

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

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**FINANCE COMMITTEE BUDGET HEARING #6 MINUTES**

 **August 26, 2021**

**9:00 a.m.**

**Location:** City Council Chamber

**In attendance:** Committee members Ron Salem (Chair), Danny Becton, Michael Boylan, Reggie Gaffney, Terrance Freeman (dep. 3:30 p.m.), Matt Carlucci (dep. 11:45 a.m.), Ju’Coby Pittman

**Also**: Kim Taylor and Brian Parks – Council Auditor’s Office; Jeff Clements– Council Research Division; Paige Johnston – Office of General Counsel; Bernadette Smith – Legislative Services Division; Eric Grantham and Steve Cassada– Information Support Services; Joey Greive and Angela Moyer – Finance and Administration Department; Brian Hughes, Stephanie Burch, Leeann Krieg, Rachel Zimmer – Mayor’s Office

**Meeting Convened**: 9:01 a.m.

Chairman Salem reviewed the agenda for the day and the attendees introduced themselves for the record. Chief Administrative Officer Brian Hughes said that he understands that the Gator Bowl Association has been in discussion with the universities of Florida and Georgia about renewing the contract for their football game to remain in Jacksonville. There may be a need to amend the Special Events Division budget at some point to reflect the outcome of the latest negotiations.

**Page references from this point refer to Council Auditor’s Meeting #6 handout**

**Downtown Vision, Inc.**

Jake Gordon, CEO of DVI, thanked the Mayor and City Council for their support of an improving downtown, particularly the expansion of the DVI boundary. DVI is increasing its staff of ambassadors from 16 to 30 and adding 3 office staff. In response to a question from Council Member Pittman, Mr. Gordon described the expansion of the DVI jurisdictional boundaries and said that the new employees will be hired late this year and early in 2022. All of the new positions will be full-time. He described the collaboration of the ambassadors with the Sheriff’s Office; DVI is responsible for cleanliness and attractiveness, the JSO is responsible for security. Council Member Boylan asked for clarification of whether the City is responsible for paying the DVI assessment on City lands that are used by private developers. Council Auditor Kim Taylor said the City will pay the assessment on whatever it owns. If the City owns the land and a developer builds a privately owned building on it, the developer would pay the assessment on the building and the City on the land. In response to a question from Council Member Gaffney, Mr. Gordon described the hours the ambassadors work, which fluctuate based on needs and downtown activity. They assign workers to cover night time and weekend events to provide service and visibility. Council Member Freeman asked if the ambassadors pick up and corral the private scooters around downtown in lieu of the contractors doing that job. Mr. Gordon said they will on occasion pick up scooters that are left in streets or blocking sidewalks in order to keep downtown clean, safe and attractive. Chairman Salem asked about the role of DVI in raising private funding for downtown events.

**Motion**: on p. 8, approve Auditor’s recommendation #1 to reduce assessed properties revenue by $20,000 from $1,688,943 to $1,668,943 due to a keying error on Schedule AD – **approved**.

**Motion**: on p. 8, approve Auditor’s recommendation #2 to amend Section 8.3 in the budget ordinance by reducing the anticipated revenue of $2,350,841 by $681,898 to $1,668,943 to reflect the amount for the assessed properties without the City of Jacksonville contribution and correct the $20,000 keying error in the motion above – **approved**.

**Downtown Investment Authority**

**Motion**: on p. 12, approve Auditor’s recommendation #1 to decrease revenue by $42,800 due to the River City Brewing Company being closed and the City no longer receiving revenue from renting this facility – **approved**.

**Motion**: on p. 12, approve Auditor’s recommendation #2 to increase the supervision allocation charged by $104,846 to include an allocation of salaries for the proposed Project Manager position and to increase the supervision allocation expense line item for the Northbank CRA (10801), Southbank CRA (10802), and the Public Parking (41102) fund by $67,842, $24,669, and $12,335, respectively; these increases will be offset by decreases in the Unallocated Plan Authorized Expenditures line items for the CRAs and cash carryover for Public Parking – **approved**.

**Motion**: on p. 12, approve Auditor’s recommendation #3 to add back 200 part-time hours that were incorrectly deleted – **approved**.

DIA CEO Lori Boyer introduced DIA Board Chair Braxton Gilliam who thanked the Mayor and Council for their support of the improvements in downtown. Ms. Boyer said the addition of a project manager position will particularly allow the authority to deal with projects and issues related to small businesses that might otherwise be overshadowed by the big ticket projects the authority’s staff is handling.

She noted a decline in the Northbank East TIF revenue, which is almost entirely because of the U.S. Marine Corps’ large housing contract with the Hyatt Regency hotel at a below-market rate that reduced its assessed value for the 2021 tax year. On the Southbank, work is underway on The District site – the bulkhead is under construction and a new School Board parking lot has been completed. Since funds will be needed to pay the City’s portion of those project costs, the DIA will be using most of its available revenue for those purposes. In response to a request from Council Member Pittman, Ms. Boyer described the DIA’s programs targeted at small businesses and reiterated that the new project manager position will be doing proactive outreach to small businesses to highlight the several programs that are already available. Council Member Gaffney asked about the progress toward the goal of reaching 10,000 downtown residents. Ms. Boyer said that development is ahead of schedule and there are more than 6,800 downtown residents now and she expects that the goal of 10,000 will be reached several years ahead of original projections.

Chairman Salem asked Ms. Boyer to describe the DIA’s support of downtown activities and events. She said that the DIA is a facilitator, not an operator, of downtown events; DVI and the City Special Events Division handle most of that work. DIA is interested in ensuring that there are numerous regularly scheduled and special events that will draw people to downtown, most of which will be organized by the library, MOCA, private arts groups, etc. Council Member Becton asked what happened to the former Friends of Hemming Park group and their activities. CAO Brian Hughes said they still have their relationship with the City, just with a new name because the park’s name changed. Kim Taylor said that the amount of the City’s contractual services with that organization is in the Parks and Recreation Department budget. They provide park security, lunchtime entertainment, and other activities for $550,000, the same amount as budgeted last year. Council Member Pittman asked about the progress of increasing employment downtown and Ms. Boyer listed several major projects announced in the last several years. A big challenge now is the COVID pandemic and workers still working remotely rather than in downtown offices. The development of downtown residences provides a full-time, 7 day a week market that can support restaurants and retail. She described outreach and marketing activities in collaboration with other downtown stakeholders. Council Member Boylan asked about how proactive DIA is in identifying market gaps (i.e. a drugstore, a grocery store) and trying to meet those needs.

**Public Parking**

**Motion**: on p. 15, approve Auditor’s recommendation #1 that Schedule AF be revised to include carryovers of:

• $123,725 for the installation of a CCTV security surveillance system at the Yates Garage.

• $90,968 for the installation of a CCTV security surveillance system at the Duval St. Garage

The motion was **approved**.

**Motion**: on p. 15, approve Auditor’s recommendation #2 that the part-time hours of 4,780 that were removed in error be added back into the budget – **approved**.

**Downtown Northbank CRA**

**Motion**: on p. 18, approve Auditor’s recommendation #1 that the unappropriated (by City Council) interest income from FY20-21 be appropriated in the FY21-22 budget as a transfer from fund balance and offset FY21-22 funds being used for the MPS Subsidy Downtown Garages by a corresponding amount, and appropriating the freed-up FY21-22 funds to Unallocated Plan Authorized Expenditures -

**Motion**: on p. 18, approve Auditor’s recommendation #2 that a Revised Schedule V be attached to reflect the above motion and the adjustment previously authorized to increase the Supervision Allocation by $67,842 and decrease the Unallocated Plan Authorized Expenditures by a corresponding amount -

Council Member Carlucci asked about the extent of the credit card-enabled and other high tech parking meter options downtown. Ms. Boyer said that the DIA is investigating several potential technologies for parking payments including “pay and display” kiosks and smartphone apps.

Council Member Becton asked about the current status of the MPS private garages and the City’s subsidy to their operations. Ms. Boyer said that the DIA is in mediation with the company and there is no resolution at present. The authority is escrowing the full amount of its contractual obligation to MPS pending the resolution of the mediation and the determination of the true obligation to the company. With regard to the publicly owned parking garages, Ms. Boyer said that there are waiting lists for monthly parking at the City Hall/Library garage and the Ed Ball garage. The Yates Building and Water Street garages are seeing less activity because of the COVID pandemic, but she is hopeful that eventually the normal level of activity will resume. The Water Street garage is the only one of the City-owned garages that is fully paid off. In response to a question from Council Member Pittman, Ms. Boyer said that the reduction in downtown parkers has reduced the anticipated revenue for parking fines, which reduces the portion of the fine revenue allocated to the disabled trust fund. In response to a question from Council Member Boylan, Mr. Hughes said that since the MPS garages are the subject of litigation, he would not be commenting on whether the City might be interested in potentially acquiring those garages. Chairman Salem asked who is negotiating with MPS on behalf of the City. Ms. Boyer said that the she represents the DIA and consults with the Office of General Counsel, her DIA board, and the Mayor’s Office. Kim Taylor said that she has checked and all four of the downtown City-owned garages have been paid off and there is no debt service requirement.

Ms. Taylor distributed a table showing the number of City employees parking in various City parking facilities downtown, the discounted employee rate they are currently paying, and the full cost they would be paying after the current employee discount expires on September 30th. The table also included the parking rates of nearby private parking garages. The Auditor’s office and DIA estimate a $380,000 to $400,000 cost for extension of the discount for an additional year. A big question is how many employees would leave a City facility and move to a private parking option if the discount is discontinued. Ms. Boyer said that the price increases in both the garages and at parking meters are a fundamental strategy of the new downtown parking policy, which is designed to implement market-based rates based on user demand. Council Member Gaffney suggested the need to provide some sort of discount for employees working part-time who can’t afford the full-time market rate on part-time salaries. Ms. Boyer said that the DIA is looking at a variety of options for increasing use of under-used facilities. Brian Hughes said that the DIA is charged to operate the City’s parking facilities in the best interest of the taxpayers; if the Council wants to provide a discount for employees as a policy decision, it can do that via the pending bill to extend the current discount. However the cost of doing that is the creation of a deficit in the DIA’s budget as presented and potentially necessitating the use of unallocated funds that the DIA is contemplating to use for installation of security cameras, elevator repairs, and other garage improvements.

Chairman Salem asked the Office of General Counsel to determine if there is any conflict of interest for City Council members in voting on the City facility parking rates because many council members park in the City Hall basement garage. In response to a question from Council Member Boylan, Ms. Boyer said that the parking facility budgets are based this year on 70% occupancy which is a function of COVID; they expect occupancy to gradually increase as workers return downtown. There is a waiting list of nearly 400 for the two most popular downtown garages, some of which are City employees and others are not. Council Member Becton said that subsidized employee parking is part of the overall employee benefit package. Attorney Paige Johnston said that the pending ordinance to extend the employee discount for an additional year requests one-cycle emergency approval, putting it in front of the Finance Committee at its first meeting in September. Mr. Hughes reiterated that the budget was proposed by DIA and the Mayor’s Office with the full revenue included from the garages without the discount. Employee parking is not a collectively bargained issue and if the Council wants to extend a benefit to employees, the financial burden should not fall on DIA. The administration will wait to see how the Council proposes to pay for the discount extension before offering an opinion on the proposal.

Kim Taylor said that DIA’s unallocated funding is not programmed for any particular use in the budget and noted that the Water Street Garage elevator repairs are in the CIP for FY25-26. Ms. Boyer responded that the DIA budget intentionally did not propose a use for those unallocated funds because of the uncertainty of revenues due to the COVID pandemic.

**The committee was in recess from 10:49 to 11:06 a.m.**

At the Chairman’s request, Ms. Boyer and Guy Parola of the DIA answered several questions about the scooter pilot program. There are 4 vendors in the pilot, which runs through the end of this year. The vendors are required to pick up scooters that are not properly parked within 2 hours of being notified by the City of a violation. Numerous data are being kept to evaluate usage and demand and the operation of the program. Chairman Salem said that DVI ambassadors should not be collecting and returning improperly parked scooters, since that is the responsibility of the companies. Council Member Freeman asked about whether the pilot program can be altered to meet changing conditions. He noted that the Council passed legislation to prohibit scooter use between midnight and 6 a.m. In response to a question from Council Member Boylan, Mr. Parola said that there have been very few reports of accidents or injuries, although the City is fully indemnified by the scooter companies so may not hear about accidents that do occur.

**Downtown Northbank CRA**

**Motion**: on p. 18, approve Auditor’s recommendation #1 that the unappropriated (by City Council) interest income from FY20-21 be appropriated in the FY21-22 budget as a transfer from fund balance to be utilized to offset FY21-22 funds being used to offset FY21-22 funds being used for the MPS Subsidy Downtown Garages by a like amount – **approved**.

**Motion**: p. 18, approve Auditor’s recommendation #2 that a Revised Schedule V be attached to reflect the above motion and the adjustment previously authorized to increase the Supervision Allocation by$67,842 and decrease the Unallocated Plan Authorized Expenditures by a corresponding amount - **approved**.

Ms. Boyer noted a typographical error in the CRA budget – “parking programming” should be “parks programming”

**Motion**: correct the typographical errors pointed out by Ms. Boyer as necessary – **approved**.

In response to a question Ms. Boyer said that the downtown CRAs sunset in 2041 and 2045, and have been extended to the maximum terms allowed. She also noted that 3 “shotgun” houses in LaVilla on Jefferson Street are scheduled for work next year - 1 will be relocated to Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing Park for reuse and the other two will be stabilized and secured in place for future use.

**Downtown Southbank CRA**

**Motion**: on p. 22, approve Auditor’s recommendation #1 that the unappropriated (by City Council) interest income from FY20-21 be appropriated in the FY21-22 budget as a transfer from fund balance to be utilized to offset FY21-22 funds being used for The Strand by a corresponding amount, which will keep The Strand budgeted at $508,750, and appropriating the freed-up FY21-22 funds to Unallocated Plan Authorized Expenditures – **approved**.

**Motion**: on p. 22, approve Auditor’s recommendation #2 that the amount included in the proposed budget for Trust Fund Authorized Expenditures – SS Retail Enhancement Program be moved to Trust Fund Authorized Expenditures – Unallocated Plan Authorized Expenditures to reflect the budget approved by the CRA Board and Budget Schedule V – **approved**.

**Motion**: on p. 22, approve Auditor’s recommendation #3 that a Revised Schedule V be attached to reflect the above motion and the adjustment previously authorized to increase the Supervision Allocation by $24,699 and decrease the Unallocated Plan Authorized Expenditures by a corresponding amount – **approved**.

**Renew Arlington Tax Increment District GSRA (Fund 10806)**

**Motion:** on p. 30, approve Auditor’s recommendation that Schedule S be revised to properly reflect the CRA Board Resolution of the line named College Park to CRA-2021-06 – **approved**.

In response to a question from Council Member Becton, Kirk Wendland of the Office of Economic Development said that the funding for the Renew Arlington mandatory compliance grant initiative is not specifically identified in the budget yet, but he suspects that the vast majority of the $1.6 million in available CRA funding will be used for that purpose. City Council acting as the CRA board will make that allocation at a later date. Ms. Taylor noted that this CRA fund is an all-years fund and uses do not lapse at year-end. In response to a question from Council Member Pittman, Mr. Wendland said that two façade grants have been approved (none yet expended) in the Renew Arlington area, and approximately 60 façade grants have been made in the countywide program.

**The committee was in recess from 11:44 a.m. to 1:01 p.m.**

**Kids Hope Alliance**

In response to a question from Chairman Salem, Ms. Taylor said that total programming funding through KHA is just over $29 million in City funding and $6.5 million in grants, plus $6 million in administrative costs. KHA CEO Mike Weinstein thanked the Mayor and the Council for their continuing support and said that 90 contractors provide over 200 programs. Everything has been challenging during the COVID pandemic but they continue to do the work that needs to be done. His staff will be delivering booklets to the council offices showing all the programs operating in each council district along with considerable socio-economic, crime and educational attainment information. Mr. Weinstein thanked Council Member Becton for his assistance in encouraging this analysis.

Council Member Freeman asked for a brief history of the creation and funding of the Jacksonville Children’s Commission and its transition to the Kids Hope Alliance. He said that the $36 million in funding for programs is about the same level of funding as the Children’s Commission was getting when it was created – roughly the equivalent of a half-mill of property taxes. Brian Hughes noted that the City funds programs for children’s services in numerous places in the budget – the Kids Hope Alliance, the Social Services Division, the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department, Public Service Grants, and elsewhere.

Council Member Pittman asked about the amount of pre-teen and teen programming. Mr. Weinstein said the KHA is moving toward a case management-based system that provides particular services to particular youth to meet their individual needs. Mental health programming and judicial diversion programs are a particular emphasis. Early literacy, particularly grade-level reading, is fundamental to future success. After about two years the judicial diversion program has fully transferred from the State Attorney’s Office to KHA. In response to another question from Ms. Pittman, Mr. Weinstein said they are attempting to make the community much more aware of the availability of the Youth Travel Trust Fund, which has not been used much in the last 18 months due to the COVID pandemic. Groups must still pay for most of the travel themselves (75%) up-front, and the reimbursement process now works much faster. Mr. Weinstein said the new positions in the budget will concentrate on grant compliance and research. In response to a question from Council Member Gaffney about the impact of the COVID pandemic, Mr. Weinstein said that most programs saw about 50-75% of their usual program participation and much of the interaction took place virtually rather than in-person. In-person activity has been starting off better this school year, but still not back to pre-COVID levels. KHA did as much as it could to see that agencies saw the maximum number of clients possible in a virtual format so that agencies could be legitimately reimbursed for services provided and could keep all of their employees on the payroll.

Council Member Boylan asked for information on how the KHA decides on its essential categories and how funding levels are determined for each. Mr. Weinstein explained the Ordinance Code requirements for budgeting in the 5 categories and the process for changing priorities as needs change. They are developing better means of getting KHA board members more directly involved in learning about community-serving agencies and deciding on priorities and funding choices. The KHA has a trust fund that could receive contributed funds from donors and public-private partnerships, but it is little-used at present. Mr. Boylan thanked Mr. Weinstein and the KHA for their cooperation in helping the Special Committee on Social Justice and Community Investment direct funding to its priorities. Chairman Salem cautioned the KHA that compliance evaluation needs to be more than just checking paperwork; the submission of paperwork doesn’t always reflect actual conditions in the field. Mr. Salem asked about the extent of the authority’s ability to reallocate funding as conditions change. Mr. Weinstein explained how unused contracted funds are repurposed, and especially the difficulty of reallocating funds from summer programming that may be unused but not quantified until too late in the fiscal year to avoid the funds lapsing into fund balance. That is usually the cause of the request for year-end carry-overs. There are several maximum percentage limits on transfer ability between essential service categories requiring either MBRC or City Council approval. Mr. Weinstein explained that the KHA inherited numerous 3-year contracts for service providers when it was created several years ago and has just recently gotten to the point of being able to issue RFPs for new contracts. All providers are now operating on KHA rather than hold-over Children’s Commission or Jacksonville Journey contracts.

Council Member Pittman asked about getting feedback from the provider agencies about ways to make the KHA applications and processes easier and simpler. Mr. Weinstein said they have been working on that over the last year and concerns are being addressed with new procedures.

Kim Taylor noted that the Youth Travel Trust Fund has $82,000 available and expenditures in the past several years have not reached that level.

**Motion** (Becton): appropriate $50,000 from KHA fund balance to the youth travel line and shift the $50,000 originally budgeted for the travel trust fund to the Special Council Contingency fund – **approved**.

**Public Works Department**

**Motion**: on p. 49, approve Auditor’s recommendation that the new Administration Manager position originally proposed for the Public Buildings Division (Fund 54101) be moved to the Public Works Office of the Director Division (Fund 00111), which will be offset in billings to customers in Public Buildings (Fund 54101) – **approved**.

Council Member Becton asked about any changes to the mowing and landscape maintenance budget that has traditionally been underfunded and not provided a sufficient level of service to keep the city looking good. Public Works Director John Pappas said that the constant rain for much of this summer has increased growth tremendously and challenged the ability of mowing contractors to keep up. He talked about the mowing schedule which ranges from 9 times a year on roads in rural areas to 24 times per year in city parks. Dave McDaniel, Chief of Landscape Maintenance, said that mowing starts in March and the service level varies by the growing season. Roadways are mowed twice a month during the growing season. Mr. Pappas said that City forces can do extra mowing in areas where it is determined to be necessary. In response to a question, Mr. Pappas said the mowing contractors are responsible for spraying for weed control in curbs, gutters and sidewalks.

At the request of Council Member Pittman, Mr. Pappas discussed the City’s relationship with the Florida Department of Transportation regarding coordination of roadway maintenance so that areas of the city are mowed by both entities at nearly the same time to provide a uniform appearance. Council Member Boylan asked if the Public Works Department has benchmarked itself against other comparable cities for the number of employees per square mile. Mr. Pappas said they had not, but depend a great deal on contractors rather than City employees to do a lot of the work. Mr. Boylan asked about the timeliness of public works services and the sufficiency of the workforce to provide an acceptable level of service expected by the taxpayers. In response to a question from Council Member Gaffney about whether the department proactively seeks out problems and maintenance needs, Mr. Pappas said that each of the four Public Works maintenance districts has a roving supervisor who looks for items that need work while in the course of providing regular inspection services. Brian Hughes said that the budget is the ultimate expression of the City Council’s priorities and the Council is able to make whatever changes it believes necessary to meet the public’s expectations. He cautioned that even with budget funding and employee authorizations it may be practically impossible to make improvements any time soon. In the current COVID-driven job market it is extremely difficult to find sufficient workers to fill jobs, whether it be mowers and ditch cleaners, garbage collectors or jobs requiring workers with a commercial driver’s license. There simply aren’t enough people in the job market to fill all the jobs seeking workers. Council Member Becton thanked Mr. Pappas and his employees for all the good work they do and their unfailing cooperation with and support of City Council members.

**Beach Erosion – Local (Fund 11404)**

**Motion**: on p. 51, approve Auditor’s recommendation to reduce cash carryover by $270,000 and increase trust fund authorized expenditures by the same amount – **approved**.

In response to a question from Council Member Pittman about whether the Beaches cities participate in the cost of this function, Mr. Pappas said they do not.

**Solid Waste Disposal**

Ms. Taylor pointed out the annual loan from the General Fund to the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund to cover its operating costs and make up for the shortfall in revenue from the household solid waste user fee and the need to take some remedial action to deal with this long-term problem. She noted that the Council declined to take the steps required by the state last year to increase the non-ad valorem solid waste user fee for this year.

CFO Joey Greive said that the City took bids to replace one of its solid waste haulers and the lowest bid came in recently at $6.1 million higher than what was provided in the Mayor’s budget developed several months ago. That $6.1 million consists of approximately $2.8 million in one-time startup costs for the new contractor and $3.3 million for the recurring portion of the new contract. After a series of conversations with the Council Auditor about the potential use of federal American Rescue Plan Act funds to fill this gap, a compromise proposal was developed. That compromise consists shifting $4.6 million of new local option gas tax funding from a contingency account for debt service to roadway resurfacing pay-as-you-go which will replace what was originally intended to be funded with American Rescue Plan dollars, and shift the $4.6 million in ARP funds to cover all of the one-time cost and a portion of the recurring costs new waste hauler contract. The remaining difference to reach the $6.1 million would come from a increased revenue from the Public Service Tax based on JEA’s proposed rate increase, which must be approved by the JEA board at its next meeting.

Mr. Greive said that ad valorem tax revenue is expected to grow next year, and collective bargaining is nearly completed for next year which includes employee raises using ARP funds.

**Motion** (Becton): approve the administration’s and Council Auditor’s negotiated agreement as described above to cover the additional costs of the new solid waste hauler contract:

* shift $4,549,847 million of new local option gas tax funding from a contingency account for debt service to roadway resurfacing pay-as-you-go which will replace what was originally intended to be funded with American Rescue Plan (ARP) dollars;
* shift $4,549,847 million in ARP funds (via amendment to pending Ordinance 2021-516) to cover the one-time start-up costs portion ($2,827,085) and one-half of the recurring cost portion ($1,563,207) of the new waste hauler contract;
* appropriate $1,563,207 of increased revenue from the Public Service Tax (based on the JEA Board’s approval of the proposed rate increase (to be voted on at the board’s next meeting);
* move the remaining $4,794,902 of the projected FY21-22 local option gas tax proceeds that are in a contingency account to fund various eligible projects with pay-as-you-go funds in lieu of borrowing
* $2,000,000 to Pavement Markers
* $450,000 to Countywide Intersection Improvement & Bridge Rehab – Bridges
* $400,000 to Countywide Intersection Improvement & Bridge Rehab – Intersections
* $800,000 to Traffic Signalization – Countywide
* $150,000 to Traffic Calming
* $994,902 to CRISI Grant (CSX/FEC/FDOT/JTA) Grant Match

Council Member Boylan suggested taking the entire $6.1 million in ARP funds for the waste hauler contract costs today and then making a change to reflect the additional Public Service Tax revenue should the JEA board take the expected action in September. Mr. Hughes said that using the ARP for the entire amount would mean using one-time funds for recurring costs which is not preferable; the compromise would cover half of the recurring cost with a recurring revenue source (Public Service Tax) leaving a $1.5 million gap that would need to be filled from another source.

The Becton motion was **approved unanimously**.

At the request of Council Member Becton, Mr. Pappas described the four allocations of the solid waste host fee at Trail Ridge Landfill and said he thinks the City’s tipping fee is less expensive than other landfills. He didn’t know how Jacksonville’s host fee compared to other counties. Council Member Boylan suggested looking at potential temporary changes in service frequency until the staffing crisis passes and the contractors can hire enough employees to get back to a normal service level. This would have the advantage of letting the public know what to expect. Mr. Pappas cautioned that the City intends to hold its contractors to their contractual obligations and has the ability to levy penalties for failure to perform.

**The committee was in recess from 3:30 to 3:36 p.m.**

**Landfill Closure (Fund 43103)**

**Motion:** on p. 58, approve Auditor’s recommendation to decrease the allocation from Public Buildings by $60,000 and offset it with an increase to the cash carryover; within Public Building (54101), the reduction in billings to customers will be offset with a transfer from fund balance – **approved**.

**Stormwater Services (Fund 44101)**

In response to a question from Council Member Pittman about whether any stormwater utility expenses are shared with JEA, Mr. Pappas said there is no JEA participation in this fund.

**Public Buildings**

Brian Hughes noted that the increase in the security line item reflects the additional security personnel for Tax Collector offices discussed at a previous budget hearing.

Ms. Taylor reported that the Special Council Contingency stands at a positive $1,362,125. Chairman Salem asked committee members to come to tomorrow’s meeting prepared to propose amendments to use these contingency funds if a use is contemplated. Paige Johnston said that the Council President had sent out an email with instructions for what information needs to be included in an allocation request. Council Member Becton said it was his understanding that amendments proposed by non-Finance Committee members would require a motion by a committee member. Chairman Salem said he would make motions for amendments on behalf of non-committee members at their request.

**Meeting adjourned:** 3:59 p.m.

Minutes: Jeff Clements, Council Research Division

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8.27.21 Posted 8:30 a.m.