



**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
RESEARCH DIVISION**

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**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MAYOR'S BUDGET PRESENTATION**

Meeting Minutes

**July 17, 2023
9:00 a.m.**

Location: City Council Chamber, 1st floor, City Hall

In attendance: Council Members Ken Amaro, Raul Arias, Michael Boylan, Joe Carlucci, Matt Carlucci, Kevin Carrico, Tyrone Clark-Murray, Terrance Freeman, Reggie Gaffney Jr., Mike Gay, Nick Howland, Rahman Johnson, Will Lahnen, Chris Miller, Jimmy Peluso, Ju'Coby Pittman (arr. 9:14), Ron Salem, Randy White

Excused: Council Member Rory Diamond

Also: Mayor Donna Deegan; Margaret Sidman – Council Secretary/Director; Merriane Lahmeur and Barbara Hobson - Legislative Services Division; Teresa Eichner and Eric Grantham – Public Information Division; Kim Taylor and Phillip Peterson – Council Auditor's Office; Bob Rhodes, Jason Teal, Mary Staffopoulos, Carla Lopera – Office of General Counsel; Mike Weinstein – Finance and Administration Department

Meeting Convened: 9:00 a.m.

Council President Salem convened the meeting and welcomed the new members to the City Council. Council Member Freeman gave the invocation and President Salem led the Pledge of Allegiance. A roll call of the members present was taken. President Salem introduced Mayor Donna Deegan to give her budget address.

Mayor Deegan presented her proposal for the FY23-24 budget and Capital Improvement Plan. She thanked the council leadership for their cooperation thus far and thanked former Mayor Curry and his administration for their assistance in helping her team produce her first budget. She said her budget will make generational investments in a number of important areas. The CIP will have \$64 million in pay-as-you-go funds that will not require borrowing. Infrastructure investments will be a top priority, especially rectifying the unfulfilled promises of consolidation.

The budget is being increased for mowing, edging and litter pickup and for street paving and sidewalk construction and repairs. \$10M is being allocated for resilience infrastructure and staffing initiatives awaiting the results of the countywide resilience study, in addition to tens of millions of dollars for drainage and bulkhead projects. The mayor said she intends to fully utilize the fund balance in the Tree Protection Trust Fund to get shade trees planted in heat islands, and plans increased investment in parks and trails, especially downtown parks, riverwalks and marinas and the Emerald Trail. The budget will increase Cultural Council grant funding to \$8.25M.

Mayor Deegan said that public safety is a top priority. The budget will add funding for 40 new officers and 18 non-sworn personnel to the Sheriff's Office along with renovations to the Police Memorial Building and purchase of new JSO vehicles. There is also funding for 60 new firefighter positions for the Fire and Rescue Department and \$31M for new fire station construction. The Kids Hope Alliance will receive \$5M additional for more programming, \$5M will be allocated to the Jacksonville Library for expanded literacy programs and library facility improvements.

The budget will include \$1M for 4 new positions and new equipment in the Planning Department to make permitting system improvements and help eliminate the application backlog. Funding for Public Service Grants will be increased to \$9M to expand assistance to not-for-profits and the good work they do. \$25M is proposed to be appropriated and set aside to implement the recommendations of the mayoral 7 transition committees when they complete their work later this year.

Mayor Deegan said she hopes to work with the Council to extend the Council's 1-, 3-, and 5-year strategic plan priorities to 10- and 20-year planning horizons.

Meeting adjourned: 9:23 a.m.

Minutes: Jeff Clements, Council Research Division
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