

City of Jacksonville

*117 W. Duval Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202*



Meeting Minutes

Budget Hearing - Meeting #4

Friday, August 21, 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: 1:40 p.m.

Attendance: Committee Members Lahnen, Miller, Johnson, Gay, Freeman, Diamond, and White; CP Howland; CMs Salem, Boylan, 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. JPA/CIP - 50 Minutes

Mr. Peterson, Council Auditor, reviewed the budget for JPA.

Motion/2nd (Diamond/Miller) to approve the 2 Auditor recommendations. Approved

unanimously.

1. We recommend the following adjustments to Schedule I: a. Correct the description names from "Multi-use Facility Development (Design, Construction)" to "Services & Supplies," "Multi-use Facility Development Rail" to "Security Services," and "Repairs & Maintenance Projects" to "Repairs & Maintenance." b. Decrease the "Shared Revenue from Primary Govt" line under Non-Operating Revenues by \$118,702 from \$10,500,000 to \$10,381,298 to align with the amount in the Mayor's Proposed Budget. This should be offset with a decrease in the "Debt Service" line under Non-Operating Expenditures by the same amount. This will balance the revenues and expenditures for JPA's budget.
2. We recommend amending Schedule J to change the name of the project "Backflow 10" with shut-off valves" to "West Terminal Development Phase II."

CM Diamond extended kudos to the leadership team from JPA. CP Howland spoke about the Port's remarkable performance, diversification, and economic development. CM Freeman commented on the Port's performance as compared to other port cities in Florida. CM Gay noted the Port's essential nature in his district. CM Salem asked about the Fulton Cut Project to raise power lines near the port. Mr. Green, CEO JPA, said the project is on time and on budget, with an expected completion at the end of 2026.

2. JEA/CIP - 50 Minutes

Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for JEA.

No recommendations.

CM Diamond spoke in opposition to the raising of JEA customer rates.

CP Howland asked about capacity fees and whether the collection policy has changed in light of the past issues. Jody Brooks, JEA, said there is a new procedure being drafted to take to the JEA Board in November.

CM Gay also spoke in opposition to rate increases that burden taxpayers.

3. JTA/CIP (includes 5-Year Road Program, Local Option 1/2 Cent Transportation Tax, and Local Option Gas Tax) - 50 Minutes

Streets & Highways 5-Year Road Program

Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for the Public Works - Streets & Highways 5-Year Road Program.

No recommendations.

Public Works - Local Option Half-Cent Tax - Transportation

Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for the Local Option Half-Cent Tax - Transportation

No recommendations.

Public Works - Local Option Gas Tax

Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for the Local Option Gas Tax.

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

1. We recommend reducing Countywide Intersection Imp, Brge-Bridges and increasing

ADA Compliance-Curb Ramps Sidewalks by \$22,837 to comply with the Section 799.107 of the Municode which requires 80% of the funds to be spent on roadway maintenance and 20% on bicycle and pedestrian improvements.

CM Lahnen asked about the 80--20 split for the roadway maintenance and bicycle and pedestrian improvements. Mr. Peterson explained that the split was self-imposed through legislation. CM Freeman requested a list of projects funded through the Local Option Gas Tax. CM Diamond said that it is time to renegotiate the list of projects. CP Howland talked about prioritizing certain sections of the Emerald Trail project. CM Lahnen noted that the Emerald Trail could be discussed further on CIP budget day next week. CM Peluso commented on the economic development created through proximity to the Emerald Trail.

5-Cent Local Option Gas Tax

Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for the 5-Cent Local Option Gas Tax.

No recommendations.

Ninth-Cent Fuel Tax

Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for the Ninth-Cent Fuel Tax.

No recommendations.

JTA

Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for JTA.

Recommendations for JTA will be discussed as a part of the consideration for Ord. 2026-514 for the Finance Committee in September.

- 1. At the request of JTA, the amounts in Ferry – Salaries and Wages and Fringe Benefits should be reduced to \$0 on Schedule O and the amount in the Services line should be increased by \$40,756 to account for the fact there are no JTA employees in this Division.**
- 2. Schedules O, P, and Q should be replaced with the schedules on the following pages that corrects/clarifies the names of a few accounts, breaks out corporate allocation to see by expense type and then is shown as one line for each division, shows the Sales Tax/CGT – Net of Debt Service revenues being deposited into the applicable divisions directly instead of being shown as transfers out, and adds the notes shown.**

Randall Barnes and Jessica Shepler, JTA, were in attendance to answer questions.

CP Howland commented on the status of JTA's reserves, and he noted that there is essentially only 44 days worth of cash on hand. There was discussion about the proposed route closures. CP Howland said he may charge the FAO Select Committee to look into JTA's financial health. CM Diamond said the status of JTA's finances is problematic, as is utilizing credit line to pay for current debts. The Committee talked about supporting JTA's programs for transportation for the disabled community, continuing traditional bus routes, and the costs and benefits of the NAVI program and the Skyway. CM Lahnen requested monthly updates on JTA's finances.

4. Downtown Vision Inc. - 20 Minutes

Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for DVI.

No recommendations.

The Committee talked about the tabled item from budget hearing #1 for Wolfson's Pediatric and Maternal Health Graduate Program. Dr. Joshi, Mayor's Office, was in attendance to answer questions.

Motion/2nd (Diamond/Johnson) to approve the recommendation for this item. Approved unanimously.

1. Add the term sheet and budget as an Exhibit.

5. Downtown Investment Authority (including Public Parking and Downtown Economic Development Fund) - 45 Minutes

Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for the Downtown Investment Authority.
No recommendations.

Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for the Downtown Economic Development Fund.
No recommendations.

CM Freeman asked about downtown parking vendor contracts. Mr. Tarbert, DIA, talked about the recent RFP to select a new parking management vendor. CM Miller asked about the pressure washing of streets and buildings downtown.

Public Parking Fund

Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for the Public Parking Fund.
No recommendations.

CM Freeman asked about revenue lost when parking meters are "bagged" and out of public use. Mr. Sherwill, Public Parking, indicated that the cost to bag a meter is paid by the developer.

Lunch break 11:32 am -12:04 pm.

6. Community Redevelopment Areas (DIA & City Council CRAs) - 45 Minutes

Downtown Northbank CRA

Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for the Downtown Northbank CRA.
No recommendations.

Southbank CRA Trust

Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for the Southbank CRA.
No recommendations.

Jacksonville Beach Tax Increment Fund

Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for the Jacksonville Beach Tax Increment Fund.
No recommendations.

King Soutel Tax Increment District

Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for the King Soutel Tax Increment District.

No recommendations.

Renew Arlington CRA

Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for the Renew Arlington CRA.

Motion/2nd (Diamond/Johnson) to approve the Auditor recommendation. Approved unanimously.

7. Office of Economic Development (Including Equal Business Opportunity & Cecil Field Trust Fund) - 45 Minutes

Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for the Office of Economic Development.

No recommendations.

Cecil Commerce Center

Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for the Cecil Commerce Center.

No recommendations.

CM Lahnen asked about General Fund subsidies for the Cecil Commerce Center.

8. Medical Examiner - 20 Minutes

Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for the Medical Examiner's Office.

No recommendations.

CM Johnson asked about cost savings due to the new facility, and there was discussion about staffing since JSO recently recruited a large group of ME technicians.

9. Health Administrator - 20 Minutes

Duval County Health Department

Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for the Health Department.

No recommendations.

10. Neighborhoods - 30 Minutes

Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for the Neighborhoods Department.

No recommendations.

CM Diamond spoke in support of Al Ferraro, who has been working as the manager of Blight Initiatives, and encouraged giving him a pay increase. The other members of the committee also spoke in support of Mr. Ferraro.

Mosquito Control State Fund

Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for the Mosquito Control State Fund.

No recommendations.

11. Housing Finance Authority - 15 Minutes

Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for JHFA.

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

1. We recommend amending Schedule N of the Budget Ordinance to remove the computer systems maintenance and security allocation of \$1,463 and reduce Bond Issuer Fees by the same amount since this area does not use the City's services for computer technology.

2. We recommend amending Schedule N of the Budget Ordinance to increase Bank Service Charges by \$3,000 from \$6,720 to \$9,720 to better align with actuals. This change will be offset by a decrease of \$3,000 in Miscellaneous Services & Charges.

12. Office of Ethics, Compliance and Oversight - 15 Minutes

Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for the Ethics Office. Kirby Oberdorfer spoke on behalf of the Office.

No recommendations.

13. Inspector General - 15 Minutes

Mr. Peterson reviewed the budget for the Inspector General.

No recommendations.

CM Miller said he would support increasing IG staff if needed. CM Salem said the IG should be grouped into the public safety category, due to the importance of their work.

CM Lahnen Amendments

CM Lahnen listed 2 amendments to the budget bill that would remove the requirement for a super majority approval.

Amendment #1: Remove funding for completion grants that were being funded by contingencies within the Multi-Year Fund (\$8,122,943) and the Downtown Economic Development Fund (\$1,100,000). Instead legislation will be filed to address these items.

Motion/2nd (Miller/Johnson) to approve #1. Approved unanimously.

Amendment #2: Remove the funding of \$26 million for the three public safety related projects and amend Schedule AF to state the carryover is intended to be used for same purposes outlined in Ordinance 2025-771-E. This leaves the \$26 million that the FOP and IAFF had originally requested intact. Separate legislation will be introduced to fund the three projects (Florida Blue lease buydown, JSO Warehouse, JFRD CO2 removal).

Motion/2nd (Diamond/White) to approve #2. Approved unanimously.

Totals at the end of hearing 4: 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 Wednesday, August 26, 2026.

*******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: 8.25.26 5:00 pm**