



117 W. Duval Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Council Chamber, 1st Floor, City Hall

**Special Committee on
Duval DOGE
February 3, 2026
Meeting Minutes**

Attendance: Committee Members Salem (Chair), Miller, and Arias

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

Meeting convened: 11:01 am

Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Salem convened the meeting and called for introductions.

Public Comment

John Nooney, John Scott

Florida DOGE report on Local Government Spending

Kim Taylor, Council Auditor, spoke about the results of the Florida DOGE report as related to Jacksonville. The Auditor's Office reviewed items in the report and offered feedback as to the findings. Ms. Taylor noted the difference between the General Fund amounts used by Florida DOGE as compared to General Fund/General Services District since those are not the same. Ms. Taylor talked about the noted increase in spending in FY 2025 compared with FY 21 and FY 17 and the impact from JSO and JFRD collective bargaining. The spending increase was comparable to that in other large Florida cities. She talked about the increase in ad valorem revenue since FY 16-17, mentioned in the report. The Florida DOGE report noted a personnel spending increase of 29.7% between FY 20/21 and FY 24/25. Ms. Taylor provided context as to the increase in departmental salaries and benefits, and the increase in JSO/JFRD salaries and benefits. She noted the effect of pension reform on benefit costs, and the 10-year period of flat/reduced personnel costs that began in FY 08/09.

There was discussion about DEI and the role of the Cultural Council, as the entity overseeing the Cultural Service Grant program. CM Miller asked for more information from the Cultural Council about their process, and he said he'd like to see a list of all of the items in the report labeled by the Florida DOGE as wasteful spending (roughly \$199 million). Ms. Taylor talked about the portion of the report that references a plan to convert City fleet vehicles to EVs. Ms. Taylor said that, according to the Administration, JEA worked with an outside vendor to develop a plan for such a conversion, estimated to cost \$105 million over a 15-year period for 744 vehicles. CM Arias noted the savings over time from converting to EVs, from maintenance and fuel expenses. A full conversion plan has not been implemented, but a pilot program was approved last year for some vehicles from the Building Inspection Division. CM Arias asked for the projected savings for using EVs for non-emergency vehicles as compared to internal combustible engine vehicles.

There was discussion about funds for sidewalks. The Florida DOGE report noted that some of Jacksonville's sidewalk project costs exceed the FDOT average. Ms. Taylor said the report did not identify which sidewalk project it referenced, but that scopes of work for sidewalk projects often include other infrastructure improvements that impact the cost.

The committee further discussed the Cultural Council process and selection of grantees. CM Arias indicated that he thinks council should review the list of grantees and associated projects. On the topic of sidewalks and CIP projects, it was mentioned that the scopes of work and project descriptions should be more descriptive, to reflect additional components that impact the cost. CM Miller talked about the public safety aspect of sidewalks and bike lanes, noting the high rate of cyclist and pedestrian deaths in Jacksonville.

There was discussion about overtime for staff in the Parks Department, Traffic Engineering, and Public Parking. Much of this overtime is necessitated by operational requirements, weekend duties, special events and staff shortages. CM Salem said that departments should plan accordingly to avoid overtime. CM Arias said overtime will be contemplated during the budget process. The committee talked about part time salary expenses for Carla Miller, special advisor to the Mayor, and the cost for the hologram unit that was previously located at the airport. Ms. Taylor reviewed the DEI funding identified by the Florida DOGE report, for art programming, the Symphony and Jasmyn. CM Miller extended kudos the Auditor's Office for their work with the Florida DOGE team, and for their review of the Florida DOGE report.

CM Salem said that at the next Duval DOGE meeting there will be an update from the Bailey Group.

Chair Salem adjourned the meeting at 12:11 pm.

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research
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Posted: 2.11.26 5:00 pm