



## OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

117 WEST DUVAL STREET, SUITE 425  
4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, CITY HALL  
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202  
904-255-5137

### FINANCE COMMITTEE BUDGET HEARING #1 MINUTES

**August 8, 2024**  
**9:00 a.m.**

**Location:** City Council Chamber, City Hall – St. James Building

**In attendance:** Council Members Ron Salem (Chair), Raul Arias, Rory Diamond, Terrance Freeman, Nick Howland, Will Lahnen, Ju’Coby Pittman

**Also:** Council Members Randy White, Michael Boylan, Joe Carlucci, Ken Amaro, Jimmy Peluso; Kim Taylor, Brian Parks, Phillip Peterson - Council Auditor’s Office; Mary Staffopoulos, Shannon MacGillis – Office of General Counsel; Merriane Lahmeur, Steven Libby – Legislative Services Division; Darnell Smith, Karen Bowling, Joe Inderhees, Brittany Norris, Scott Wilson, Bill Delaney – Mayor’s Office; Anna Brosche, Angela Moyer – Finance Department

**Meeting Convened:** 9:00 a.m.

Chairman Salem convened the meeting and reviewed procedures for the budget hearings, including time allocations for presentations and for questions and comments from committee members and non-committee members. Non-committee council members may request committee members to move amendments on their behalf. Mr. Salem said he would like to separate final actions from actions that may be revisited later in the hearing process for the sake of clarity. The attendees introduced themselves for the record.

#### Administration Introduction

Mayor’s Chief of Staff Darnell Smith gave an overview of the mayor’s proposed budget and its priorities. He reviewed major pieces of legislation adopted recently. He noted the absence of federal ARP funds beginning in the upcoming fiscal year which will present at challenge. Property tax revenues are projected to increase by \$73M next year instead of \$135M increase in the current year. The proposed General Fund budget is \$1.92B. He stated that 225 enhancement requests were made to the Mayor’s Budget Review Committee (MBRC), of which 93 were recommended for funding. Current year funding is being reduced by \$13M, primarily in several areas: \$5M from the Kids Hope Alliance, \$1.8M from Public Service Grants, \$3M in mowing and landscape maintenance, and \$1.25M in Cultural Service Grants. The administration did a massive cleanup of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) in conjunction with City Council members to make it a realistic plan, and removed hundreds of projects not envisioned to be completed, which realized a saving of \$300M in reduced debt funding. The budget makes use of \$47M of operating reserve funds, as has been done in 8 of the past 9 years. Use of reserves should be rare and

justifiable, and the City has added over \$600M to its reserves in the past 9 year and is well over the targets set for the reserve funds in the Ordinance Code.

Ms. Smith noted that the 5-year fiscal projections show projected deficits in several years and they are well aware of that and are planning for it. The administration is launching a lean process improvement effort to identify and implement efficiencies. They are also implementing the DocuSign document management system to reduce physical paperwork and save execution time. The administration is looking to reduce employee headcount by means of attrition and retirements. The administration is working from several fundamental beliefs: fees should cover costs; invest to achieve the best return on investment possible and discontinue what isn't meeting that standard; continue investing in the City workforce, the backbone of the operation, and make sure all make a living wage (15% don't now); ensure that the independent authorities are making appropriate contributions to the City; turn the City's potential into reality even in a time of headwinds and challenges.

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

#### Budget and millage rate overview and budget adoption timeline

Council Auditor Kim Taylor said her staff has restated the prior budget schedules to reflect the previously approved administrative reorganization, so all figures will be comparable from year to year. She outlined the various ordinances and resolutions comprising the FY24-25 budget and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and reviewed the budget hearing and Council budget adoption timeline through final adoption on September 24<sup>th</sup>. The millage rates will be tentatively adopted at the first Council meeting in September and finally approved at the next meeting. The millage rate can be reduced at any time throughout the process but cannot be increased without new notices being mailed to property owners. She described the Special Council Contingency fund that will be used throughout the hearing process to account for additions to or subtractions from the mayor's proposed budget as a balancing account until the review is completed and said her staff can separately track use of reserve accounts if that is desired.

Ms. Taylor discussed the mayor's proposed millage rate, the growth in taxable property values, and the revenue to be generated by the proposed millage. The General Fund comprises \$1.067B in estimated revenues. Revenue from existing properties on the rolls increases by 4.18%, revenue from newly listed properties is just over \$30M, and total ad valorem revenue is up 7.02% from the current year. The General Fund totals \$2.1B and the total budget the Council will approve, including all independent authorities and constitutional officers, is over \$8B.

Chairman Salem asked about the increase in the JEA contribution to \$137M. CFO Anna Brosche said that is a 1-year figure while negotiations proceed with JEA about the contribution level in the future. This year's figure represents the base for future negotiations. Ms. Taylor said she and the Finance Department have been in discussion with the General Counsel's Office about the correct way to acknowledge this new amount in the budget since it is higher than the amount derived from the contribution calculation provided in the City Charter.

#### General Fund GSD Schedule of Revenues

In lieu of the Auditor's recommended amendment on p. 25, Chairman Salem recommended that the Operating Reserve transfer be reduced by \$19,787,223 by removing several OED and DIA non-recurring incentives proposed to be funded with the use of Operating Reserves.

**Motion** (Diamond on behalf of Chairman Salem) – move the Salem recommendation

Council Member Freeman said he will be abstaining from voting on the budget ordinance because of an employment conflict. He is seeking a clarification from the Ethics Office and Office of General Counsel (OGC) to see if he can vote on items that have no relationship to his employment. Council Member Diamond asked how this situation can be rectified since it has long been known where Mr. Freeman is employed. Mary Staffopoulos of the OGC said once they started looking at Mr. Freeman's employment with regard to its impact on the stadium renovation agreement, they realized that the company has many contracts with the City in many areas of operation that may present a voting conflict. Work continues on determining how this situation might be rectified. Chairman Salem asked that it be expedited so that a Finance Committee member can participate as fully as possible in the budget decisions. Council Member Diamond recommended identifying the many parts of the budget that aren't impacted at all by his employment and clear him to fully participate on those items.

Kim Taylor recommended holding off on appropriating funds for the incentives that won't need to be paid for some time into the future. Downtown Investment Authority CEO Lori Boyer said these incentives were put into the budget because that was the Council's instruction to her last year, so that they would be readily identifiable as future obligations. She said the DIA has several incentives that will need to be paid in the next few months and separate legislation will be filed to appropriate those funds.

**The Diamond motion was approved unanimously via a voice vote (Freeman abstained).**

#### Reserve Funds

Chairman Salem asked if the Emergency Reserve has ever been tapped for non-emergency uses; Kim Taylor said it was for an appropriation to the Operation Safe Streets program a number of years ago. Mr. Salem asked if the language of the Code has been changed to prohibit use of the Emergency Reserve if there are funds available in the Operating Reserve. Ms. Taylor quoted from the Code about permissible uses. Sheh said the Emergency Reserve was last used in 2008, and the Code language was tightened up in 2010 to further restrict uses for anything less than a bona fide emergency.

Council Member Howland asked about industry best practices for reserve fund amounts. Ms. Taylor said the GFOA recommends at least 2 months of usual expenses (16.7% of annual budget) as a minimum, with consideration given to the nature of threats (i.e. location in a hurricane zone). The City's Operating Reserve stands at 19.12% of budget before the Mayor's proposed transfer for the upcoming fiscal year, and would be at 16.25% if the transfer is made which is less than the 16.7% recommended by GFOA. Council Member Diamond said the proposed transfer from reserves is wildly irresponsible. He asked what might happen to the Operating Reserve given the projected budget deficits over the next several years and said that makes it irresponsible to think about using it now. Council Member Peluso asked how the Operating Reserve grew so rapidly in the last couple of years. Ms. Taylor said the previous administration invested substantially in increasing the reserves and then the Ordinance Code was changed to increase the target for the Emergency Reserve to 7-10% of the General Fund budget.

#### General Fund GSD Non-Departmental Expenditures

**Motion** (Diamond) – on p. 28, remove the \$10M appropriation for the Self-Help Venture Fund from the budget completely and eliminate the corresponding Operating Reserve transfer –

Darnell Smith described the purpose of the fund, which would be matched by \$30M from the private sector to create a \$40M loan fund for private developers to create affordable housing. He said the Community Foundation of Northeast Florida, which would manage the program, could come to a future meeting and provide more details. Chairman Salem said the program could be proposed via separate legislation after the budget is completed. Council Member Pittman said affordable housing is very important and she is discouraged to see a motion to delete the program entirely without any further information or discussion. Council Member Diamond said his motion is made because there is practically

no information yet about what the proposal is and what it would do. He is happy to consider it later when there is more detail. Ms. Taylor said her staff had a recommendation on this program in the Direct Contracts section later in the budget to place the funding “below the line”. President White recommended that the funding be placed “below the line” rather than eliminated entirely so more discussion can take place about the proposal. Council Member Howland said affordable housing is obviously critical and investments have been made but this proposed program is just not well formed yet. Council Member Peluso said these funds will leverage \$30M in private funding and it shouldn’t be discarded out of hand. He favors putting it “below the line” for now pending further discussion.

**The Diamond motion was approved 5-1-1 (Pittman opposed, Freeman abstained).**

**The committee was in recess from 10:45 to 11:00 a.m.**

In the discussion regarding direct funding for the Jacksonville Symphony, Council Member Diamond said he prefers competitive grants and would prefer that the Cultural Service Grant (CSG) program funding be restored and the Symphony could apply for the funding there.

**Motion** (Diamond): move the \$500,000 allocation to the Jacksonville Symphony “below the line” to a designated contingency

Diana Donovan, CEO of the Cultural Council, said that the Symphony has applied for an operating grant through the CSG process. Council Member Pittman asked how a failure to get this funding would impact the Symphony. Steven Libman, President and CEO of the Jacksonville Symphony, said the JSO has been getting funding from the CSG process for many years. This appropriation would be for player salaries, and the Symphony has gotten occasional one-time funding support from the City. The state completely eliminated its funding for arts programs so that is a loss. Mr. Libman noted that the upcoming season is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Symphony. Anna Brosche said the \$500,000 in the budget is less than the Symphony asked for and was intended to be in addition to whatever it might receive from the CSG process. Darnell Smith said many major cities provide funding for their symphonies and the Jacksonville Symphony is a world-class organization that represents the City well.

**The Diamond motion was approved unanimously via a voice vote (Freeman abstained)**

**Motion** (Diamond on behalf of Council Member Boylan) – take \$1.5M from the proposed allocation to UF Health Florida for indigent care and put it “below the line” to hear from We Care Jax about the potential to use those funds to deal with indigent care need reduction.

Chairman Salem said UF Health asked for \$60M for indigent care and it was negotiated down to \$56M.

**The motion died for lack of a second.**

#### Cultural Service Grants

Council Member Pittman asked Diana Donovan what the impact would be from reducing CSG funding by \$1.25M. She said the state elimination of arts funding this year along with the City cut would make life difficult for cultural organizations.

Ms. Pittman advocated for continued funding for the Florida Black Expo. Chairman Salem said he hoped the committee would be able to shift enough funding to the special contingency throughout the course of the hearings to be able to fund worthwhile projects.

Council Member Howland said that the \$10.5M in reductions from the grants and aids list is a small fraction of the \$129M proposed for the entire list.

**Motion** (Diamond): move all funding for Municipal Dues and Affiliations lines “below the line” (chambers of commerce, Sister Cities, GFOA, municipal and county associations)

Council Member Pittman advocated for keeping the funding because membership in these organizations is valuable for information sharing and networking opportunities it provides.

**Motion** (Howland): amend the Diamond motion to move just the \$228,897 for municipal and county association dues “below the line” to a designated contingency as well as the \$22,899 in travel costs within the City Council budget related to these dues.

Council Member Freeman said he has heard complaints about the effectiveness of the Black Chamber of Commerce.

**The Howland amendment to the amendment was approved unanimously via a voice vote** (Freeman abstained).

**The Diamond motion as amended was approved unanimously via a voice vote** (Freeman abstained).

**Motion** (Diamond): move the \$390,673 funding for the Northeast Florida Regional Council “below the line” to a special contingency.

Council Member Pittman said the NEFRC does valuable work and has assisted the City Council with its special committees. Council Member Howland said it is a regional body and Jacksonville needs to consider the impact of this action on the other participating counties. He does not support removing this funding. Chairman Salem said the entity has been very useful to the Council and he supports their funding. Council Boylan mentioned their good work for the Special Committee on Critical Quality of Life Issues and the Special Committee on JSO Primary Facilities. He said Northeast Florida is growing rapidly and needs the NEFRC as a regional cooperation entity to avoid the dysfunction that has happened in South Florida.

**The Diamond motion failed 1-5** (Diamond in favor, Freeman abstained).

Council Member Howland asked about the increases in the juvenile justice and Medicaid match funding allocations. Ms. aylor said they are determined by state formulas and are not discretionary. In response to a question from Mr. Howland, Budget Officer Angela Moyer confirmed that 3% cost of living increases for employees are budgeted in a non-departmental account and are not shown in the departmental budgets until after collective bargaining agreements are approved.

**Motion:** on p. 37, tentatively approve Auditor’s recommendation #1 to eliminate \$2,867,500 in debt service related to the Health and Financial Technology Graduate Education Center to be established and operated by the University of Florida since it is not anticipated that any borrowing will take place in FY 2024/25 which means no debt payment is needed in FY 2024/25. This will have a positive impact to Operating Reserves of \$2,867,500 – **approved unanimously via a voice vote** (Freeman abstained).

**Motion:** on p. 37, tentatively approve Auditor’s recommendation #2 to add UF Health and Financial Technology Graduate Education Center funding of \$35,000,000 past authorization and \$17.5 million past authorization for JPA to Capital Outlay Expenditures Not Lapsed Schedule AF. This would have no impact on Special Council Contingency - **approved unanimously via a voice vote** (Freeman abstained).

**Motion:** on p. 37, tentatively approve Auditor’s recommendation #3 to reduce the collective bargaining contingency by \$10 million to correct an estimation error. This will have a positive impact to Operating Reserves of \$10M – **approved unanimously via a voice vote.**

Council Member Boylan advocated for using some of these savings for the WeCareJax program to connect uninsured individuals with health care resources. Ms. Taylor pointed out that if none of these savings are going into a special council contingency, then if there are desired additions at the end of the hearing process then they will need to come from Operating Reserve or some other source. The use of Operating Reserve as a funding source has been reduced from \$46M to \$4M by the actions taken by the committee thus far.

**The hearing was in recess from 12:09 to 12:39 p.m.**

Chairman Salem confirmed that committee actions have lowered the appropriation from Operating Reserves by \$19M, but he understands that there will be about \$25M going into that reserve at the end of the fiscal year.

Ms. Taylor said her team is working with the Finance Department on the financial details of JSO and JFRD employees going into the Florida Retirement System, noting that overtime is pensionable under FRS so that may substantially change the projected cost of joining that system, which won’t take effect until FY26-27 if approved by the Council. With regard to the revenue and expenditure projections through 2029, Ms. Taylor said those figures are very preliminary and subject to substantial revisions as conditions change. There will be another mayoral election in that period, several very large capital and economic development projects will get underway (stadium reconstruction, Four Seasons Hotel, Gateway Jax development project, etc.), and other factors will impact on those future budgets.

**Motion:** on p. 39, tentatively approve the General Fund Operating Fund Revenue and Expenditure Projections for FY2025-2029 – **approved unanimously via a voice vote** (Freeman abstained).

#### Public Service Grants

**Motion:** on p. 40, tentatively approve Auditor’s recommendation that the Schedule of Public Service Grants (Schedule A2) be updated to remove the Public Service Grant Council funding from the schedule since the funding is appropriated in Ordinance 2024-509 – **approved unanimously via a voice vote** (Freeman abstained).

Ms. Taylor noted that the traditional Taye Brown Regional Park Improvement Trust Fund waiver is being removed due to the transfer not occurring this year. Another funding source will need to be identified, which may include the Trail Ridge Landfill Mitigation Account.

#### Ordinance 2024-504 Proposed Deletions

**Motion:** on p. 50, tentatively approve Auditor’s recommendation that language in Section 11.11 regarding the Florida Theatre Performing Arts Center Inc. contract be revised to correct the amount of additional funding and clarify the last clause as shown on p. 50 – **approved unanimously via a voice vote** (Freeman abstained).

**Motion:** on pp. 52-53, tentatively approve all Auditor’s recommended technical amendments, excluding item #5 (Self Help Venture Fund Revolving Loan) - **approved unanimously via a voice vote** (Freeman abstained).

Ms. Taylor clarified earlier comments regarding the entry of police and fire employees into the FRS, saying that payment obligations could begin accruing in FY26-27 and be payable in FY27-28.

#### Property Appraiser's Office

Ms. Taylor reviewed the office's budget. Property Appraiser Joyce Morgan introduced her management team in attendance and made a PowerPoint presentation on her office's functions and needs. She said a salary study has been performed to address an experienced employee retention problem and substantial disparities with nearby counties were identified. Rapid turnover is a serious problem. Jacksonville is the lowest paying property appraiser's office in Florida and her enhancement request for an additional \$1.4M for salary increases will only increase that rank by a couple of places. Chairman Salem said the enhancement request will be added to the list of other requests for consideration later in the hearing process. Council Members Pittman and Howland expressed support for the increase request to be taken up later in the process. Ms. Brosche said scores of enhancement requests were heard by MBRC but were not able to be accommodated.

#### Fire and Rescue Department

**Motion:** on p. 91, tentatively approve Auditor's recommendation to remove the capital outlay carryforward for \$19,294. This recommendation will have no impact to Special Council Contingency – **approved unanimously via a voice vote** (Freeman abstained).

In response to a question from Chairman Salem, Fire Chief Keith Powers said his department's goal is to get development plan review completion down to 15 days from the current 21 day average. The additional position will help speed up that review process. Council Member Howland asked about the impact of the addition of the new building permitting automation system. Chief Powers said he is not aware of how that system is working because he doesn't have direct experience with that office. As an update to a discussion at the last Finance Committee meeting, the Chief said the \$4.57M expense threshold to file for FEMA reimbursement for Tropical Storm Debby-related expenses has been met. President White asked about any progress toward funding a replacement burn building for the Fire and Rescue Department. Ms. Brosche said the need is recognized but it's not currently in the Capital Improvement Plan. Chief Powers said he has a meeting next week to explore possible mechanisms for getting some state funding assistance for that building.

#### Sheriff's Office

Chairman Salem asked when the Police Memorial Building will be empty of employees; Sheriff Waters said 12-18 months from now. Mr. Salem asked about the redlining of 16 correctional officer positions. JSO Budget Chief Bill Clement said they were the people who interacted with probationers, and that function is being contracted out to another entity. Mr. Salem asked about what the Sheriff plans to do about a replacement jail. Sheriff Waters said his office is developing a group of community stakeholders to advise on the planning process, is hire an architect and engineer to begin facility planning, and is looking at potential locations. He said he would be looking at reallocating money within his budget to pay for these expenses. Council Member Diamond asked the Sheriff about his enhancement requests totaling \$767,380.

**Motion** (Diamond) – approve an allocation from Operating Reserves for the \$767,380 for the list of 5 Sheriff's Office distributed list of requested enhancements – **approved unanimously via a voice vote** (Freeman abstained).

Chairman Salem urged the Sheriff to inform the Finance Committee if he has any problem obtaining the resources he needs to get the process underway to begin design and location for the new jail.

**Motion:** on p. 108, tentatively approve Auditor’s recommendation that alarm citation revenue be increased by \$77,900 to better align with anticipated actuals and that the addition revenue be used to increase funding for clothing, uniform, and safety equipment expenses to purchase equipment for the 40 proposed additional positions - **approved unanimously via a voice vote** (Freeman excused).

Council Member Boylan asked what happened to the \$9M appropriated by the Council for the immediate repair and maintenance needs of the current jail. Kim Taylor said the project is listed in the CIP for next year. Council Member Pittman asked about how competitive the JSO’s salaries are compared to other jurisdictions. Sheriff Waters said the mayor and Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) have agreed in collective bargaining to substantial raises that will make the department much more competitive. Applications for vacant positions are noticeably increasing. In response to another question from Ms. Pittman, the Sheriff said they are continually asking for 40 new officers every year to get up to a reasonable staffing level to respond to the tremendous growth around the city.

Council Member Freeman announced that he has been informed by the State Ethics Commission that he does not have an employment conflict that would prevent him from voting on the budget ordinance.

#### 911 Emergency User Fee

**Motion:** on p. 111, tentatively approve Auditor’s recommendation to approve request made by the Sheriff’s Office to increase the transfer from fund balance within the E911 fund by a net \$887,678 and have a net positive impact to Special Council Contingency of \$284,462 for the following purposes:

a) Increase interdepartmental billing costs by \$266,124 in order to increase the total amount to be reimbursed to the Sheriff’s Office and the Fire and Rescue Department to better reflect anticipated charges. The Sheriff’s Office will receive a reimbursement of \$1,906,577 and the Fire and Rescue Department will receive \$650,957. This combined with the revenue in the General Fund/GSD not matching the proposed distribution from this fund increases the positive impact to the General Fund/GSD by \$30,100 to \$296,224.

b) remove the proposed amount of indirect costs of \$11,762 from the budget to help ensure compliance with Florida Statute 365.172(10)(b). This will negatively impact the General Fund/GSD by \$11,762.

c) Approve the following request adjustments to better align the proposed budget with anticipated need for FY 2024/25 which will increase the transfer from fund balance by a net \$633,316:

- i. Increase hardware/software maintenance costs by \$512,957.
- ii. Increase specialized equipment costs by \$85,366.
- iii. Increase miscellaneous services and charges by \$40,993.
- iv. Reduce travel expenses by \$6,000.

**The motion was approved unanimously via a voice vote.**

**Motion:** on p. 111, tentatively approve the Sheriff’s Office request to utilize the net positive impact to Special Council Contingency totaling \$284,462 from the actions above to increase clothing, uniform, and safety equipment expenses in order to purchase equipment for the 40 proposed additional positions being added within the general fund – **approved unanimously via a voice vote.**

#### City Council

Salem advocated for establishing a \$1M Council President’s contingency fund. Council Member Diamond said there will be a separate bill filed to approve council member raises and he will vote against that when he can. Council Member Lahnen said there was a huge increase in VAB hearings which increases the costs for paying magistrates to hear the cases – he will have an enhancement request for that. Chairman Salem added it to the enhancement list. Mr. Lahnen asked about the City Council’s copy center budget and individual council member allocations. Council Director Peggy Sidman said many



council members don't use their allocations for printing and mailing because electronic communication has become so prevalent. Mr. Diamond said he would like to get rid of that allocation completely. Council Member Pittman said those funds are important to communicate with constituents who don't have email addresses. Some council members use paper communications and shouldn't be penalized by the actions of others who don't.

**Motion:** on p. 114, tentatively approve Auditor's recommendation to remove the capital outlay carryforward request of \$125,461 from Schedule AF since these funds will be expended in FY 2023/24 – **approved unanimously via a voice vote.**

President White advocated for finding funds for a Council President contingency fund. Council Member Freeman said he is filing a resolution on that subject and would appreciate discussion of making it a council contingency fund not restricted to the Council President's control. Peggy Sidman, Council Secretary/Director, introduced her management team present. She said there are 2 items that are contractual obligations that need to be funded as originally requested and should not be considered as enhancements – a document management system annual maintenance fee (\$25,000) and increased costs for VAB hearing magistrates (\$39,000). Council Member Lahnen said the VAB protest fee has not been raised in many years and the low fee is an incentive to property owners to file protests that start an expensive review process.

**Motion** (Howland): approve funding for the document management system annual maintenance fee (\$25,000) and increased costs for VAB hearing magistrates (\$65,000, of which \$26,000 will be funded by the School Board and \$39,000 by the City) using \$64,000 from the Operating Reserve - **approved unanimously via a voice vote.**

**The meeting was in recess from 2:35 to 2:50 p.m. due to a fire alarm evacuation.**

#### Tourist Development Council

**Motion:** on p. 116, tentatively approve Auditor's recommendation that Budget Ordinance Schedule W be revised to correct the Administration amount from \$320,192 to \$320,134 and expenditures for the Remaining to be Spent in Accordance With Any Tourist Development Plan Component from \$644,486 to \$644,544 align the schedule with the amounts in the budget – **approved unanimously via a voice vote.**

Council Member Diamond said he doesn't believe the city needs a Tourist Development Council at all, and at the very least the functions that Visit Jacksonville performs should be put out to bid, perhaps with the various functions bid separately to attract different providers. Chairman Salem said the Jacksonville Sports Foundation is up and operating and is beginning to attract exciting events. Council Member Freeman asked how the Foundation's members are appointed. Michael Corrigan, President of Visit Jacksonville Inc., said the original 5 members (the Executive Council) created the group and filed for 501(c)(3) status. Mr. Freeman asked that the board reflect Jacksonville's diverse makeup and sporting interests.

#### Office of General Counsel

**Motion:** on p. 121, tentatively approve Auditor's recommendation to correct the Food and Beverages Schedule to update the language which was cut off in the final sentence – **approved unanimously via a voice vote.**

In response to a question from Chairman Salem, General Counsel Robert Fackler said he worked with the administration on several ideas to increase the office's staffing and salary levels to keep good, experienced attorneys and he believes that higher salaries would help greatly in hiring. A salary survey

indicates that the City's pay rate is 20% below other comparable government agencies and even further below the private legal market.

**Meeting adjourned:** 3:11 p.m.

Jeff Clements - Council Research Division

[jeffc@coj.net](mailto:jeffc@coj.net) 904-255-5137

Posted 8.13.24 9:30 a.m.