



Land Use and Parks Committee

Wednesday, August 14, 2019, 9:00 a.m.
City Hall, Council Chambers
116 First Street, Neptune Beach, FL 32266

Summary/ Recap

Members In Attendance:

Councilor Josh Messinger, Chairman
Vice Mayor Fred Jones
Councilor Kerry Chin

Staff In Attendance:

Leon Smith, Interim City Manager
Richard Pike, Chief of Police
Peter Kajokas, Finance Director
Leon Smith, Public Works Director
Megan George, Deputy Public Works Director
Catherine Ponson, City Clerk

Also present were Marcel Dulay, Parsons Engineering; Buck Pittman, Pittman Landscape Architect; Chris Chin, President of Neptune Beach Beautification Committee.

Call to Order

Chairman Josh Messinger called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

Old Business

Jarboe Park Update

Chairman Josh Messinger stated that the project is moving forward. Discussion ensued regarding the bridges, lighting, old City Hall, and the berm. Marcel Dulay, Parsons Engineering, reported he had met with the lighting vendor and would have that cost estimate at the end of the month. He also reported that the engineering would be 90% by the end of the month. Buck Pittman, Pittman Landscaping, advised he was waiting for the final engineering plans, however, there should not be many changes to the landscaping from what he has to date.

Chairman Messinger reported that the lighting design had been approved by the Police Department. There will be a reduction of lighting in the park. There will be hours set and there would be opportunities for cameras once the park is complete.

Neptune Beach Tree Canopy Restoration/Policy Update

Chairman Messinger reported that the state legislature had recently passed regulations allowing the removal of trees, no matter what type, with a letter from an arborist stating the tree has damage. Cities cannot regulate this issue. He has reached out to our City Attorney to see what the City's options are. Tree canopies provide quality of life and increase property value.

Mr. Pittman stated there is enough information to submit to the City of Jacksonville Tree Mitigation Trust Fund due to the recent legislation.

Chris Chin, President of the Beautification Committee, reported that the Beautification Committee is in the process of identifying public rights-of-way that can have a shade tree planted. They would also be looking at private property that could accommodate a shade tree. Once they identify the locations, they would contact City staff regarding utilities and then prioritize to have this project completed.

Stormwater Improvements and Stormwater Fee Update by Parsons Engineering

Mr. Dulay reported that Parsons Engineering had done a study in 2018 and determined there were major culverts that needed improvements totaling about \$5 million. There are pipes currently in place that are deteriorating and have been in place since the City was incorporated in 1931. He stated that Parsons Engineering had recently completed a stormwater fee analysis study. The analysis details the stormwater fees that are needed to cover just the necessary operational and maintenance costs. The analysis also details the recommended fee to cover the costs of the major necessary infrastructure projects if they were funded over a financial term of up to 15 years.

Chairman Messinger, with Vice Mayor Jones and Councilor Chin, recommended to bring to Council, in resolution form, the stormwater fee increase to \$18.41 for residential and \$26.59 for commercial to cover the costs for the necessary major infrastructure projects and operational and maintenance costs. This proposed increase is for the 15-year financial term. This will be presented at the August 19, 2019, Council workshop.

Public Comment

Chris Chin, President of the Beautification Committee, suggested anyone who has pictures of the flooding or the older pipes, to please submit those pictures.

The meeting adjourned at 10:17 a.m.