



## OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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### **Noticed Meeting CM Peluso, Amaro, and J. Carlucci RE DSR Ordinance Code December 3, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

**Location:** Lynwood Roberts Room, City Hall at St. James, 117 West Duval Street, Jacksonville, FL 32202

**Attendance:** Council Member Jimmy Peluso, Council Member Joe Carlucci, Council Member Ken Amaro, Public Works Director Nina Sickler, Public Works Operations Director Steve Long, Assistant Council Auditor Phillip Peterson, Chief of Engineering Construction Maintenance Sheldon Gibbs, Attorney Mary Staffopoulos, Ernest J. Smith, James Robertson, John Nooney, Executive Council Assistant Joe Johnson, Executive Council Assistant Brooks Dame.

**Meeting Convened:** 3:10 p.m.

#### **Discussion:**

Council Member Jimmy Peluso thanked the audience for their attendance. Attendees introduced themselves. Council Member Peluso expressed his desire to streamline project approvals and reduce bureaucratic delays from the process Public Works undertakes to complete Drainage System Rehabilitation projects. Council Member J. Carlucci expressed his support to ensure much needed projects move are not slow walked. Council Member Peluso noted the roadway resurfacing projects do not come back to Council after the budget is passed for approval and his desire to see a similar ordinance process for DSR projects. Assistant Council Auditor Phillip Peterson confirmed that road resurfacing was excluded in ordinance code from the guidelines for Capital Projects.

Council Auditor Phillip Peterson shared the history of the budgetary threshold for projects that needed City Council approval. He confirmed the \$100,000 threshold was established around 2011-2012 when the Administration chose to budget with larger allocations of funding that the Council desired to review with additional scrutiny. The Council Members discussed using the road resurfacing process to tackle storm water and drainage projects, which would need legislation addressing Chapter 122 of the Ordinance Code.

Director Steve Long confirmed the an average cost of DSR projects were about \$325,000. Council Members Peluso, Amaro, and J. Carlucci discussed increasing the threshold to \$500,000 to streamline smaller projects out of the budgeted maintenance fund. It was noted that \$6 million is required to be budgeted annually for capital maintenance (including DSR projects), with an additional \$4 million mandated for storm water capital projects, all funded by the Storm Water Fee. If need necessitates funding moved from the maintenance fund into a capital fund, and the cost exceeds \$100,00, it requires legislation. This included discussion on ditch maintenance in Duval County, which Council Member Amaro noted emergency maintenance was sometimes needed.

They agreed they wanted transparency in the budget process with this improvement to ensure the project list was known by the Council Members. The Council Members expressed their desire to see a draft of legislation with the goal to expedite project approvals and reduce bureaucratic delays for the projects that exceed \$100,000 and required additional legislation. Assistant Council Auditor Peterson confirmed he would work with Director Sickler, Director Long, and the Office of General Counsel to produce it.

Mr. John Nooney provided public comment, complimenting actress Marissa Bode from the 2024 film Wicked, reminding the audience of a movie he was making, and lamenting that he missed the Tourist Development Council meeting that had been rescheduled. He also noted his personal property had a septic system.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 3:50 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Brooks Dame, Executive Council Assistant to Council Member Jimmy Peluso. The following items were submitted for public record and can be accessed by contacting the Legislative Services:

12032024 Noticed Meeting CM Peluso, Amaro, J. Carlucci RE DSR Ordinance Code  
12032024 Agenda Noticed Meeting CM Peluso, Amaro, J. Carlucci RE DSR Ordinance Code  
12032024 Sign In Sheet Noticed Meeting CM Peluso, Amaro, J. Carlucci RE DSR Ordinance Code  
12032024 Minutes Noticed Meeting CM Peluso, Amaro, J. Carlucci RE DSR Ordinance Code

cc: Council Members and Staff  
Margaret “Peggy” Sidman, Director/Council  
Secretary Merriane Lahmeur, Chief, Legislative  
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