

City of Jacksonville

*117 W. Duval Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202*



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 6, 2025

2:00 PM

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

Transportation, Energy & Utilities Committee

Will Lahnen, Chair

Ju'Coby Pittman, Vice Chair

Matt Carlucci

Tyrone Clark-Murray - Excused Absence

Reggie Gaffney, Jr.

Mike Gay

Jimmy Peluso

Legislative Assistant: Vanessa Galan

Council Auditor's Office: Edward Linsky

Council Research: Nayeli Jimenez

Office of General Counsel: Mary Staffopoulos

Administration: Bill Delaney

Planning Dept.: Laurie Santana

Meeting Convened: 2:00 PM

Meeting Adjourned: 2:40 PM

Present: 6 - Chair Will Lahnen, Vice Chair Ju'Coby Pittman, Matt Carlucci, Reggie Gaffney Jr., Mike Gay and Jimmy Peluso

Excused: 1 - Tyrone Clark-Murray

Chairman Lahnen convened the meeting, and the attendees introduced themselves for the record. Chair Lahnen reviewed the agenda and stated he will take up the items on the agenda first then proceed with the Solid Waste Fees presentation. He stated that there was one public comment card.

Public Comment

Lynn Drysdale, Jacksonville Area Legal Aid stated that they were against bill number 2025-286

Presentation by Eric Fuller on Solid Waste Fees

Chair Lahnen stated that while the residential trash fee had been the subject of recent legislation and would be returning to the committee for implementation, he wanted to explore other solid waste fees in place throughout Jacksonville. He noted interest in the last time these fees were adjusted and how they compare to nearby counties.

Eric Fuller, Landfill Environmental Manager began by outlining the responsibilities of the Solid Waste Division. The division is responsible for residential and small commercial solid waste and recycling collections, servicing approximately 300,000 premises with garbage, yard trash, recycling, and bulk waste collection. They conduct over 3 million potential collection points per month with a 99% success rate. Other responsibilities include management of Trail Ridge Landfill and closed landfills, licensing for tire haulers and private waste facilities, the household hazardous waste program, litter removal, and contamination site assessment and remediation.

Mr. Fuller reviewed multiple categories of solid waste fees:

- Landfill Tipping Fee: Charged per ton for disposal at the Trail Ridge Landfill. Rates are set by ordinance and vary by material type. The residential curbside rate is \$29.93 per ton; the commercial rate is \$30.30; and C&D debris is \$22.71 (lower because it excludes a host fee). Tipping fees have not changed since 2008, except for changes in 2019 and 2021 related to host fee adjustments.
- Small Commercial Fee: Charged to small commercial properties with curbside pickup needs similar to residences. The current rate is \$14.90/month or \$178.81/year. A yard trash-only option is available at \$45.40/year. Set in 1996 and slightly raised around 2013, this fee does not currently cover service costs, per recent Auditor analysis.
- Downtown User Fee: Charged for collection in a defined area of downtown where collections occur six nights per week. Set at \$46.70/month per can. Fee has remained unchanged since 2012 and currently applies to 101 customers and 195 cans.
- Franchise Fee: Commercial haulers pay a 17% fee on gross receipts for operating in the city. These non-exclusive agreements are subject to Council approval. The city receives about \$15 million annually from franchise fees. Compared to other cities, Jacksonville's 17% is higher than Tallahassee's (5%), equal to Gainesville's and Tampa's (15%), and lower than Miami's (22%).
- Internal Host Fee (Trail Ridge): Set at \$7.59 per ton and embedded in the tipping fee. It is divided among the mitigation fund, contamination assessment, the solid waste enterprise fund, and a closure fund.
- External Host Fees: Applied to materials disposed of at private facilities. For class one facilities such as biomedical waste processors, the host fee is \$7.16 per ton. For class three and C&D facilities, the host fee is \$0.74 per ton.
- Construction & Demolition (C&D) Debris Permit Fee: Replaces the host fee on C&D waste generated within the city. Charged at the time of building permit issuance. Revenues go into the same fund categories as host fees and are allocated based on C&D waste volume.
- Hazardous Waste Fees: Applied to very small quantity commercial generators (less than 220 lbs/month) using the city's facility. Charged at \$4.25/gallon for flammable materials and \$1.25/gallon for latex paint, capped at 27 gallons per material. Residential drop-off is free.
- Application Fees:
 - o Tire Haulers (over 8 tires): \$100 initial fee
 - o Certificate of Need for solid waste facilities: \$1,200 for 5 years; \$900 renewal
 - o Non-residential franchise hauler: \$1,500 initial and annual registration

Council Member Matt Carlucci commended Mr. Fuller for his support during recent community meetings on the residential garbage fee. He shared that Mr. Fuller attended all of his CPAC meetings, describing him as someone who was able to answer questions when Carlucci could not. He

acknowledged the broader commitment of city employees who attend town hall meetings to support council members and specifically recognized Mr. Fuller as “indispensable.”

Council Member Pittman began by sharing her growing awareness of how improperly disposing of trash can negatively impact the community and environment. She asked Mr. Fuller to explain how improper materials such as paint or hazardous items are identified and handled when collected by sanitation trucks. She noted that she had never personally visited a disposal site and was curious about how the sorting process works, asking whether it operates on an honor system and how contractors' materials are accounted for.

Mr. Fuller responded that if sanitation workers see items at the curb that should not be collected such as tires or flammable materials they will not place them into the truck. Those items are flagged for special collection instead. He explained that at the solid waste facility, staff can inspect the contents of the truck using visual checks or cameras. In some cases, items are only identified once dumped at the landfill, at which point they can be separated and handled appropriately. He emphasized the importance of educating residents on proper disposal to ensure compliance and reduce contamination, since the system relies heavily on residents following the rules voluntarily.

Council Member Pittman noted that most residents likely act out of convenience, putting such items in the trash without knowing the consequences. She expressed appreciation for the new knowledge she gained during the presentation and said it made her more conscientious about how solid waste affects fees and the environment. Pittman suggested that a public awareness campaign could help educate residents.

Mr. Fuller agreed, explaining that the city offers household hazardous waste drop-off sites and curbside tire collections specifically to keep such items out of the general waste stream and landfills. These programs are designed to make proper disposal easier for residents.

Council Member Pittman then asked whether there are educational programs in schools to teach children about proper waste disposal, noting that children are part of the household and could help promote better practices.

Mr. Fuller responded that while he was not aware of a formal school-based education initiative through the public school system, some outreach is done through programs like Keep Jacksonville Beautiful. He noted that Republic Services hosts field trips to their recycling facility, but there is no education initiatives in place at this time, though discussions have taken place about developing one.

Council Member Peluso expressed particular interest in the comparison of landfill tipping fees between Duval County and neighboring counties such as Clay and St. Johns, noting that Duval's rates are significantly lower. He asked whether this price difference was causing individuals or entities from outside the county to use Duval's landfill.

Mr. Fuller responded that out-of-county waste is not permitted at Trail Ridge Landfill without formal approval. He noted that St. Johns County sends its trash to a transfer station and then to a facility in Georgia. He estimated that less than 2% of Trail Ridge's intake comes from outside Duval County. Fuller confirmed that the landfill is primarily intended for Duval residents and that there are no arrangements with outside municipalities for regular waste disposal.

Mr. Peluso speculated that the higher costs in St. Johns could be attributed to their need to transport waste to Georgia. He said he had not previously considered how having a county owned landfill affects fees and thanked Mr. Fuller for the insight. Mr. Fuller noted that not every county has its own landfill, and many rely on regional agreements. He cited New River Landfill as an example of a multi-county facility and reiterated that Duval is fortunate to operate its own.

Mr. Peluso then compared Duval to similarly sized counties like Hillsborough, Orange, and Pinellas, pointing out that their tipping fees are higher. He noted that Duval's population has grown substantially

since 2008, when the current rate was set at \$30.30 per ton, and asked whether that rate is still appropriate today. Mr. Fuller replied that the rate has remained unchanged since 2008 despite increases in costs and materials. He also stated that the city's contract with Waste Management includes a CPI escalator for the fees they charge.

Mr. Peluso asked if the solid waste fees are breaking even or if general fund dollars are being used to supplement them. Mr. Fuller said he could not provide an accurate answer due to the number of variables involved. Council Member Peluso directed the same question to Mr. Linsky, who responded that he would look into it and follow up with the information.

Council Member Peluso closed by reiterating the importance of the committee monitoring fees and avoiding future surprises like the recent residential fee hike. He said it would be better for taxpayers if fees were gradually adjusted over time and thanked Mr. Fuller again for his work on the presentation.

Chair Lahnen responded to Council Member Peluso's earlier remark, stating he would argue that Council was not caught off guard by the need to adjust the residential trash fee, it had been growing steadily over the years, and Council took necessary action. He then praised the solid waste division's performance, noting the statistic that out of more than three million potential monthly collection points, the miss rate is just 0.15%. He commended the crews from the City, Waste Pro, Meridian, and Waste Management for maintaining such a high success rate. He asked about the construction and demolition (C&D) fee, referencing a 2019 change that allowed Duval residents to pay the C&D disposal fee as part of their building permit. He wanted to confirm whether out of county users pay more. Mr. Fuller responded that the \$22.71 per ton C&D rate applies to waste generated within Duval County through the permit process. Out of county users pay the base rate plus a \$7.59 host fee, bringing the total to \$30.30 per ton.

Chair Lahnen noted this distinction was reassuring and ensures that out of county users are not receiving the same rate as Duval residents. He then directed a question to Bill Delaney from the administration, asking if any of the fees discussed were currently under review to determine whether they truly reflect cost recovery. Mr. Delaney confirmed that several of the fees are actively being evaluated.

Chair Lahnen followed up with Mr. Linsky, saying he would like to see a breakdown of the annual revenue amounts generated by each of the solid waste fees in a future iteration. While the franchise fee is known to generate approximately \$15 million, he noted that others, such as the downtown user fee with only 102 customers, likely produce far less. He said this information would help determine whether further review is needed to ensure each fee is self-sustaining or being subsidized by the general fund.

Item/File No.

Title History

1. [2025-0188](#) ORD-MC Relating to JEA & Article 21 (JEA), Charter of the City of Jacksonville; Amend Sec 21.07 (Fiscal & Budgetary Functions) of Article 21 (JEA), Charter of the City of Jacksonville; Prov for Codification Instructions; Apv an Amended & Restated Interagency Agrmt; Prov for Continued Oversight by the Finance Dept (Reingold) (Introduced by CM Boylan)
3/11/25 CO Introduced: R, F, TEU
3/17/25 R Read 2nd & Rerefer
3/18/25 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
3/18/25 TEU Read 2nd & Rerefer
3/25/25 CO PH Read 2nd & Rerefer/Addnt'l 4/22/25
4/22/25 CO PH Only
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 3/25/25
Public Hearing Pursuant to Sec 21.13, City Charter - 4/22/25

DEFER

2. [2025-0189](#) ORD Renaming the Public Park Currently Known as “Oakland Park,” Located at 657 E Union St, Jax, FL 32206, in Council Dist 7, Pursuant to Sec 122.105 (Public Buildings, Public Facilities & Public Parks Naming & Renaming Procedures), Ord Code, to Be Known as “Eartha M. M. White Historical Park” (Staffopoulos) (Introduced by CM Peluso) (JHPC Apv) (Co-Sponsors CMs Carrico & Johnson)
3/11/25 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, TEU
3/17/25 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer
3/18/25 TEU Read 2nd & Rerefer
3/25/25 CO Read 2nd & Rerefer
4/22/25 CO PH Addnt'l 5/13/25
TEU PH Per Sec. 122.105 - 4/15/25
Public Hearing Pursuant to Sec. 122.105, Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 4/22/25 & 5/13/25

DEFER

3. [2025-0258](#) ORD re Ch 745 (Addressing & Street Naming Regulations), Ord Code; Estab an Honorary Street Desig & Associated Roadway Markers for Ruel Sam “Rock” Davis; Estab an Honorary Street Desig on 45th St Extending btwn Ave B & Moncrief Rd for Ruel Sam “Rock” Davis; Prov for the Installation of 2 Honorary Roadway Markers to Be Located in Appropriate Locations on the Desig Road; Directing the Legislative Svcs Div to Forward a Copy of this Ord, Once Enacted, to the Public Works Dept, Traffic Engineering & Addressing Divs, for Processing, Implementation & Coordination with the Applicant & Other Affected Agencies & Orgs (Dist. 10-Pittman) (Pollock) (Introduced by CM Pittman) (Co-Sponsors CMs Clark-Murray & Boylan)
4/8/25 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, TEU
4/14/25 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer
4/15/25 TEU Read 2nd & Rerefer
4/22/25 CO PH Read 2nd & Rerefer
5/5/25 NCSPHS Amend/Approve 7-0
5/6/25 TEU PH Amend/Approve 6-0
TEU PH Pursuant to Ch 745 Ord Code - 5/6/25
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 4/22/25

PH AMEND/APPROVE

Aye: 6 - Lahnen, Pittman, Carlucci, Gaffney Jr., Gay and Peluso

Excused: 1 - Clark-Murray

The public hearing was opened. There was no public comment. The public hearing was closed. Ed Linksy, Council Auditors Office explained the amendment. The amendment passed unanimously. Cherry Pollock, Office of General Counsel stated that it is an honorary street marker for Mr. Ruel “Rock” Davis. She noted that the request meets the 75% approval requirement and clarified that the designation involves only two honorary marker signs, which will be placed on 45th Street. She emphasized that it will not affect any existing addresses.

Council Member Pittman spoke in support of the bill, stating that it holds significant importance to the community. She reflected on how individuals who have contributed greatly are often overlooked once they are no longer visible or active in the public eye. She explained that Mr. Davis was an athlete who returned to live in Jacksonville and has made many contributions to the community. She acknowledged that his family had been requesting this recognition for a long time and affirmed that he is a worthy recipient of the honorary designation.

AMENDMENT

- 1. Reflect total of 81 affected properties and 59 non-responses**
- 2. Attach Revised Exhibit 5 (Property List) to remove duplicate listing**
- 3. Correct Scrivener's**

4. [2025-0266](#) ORD Stating the Gen Description of Residential Solid Waste Svcs; Prov for Svc Cost; Prov for Assessment Rate; Repealing Max Assessment Rate; Apv Annual Rate Ord & Assessment Roll; Prov for a Phased Increase of the Solid Waste Assessment; Effect of Final Assessment Ord; Lien of Assessments; Procedural Irregularities; Correction of Errors & Omissions (Reingold) (Introduced by CP White per Sec 715.208, Ord Code, & Co-Introduced by CM Carlucci) (Co-Sponsor CM Lahren)
4/22/25 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, R, F, TEU
5/5/25 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer
5/6/25 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
5/6/25 TEU Read 2nd & Rerefer
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & CR 3.601- 5/13/25
Public Hearing Pursuant to Sec 197.3632, F.S. & Sec 715.208, Ord Code- 5/27/25

READ 2ND & REREFER

5. [2025-0278](#) ORD Approp a \$300,000.00 Grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Funded Thru the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, for the Expansion & Enhancement of Air Monitoring Activities in Disadvantaged Communities, Particularly in Health Zone 1; Prov for Carryover of Funds Into FY 28-29; Prov for Oversight by the Office of Admin Svcs Dept, Environmental Quality Div (B.T. 25-067) (Dillard) (Req of Mayor)
4/22/25 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, F, TEU
5/5/25 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer
5/6/25 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
5/6/25 TEU Read 2nd & Rerefer
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 5/13/25

READ 2ND & REREFER

6. [2025-0279](#) ORD Approp an \$83,000.00 Grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Funded Thru the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, to Procure Equipment for Air Quality Monitoring for Particulate Matter in & Near Low Income & Disadvantaged Communities; Prov for Carryover of Funds Into FY 28-29; Prov for Oversight by the Office of Admin Svcs Dept, Environmental Quality Div (B.T. 25-066) (Dillard) (Req of Mayor)
4/22/25 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, F, TEU
5/5/25 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer
5/6/25 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
5/6/25 TEU Read 2nd & Rerefer
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 5/13/25

READ 2ND & REREFER

7. [2025-0282](#) ORD re Ch 745 (Addressing & Street Naming Regulations), Ord Code; Renaming a Portion of Roadway Currently Identified as “Swooping Willow Court” to “Swooping Willow Court West” in Council Dist 6; Waiving the Requirement of Sec 745.105 (Public Street Name Changes), Pt 1 (General Provisions), Ch 745 (Addressing & Street Naming Regulations), Ord Code, that the PDD Send Written Notifications re the Proposed St Name Change to Affected Propty Owners; Directing the Chief of the LSD to Forward a Copy of this Ord, Once Enacted, to the PWD, Dev Svcs & Traffic Engineering Divs, for Processing & Coordination with 911 Emergency, the JFRD, the USPS, & Other Affected Agencies & Orgs (Pollock) (Introduced by TEU)
4/22/25 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, R, TEU
5/5/25 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer
5/5/25 R Read 2nd & Rerefer
5/6/25 TEU Read 2nd & Rerefer
TEU PH Pursuant to Ch 745 Ord Code - 5/20/25
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 5/13/25

READ 2ND & REREFER

8. [2025-0283](#) ORD Making Certain Findings; Apv the Appl of GFL Solid Waste Southeast LLC Req an Initial Certificate of Public Convenience & Necessity (CON) for the Operation of a Transfer Station; Prov for Conditions of Said Certificate (Dillard) (Introduced by CP White pursuant to Ch 380, Ord Code)
4/22/25 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, TEU
5/5/25 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer
5/6/25 TEU Read 2nd & Rerefer
TEU PH Pursuant to Ch 380, Ord Code - 5/20/25
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 5/27/25

READ 2ND & REREFER

9. [2025-0286](#) ORD Auth a Property Assessed Clean Energy Prog for Limited Operation within the Corporate Limits of the City; Apv Interlocal Agrmt with the Florida Green Finance Authority Utilizing Voluntary Non-Ad Valorem Assessments to Finance Qualifying Improvements; Auth the Mayor, or Her Desig, & the Corp Sec to Execute & Deliver on Behalf of the City the Interlocal Agrmt for the Property Assessed Clean Energy Prog; Prov for Oversight by the Finance Dept; Prov for Prog Requirements; & Prov for Conflicts & Severability (Reingold) (Introduced by CM Arias)
4/22/25 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, F, TEU
5/5/25 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer
5/6/25 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
5/6/25 TEU Read 2nd & Rerefer
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 5/13/25

READ 2ND & REREFER

Council Member Carlucci spoke about the upcoming solid waste fee legislation, emphasizing the TEU Committee's important role. He explained that the first bill passed by Council set the new rate and authorized the mayor's office to notify all affected property owners. That bill also scheduled public hearings, with the final vote set for May 27. He wasn't sure if notices had been mailed yet, but expected they would go out quickly. He thanked Council Member Lahnen for co-introducing the bill and expressed gratitude to the entire committee for their involvement, regardless of how they voted. He remarked that he had received unexpected public appreciation for addressing the issue. Mr. Fuller confirmed that notices regarding the new residential fee had been mailed starting the previous Saturday. Chair Lahnen adjourned the meeting.

NOTE: The next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

*******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.

Nayeli Jimenez- Council Research Division

njimenez1@coj.net

904-255-5140 Posted 05/08/2025 11:00 AM