

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

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5 **RESOLUTION 2026-46**

6 A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MOURNING THE
7 PASSING OF JAMES G. BENNETT, P.E.; PROVIDING AN
8 EFFECTIVE DATE.
9

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Form Approved:

/s/ Shannon MacGillis

Office of General Counsel

Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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