

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

117 WEST DUVAL STREET, SUITE 425

4TH FLOOR, CITY HALL

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202

904-630-1377

**FINANCE COMMITTEE BUDGET HEARING #1 MINUTES**

 **August 10, 2017**

**9:00 a.m.**

**Location:** City Council Chamber, City Hall – St. James Building; 117 West Duval Street,

**In attendance:** Council Members Garrett Dennis (Chair), Danny Becton, Lori Boyer, Katrina Brown, Reggie Brown, Reggie Gaffney, Matt Schellenberg

**Excused**:

**Also**: Council Members Greg Anderson, John Crescimbeni, Tommy Hazouri, Joyce Morgan and Aaron Bowman; Peggy Sidman and Paige Johnston – Office of General Counsel; Kyle Billy, Brian Parks, Heather Reber, Trista Carraher, Elena Korsakova - Council Auditor’s Office; Crystal Shemwell and Katrin MacDonald – Legislative Services Division; Sam Mousa and Ali Korman Shelton – Mayor’s Office; Mike Weinstein and Angela Moyer – Finance and Administration Department

**Meeting Convened**: 9:02 a.m.

Chairman Dennis convened the meeting and the attendees introduced themselves for the record. Mr. Dennis thanked the administration, the Council Auditor’s Office and Office of General Counsel for all the work that has gone into the proposed budget thus far to prepare it for the Finance Committee’s consideration. He announced that the usual council meeting rules regarding time limits on first and second speaking opportunities will apply and that visiting council members will have their opportunity to speak after all committee members have spoken. As the Chair he will offer motions on behalf of visiting council members for the committee’s consideration. Mr. Dennis said that he would not entertain any motions to allocate enhancement funding from the Council Contingency Fund until the full budget review has been completed. The Council Auditor and Finance Department may recommend changes to underlying assumptions, estimated revenues, etc. as new information comes to light during the process.

Introduction by Administration

Chief Administrative Officer Sam Mousa introduced the Mayor’s proposed budget and said that for the most part the administration agrees with the recommendations to be made by the Council Auditor’s Office, but would like dialogue on several issues. He noted that the pension reform plan passed this year has allowed for long-overdue enhancements, improvements, and capital projects. Without pension reform, all new revenues this year would have gone to pension contributions. The budget notably increases all of the City’s reserve funds and makes large strides toward replacing vehicles (mostly with cash, except for the most expensive vehicles). The budget substantially increases funding for capital projects, which are being more rigorously managed and completed. Mr. Mousa noted that the City’s latest bond borrowing received a very positive reception by the rating agencies. He stated that the administration has taken Chairman Dennis’ recent memo regarding equal opportunity employment to heart and a full report on the administration’s actions will be given by the Employee Services Department and Human Rights Commission during their budget presentations.

Regarding the Better Jacksonville Plan, Mr. Mousa reported that the sales tax has begun to produce revenue in excess of debt service needs so “pay-as-you-go” expenditures will begin on projects. Legislation will be filed to reimburse the Tree Mitigation Trust Fund for funds borrowed for the Better Jax Plan. He explained that the merger/reformulation of the Jacksonville Journey and Jacksonville Children’s Commission into the Kids Hope Alliance will cause some funding to be requested for appropriation now (for existing contracts and committed uses) and the remainder will be placed “below the line” for future appropriation early in the next calendar year.

Council Auditor’s Introduction

Council Auditor Kyle Billy gave the broad overview of the proposed budget, beginning with the budget legislation (12 bills this year) and timeline. Preliminary taxable value of previously taxed property in the county increased by $2.6 billion and new construction adds $$935 million in new value producing $37.85 million in new revenue at the same millage rate. He noted that the School Board and St. Johns River Water Management District both lowered their millage rates slightly for the new year. The total independent agencies budgets (JEA, JTA, etc.) are $2.7 billion, the City’s general budget is $$2.45 billion, and the total consolidated government budget totals $5,156,806,085. Council Member Boyer asked Mr. Billy to point out to the committee any items that will only be seen in today’s overview. The City’s employee cap is expanding by 175 positions for the new fiscal year (net of 179 additions and 4 position eliminations). Council Member Reggie Brown asked for information on position vacancies and length of vacancies by department to compare to proposed additions. A total of 66 positions are being proposed to be “redlined” (to be eliminated when the position becomes vacant).

In response to a question from Council Member Crescimbeni, Bill Clement, Budget Officer for the Sheriff’s Office, explained why the JSO is contracting out the department’s jail health care services after bringing that function in-house several years ago, in part on the expectation of cost savings to be achieved. The savings have not proved to be sustainable over the long term as originally expected. Sixty-six positions in the JSO budget will be redlined and eliminated when the function is contracted out in November.

**Page references from this point refer to Auditor’s Budget Hearing #1 handout.**

**Motion**: adopt the Auditor’s recommendation on p. 13 to revise the Position Redlines schedule to remove the JSO Manager 0 Health Service Administrator and replace it with Mental Health Services Manager – JSO – **approved**.

Mr. Billy pointed out that the pension contributions in FY17-18 will be based on the actuarial calculation exclusively; in previous years there was an option to use either the actuarial calculation or a percentage of payroll as the basis for the contribution. Council Member Crescimbeni requested information on the difference between the two calculation amounts. With regard to health self-insurance reserves, he noted that the City will be taking five payment holidays during the year to use excess accumulated reserves in place of employer and employee contributions to make the contributions. In response to a question, Budget Director Angela Moyer explained the quarterly review of actual salary and benefit lapses compared to the budgeted lapse amounts. Council Member Boyer asked for clarification of the interface between unfunded positions and vacant funded positions.

**Motion**: on p. 18, approve Auditor’s recommendation #1 to increase Communication Services Tax by $2,793,767, to be partially offset by an increase of $501,895 in non-departmental expenditure transfer to JPA – **approved**.

**Motion**: on p. 18, approve Auditor’s recommendation #2 to decrease Court Fines – Traffic by $64,177 – **approved**.

**Motion**: on p. 18, approve Auditor’s recommendation #3 to reduce Payment in Lieu of Taxes – FPL by $30,615 – **approved**.

**Motion**: on p. 19, approve Auditor’s recommendation #4 to decrease Unclaimed Tax Deed Sale revenue by $50,000 to $0 – **approved**.

**Motion**: on p. 19, approve Auditor’s recommendation #5 to decrease Telephone/Laundry/Concession Commissions by $155,321 – **approved**.

**Motion**: on p. 19, approve Auditor’s recommendation #6 to increase the 8th Cent Gasoline Tax revenue by $351,691 – **approved**.

**Motion**: on p. 19, approve Auditor’s recommendation #7 to decrease County Sales Tax revenue by $1,880,940 – **approved**.

**Motion**: on p. 19, approve Auditor’s recommendation #8 to increase the Municipal Sales Tax revenue by $1,817,517 – **approved**.

**Motion**: on p. 19, approve Auditor’s recommendation #9 to increase the Surplus Gasoline Tax revenue by $325,546 – **approved**.

**Motion**: on p. 19, approve Auditor’s recommendation #10 to eliminate the transfer of $948,000 from General Capital Projects (Subfund 322) to offset a GF/GSD subsidy to the fund that makes loan repayments to Subfund 322 and place the funds in a cash carryover account within Subfund 322 – **approved**.

In response to a question about the reserve for collective bargaining reopeners, Finance Director Mike Weinstein explained the several items discussed in the course of the pension reform negotiations with the unions that may be further negotiated and need funding, particularly issues with the correctional officers. Mr. Billy explained the $7 million reserve for the City’s share of Hurricane Matthew damages.

Schedule of Non-Departmental Expenditures

**Motion**: on p. 27, approve Auditor’s recommendation to increase funding for 415 Limit Pension Cost by $13,023 – **approved**.

Loans to Enterprise Funds

Mr. Billy gave an overview of the several enterprise funds that do not generate sufficient revenue to be self-funding (Solid Waste, Stormwater Services, Motor Vehicle Inspection) and noted that the Code requirement for annual review of fees is being waived in the budget ordinance. Council Member Boyer pointed out that the Ordinance Code requires fees to generate 85% of the cost of the function; Mr. Billy is proposing that the fees cover 100%, which would require a waiver of the Code’s 85% requirement. CAO Sam Mousa explained the reasons for the funding shortfalls. The City’s contract for recycling which expires September 30th of this year pays the City $43 per ton for all recyclables delivered; any future contract will require the City to pay rather than be paid for recycling tonnage, so the administration does not want to change the solid waste fee yet until the effect of that contract change becomes clear. Mr. Mousa also noted that a change has been made in construction and demolition debris hauling by implementing a franchise fee, the effect of which has yet to be determined. He advocated for giving the solid waste utility a year or two to settle out before determining what sort of fee is needed. With regard to the stormwater utility, a double-counting has been discovered in the calculation of payment for credits to the utility on behalf of low-income property owners which requires a financial reconciliation in the form of a one-time loan for FY17-18. The accumulated amount of the incorrect calculation from past years will be proposed for a pay-off over 6-10 years.

Mr. Mousa explained that the new recycling contract going into effect on October 1st was bid on the basis of lowest operational cost, with the sales of any recycled materials creating a percentage offset to the City to reduce that operational cost. The returns to the City will not be as lucrative as the current contract.

The committee took no action on the Council Auditor’s recommendation on p. 28 to increase Solid Waste and Stormwater Utility fees.

Capital Outlay Projects Not Lapsed

**Motion**: on p. 30, approve Council Auditor’s recommendation #2 to reduce the On Street Parking Subfund 012 carryover to $147,008 – **approved**.

**Motion**: on p. 30, approve Council Auditor’s recommendation #3 to increase the Fleet Management Mobile Equipment index code AFFM512 carryover to 106,871- **approved**.

**Motion**: on p. 30, approve Council Auditor’s recommendation #4 to reduce the Mobile Equipment Subfund 513 carryover to $2,043,188 – **approved**.

Public Service Grant Funds

Council Member Crescimbeni stated that he had just received financial information yesterday that raises questions in his mind about certain expenses of the Cultural Council being charged to the City’s contract and asked for the opportunity to return to this appropriation at a future meeting after he has had time to do further research.

Food and Beverage Expenditures

**Motion**: on p. 32, approve Council Auditor’s recommendation #1 to reflect $6,650 for the Florida/ Georgia game (corrects a typographical error) – **approved**.

**Motion**: on p. 32, approve Council Auditor’s recommendation #2 to correct the explanation of the Office of General Counsel’s explanation for food expenditure for mediations – **approved**.

Ordinance Code Waivers in Budget Ordinance

In response to a question from Council Member Schellenberg, Deputy General Counsel Peggy Sidman explained the history of the waiver to allow payment of a different salary than that provided by Code.

**Motion** (Schellenberg): remove any Ordinance Code waiver language regarding City Council Member salaries – **approved**.

The Council Auditor’s recommendation on p. 37 to approve a Revised Attachment B if information from the state is available before budget ordinance passage was deemed to have been approved in the previous motion.

**Motion** (Boyer): on p. 40, amend the budget ordinance to include the same language as last year regarding City Council postage – **approved**.

**Motion:** on p. 41, approve the Council Auditor’s recommendation to pursue elimination or reduction in borrowing for vehicles –

Mr. Weinstein expressed the administration’s agreement with the intent of the motion. Council Member Boyer asked for clarification that the waiver is up to $9,710,000 million for FY17-18. Ms. Sidman said that any other change in the amount borrowed for vehicles would require a change in a budget schedule that would require Council action. In response to a question from Chairman Dennis, Mr. Weinstein said that the administration hopes to be at 100% pay-go for vehicle replacements within 3-5 years (3 years is the goal).

The motion was **approved**.

**Motion**: on p. 47, approve Council Auditor’s recommendation to change the waiver language to be consistent with the language in the Ordinance Code -

Council Member Boyer advocated for doing the required fee review every year and then waiving the revisions of fees, if that is Council’s desire. She questioned whether the waiver of the study applies to a fiscal year or a calendar year and when the next fee study would be due. Mr. Billy noted that the Ordinance Code does not specify when the results of the fee study are due each year; Council may wish to consider establishing a fixed date for the report. Council Member Crescimbeni noted that fee reviews can produce fee reductions as well as fee increases. Mr. Weinstein reported that the administration has been taking a broad look at all City fees, which are more numerous than those listed in the annual fee review requirement. The language of the Ordinance Code is worded in such a way as to effectively prevent the stated goal of 85% cost recovery from being achieved, since fees are only allowed to be increased by a maximum percentage which does not

**Motion** (Boyer): modify Waiver 10.11 to provide that the FY16-17 delivery of the fee study is deferred until no later than December 15, 2017, and that fees shall be maintained at the FY16-17 rates until that report is received -

Mr. Weinstein suggested a 2-step process. First the administration will complete its broad fee structure study and present it to the Finance Committee. Then the Council can determine what the fee structure will be and what percentage of costs should be recovered, after which the administration will complete calculations based on the chosen percentage and Council can adopt revised fee schedules. Mr. Mousa said that the December 15th date for proposal of all new fees is unworkable given the size and complexity of the task and requested additional time to complete the task.

Ms. Boyer **amended her motion** to make the waiver effective until January 9, 2018, with the fees on the required review list being reviewed by that date -

**Motion** (Schellenberg): require the administration to make a fee report on those fees on the required report list by January and reporting on the full overview of all fees by the end of the first quarter of calendar year 2018 –

Mr. Mousa said that the administration is preparing to introduce an ordinance taking fees out of the Ordinance Code and providing that all fees will be listed on the City’s web site in their current, up-to-date amounts. Ms. Moyer said that because of pension reform and the reduced employer pension contribution that resulted, the cost of fees may be reduced in the future from where they would otherwise have been without the reform. Council Member Crescimbeni and Mr. Billy questioned the earlier characterization by Mr. Weinstein that the wording of the Code effectively prevents fee changes from ever actually reaching the 85% cost recovery mandate; they believe the full cost recovery can be achieved.

**Restated motion** (Boyer): waive the 2017 fee review and maintain the fees at the FY2016-17 rates; the administration will bring to the Finance Committee by January 31, 2018 proposed legislation for fee policy changes and a review of the fees required to have been reviewed in 2017 – **approved**.

Ordinance Code Amendments

**Motion**: on p. 50, approve Auditor’s recommendation to change City Accountant to City Comptroller in Ordinance Code Sec. 25.106– **approved**.

**Motion**: on p. 52, approve Auditor’s recommendation to change the contribution amount to $33,276,606 to correct a typographical error – **approved**.

**Motion**: on p. 53, approve Auditor’s recommendation to remove the last sentence of budget ordinance Sec. 11.2 regarding a mid-year budget report requirement – **approved**.

**Motion**: on p. 54, approve Auditor’s recommendation to correct the bill referenced in the title of the budget ordinance regarding self-insurance – **approved**.

**The committee was in recess from 12:09 p.m. to 1:16 p.m.**

Sheriff’s Office

Mr. Billy discussed the increases and decreases in revenue, as well as expenditures from additional salaries/training/equipment/benefits for 80 new police officers (20 are not funded) and changes as a result of the 2017 pension reform. Sheriff Williams requested that the funding on p. 59 under Banking Fund -Specialized Equipment for 5 replacement bicycles ($10,000) and replacement X-ray machines at Police Memorial Building entrance ($80,000) be removed from that list, which the committee approved.

**Motion**: on p.60, approved the Auditor’s recommendation to reduce the amount for Florida Retirement System pension contribution by $4,990 – **approved**

Council Member Schellenberg asked about how many officers are in DROP and how those positions will be filled in addition to the 80 new hires. There are approximately 40 cadets in training year round (10% don’t complete academy training). Discussion ensued about officers’ health and the toll the nature of work takes on blood pressure, stress, divorce rate, etc. Council Member Gaffney asked questions about outsourcing health services which apparently increased costs. Sheriff Williams said that this is driven by operational need; the in-house health services never fully developed (shortage of nurses and doctors).

At the request of Council Member Gaffney, Sheriff Williams discussed his office’s affirmative action hiring efforts and explained the processes involved in investigating police-involved shootings. In the latter case, the JSO is the investigatory body collecting physical evidence, witness statements, etc. to be turned over to the State Attorney’s Office for a determination of whether the shooting was justified and whether to press charges. An officer is briefly removed from street duty immediately after the incident, but returns to service until such time as the State Attorney’s Office renders its decision about whether to file charges or not.

Council Member Boyer posed several questions to the Sheriff about staffing levels, vacancy reduction in various functions (patrol, detectives, specialized units), and the total amount of funding needed throughout the year for salaries as classes enter and graduate from the police academy. Ms. Boyer asked the Sheriff about his philosophy for using the Law Enforcement Trust Fund; his priorities are engaging young people in positive activities as a crime prevention measure and addressing ex-offender re-entry needs. The Sheriff indicated his willingness to use his discretionary funding to assist with the City’s other crime prevention efforts.

Sheriff Williams answered questions from Council Member Katrina Brown about in-service training and about ways that the JSO can develop better relationships with citizens. He stated that the department would love to be more proactive in meeting and talking with citizens and business people on an informal basis to build good community relations, but the volume of calls is so great that officers spend their full shifts going from service call to service call and don’t really have time for anything else. In response to a question about the department’s disciplinary policies and procedures, the Sheriff said that more often than not, they find that violations and misconduct are not due to lack of training but rather to willful disobedience of policies and training by officers, for a variety of reasons. In response to a question about why the JSO does not utilize the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to investigate police-involved misconduct like other counties do, Sheriff Williams said that he believes that control of investigations, when and how information is released to the public, etc. should be controlled locally, not from Tallahassee.

The Sheriff answered questions about the roll-out of the ShotSpotter system and said that they have a target of September 1st for activation of a rapid response team that will be responding to reported gunshots. A task force of JSO, the State Attorney’s Office and the state Division of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms is being formed to coordinate response to and investigation of shooting incidents. Council Member Reggie Brown asked questions about how many officers are assigned vehicles and how many are not. The Sheriff explained that a decision was made last year to staff special events (football games, concerts, etc.) with off-duty officers paid by event promoters so that on-duty officers are not pulled from around the city to work those events. This year is the first time the budget reflects this new billing system. Council Member Reggie Brown asked the department to provide information on how many grants the JSO has written and had funded during the fiscal year.

In response to a question from Council Member Boyer, the Sheriff recounted the history of the provision of health care in the jail (from contracted out to a private provider, to contracted out to a joint effort by the Health Department and UF Health Medical Center, to provided in-house currently, to contracted out to a private provider next year). Council Member Reggie Brown asked for further discussion of this proposed contract and consideration of other possible providers.

The red light camera program will sunset at the end of this year and the budget reflects the reduction of both costs and revenues from that program. The Sheriff said that data shows that red light cameras do not reduce accidents and advanced accident avoidance technology (calculating vehicle speeds and holding lights red to prevent accidents from red light-running) is not yet advanced enough to deploy. Council Member Boyer asked for 6 years of historical data on the number of officers assigned per zone and how many of those officers were assigned to positions that allowed for proactive community policing by zone. In response to another question from Council Member Boyer, the Sheriff indicated that the department no longer has an officer assigned full-time to park policing. Council Member Karina Brown asked the Sheriff about his strategy to rid the community of internet cafes. The Sheriff said that the cafes operate under the state’s sweepstakes law and are legal unless they stray into gambling, which is extremely difficult to prove. He noted that the JSO has never been the primary enforcement agency for those establishments – the City used to have an enforcement officer. The JSO vice squad investigates the internet cafes on a complaint basis to see if they are truly operating as a sweepstakes game. Usually the complaints are not about gambling but about other types of illegal activity taking place at the business. Council Member Reggie Brown suggested consulting the Planning Department about the possibility of using changes in the zoning ordinance to control the explosion of internet cafes.

**Motion**: approve the Sheriff’s Office budget with the exception of the employee cap expansion and funding for addition of 100 new officers, the out-sourcing of the jails health care function, and the Personnel and Professional Standards budget line item, which will be placed below the line, with the JSO budget being taken up either on August 25th at the wrap-up meeting or at an earlier meeting if the Sheriff provides the requested information – **approved**.

Emergency 911 User Fee

**Motion**: on p. 62, approve Auditor’s recommendation #1 to reduce JSO Salaries and Benefits by $93,111, of which $75,688 will be allocated to JSO General Fund/GSD and the remainder allocated to the Sheriff’s Trust Fund for separate allocation – **approved**.

**Motion**: on p. 62, approve Auditor’s recommendation #2 to reduce revenue from wireless and prepaid fee by $316,270 – **approved**.

Fire and Rescue Department

**Motion**: on p. 69, approve Auditor’s recommendation #1 to decrease FRS pension contribution by $22,743 to correct a calculation error – **approved**.

**Motion**: on p. 69, approve Auditor’s recommendation #2 to increase contra-revenue account for fire inspection fee revenues by $276,461 – **approved**.

In response to a question from Council Member Schellenberg, Fire Chief Kurt Wilson said that there are funds in the budget to purchase new bunker gear for all firefighters. There is also funding in the CIP for the addition of diesel exhaust systems that will convey truck exhaust out of fire stations. Both of these purchases will aid in cancer prevention, reducing or eliminating known cancer hazards from smoke in bunker gear and diesel exhaust. Chief Wilson explained his plans for phasing in new hires throughout the fiscal year and said that the Fire Explorer program and Jax Journey-funded firefighter apprenticeship program have been very successful in recruiting for the department. He answered questions about the impact of the proposed 42 new hires on the department’s overtime budget. Council Member Boyer asked the chief to be mindful in future selection of vehicles of the impact of larger and larger fire trucks and rescue units on the size of roads needed to accommodate those vehicles. Recent rezonings have sought to use smaller-than-standard private roads to promote low traffic speeds and close-knit neighborhoods, but they are limited by road width needed to accommodate JFRD’s vehicle size.

Council Member Becton advocated for construction of a new fire station in the Sweetwater/Hampton Park area to provide increased service and reduced insurance costs to property owners via a reduced ISO rating due to the proximity of a fire station. The budget includes funding to locate a temporary station site in the area until a permanent fire station can be constructed. In response to a question from Council Member Reggie Brown, Chief Wilson explained that the state does not regulate the number and location of fire stations or the staffing on vehicles; fire station standards are set by the ISO for insurance rating purposes and vehicle staffing is recommended by the National Fire Protection Association. Chief Wilson reported that the department received grants in the current year for exercise equipment for fire stations and annual physical checkups for all firefighters, as well as equipment purchase and building improvement grants (11 funded grants this year).

**Motion** (Boyer): on p. 69, modify Schedule B4-c as requested by the department regarding use of old tanker trucks as foam tankers – **approved**.

Chief Wilson reported that JFRD is the largest city in the country to have Advanced Life Support equipment installed on all of its apparatus and equipment. He discussed a number of stations on a list to be replaced, either rebuilt at the same site or moved to another site. In response to a question from Council Member Reggie Brown, Chief Wilson said that the department has been unsuccessful to date in developing a relationship with Duval County Schools around the JFRD apprenticeship program, though not for lack of trying. Sam Mousa informed the committee that if the Kids Hope Alliance is approved as proposed, its programs are limited to youth under the age of 18, so could not be used as a funding source for the apprenticeship program that serves persons age 18 and over. Some other funding source will need to be identified. Chief Wilson reported that the budget has 18,000 part-time hours to provide additional beach lifeguards before Memorial Day and after Labor Day to meet swimmer protection needs.

Fire and Rescue Building Inspections

**Motion**: on p. 71, approve Auditor’s recommendation to increase fire plans review and re-inspection fees revenue and cash carry-over by $42,505 – **approved**.

Chief Wilson requested to increase the employee cap in Subfund 159 from 6 to 7 to transfer an inspector position from the JFRD General Fund to the Building Inspection fund.

**Motion** (Boyer): increase the employee cap in Subfund 159 from 6 to 7 to transfer an inspector position from the JFRD General Fund to the Building Inspection fund – **approved**.

Property Appraiser’s Office

**Motion:** on p. 74, approve Auditor’s recommendation #1 increasing the FRS contribution by $4,653 – **approved**.

**Motion**: on p. 74, approve Auditor’s recommendation #2 to decrease Group Hospitalization by $199,906 – **approved**.

City Council

**Motion**: on p. 77, approve departmental request to add one Research Assistant position and funding of $54,111 – **approved**.

**Motion**: on p. 77, approve the Auditor’s recommendation #1 to remove and replace Budget Ordinance Attachment B – chart of council members’ salaries being waived – **approved**.

**Motion**: on p. 78, approve the Auditor’s recommendation #2 to reduce the FRS contribution by $21,609 – **approved**.

Office of General Counsel

**Motion**: on p. 85, approve the Auditor’s recommendation to increase Salaries and Benefits by $48,442, offset by increased revenue from independent agencies for attorney services – **approved**.

Outstanding items

In response to a question from Council Member Reggie Brown, Mike Weinstein committed the administration to review the ability to reinstitute a tuition reimbursement plan for City employees. Mr. Billy reported that the City budgeted $450,000 for tuition reimbursement in FY2011-12 and none thereafter because of budget difficulties. Chairman Dennis requested information on how much of that appropriation was used when it was available. Council Member Reggie Brown asked for further information on funding for City Council staff training, memberships in the leagues of cities and counties, and providing some means for citizens to view City Council and committee meetings without the need to pay for subscriptions to cable television or internet service. Council Member Katrina Brown asked for information on how the Children’s Commission and Jacksonville Journey programs are proposed to be treated under the new Kids Hope Alliance – what programs are funded in the current budget by the Journey and Children’s Commission and, for comparison purpose, what happens to those expenditures under the Kids Hope Alliance? The Budget Office will provide that information via e-mail this evening.

Special Council Contingency

Brian Parks reported that the Special Council Contingency fund stands at $1,064,966.

**Meeting adjourned:** 5:09 p.m.

Minutes: Jeff Clements, Council Research

8.10.17 Posted 5:30 p.m.

Tapes: Finance Budget Hearing #1 – LSD

 8.10.17

Materials: Council Auditor’s Budget Meeting #1 handout - LSD

 8.10.17