

Introduced by Council Members Howland, Carrico, Johnson, Lahnen, White, Pittman, Boylan, Freeman, Amaro, Carlucci, Gaffney Jr., Salem, Miller, Gay, Diamond, Arias, and J. Carlucci:

RESOLUTION 2026-46

A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MOURNING THE
PASSING OF JAMES G. BENNETT, P.E.; PROVIDING AN
EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, James G. Bennett graduated from the University of Florida in 1991 with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, and was a licensed professional engineer; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bennett served for many years with the Florida Department of Transportation, including as Planning Manager for District Two, encompassing 18 counties throughout North Florida; and

WHEREAS, James G. Bennett was a dedicated public servant, elected to the Baker County Board of Commissioners in 2014 to represent District 4; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bennett joined JAXPORT in 2017 as Senior Director of Engineering and Construction and was responsible for the port's marine and landside infrastructure development and engineering and construction operations; and in that position he managed the completion of the 47-foot harbor deepening project, a \$100 million project, and renovations to improve the JAXPORT Cruise Terminal; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, Mr. Bennett was promoted to be the Chief Operating Officer for JAXPORT, overseeing the port's three operational divisions, its engineering and construction department, the implementation of a capital growth program in excess of \$250 million annually, the expansion of Blount Island's container terminal, and the port's vehicle-handling capabilities; and

WHEREAS, James G. Bennett also represented Baker County as a

1 liaison to the Northeast Florida Regional Council, North Florida
2 Regional Transportation Commission, the North Florida Transportation
3 Planning Organization, and the Small County Coalition; and

4 **WHEREAS**, James G. Bennett was known for his extraordinary
5 dedication, unmatched work ethic, commitment to his work and to his
6 team, and a spirit that elevated everyone around him; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Bennett tragically perished on Monday, December 8,
8 2025, in an automobile accident, and his loss will be felt by his
9 family, friends, colleagues, constituents, and all who had the honor
10 to know him; now therefore

11 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

12 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors the life and
13 mourns the passing of James G. Bennett. The Council appreciates the
14 expertise and acumen Mr. Bennett brought to JAXPORT, his decades of
15 service and leadership, and his unwavering dedication to improving
16 the quality of life for people in Northeast Florida.

17 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
18 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
19 without the Mayor's signature.

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21 Form Approved:

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23 /s/ Shannon MacGillis

24 Office of General Counsel

25 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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