# City of Jacksonville

*117 W. Duval Street*
*Jacksonville, FL 32202*

## Meeting Minutes

**Budget Hearing - Meeting #6**

**Thursday, August 27, 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 am** **Meeting Adjourned:12:25 pm**

**Attendance: Committee Members Lahnen, White, Miller, Gay, Freeman, Johnson and Diamond; Council President Howland; Council Vice President J. Carlucci; Council Members Salem, Carlucci, Arias, Boylan, Amaro, Clark-Murray and Peluso**

**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. JAA/CIP - 90 Minutes**

**Council President Howland spoke about the series of events over the past year as related to Council, JAA and the economic development activation of Cecil Airport. He spoke about the development of Cecil into a national aerospace hub.**

**Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for JAA.**

**Cecil Presentation by Tony Cugno, JAA**
**Mr. Cugno provided an overview of the activities and future plans for Cecil Airport. He talked about the current Airport tenants, including FSCJ and Boeing. Mr. Cugno talked about Cecil's current economic impact. He spoke about future plans for Cecil Airport/Spaceport and the steps necessary to achieve the mission. Mr. Cugno described the layout of the property, what parts are developable, what parts are protected, what areas are conducive for Spaceport activities, and the timeline for the action plan. Mr. Cugno talked about the collaboration between JAA, the City, state and federal entities.**

**CP Howland asked about the security perimeter for Cecil, and the business development team. CM Freeman asked about space oriented medical research in partnership with Mayo. There was discussion about scaling up the aviation workforce development program at FSCJ. Mr. Cugno noted the need for an onsite restaurant at Cecil. CM Johnson asked about lunar based data centers. CM Lahnen asked about the timeline for Otto.**
**CM Carlucci asked about the construction and expansion projects at JIA, and about increasing the availability of direct flights.**

**2. Wrap-Up - 330 Minutes**

**Chair Lahnen offered an overview of the actions taken thus far in the budget hearings, noting that the budget is flat as compared to last year.**

**CM White talked about a funding request ($64,737) for the Fire Training Tower on Stockton Street. After discussion, it was decided that the funds for this project can be found elsewhere, possibly debt savings, and an appropriation bill can be filed separately from the budget bill.**

**CM Amaro talked about a CIP enhancement project related to a traffic signal near University BLVD. and Edenfield Rd.**
**Motion/2nd (Diamond/Johnson) to approve the request to move up University Blvd. and Edenfield CIP project year one $240,000 and year two $1,600,000. Approved unanimously.**

**CM Peluso talked about a funding request to support the Unity Classic and Juneteenth events. After discussion, it was decided that the funds for this project can be found**

**elsewhere, possibly debt savings, and an appropriation bill can be filed separately from the budget bill.**

**CM Arias spoke about the benefits to the City from memberships in FAC and FLC, and he talked about the upcoming conference being held here in September.**
**Motion/2nd (Johnson/Freeman) to restore the funding ($237,427) for membership dues for the League of Cities and Association of Counties (state and national). Failed 2-5 (White and Johnson in the affirmative)**

**CM Arias talked about Cultural Service Grants. There was discussion about the impact of reducing funds for Public Service Grants and Cultural Service Grants.**
**Motion/2nd (Johnson/Lahnen) to approve an increase to 75% of proposed funding for Cultural Service Grants.**
**Motion/2nd (Lahnen/White) to amend the motion to approve an increase to 65% of the proposed funding for Cultural Service Grants and Public Service Grants. Approved 7-1 (Diamond in opposition)**
**Public Service Grants and Cultural Service Grants were brought up to 65% above the line and left 35% in Referendum Contingency.**
**Motion/2nd (Lahnen/Johnson) to approve the motion as amended. Approved 7-1 (Diamond in opposition)**

**CM Carlucci advocated for funding ($35,000) for a City Hall museum.**
**Motion/2nd (Freeman/White) to approve funding for the museum.**
**CM Diamond spoke in strong opposition. CM Salem suggested housing such a museum at the library. CM Freeman said museum displays can create controversy.**
**Motion was withdrawn.**

**Lunch break: 11:43 am to 12:13 pm**

**Motion/2nd (Diamond/Miller) to approve moving 1/2 of the Orleck Designated Contingency to the Public Safety Contingency. Approved unanimously.**

**Totals at the end of all 6 budget hearings:**
**Public Safety Contingency $23,405,097**
**Designated contingency: $3,300,000**
**Referendum Contingency: $6,220,000**

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

**Pursuant to the American with Disabilities Act, accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. Please allow 1-2 business days notification to process; last minute requests will be accepted; but may not be possible to fulfill. Please contact Disabled Services Division at: V 904-255-5466, TTY-904-255-5476, or email your request to KaraT@coj.net.**

**Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research**
**CHampsey@coj.net 904.255.5151**
**Posted: 9.2.26 5:00 pm**