



OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION

117 WEST DUVAL STREET, SUITE 425
4TH FLOOR, CITY HALL
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202
904-255-5151

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MAYOR'S BUDGET PRESENTATION

Meeting Minutes

**July 14, 2025
9:00 a.m.**

Location: City Council Chamber, City Hall

In attendance: Council President Carrico, Council Vice President Howland; Council Members Amaro, Carlucci, Clark-Murray, Lahnen, Miller, Boylan, Salem, White, Peluso, Gay, Gaffney Jr., Arias, J. Carlucci, Pittman and Johnson

Excused: Council Members Diamond and Freeman

Meeting Convened: 9:01 a.m.

Council President Carrico convened the meeting. Council Member Amaro gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. A roll call from the members present was taken, with 15 in attendance at that time. Council President Carrico introduced Mayor Donna Deegan to give her budget address.

Mayor Deegan spoke about the City's momentum and the intent for this budget to highlight smarter spending while supporting public health and safety. She mentioned some of the impact from policies implemented in her first 2 years, like the increase in JSO employee applications since the salary for officers was increased. Mayor Deegan talked about the importance of literacy, prenatal healthcare, and senior and veteran services. She talked about the improvements made to the City's permitting, with the time for the process decreased by half. Mayor Deegan talked about small businesses and JSEB inclusion on City contracts. She talked about lifeguard staffing for City pools, the stadium deal and the CBA, and the UF graduate school downtown campus.

Mayor Deegan presented her proposals for the FY25-26 budget and Capital Improvement Plan. She stated that the budget totaled \$2 billion, with \$687 million for the Capital Improvement Plan. She explained that the budget invests in key City priorities like health, public safety, economic development, and infrastructure without utilizing any funds from Reserves. Mayor Deegan talked about right-sizing the CIP and closing out the list to new debt funded projects for the next few years. She spoke about one-time revenue from JEA, to go towards one-time cost projects for economic development, downtown revitalization, JFRD, and council strategic initiatives.

Mayor Deegan talked about increasing departmental efficiencies and keeping the City's employee count flat this year. She mentioned population growth in Jacksonville, coordination to assist small businesses, and increasing affordable housing stock. She talked about eviction deterrence, homelessness outreach, and down payment assistance. Mayor Deegan spoke about investments in health, through JaxCareConnect, telehealth, elder care, and mental health services. Mayor Deegan emphasized the need for public safety, with roughly \$638 million allocated for JSO, \$387 million for JFRD, and \$2 million for Jax Journey Forward programs. She noted a \$3 million increase for KHA over last fiscal year, and she shared the success of various literacy programs and how that impacted school test scores. She concluded that Jacksonville should maintain the momentum created in the first 2 years of her term, with a city that prioritizes infrastructure and resiliency, art and culture, and responding to the needs of the community.

Council President Carrico adjourned the meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 9:27 a.m.

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research
CHampsey@coj.net 904-255-5151
Posted 7.14.2024 5:00 pm