



OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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Meeting Minutes **CM Holder Noticed Meeting on Data Centers**

Date: Wednesday, October 7, 2026

Location: Lynwood Roberts Room, City Hall at St. James, 117 W Duval Street, Jacksonville, FL 32202

Attendance:

Council Member Moné Holder, At-Large, Group 1; Council Member Ron Salem; Council Member Matt Carlucci; Council Member Jimmy Peluso; Council Member Reggie Gaffney Jr.; and Council Member Dr. Rahman Johnson.

Jordan Pope, Interim Chief Administrative Officer, JEA; Helena Parola, Director, Planning and Development Department; Terrence L. Harvey, Assistant General Counsel, Office of General Counsel; Erin Abney, Chief of Current Planning; and Brittney Norris, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Office of the Mayor.

Convened: 11:04 am

Opening & Introductions

Council Member Holder opened the meeting with introductions and her personal experience with constituents expressing the growing community concerns regarding data centers and emphasized the importance of understanding their potential impacts on Jacksonville's communities in the mid to long term.

JEA Overview

Jordan Pope provided an overview of JEA's perspective regarding large-load data centers. JEA currently serves six data center facilities; however, those facilities operate at significantly lower capacity than the "hyperscale" data centers that were the focus of the meeting.



Pope explained that JEA does not presently have the capacity to accommodate a hyperscale data center, generally defined as requiring 50 megawatts or more of electricity. JEA has received approximately 50 inquiries related to data centers, and significant additional infrastructure, including a new substation, would be necessary to serve a large-load facility.

JEA is developing an application process and rate structure for large-load customers. The proposed process is intended to establish how JEA evaluates requests for service and ensure that infrastructure costs attributable to a large-load customer are not passed along to existing ratepayers.

CM Salem asked how JEA would determine which project moves forward if multiple applicants seek available capacity and whether those decisions would ultimately come before the JEA Board. He also questioned whether City Council should have a role in approving such projects. Pope advised that JEA is still developing the process and related policies.

CM Holder asked about JEA's six existing data center customers, including where the facilities are located and the capacity at which they currently operate. Due to security considerations, Pope did not provide facility-specific capacity information but indicated that the existing facilities operate below the large-load threshold. Pope identified Downtown and the Southside as locations of some of the existing facilities.

OGC/ Planning Department

Helena Parola explained that the City's Zoning Code does not specifically identify data centers as a separate use. A large load facility of 50 megawatts or more would more closely align with light or heavy industrial classifications and would proceed through the Planned Unit Development (PUD) process, requiring City Council approval. The PUD process also addresses requirements such as buffers.

Terrence Harvey clarified OGC's interpretation that Senate Bill 180 addresses large-load facilities at 50 megawatts or more and does not address facilities operating between 1 and 49 megawatts.

Brittney Norris stated that the Administration supports a collaborative, fact-finding process involving the Mayor's Office, City Council, and JEA. Whether through a moratorium or working group, the process could continue examining outstanding questions and developing recommendations while restrictions associated with Senate Bill 180 remain in effect.

Council Member Discussion

Council Members discussed potential next steps, including a moratorium and / or formation of a working group. The moratorium was characterized as a temporary legal pause rather than a permanent ban.



CM Salem does not support pursuing a moratorium, CM Carlucci supports moratorium only if it includes a defined end date or conclusion. CM Dr. Johnson raised the possibility of including an exemption for extraterrestrial uses.

CM Holder emphasized the importance of continued fact-finding and collaboration, CM Peluso supports pursuing a moratorium modeled after other Florida counties. Followed by the creation of a working group.

Public Comments

Rachel Zavala– Supports moratorium

James Shupe – Supports moratorium, wants a public vote. Expressed concerns regarding artificial intelligence and the need for appropriate regulations and safeguards.

Carnell Oliver – Opposed the moratorium, pointed out with Cecil field is already regulated, he wanted the regulation to fall under grants.

Melony Carr- Concern on energy, and on additional pollution. Wants that to be addressed.

Bonnie Barnert- Did not support or oppose but read a passage from Richard Warner a German journalist.

Dr. Linda Woodard- Supports moratorium, wants a workgroup to include citizens in the community as well as elected officials and what will the impact be on our JEA bills and our environment.

Hillary Leverone – Support moratorium until there is additional discussion

John Nooney – *What is the size, location, developer of the smallest data center in the country? Asked to follow up on this.*

Closing Remarks

CM Holder thanked the Council Members, presenters, City staff, and members of the public for their participation.

Adjournment 12:24



The following items were submitted for public record and can be accessed by contacting the

Legislative Services:

20261007 Agenda Noticed Meeting CM Holder RE Data Centers

20261007 Second Noticed Meeting CM Holder RE Data Centers