

City of Jacksonville

*117 W. Duval Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202*



Meeting Minutes

Friday, August 28, 2026

11:30 AM

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

Jacksonville Waterways Commission

CM Rahman Johnson, Chair

CM Mike Gay, Vice Chair

CM Jimmy Peluso - Excused

CM Matt Carlucci, Alternate

Jon Michael Barker

Robert Birtalan

J. Hobson

Rep. Dean Black

Mark Devereaux

Andrew Fraden

Marc Hardesty - Excused

Matt Jones

Scott Thomas

General Public Rep - Vacant

D. R. Repass, Planning Commission

Adam Hoyles, Environmental Protection Board

Rebecca Bolton, Legislative Assistant II

Shannon MacGillis, Office of General Counsel

Dr. Gerard Pinto, Jacksonville University

Steven Libby, Council Research

Jim Suber, Waterways Coordinator

1. Call To Order**RULE 4.505 DISRUPTION OF MEETING**

No member of the audience shall applaud nor make any noise or remarks that are audible to the Committee that would indicate approval or disapproval of anything being discussed. Any disregard of this rule may result in removal by the Sergeant at Arms.

REQUEST TO SPEAK:

1. Fill out a speaker card.
2. Sign it if you are going to speak.
3. Read the rules on the back of the card.
4. Return the card to the Legislative Assistant.

Chair Johnson convened the meeting at 11:36 a.m.

2. Attendance**3. Pledge of Allegiance****4. Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2026 meeting was made, seconded, and approved without objection.

5. St. Johns River Status Report on Water Quality & Manatees

Chair Johnson stated that Dr. Pinto was unable to present his report at this meeting, but that the Commission would still be following state statute provided that the St. Johns River status report on water quality and manatees is presented at the next meeting.

6. Public Comment

Ms. Lisa Rinaman, St. Johns Riverkeeper, expressed support for Chair Johnson and the Strategic Direction Report.

CM Gay asked Ms. Rinaman to monitor a recycling plant near the Broward River, citing incidents of shredded material discharged into the air and into the river. Ms. Rinaman stated that she would monitor the situation and review the facility's compliance reports.

Mr. John Nooney spoke on increasing public access to waterways.

Mr. Trey Ford, representing the Duval Soil and Water Conservation District and St. Johns Riverkeeper, invited the members of the Commission to take a boat trip through the Resilient Ribault program. He added that he had received an email regarding a downed tree in a creek near Dexter Drive that is blocking recreational boating.

Chair Johnson recommended that Mr. Ford advise the person who sent the email to submit a ticket through 630-CITY or MyJax, stating that, if the work cannot be performed, the proper body to perform it can be identified.

7. New Business

Chair Johnson's Strategic Direction Report

Chair Johnson welcomed the Commission to the first meeting of the Council Year. He described the importance of the City's waterways and provided an overview of the Strategic Direction Report, which is organized around four pillars: River as Economic Engine, River as Civic Identity, River as Classroom, and River as Legacy. Chair Johnson stated that he hoped the Commission would produce at least five substantive policy recommendations to the City Council and then issue an annual State of the Waterways framework.

Chair Johnson stated that, because Dr. Pinto was not present, the Commission would skip the St. Johns River Status Report on Water Quality & Manatees and proceed with the remainder of the agenda.

8. Unfinished Business

a. Speed Boat Regulation Task Force

Chair Johnson reminded the Commission that a motion to establish a task force on vessel speed regulation at the Fort George River sandbar had been approved at the previous meeting under Chair Amaro. He thanked the members of the new task force: Chair Matthew D. Jones, Mr. J. Hobson, and Mr. Scott Thomas. He stated that a report describing the task force's recommendations is to be delivered to the Commission on or before November 1, 2026. Chair Johnson stated that if the November 1 deadline poses a problem for the task force, its members can contact him so that the deadline can be formally extended and publicly noticed. Chair Johnson stated that, absent an extension, the plan is for the report to be delivered by November 1, 2026 and then reported out by the Commission at its final meeting of the year.

b. George Crady Bridge Update

Chair Johnson asked CM Gay for an update on the George Crady Bridge. CM Gay stated that he is seeking grant funding, similar to the \$13 million in grants that the Mayport Pier received, and is working with state legislators, the Public Works Department, and grant writers to rehabilitate what can be rehabilitated.

CM Gay also provided an update on the Shad Creek issue. CM Gay stated that he and Mr. Brian Burket, Parks Department, participated in a Zoom call with FWC that morning to discuss options. CM Gay stated that he hopes legislation will be introduced at the state level in the coming months to address boating safety, and that he is requesting that JSO and FWC increase patrols in the area.

Chair Johnson asked CM Gay whether there is a timeline and a cost estimate for rehabilitating the George Crady Bridge. CM Gay stated that the costs have been estimated at a range from \$15 million to \$100 million and that he hopes a grant can fund a study to identify the actual cost.

9. Adjournment

Chair Johnson asked the Commissioners whether they had additional comments or questions. Mr. Jones stated that action needs to be taken on the George Crady Bridge to provide public access to fishing.

Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting at 12:01 p.m.

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: Steven Libby, Council Research

slibby@coj.net, (904) 255-5147

Posted: 9/2/26, 4:30 p.m.