

**City of Jacksonville Beach
Minutes of City Council
FY2021 - Budget Workshop
Tuesday, August 11, 2019 – 5:00 P.M.
Via Video Conference**

City Manager Mike Staffopoulos called the Budget Workshop to order at 5:04 P.M.

The following City Council Members were in attendance:

Mayor: William C. Latham (absent)

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

Also present were Director of Beaches Energy Services Allen Putnam, Budget Officer A.J. Souto, Director of Parks and Recreation Jason Phitides, Golf Course Superintendent Trevor Hughes, and Golf Facility Manager Bruce Mohler.

Beaches Energy Services

Director of Beaches Energy Service (BES) Allen Putnam reviewed the organization and staffing of each Division with Beaches Energy.

Mr. Putnam spoke about the completed negotiations with TECO Partners to modify the existing contract that would allow flexibility to develop a new business model resulting in reduced costs for customers. The natural gas purchase piece should result in a savings of approximately \$300,000.

Mr. Putnam highlighted the following areas:

- System reliability
- Customer Service
- Customer growth trends
- Rate comparison
- Energy efficiency and conservation
- Goals for FY2021
- Performance measures
- Budget issues

Budget Officer A.J. Souto highlighted the Utility Bill Assistance Program Funding [on file] used for the City's Customer Assistance Relief Emergency (CARE) program, in conjunction with Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry (BEAM) to Beaches Energy customers with utility bill payments. Mr. Souto stated with a consensus from staff, BES was requesting guidance from Council regarding doubling the amount of assistance offered (\$60,000 to \$120,000) annually. The Council in attendance supported the increase.

Mr. Putnam stated the City is continuously pushing for change at the Florida Municipal Power Agency (FMPA) to update the strategic plan to focus on the following priorities:

- Paying off all of the All-Requirements Project debt in 20 years or less

- Replacing the all-requirements model with a project-based model to build and operate generation facilities
- Preparing the FMPA for the future by limiting the amount of new power generation built and relying on distributed generation resources.

Mr. Putnam reviewed Regulatory Issues stating BES continues to go through dramatic regulatory changes.

Mr. Putnam stated natural gas service began in June 2010, and customers would continue to be connected as the system expands.

Parks and Recreation

Director of Parks and Recreation Jason Phitides reviewed the Parks and Recreation Department mission statement and the organization of the Department. Mr. Phitides stated there are 11 Divisions within the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Recreation Administration Division

Mr. Phitides stated the Administration Division is responsible for fiscal and personnel management, clerical support services, and staff support of all recreation activities throughout the City. The staff manages all active adult sports and coordinates youth sports. The athletic programs throughout the City are extremely popular and have participants from multiple counties.

Mr. Phitides reviewed the Administration's goals for FY2021, highlighting the possibility of adding additional sports programs such as lacrosse, indoor basketball, and pickleball. Mr. Phitides stated one of the ball fields at the Carver Center may be converted into an all-purpose field.

Ocean Rescue Division

Mr. Phitides stated the Volunteer Lifesaving Corp. helps with recruiting and training the Lifeguards as well as covers the patrolling of the beach every Sunday.

Ground Maintenance Division

Mr. Phitides stated the Grounds Division (with the exception of the Golf Course) utilizes approximately 40% of the Department's budget and maintains 59 properties throughout the City.

Mr. Phitides stated a new pesticide program had been implemented throughout the City, which should assist with the aesthetics of the treated locations. The work of a new Irrigation Specialist would coincide with the pesticide program to assist with the maintaining of the sites.

Tennis Center Division

Mr. Phitides stated two part-time Tennis Court Attendant positions (budgeted at 780 hours each) were converted to four part-time Tennis Court Attendants (budgeted at 390 hours each). This change did not change the budget as it is the same number of hours. Mr. Phitides stated the goal of the Tennis Center is to become self-sustaining. The addition of the eighth court should help reach this goal. Mr. Phitides stated a budgeted Point of Sale system would assist with collecting fees.

Carver Center

Mr. Phitides stated the Carver Center offers services to all ages throughout the day. New activities are continuously added. An additional Assistant has been added and helps with administering the programs.

Mr. Phitides stated the Community Development Block Grant partially funds the Carver Center. The grant pays for approximately 55% of the Carver Center's budget. The General Fund would make up any funding shortfalls.

Oceanfront Facilities Division

Mr. Phitides stated \$60,000 had been budgeted for the upcoming year to renovate the restroom, including one changing table.

Community Center and Exhibition Hall

Mr. Phitides stated a previous contract for facility set-up was eliminated, and set-up is now completed by City staff. Eliminating this contract saves approximately 30% of the budget.

Special Events

Mr. Phitides stated there had not been any significant issues with the amended (2017) Special Events policy. A good after-action process with Public Works, Police, and Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department (JFRD), allowing all involved departments to discuss and assess the events.

Mr. Phitides stated the City would continue to seek possible sponsors for the Jazz Concerts (2) to assist with offsetting the costs of the event.

Mr. Staffopoulos stated a proposed copy of the new co-sponsored special events policy is under review.

Golf Course

Golf Course Facility Manager Bruce Mohler reviewed the increase in staff as follows:

- Converting one full-time Golf Shop Attendant position to two part-time positions; one part-time golf Shop Attendant and one part-time Cart/Range Attendant
- Adding two part-time seasonal maintenance workers from March through September working 20 hours each per week

Mr. Mohler stated approximately 52,000 rounds of golf were completed last fiscal year. The course is on target to have 65,000 rounds completed for FY2021. Mr. Mohler stated the driving range shade cover had been installed, and the new restaurant is open.

Mr. Mohler reviewed the play statistics of the course for FY2020, Goals for FY2021, and the Financial summary.

Golf Course Superintendent Trevor Hughes stated the recent renovation to the golf course covered a small part of the golf course (three acres) only including the greens. Mr. Hughes stated the remaining sections of the golf course (fairways, tees, irrigation, and drainage) were built in 1984, and the additional staff is required to maintain the course.

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The Workshop adjourned at 6:30 P.M.

Submitted by: Jodilynn Byrd
Administrative Assistant

Approved:



William C. Latham, Mayor

Date:

9/11/2020