

The Council Briefing began at 6:00 P.M. The meeting was held via video conference using the Zoom platform.

The following City Council Members were in attendance:

**Mayor:** William C. Latham

**Council Members:** Keith Doherty (absent)      Georgette Dumont      Sandy Golding  
Christine Hoffman      Cory Nichols      Phil Vogelsang

Also present was City Manager Mike Staffopoulos.

**Purpose of Briefing**

The purpose of the briefing was to update the Council Members about ongoing items in the City.

**City Manager**

**Auditor Selection Committee**

Chief Financial Officer Ashlie Gossett stated the Florida legislature recently made significant changes to Section 218.391 of the Florida Statutes regarding auditor selection procedures. These changes now require the local government to establish an auditor selection committee whose primary purpose is to assist the governing body in selecting an auditor to conduct the annual financial statement audit.

Ms. Gossett stated the composition of the committee would be as follows:

- Must consist of at least three members
- At least one member must be a member of the governing body and shall serve as the chair of the committee
- The committee meetings shall be publicly noticed and have minutes recorded like any other City Board

Ms. Gossett asked for direction from Council regarding the following:

- What method of appointing members should staff proceed with?
- How many members should serve on the committee?
- Should staff bring forward a one-year extension with its current auditor, Purvis, Gray, and Company?

Conversation ensued regarding the topic, and the following was the consensus among Council:

- Auditor Selection Committee would be comprised of one elected official and two members of the community with an appropriate financial background
- Mr. Nichols and Ms. Golding volunteered to be the elected official on the committee with further discussion of details regarding the responsibilities with the City Manager
- Prepare a contract for a one-year extension of the current auditor, Purvis, Gray, and Company and include an additional option for another one-year renewal if needed

- Forming the committee would be postponed until the newly elected Council are sworn in after the November 2020 election

#### CleanDarkFlat Campaign

Deputy City Manager Karen Nelson reviewed the #CleanDarkFlat campaign PowerPoint [on file]. Ms. Nelson stated the City of Jacksonville Beach and Beaches Energy are partnering with the Beaches Sea Turtle Patrol to promote #CleanDarkFlat at the beaches this sea turtle nesting season. Ms. Nelson stated the campaign objective was to raise awareness of #CleanDarkFlat sea turtle safety tips with an energizing campaign that also engages local coffee shops.

Ms. Nelson stated people would be able to ask for a "Clean Dark Flat" at a participating local coffee shop and donate \$10 to receive your coffee in a 2020 #CleanDarkFlat mug and decal. All proceeds go to the Beaches Sea Turtle Patrol to help fund their work. The cost of the project is \$20,670, with \$12,000 coming from Public Works and \$8,670 from Beaches Energy Services.

Ms. Golding suggested having #CleanDarkFlat campaign flyers displayed at local hotels to help with awareness of the sea turtles.

Ms. Nelson stated the City would move forward with this project for the current sea turtle season.

#### CRA TIF Reduction

Director of Planning and Development Bill Mann stated an ordinance for the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) TIF (Tax Increment Financing) Reduction is scheduled for first reading at the June 15, 2020, Council meeting.

Mr. Mann reviewed the history of TIF funding projects from 1989 for the south end CRA District. Mr. Mann stated in 2019 the CRA approved the year-end fund balance appropriation for the south end district. For the first time since the district was established in 1986, the district's fund balance exceeded the project estimates. As per Florida Statutes, the excess funds were returned to the taxing authorities, which was identified in the CRA's year-end budget approval. The City of Jacksonville (COJ) received over \$3 million on April 24, 2020, and \$1.49 million was returned to the City of Jacksonville Beach's (COJB) General Fund. Currently, the CRA continues to implement the remaining components of the south end redevelopment plan.

Mr. Mann stated the proposed budget reduction was discussed initially by Council in last year's budget process as well as when the 2021 budget assumptions were presented. Mr. Mann stated City Administration and staff are now proposing a reduction in the annual amount from each taxing authority of COJ and COJB, from 95% to 50%. The 50% level is the lowest percentage allowed in the Florida Statutes. The proposed budget reduction is based on build-out to date in the south end and a shift of focus from capital construction to infrastructure maintenance.

Conversation ensued regarding possible projects to be completed to utilize the full amount of the south end TIF funds. Additional options regarding not reducing funds, including temporary modifications or gradual modifications to the TIF funding, were discussed.

Mr. Staffopoulos stated some of the long term financial projects for the City were reliant on the reduction of the south end TIF funds, and revenues from the south end reduction would be coming back to the City's General Fund. Mr. Staffopoulos stated if Council desires not to proceed with the reduction, staff would need to ask for additional time to calculate the fiscal impact on the City's budget.

The consensus of Council was to postpone this item to allow staff to review the financial impact of not reducing the TIF funds and losing the revenues from the reduction into the City's General Fund and until the CRA completes a project analysis.

Lakeside Drive Gate

City Attorney Chris Ambrosio stated he would present an amended resolution to Council at the June 15, 2020, Council meeting for the initial resolution (Res. No. 2047-2019) regarding the Lakeside Drive gate. The amended version would include the following:

- Additional whereas clauses regarding low-speed vehicles
- Specific information regarding the type of gate used for closing the road

Mr. Ambrosio stated it was a unanimous decision between the City's Public Works Department, Police Department, and the City of Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department to install a manually operated gate on Lakeside Drive.

The briefing adjourned at 7:03 P.M.

Submitted by: Jodilynn Byrd  
Administrative Assistant

Approved:



William C. Latham, MAYOR

Date: 7-20-2020