



**Special Committee on
Duval DOGE
January 21, 2026
Meeting Minutes**

Attendance: Committee Members Salem (Chair), Diamond, Miller, Arias and Gay; Council Member Boylan

Also: Brian Parks and Kim Taylor, Auditor's Office; Mary Staffopoulos, OGC; Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

Meeting convened: 11:03 am

Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Salem convened the meeting and called for introductions.

Public Comment

Mr. Nooney spoke about Jacksonville's waterways and OGC representation lacking at certain board meetings.

Update on the Bailey Group – City Group Health Plan Review

There was an update from the Bailey Group regarding the City's group health plan assessment, up to this point. There will be a more detailed presentation at the February meeting. The consultants from the Bailey Group are still looking at the data provided, and the pharmacy and medical repricing analysis are ongoing. The pharmacy analysis includes examining contract terms and market prices. Medical repricing data will be sent to carriers to review claims and assess the difference in cost. There was discussion about the timeline for deliverables. CM Salem mentioned that the charge for the DOGE committee ends June 30th, but it can be continued at the discretion of the next council president. CM Salem said ideally the committee can have enough information from the Bailey Group to make recommendations to the Administration. CM Arias said he'd like to see a more comprehensive report prior to the next budget cycle.

Report on Telehealth - CM Diamond

CM Diamond said that the requested documents were all returned by the respective parties. He said the documents led to more questions to be asked, and he mentioned that some items were redacted – specifically text messages. CM Diamond said that the follow-up response will be reviewed and then the subcommittee will report to the full DOGE committee.

2% Lapse Update

There was discussion about the required 2% departmental lapse on controllable expenses. Ms. Taylor said that to date, the Inspector General's Office has been the only one that requested the lapsed funds returned. CM Arias asked about what happens to the remaining lapsed funds, if not returned to departments by the end of the fiscal year. Such funds would revert to reserves.

Discussion on How Debt is Budgeted – Council Auditor’s Office

Kim Taylor, Council Auditor, spoke about the budgeting and projection of debt costs. She said that each year, the City has to budget enough money to ensure that all debt payments can be made. Ms. Taylor talked about actual debt costs, and she said that usually debt is budgeted over 20 years, but payments are typically over a 30-year term. She said that payments come in different forms, front loaded, back loaded, or “middle” loaded. She mentioned the impact from the portion that is bonded vs commercial paper. She talked about the variability of interest rates. Ms. Taylor spoke about recommendations for budget/project using 30 or 25 year payback periods, to not include year 1 principal payments if there is not a year 1 payment for new debt, and to make Code provisions for debt savings to be used for pay-go to reduce the amount that needs to be borrowed. CM Salem expressed his frustration with the spending of funds that are saved, and he mentioned legislation that would address that so as debt savings would automatically revert to pay-go. CM Boylan said that he agreed with a more disciplined approach to spending savings. There was discussion about completion grants, and how those should not be funded through debt. Ms. Brosche, CFO, and Mr. Cicero, Treasurer, said that they were in agreement overall with the recommendations from the Auditor. Ms. Brosche said that there should be caution as related to the 3rd recommendation about debt savings, so as to consider debt as a whole and not pockets of debt. CM Miller extended kudos to the Auditors.

Comments from Committee

CM Diamond said he wants to invite JTA back to the committee to speak about NAVI, and he said he thinks there should be a standing council committee for financial oversight. CM Salem concurred. CM Miller said that prioritization is needed for discretionary funding.

Chair Salem adjourned the meeting at 12:06 pm.

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

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