayor Latham
The motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2066-2020

Mr. Staffopoulos explained this item is for a joint resolution between the City of Jacksonville Beach and the City of Neptune Beach that encourages the City of Jacksonville to keep \$500,000 in their proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Budget, which would go towards the survey and design for the Penman Road corridor from Atlantic Boulevard to Beach Boulevard.

Ms. Golding stated she spoke to Jacksonville Council Member Matt Carlucci, Finance Committee Chair, who advised it did pass in the Finance Committee. Mayor Latham said he, along with Neptune Beach Mayor Elaine Brown and Atlantic Beach Mayor Ellen Glasser, met with Council Member Carlucci about CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) funds.

Motion: It was moved by Ms. Hoffman, seconded by Ms. Dumont, to adopt joint Resolution No. 2066-2020 with Neptune Beach requesting the City of Jacksonville plan and design Complete Streets Improvements to Penman Road and for the City of Jacksonville to retain in its final budget for Fiscal year 2021 the funds for construction of improvements to Penman Road.

Mayor Latham requested the City Clerk read Resolution No. 2066-2020 by title only, whereupon Ms. Scott read the following:

“A RESOLUTION OF THE CITIES OF JACKSONVILLE BEACH AND NEPTUNE BEACH REQUESTING THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE TO PLAN AND DESIGN COMPLETE STREETS IMPROVEMENTS TO PENMAN ROAD TO ADDRESS

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**PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLIST SAFETY, VEHICLE TURNING MOVEMENTS AT
VEHICLE/PEDESTRIAN CONFLICT POINTS, DRAINAGE, AND AESTHETICS.”**

Roll call vote: Ayes - Hoffman, Nichols, Dumont, Golding, Mayor Latham
The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business coming before the Council, Mayor Latham adjourned the meeting at 6:22 P.M.

Submitted by: Laurie Scott
City Clerk

Approval:



William C. Latham, Mayor

Date:

9/25/20

LS:sg