

City of Jacksonville

*117 W. Duval Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202*



Meeting Minutes

Budget Hearing - Meeting #3

Thursday, August 20, 2026

9:00 AM

**Council Chamber,
1st Floor, City Hall**

Finance Committee - Budget Hearings

Will Lahnen, Chair

Chris Miller, Vice Chair

Rory Diamond

Terrence Freeman

Mike Gay

Rahman Johnson

Randy White

Legislative Assistant: Barbara Ireland Hobson

Council Auditor's Office: Phillip Peterson, Council Auditor

Council Auditor's Office: Brian Parks

Council Research: Colleen Hampsey, Chief

Office of General Counsel: Mary Staffopoulos, Deputy

Administration: Mike Weinstein

COUNCIL RULE 4.505 DISRUPTION OF MEETING

Any person who disrupts a regular meeting of the City Council, standing committees, special or select committees, sub-committees or any other public meeting presided over by a City Council Member may be forthwith barred, removed, or otherwise ejected, in the discretion of the presiding officer, from further attendance at that meeting. If necessary, due to the nature of the disruption, the audience may be cleared from the Council Chambers or meeting location in the discretion of the presiding officer.

Any person who refuses to leave the City Council Chamber may be subject to arrest.

Disruption of a meeting includes the following types of behaviors:

- 1) Any form of political campaigning or electioneering regarding a specific candidate or group of candidates in City elections;
- 2) Impeding the orderly progress of the meeting by shouting, yelling, whistling, chanting, singing, dancing, clapping, foot stomping, snapping fingers, cheering, jeering, using artificial noise makers or musical instruments, waving signs of any size, or engaging in any other display of excessive noise, sounds, or movement;
- 3) Displaying or waving signs of any sort, except where used to support the speaker's presentation at the podium, and only where the sign is 21 inches by 21 inches or smaller in size and cannot be displayed in a manner which unreasonably obstructs the view of the dais for any member of the audience, regardless of message;
- 4) Audible noise from cellphones or other electronic devices;
- 5) Consumption of alcohol or controlled substances;
- 6) Making vulgar or offensive remarks or gestures, or using threatening language or gestures, including but not limited to pantomiming discharging a firearm, choking, or throat-cutting;
- 7) Refusing to stop speaking when his or her time has expired or is otherwise directed by the presiding officer to do so due to disruptive behavior as described herein;
- 8) Returning to the meeting after having been removed or ejected, or attempting to do so.

Meeting Convened: 9:00 a.m.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:38 p.m.

Attendance: Committee Members Lahnen, White, Gay, Freeman, Miller, Johnson and Diamond; Council Members Amaro, Carlucci, Salem, and Boylan

Also: Brian Parks and Phillip Peterson, Auditor's Office; Mary Staffopoulos, OGC; Mike Weinstein, Mayor's Office; Angela Moyer, Budget Office

Item/File No.

Title History

1. Courts (General Fund, Courthouse Trust Fund, Teen Court, and Consolidated \$65 Court Fines) - 40 Minutes

Mr. Parks, Auditor's Office, reviewed the budget for the Courts' facilities, maintenance,

utilities, security, communications, existing radio systems and the existing Multi-Agency Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS), and the Guardian Ad Litem program. Charlie Cofer, Public Defender, and Lance Day, Chief Judge, were in attendance to answer questions.

Motion/2nd (Miller/Gay) to approve the Auditor recommendation. Approved unanimously.

1. \$59,399 for furniture and equipment and \$146,520 for computer equipment be added to the capital outlay carryforward schedule of the Budget Ordinance and the two items mentioned above be removed.

Courthouse Trust Fund

No recommendations.

Teen Court

No recommendations.

Consolidated \$65 Court Fines

No recommendations.

2. Court System Technology Subfund (Courts, Public Defender & State Attorney) - 20 Minutes

Recording Fees

No recommendations.

3. Public Defender - 20 Minutes

Mr. Parks reviewed the budget for the Public Defender, related to costs for office space, utilities, maintenance, security, and communication services as may be necessary for the proper and efficient functioning of their offices.

No recommendations

CM Salem asked about maintenance and security at the courthouse. Judge Day talked about security upgrades, weapons detectors, and a consistent pressure washing process. CM Carlucci asked about an art installation that was planned previously for the lawn outside the courthouse but put on hold. Judge Day spoke about security being the Courts' first priority, and the costs and risks associated with a large sculpture on the front lawn.

4. State Attorney - 20 Minutes

Steven Segal, SAO, was in attendance to answer questions. Mr. Parks reviewed the State Attorney's Office budget related to the costs for office space, utilities, maintenance, security, and communication services as may be necessary for the proper and efficient functioning of their offices.

No recommendations.

5. Clerk of the Courts - 20 Minutes

Jody Phillips, Clerk of Courts, was in attendance to answer questions. Mr. Parks reviewed the budget for the Clerk of the Courts operations fund, the revenue collected by the Clerk's Office from its county-related activities.

No recommendations.

Mr. Parks reviewed the budget for the Clerk of Courts-General Fund. This portion of the Clerk's budget represents the City funding the portion of the Courthouse associated with the Clerk of the Court. The remainder of the budget is covered by other County revenue generated from the Clerk's county-related activities.

No recommendations.

6. Tax Collector - 30 Minutes

Sherry Hall, Tax Collector's Office, was in attendance to answer questions. Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for the Tax Collector for three divisions identified as branch agencies, current and delinquent taxes, and supervision and general collection.

Motion/2nd (Miller/Freeman) to approve the 2 Auditor's recommendations. Approved unanimously.

1. We recommend reducing the amount budgeted for interest income by \$100,904 due to the investment pool earnings being double budgeted. This can be offset by a transfer from fund balance.

2. We recommend adding to Schedule AF (capital outlay expenditures not lapsed) \$327,861 for office equipment.

CM Amaro said he likes the kiosks located in Publix stores that offer an opportunity to renew vehicle registration.

7. Supervisor of Elections - 30 Minutes

Jerry Holland, Supervisor of Elections, was in attendance to answer questions.

Mr. Peterson reviewed the SOE budget.

No recommendations.

CM Salem complimented the speed of vote counting in the previous day's election. CMs Amaro, Freeman and Carlucci also extended kudos on the efficient election results.

8. Administrative Services (Includes Animal Care and Protective Services, Procurement, Office of Ombudsman, 630-City) - 45 Minutes

Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for the Office of Administrative Services – Admin Division (including the Office of the Ombudsman and the City Link 630-City Office), the Procurement Division (Buying and Administration), the Animal Care and Protective

Services Division, the Environmental Quality Division, and portion of the Solid Waste Division.

No recommendations.

Mr. Bricker, Chief of Animal Protective Services, talked about a switch to a third party provider for pet licenses. CM Lahnen asked about cost savings for using that vendor. Chief Bricker said eventually the service will save money.

Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for the Animal Care and Control fund.

No recommendations.

CM Lahnen talked about the subsidy provided to the fund by the General Fund.

Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for the Veterinary Services fund.

No recommendations.

Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for the Air Pollution Tag fee within the Environmental Quality Division.

No recommendations.

Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for the Hazardous Waste Program.

No recommendations.

Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for the Solid Waste Disposal fund.

Motion/2nd (Miller/Johnson) to approved the Auditor recommendation. Approved unanimously.

1. We recommend eliminating the combined \$100,000 for Contributions from Private Sources within Miscellaneous Revenue due to these funds from the residential contract haulers needing to be utilized to benefit City economic development, health and human services, and/or environmental and beautification initiatives. Additionally, for all three contracts the City and the hauler have to agree to the specific use and for two of the contracts City Council also needs to specifically approve the use. This will need to be offset with an increase in the loan from the General Fund/GSD.

CM Miller asked about the costs and revenue for the Trail Ridge facility. CM Salem asked about the reduction in revenue from recyclables. Eric Fuller, Solid Waste, said recyclables are a commodity market, and impacted by current market conditions. CM Carlucci asked about the recently increased garbage fee. Mr. Peterson explained the incremental fee increase over the next few years.

Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for the Contamination Assessment fund.

No recommendations.

Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for the Landfill Closure fund.

No recommendations.

CM Lahnen said that the Construction and Demolition (C&D) Debris Permit fees should be assessed.

**Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for the Solid Waste Facilities Mitigation fund.
No recommendations.**

**Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for the Non-Class I Solid Waste fund.
Motion/2nd (Miller/Johnson) to approve the Auditor recommendation. Approved
unanimously.**

**1. We recommend reducing the Transfer Out from \$510,076 to \$254,090 to reflect the
amount of funds currently available for Chaffee Road Project. This will be offset by a
corresponding reduction to the funding amount for the Chaffee Road Project.**

9. Solid Waste - 30 Minutes

**Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for the Solid Waste Mitigation Capital Projects fund.
No recommendations.**

10. Fleet Management (Includes Vehicle Replacement) - 45 Minutes

**Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for Fleet Management operations.
No recommendations.**

CM Miller asked about fuels costs. CM Johnson asked about electric vehicles.

**Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for the Vehicle Replacement fund.
Motion/2nd (Miller/Johnson) to approve the Auditor recommendation. Approved
unanimously.**

**1. We recommend updating the note on Schedule B4c to correct the applicable fiscal year
referenced and other scrivener's.**

**Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for the Motor Pool Direct Replacement fund.
No recommendations.**

**Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for the Motor Vehicle Inspection fund.
No recommendations.**

11. Copy Center - 15 Minutes

**Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for the Copy Center.
No recommendations.**

Lunch break: 11:05 am - 11:39 am

12. Parks, Recreation and Community Services - 75 Minutes

**Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for the Parks Department.
There was discussion about funding for the Meals on Wheels program. CM Lahnen listed**

the funding history for that item. This year's proposed budget has \$1,703,000 identified for Meals on Wheels delivery service to homebound, senior, and disabled residents. There was discussion about riverfront parks and park maintenance, and who is responsible for cleaning and upkeep. Daryl Joseph, Parks Director, talked about the usage at the new parks. Mr. Joseph noted that per the newly signed contract with the Jacksonville Riverfront Alliance, JRA will handle park programming and may evolve into maintenance services. CM Salem recommended that the Parks Department retain the responsibility for maintenance. CM Carlucci spoke about the importance of vibrant parks, as related to quality of life and resiliency. CM Miller asked about part-time hours, and he asked for a list of staff overtime projections.

Motion/2nd (Diamond/Miller) to \$1,029,841 in a contingency left from FY 25/26 related to Riverfront Parks to Special Council Contingency. Approved 6-1 (Johnson in opposition)

Motion/2nd (Johnson/Gay) to approve the 2 Auditor recommendations. Approved unanimously.

1. We recommend the \$600,000 for James Weldon Johnson Park maintenance and programming be moved from a contingency account to a contractual services account as it is no longer part of a conflict legislation bill. This does not impact the Special Council Contingency.

2. Attaching the annual budget of JRA to the Budget Ordinance as required by the contract.

**Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for Huguenot Memorial Park.
No recommendations.**

**Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for Hanna Park.
No recommendations.
The committee highlighted that Hanna Park is financially self-sustaining.**

**Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for the Florida Boater Improvement Program.
No recommendations.**

**Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for Cecil Field Commerce Center.
No recommendations.**

**Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for the Equestrian Center.
No recommendations.**

13. Planning and Development - 30 Minutes

**Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for the Planning and Development Department.
No recommendations.**

Totals at the end of hearing #3: Strategic plan \$2,200,000; Designated Contingency \$1,214,409; Referendum Contingency \$7,600,000; Reserves \$12,719,591 Special Council Contingency \$3,433,985

NOTE: The next Budget Hearing will be held Friday August 21, 2026.

*******Note: Items may be added at the discretion of the Chair.*******

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**Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research
CHampsey@coj.net 904.422.9325
Posted: 8.24.26 5:00 pm**