

City of Jacksonville

117 W. Duval Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 4, 2024

9:30 AM

Council Chamber,
1st Floor, City Hall

Finance Committee

Ron Salem, Pharm. D., Chair

Terrance Freeman, Vice Chair - Excused Early Departure

Raul Arias

Rory Diamond

Nick Howland

Will Lahnen

Ju'Coby Pittman - Excused Early Departure 9:55 AM

Legislative Assistant: Steven Libby

Council Auditor's Office: Kim Taylor, Council Auditor

Council Auditor's Office: Phillip Peterson, Asst. Council Auditor

Council Research: Jeff Clements, Chief

Office of General Counsel: Mary Staffopoulos, Deputy

Administration: Scott Wilson

Meeting Convened: 9:30 AM

Meeting Adjourned: 12:50 PM

Present: 7 - Chair Ron Salem, Vice Chair Terrance Freeman, Council Member Nick Howland, Council Member Raul Arias, Council Member Will Lahnen, Council Member Ju'Coby Pittman and Council Member Rory Diamond

Attendance

Council Members White (2024-629 & 2024-630), Matt Carlucci (2024-629 & 2204-635), Jimmy Peluso (2024-553 & 2024-635); Merriane Lahmeur, Steven Libby – Legislative Services Division; Kim Taylor, Phillip Peterson, Brian Parks, Heather Reber – Council Auditor’s Office; Jeff Clements – Council Research Division; Steve Cassada – Public Information Division; Mary Staffopoulos – Office of General Counsel; Darnell Smith, Karen Bowling, Joe Inderhees, Brittany Norris, Scott Wilson - Mayor’s Office; Anna Brosche, Angela Moyer – Finance Department

Chairman Salem convened the meeting and the attendees introduced themselves for the record. The Chair said he plans to take up the agenda items in order first, excluding the Journey Forward bill, then the presentation on downtown parks, then the Journey Forward bill. Item #20, 2024-553, will be taken up first.

Public Comment

Derek Hollins, Executive Director of the Fire Watch Council, thanked the Council for its support of the Fire Watch program, which has been very successful to date in reducing the number of suicides among military veterans and said he looks forward to the evolution of the agency into a 501(c)(3) organization to continue the mission.

• Presentation on Riverfront Plaza, Shipyards West Park, and Metro Park

Item/File No.	Title History
1. <u>2023-0307</u>	ORD-MC re the Jax Police & Fire Pension Board of Trustees; Amend Sec 22.12 of the Charter of the COJ; Prov for Codification Instructions (Hodges) (Co-Introduced by CP Freeman at Req of Jax Police & Fire Pension Board of Trustees & CM White) (Co-Sponsor CM Pittman) 5/9/23 CO Introduced: R, F 5/15/23 R Read 2nd & Rerefer 5/16/23 F Read 2nd & Rerefer 5/23/23 CO PH Read 2nd & Rerefer Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601- 5/23/23

Sponsors: Freeman, Police & Fire Pension Board of Trustees, White and Pittman

DEFER

- 2. [2024-0436](#) ORD Granting to Peoples Gas System, Inc. (Peoples Gas), Its Successors & Assigns, a Non-Exclusive Natural Gas Franchise Agrmt for Use of the Rights-of-Way of the City of Jax; Apv, & Auth the Mayor & Corp Sec to Execute & Deliver, That Certain Natural Gas Franchise Agrmt btwn the City & Peoples Gas to Prov the Terms & Conditions Under Which Said Franchise May be Exercised; Prov for City Oversight by the Planning & Dev Dept, Dev Svcs Div; Directing the Legislative Services Div to Forward the Enacted Ord to the Dev Svcs Div of the Planning & Dev Dept (Staffopoulos) (Introduced by CM Salem)
5/28/24 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, F, TEU
6/3/24 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer
6/4/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
6/4/24 TEU Read 2nd & Rerefer
6/11/24 CO PH Read 2nd & Rerefer
9/3/24 NCSPHS Substitute/Approve 7-0
9/4/24 F Substitute/Approve 7-0
9/4/24 TEU Substitute/Approve 5-0
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 6/11/24

Sponsors: Salem

SUBSTITUTE/APPROVE

Aye: 7 - Salem, Freeman, Howland, Arias, Lahnen, Pittman and Diamond

Assistant Council Auditor Phillip Peterson explained the NCSPHS substitute. Brittany Norris with the Mayor’s Office indicated the administration’s agreement with the NCSPHS substitute provisions, as did a representative of TECO Peoples Gas. Council Member Howland asked the Auditor’s Office about the waiver of Ordinance Code Chapter 711 provisions and whether the substitute sufficiently addressed those concerns. Mr. Peterson said the substitute is better than the original proposal but does not provide for everything that Chapter 711 covers, which the Auditor’s Office always recommends. Council Member Arias asked if there was resolution about who was responsible for the flooding incident at the Ed Ball Building; Ms. Norris said it is still being investigated and she understands it is in the hands of the General Counsel’s Office now. Mr. Arias asked if the 18% late payment fee is an increase from the previous late fee. Mr. Peterson said the late payment fee is a new provision and was negotiated at 18%.

NCSPHS SUBSTITUTE

- 1. Change oversight to the Finance Department**
- 2. Include waiver of Section 711.318 (Publication costs) which requires the applicant assume the cost of publication**
- 3. Include waiver of applicable provisions of Chapter 711 (City Rights-of-Way) in direct conflict with proposed agreement**
- 4. Attach Revised Exhibit 1 (Agreement) to reflect negotiated agreement terms, including:**
 - a. 10-year initial term with two 10-year renewal options requiring Council approval**
 - b. Future changes to City's permitting procedures will be prospectively applicable to franchisee**
 - c. Require Peoples Gas to use commercially reasonable efforts to coordinate with the City on matters impacting the rights-of-way**
 - c. 18% interest to be applied to late payments or underpayments**
 - d. Increase of franchise fee upon an increase of the same in a surrounding municipality, subsequent to City Council Approval, but no sooner than 12 months after notification from Company**
 - e. City to be compensated, up to \$20,000, for the cost of any audit finding an amount owed to the City of 5% or more in addition to interest at a rate 10% on the amount underpaid**
 - f. Waive the applicability of Chapter 711 (City Rights-of-Way)**

3. [2024-0460](#) ORD Approp \$100,000.00 from the Local Assistance & Tribal Consistency Fund (LATCF), American Rescue Plan of 2021 (ARP Act) Grant Funds in the Amt of \$100,000.00 to JU Women's Health Innovation Hub Proj; Auth an Increase to the Maximum Indebtedness of an Agrmt btwn JU & the City Related to the Proj & Auth the Mayor, or Her Desig, & the Corp Sec to Execute & Deliver Docs btwn the City & JU to Provide Funding for Certain Expenses Related to the Proj; Waiving Sec 118.107 (Nonprofits to Receive Funding Through a Competitive Evaluated Award Process), Pt 1 (General Provisions), Ch 118 (City Grants), Ord Code, to Allow a Direct Contract With JU; Prov for Compliance With Applicable ARP Act Grant Funding Requirements; Prov for Oversight by the Grants & Contract Compliance Div of the Finance Dept; Prov for Carryover of Funds to FY 24-25 (B.T. 24-114) (Dillard) (Req of Mayor) (Co-Sponsors CMs Johnson & Peluso)
6/11/24 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, R, F
6/17/24 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer
6/17/24 R Read 2nd & Rerefer
6/18/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
6/25/24 CO PH Read 2nd & Rerefer
9/3/24 NCSPHS Amend/Approve 7-0
9/3/24 R Amend/Approve 7-0
9/4/24 F Amend/Approve 6-1 (Diamond)
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 6/25/24

Sponsors: Mayor, Johnson and Peluso

AMEND/APPROVE

Aye: 6 - Salem, Freeman, Howland, Arias, Lahnen and Pittman

Nay: 1 - Diamond

Phillip Peterson explained the NCSPHS amendment, which was approved unanimously via a voice vote. Council Member Freeman asked why the appropriation is being increased by \$100,000; Mr. Peterson explained that the \$250,000 was the original request from JU and was increased to that amount yesterday in NCSPHS. In response to a request from Council Member Freeman, Mr. Peterson said to his knowledge there is no further balance in the former JIA CRA fund.

NCSPHS AMENDMENT

1. Revise appropriation to \$250,000 to include \$150,000 from returned funding related to the termination of the JIA CRA

2. Revise contract execution language to reflect authorization of a new contract rather than increasing the maximum indebtedness of an existing contract

3. Attach revised Exhibit 1 (BT) to reflect revised appropriation amount

4. Attach revised Exhibit 2 (Term Sheet) to include the budget by funding source and add the contract term end date

- **Appropriates \$100,000 in ARP Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund (LATCF) funds to provide a grant of \$100,000 to Jacksonville University for the Women’s Health Innovation Hub**
- **As amended, authorizes execution of a contract with Jacksonville University**
- **The \$100,000 grant to Jacksonville University will fund salaries, benefits, research/program supplies, and indirect costs related to the Women’s Health Innovation Hub**
- **Authorizes carryover of funding through 9/30/25**

4. [2024-0465](#) ORD Approp \$1,278,372.79 Including \$28,372.79 from Loss Deductible Revenue & a Transfer of \$1,250,000.00 Within the Public Bldgs Allocations Fund for Deferred Maintenance Needs at Various City Facilities (B.T. 24-119) (Dillard) (Req of Mayor)
6/11/24 CO Introduced: F, TEU
6/18/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
6/18/24 TEU Read 2nd & Rerefer
6/25/24 CO PH Read 2nd & Rerefer
9/4/24 F Withdraw 6-0
9/4/24 TEU Withdraw 6-0
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 6/25/24

Sponsors: Mayor

WITHDRAW

Aye: 6 - Salem, Freeman, Howland, Arias, Lahnen and Diamond

Excused: 1 - Pittman

- 5. [2024-0466](#) ORD Approp \$785,000 from the General Fund - GSD Property Tax Acct to the General Fund Operating Subsidies & Contributions to Private Org Acct to Provide Funding to Goodwill Industries of North Florida, Inc., for the Building Futures Together - a Goodwill Workforce Training Prog, as More Fully Described Herein; Prov for Carryover to 9/30/25; Invoking the Exemption in Sec 126.107(g) (Exemptions), Pt 1 (General Regulations), Ch 126 (Procurement Code), Ord Code, to Allow for a Direct Contract With Goodwill; Waiving Sec 118.107 (Nonprofits to Receive Funding Through a Competitive Evaluated Award Process), Pt 1 (General Provisions), Ch 118 (City Grants), Ord Code, to Allow for a Direct Contract With Goodwill; Apv, & Auth the Mayor, or Her Desig, & the Corp Sec to Execute & Deliver on Behalf of the City an Agrmt btwn the City & Goodwill Industries of North Florida, Inc. for the Prog; Prov for Oversight by the Grants & Contracts Compliance Div of the Finance Dept (Staffopoulos) (Introduced by CM Johnson) (Co-Sponsors CMs Clark-Murray & Peluso)
 6/11/24 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, R, F
 6/17/24 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer
 6/17/24 R Read 2nd & Rerefer
 6/18/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
 6/25/24 CO PH Read 2nd & Rerefer
 7/15/24 NCSPHS Approve 3-3 (J. Carlucci, Miller, Salem) (Deferred)
 Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 6/25/24

Sponsors: Johnson, Clark-Murray and Peluso

DEFER

- 6. [2024-0501](#) ORD Levying Annual Taxes for the 2024 Calendar Yr on Real & Personal Property Located in the Gen Svcs Dist of the City of Jax, Excepting the 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th Urban Svcs Dists (the Cities of Jax Beach, Atlantic Beach, Neptune Beach & the Town of Baldwin); Stating the Percentage Change from the 2024 Rolled-Back Rate; Auth Assessment & Collection; Prov for the Use of the Revenues Generated (Staffopoulos) (Req of Mayor)
 7/23/24 CO Introduced: F
 8/6/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
 8/13/24 CO Read 2nd & Rerefer
 9/4/24 F Tentatively Approve 5-1 (Diamond)
 Public Hearing Pursuant to Sec 200.065, F.S. - 9/10/24 & 9/24/24

Sponsors: Mayor

TENTATIVELY/APPROVE

Aye: 5 - Salem, Freeman, Howland, Arias and Lahnen

Nay: 1 - Diamond

Excused: 1 - Pittman

Phillip Peterson explained the millage rate levy for the City, excluding the Beaches and Baldwin. Council Member Diamond said he prefers the rolled-back millage rate to avoid a tax increase on property owners.

Millage Levy Ordinance for GSD excluding USDs 2-5

Assessed Value - \$98,507,990,525

Millage Levy - 11.3169

Estimated Revenues - \$1,064,638,849

- 7. [2024-0502](#) ORD Levying Calendar Yr 2024 Annual Taxes on Real & Personal Property Located in the City of Jax, Including Only the 2nd, 3rd & 4th Urban Svcs Dists, to Wit: the Cities of Jax Beach, Atlantic Beach & Neptune Beach; Stating the Percentage Change from the 2024 Rolled-Back Rate; Auth Assessment & Collection; Prov for the Use of the Revenues Generated (Staffopoulos) (Req of Mayor)
 7/23/24 CO Introduced: F
 8/6/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
 8/13/24 CO Read 2nd & Rerefer
 9/4/24 F Tentatively Approve 5-1 (Diamond)
 Public Hearing Pursuant to Sec 200.065, F.S. - 9/10/24 & 9/24/24

Sponsors: Mayor

TENTATIVELY/APPROVE

Aye: 5 - Salem, Freeman, Howland, Arias and Lahnen

Nay: 1 - Diamond

Excused: 1 - Pittman

Phillip Peterson explained the millage rate levy for the Beaches cities.

Millage Levy Ordinance for USDs 2-4

Assessed Value - \$10,055,233,332

Millage Levy - 8.0262

Estimated Revenues - \$77,073,575

- 8. [2024-0503](#) ORD Levying Calendar Yr 2024 Annual Taxes on Real & Personal Property Located in the City of Jax, Including Only the 5th Urban Svcs Dist, to Wit: the Town of Baldwin; Stating the Percentage Change from the 2024 Rolled-Back Rate; Auth Assessment & Collection; Prov for the Use of the Revenues Generated (Staffopoulos) (Req of Mayor)
 7/23/24 CO Introduced: F
 8/6/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
 8/13/24 CO Read 2nd & Rerefer
 9/4/24 F Tentatively Approve 5-1 (Diamond)
 Public Hearing Pursuant to Sec 200.065, F.S. - 9/10/24 & 9/24/24

Sponsors: Mayor

TENTATIVELY/APPROVE

Aye: 5 - Salem, Freeman, Howland, Arias and Lahnen

Nay: 1 - Diamond

Excused: 1 - Pittman

Phillip Peterson explained the millage rate levy for the Town of Baldwin.

Millage Levy Ordinance for USD 5

Assessed Value - \$76,751,310

Millage Levy - 9.5260

Estimated Revenues - \$698,232

- 9. [2024-0504](#) ORD Estab the City’s 24-25 FY Consolidated Govt Budget; Prov a Table of Contents; Approp Funds & Adopting Budgets for the 24-25 FY for the City; Prov for Certain City Grants to Non-Governmental Orgs Pursuant to Ch 118, Ord Code; Estab Capital Outlays; Estab Carryovers; Prov for Federal Public Svc Grants; Prov for State & Federal Grant Progs; Prov for Gen Fund/GSD Funding for Salaries & Benefits; Estab the Employee Cap; Prov Position Allocations & Temporary Hours; Estab the CIP Budget for the 24-25 FY; Prov for the All Yrs Budget City Debt Mgmt Fund; Prov the Septic Tank Failure Schedule Pursuant to Ch 751 (Wastewater System Improvement Program), Ord Code; Estab the IT System Dev Prog Budget; Prov for Declaration of Intent to Reimb; Prov Gen Execution Authority; Approp Funds & Adopting Budgets for the 24-25 FY for JEA, JAA, JPA, the Police & Fire Pension Fund, JHFA, & the Downtown Vision Business Improvement Dist;... (Staffopoulos) (Req of Mayor)
 7/23/24 CO Introduced: F
 8/6/24 F Amend/Rerefer 6-0-1 (Freeman)
 8/13/24 CO Amend/Rerefer 16-0-3 (Freeman, Gay, Gaffney, Jr.)
 9/4/24 F Tentatively/Substitute/Approve 5-1 (Diamond)
 9/4/24 F Reconsider/Tentatively/Substitute/Approve 5-1 (Diamond)
 Finance Comm PH on DVI - 8/20/24
 Public Hearing Pursuant to Sec 200.065, F.S. - 9/10/24 & 9/24/24

Sponsors: Mayor

TENTATIVELY/SUBSTITUTE/APPROVE

Aye: 5 - Salem, Freeman, Howland, Arias and Lahnen

Nay: 1 - Diamond

Excused: 1 - Pittman

RECONSIDER/TENTATIVELY/SUBSTITUTE/APPROVE

Aye: 5 - Salem, Howland, Arias, Lahnen and Pittman

Nay: 1 - Diamond

Excused: 1 - Freeman

Council Auditor Kim Taylor explained the amendment to the substitute, which was approved via a voice vote and rolled in to a Finance Committee substitute.

AMENDMENT

- 1. Move three items above the line to event contributions totaling \$235,000**
- 2. Revise Section 12.1 and Exhibit 1 for United Way 211 to account for the additional \$100,000 in funding**
- 3. Added back \$35 million in funding for Riverfront Plaza (FY 25/26 - \$10 million and FY 26/27 - \$25 million) and \$35 million for Shipyards West (FY 25/26 - \$30 million and FY 26/27 - \$5 million) projects that had been removed during meeting #7.**

10. [2024-0505](#) ORD Adopting the FYs 25-29 Inclusive CIP, as Required by Ch 122 (Public Property), Pt 6 (Capital Improvement Plan), Ord Code; Prov for 2025 CIP Specificity Requirements; Directing Revisions & Updating of the Capital Improvements Element of the 2045 Comp Plan, as Required by Sec 163.3177, F.S.; Waiving Applicable Provisions of Sec 122.602 (Definitions), Pt 6 (Capital Improvement Plan), Ch 122 (Public Property), Ord Code, to Allow Roadway Resurfacing to Be Included in the List of Capital Improvement Projs for the 24-25 FY; Prov for Declaration of Intent to Reimb; Waiving Compliance with Sec 106.309 (Capital Improvement Appropriations Carried Over) & Sec 106.312 (Lapse of Appropriations), Subpt A (General Provisions), Pt 3 (Appropriations), Ch 106 (Budget & Accounting Code), Ord Code, to Auth Submittal of the CIP Legislation without the Capital Improvements Projs Not Lapsed Exhibit; Prov for Reconciliation of Schedules, Text, Codification, Journal Entries (Staffopoulos) (Req of Mayor)
 7/23/24 CO Introduced: F
 8/6/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
 8/13/24 CO PH Read 2nd & Rerefer
 Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & CR 3.601 - 8/13/24

Sponsors: Mayor

DEFER

11. [2024-0506](#) ORD Auth the Mayor, or Her Desig, & the Corp Sec to: (1) Execute & Deliver, for & on Behalf of the City, (A) an Agrmt with Shands Jax Medical Center, Inc., & (B) Letters of Agrmt with the State of FL Through Its Agency for Health Care Admin, Both Concerning Payment & Distribution of the City’s Indigent Health Care Funds in the Amt of \$56,000,000 for FY 24-25, & (2) Take Such Further Action as May Be Necessary or Appropriate to Effectuate the Purpose of this Ord (Staffopoulos) (Req of Mayor)
 7/23/24 CO Introduced: F
 8/6/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
 8/13/24 CO PH Read 2nd & Rerefer
 Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & CR 3.601 - 8/13/24

Sponsors: Mayor

DEFER

12. [2024-0507](#) ORD Adopting the FYs 25-29 Inclusive IT System Dev Prog, Pursuant to Sec 106.207, Ord Code; Prov for Declaration of Intent to Reimb; Prov for Reconciliation of Schedules, Text, Codification, Journal Entries (Staffopoulos) (Req of Mayor)
7/23/24 CO Introduced: F
8/6/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
8/13/24 CO PH Read 2nd & Rerefer
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & CR 3.601 - 8/13/24

Sponsors: Mayor

DEFER

13. [2024-0508](#) RESO Adopting the Annual Growth Rate as Recommended by the Administration for the Future Pension Liability Surtax Proceeds (Staffopoulos) (Req of Mayor)
7/23/24 CO Introduced: F
8/6/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
8/13/24 CO Read 2nd & Rerefer

Sponsors: Mayor

DEFER

14. [2024-0509](#) ORD re Public Svc Grants; Approp \$7,200,000 from a Desig Special Council Contingency Acct for Public Svc Grants (PSG); Prov That Determination of Eligibility & the Process for Review, Evaluation, & Scoring of PSG Micro Grant Applications Shall Be in Accordance with Ord 2022-623-E; Apv & Auth Execution of Micro-Grant Agrmts; Prov for City Oversight by the Grants & Contract Compliance Div of the Dept of Finance; Waiving the Conflicting Provision of Sec 118.802 (Annual Lump Sum Appropriation for Public Service Grants), Pt 8 (Public Service Grants), Ch 118 (City Grants), Ord Code, to Approve the Lump Sum Approp for PSGs by Separate Legislation from the Annual Budget Ord (Staffopoulos) (Introduced by CP White)
7/23/24 CO Introduced: F
8/6/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
8/13/24 CO PH Read 2nd & Rerefer
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & CR 3.601 - 8/13/24

Sponsors: White

DEFER

15. [2024-0510](#) ORD re Opioid & Substance Use Disorder Settlement Proceeds Grants; Approp \$4,768,478 from the Opioid Settlement Fund - Misc Settlements Acct to the Opioid Settlement Fund - Subsidies & Contributions to Private Orgs Acct to Fund Opioid & Substance Use Disorder Settlement Proceeds Grants (OSUD Grants); Prov for City Oversight by the Opioid Abatement Manager within the JFRD; Waiving the Conflicting Provision of Sec 84.301 (Opioid Settlement Proceeds Allocation for Opioid Settlement Proceeds Grants), Pt 3 (Opioid Settlement Proceeds Grant Award Procedures), Ch 84 (Opioid Settlement Proceeds Grants), Ord Code, to Apv the Lump Sum Approp for OSUD Grants by Separate Legislation from the Annual Budget Ord (Staffopoulos) (Introduced by CP White)
7/23/24 CO Introduced: F
8/6/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
8/13/24 CO PH Read 2nd & Rerefer
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & CR 3.601 - 8/13/24

Sponsors: White

DEFER

16. [2024-0511](#) ORD Approp \$46,968,032 from Special Council Contingency - KHA to the Kids Hope Alliance (KHA); Prov for the KHA Comp Budget Transfer Powers; Apv & Auth Execution of Agrmts by the Mayor, or Her Desig, & the Corp Sec with Named Grant Recipients; Appvl & Auth to Execute Agmts with Named Grant Recipients & Invoking the Exemption in Sec 126.108(g), Ord Code; Auth the Procurement of Svcs Pursuant to Single Source Award as Determined Appropriate in Coordination with the Chief of Procurement Pursuant to Sec 126.306 (Procurement Methods & Selection), Ch 126 (Procurement Code), Ord Code; Auth the Procurement of Svcs Pursuant to the Competitive Solicitation Exemptions Listed in Sec 126.108 (Exemptions From Competitive Solicitation), Subpt A (General Regulations), Pt 1 (General Regulations; Ethics & Transparency in Public Contracting), Ch 126 (Procurement Code), Ord Code; Waiving Sec 77.111(a) (Provider Contracts), Ch 77 (Kids Hope Alliance), Ord Code; Waiving Sec 77.113 (Annual Operating Budget; Budget Transfers), Ch 77 (Kids Hope Alliance), Ord Code, & Sec 106.304 (Mayor's Transfer Power), Ch 106 (Budget & Accounting Code), Ord Code, to Allow for Budget Transfers within the Plan; Auth the OGC & the Council Auditor's Office to Make All Changes Necessary to Effectuate the Council's Action (Staffopoulos) (Introduced by CP White)
7/23/24 CO Introduced: F
8/6/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
8/13/24 CO PH Read 2nd & Rerefer
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & CR 3.601 - 8/13/24

Sponsors: White

DEFER

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17. [2024-0512](#) ORD re James Weldon Johnson Park; Approp \$600,000 from a Gen Fund/GSD Desig Contingency Acct to Contractual Svcs in the Parks, Recreation & Community Svcs Dept for James Weldon Johnson Park Maintenance & Programming; Auth the OGC & the Council Auditor's Office to Make All Changes Necessary to Effectuate the Council's Action (Staffopoulos) (Introduced by CP White) (Co-Sponsor CM Johnson)
7/23/24 CO Introduced: F
8/6/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
8/13/24 CO PH Read 2nd & Rerefer
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & CR 3.601 - 8/13/24
- Sponsors:** White and Johnson
- DEFER**
18. [2024-0513](#) ORD Approp \$1,891,057 from a Gen Fund/GSD Desig Contingency Acct to Fund City Council Member Salaries & Benefits for FY 24-25; Apv Positions (Staffopoulos) (Introduced by CP White) (Co-Sponsor CM Clark-Murray)
7/23/24 CO Introduced: F
8/6/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
8/13/24 CO PH Read 2nd & Rerefer
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & CR 3.601 - 8/13/24
- Sponsors:** White and Clark-Murray
- DEFER**
19. [2024-0514](#) ORD Approp \$1,812,937 from Special Council Contingency - Contributions to JTA Acct to the Contributions to Component Units - Contributions to JTA Acct to Fund COJ's Contribution to JTA for the Paratransit Prog for FY 24-25; Appv the FY 24-25 Budget for JTA; Auth the Office of Gen Counsel & the Council Auditor's Office to Make All Changes Necessary to Effectuate the Council's Action (Staffopoulos) (Introduced by CP White)
8/27/24 CO Introduced: F
9/4/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 9/10/24
- Sponsors:** White
- READ 2ND & REREFER**

20. [2024-0553](#) ORD Approp \$50,000 from the Gen Fund Operating, Clean Communities Initiative Contingency Acct to the Gen Fund Operating, Specialized Equipment Acct within the Dept of Public Works for the Purchase of Trash Receptacles from Big Belly Solar, LLC, to Be Installed Along Commercial Corridors in Council Dist. 7 at Specific Locations Identified Herein; Prov for Carryover to FY 24-25; Appvl & Auth to Execute an Agrmt with Big Belly Solar, LLC, for the Purchase & Installation of Trash Receptacles; Invoking the Exemption in Sec 126.108(g) (Exemptions from Competitive Solicitation), Subpt A (General Regulations), Pt 1 (General Regulations; Ethics & Transparency in Public Contracting), Ch 126 (Procurement Code), Ord Code; Prov for Oversight by the Dept of Public Works (Staffopoulos) (Introduced by CM Peluso) (Co-Sponsor CM Johnson)

7/23/24 CO Introduced: R, F, TEU
8/6/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
8/6/24 TEU Read 2nd & Rerefer
8/7/24 R Read 2nd & Rerefer
8/13/24 CO PH Read 2nd & Rerefer
9/3/24 R Approve 7-0
9/4/24 F Approve 7-0
9/4/24 TEU Approve 6-0
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 8/13/24

Sponsors: Peluso and Johnson

APPROVE

Aye: 7 - Salem, Freeman, Howland, Arias, Lahnen, Pittman and Diamond

Council Member Peluso said the initial pilot program with the trash receptacles has been very popular in the area it serves.

21. [2024-0620](#) ORD re the NE FL Fire Watch Council; Auth Termination of the Interlocal Agrmt Re Veterans’ Suicide Prevention btwn Baker County, Clay County, Nassau County, St. Johns County & the City of Jax & Auth the Mayor, or Her Desig, & the Corp Sec to Execute Docs & Take All Action Necessary to Effectuate the Intent of this Ord; Apv the Transfer of Any Remaining Non-Monetary Assets of the NE FL Fire Watch Council to the Fire Watch Project, Inc. (Staffopoulos) (Introduced by CM Diamond)
 8/13/24 CO Introduced: R, F
 8/19/24 R Read 2nd & Rerefer
 8/20/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
 8/27/24 CO PH Read 2nd & Rerefer
 9/3/24 R Amend/Approve 6-0-1 (Howland)
 9/4/24 F Amend/Approve 5-0-1 (Howland)
 Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 8/27/24

Sponsors: Diamond

AMEND/APPROVE

Aye: 5 - Salem, Freeman, Arias, Lahnen and Diamond

Excused: 1 - Pittman

Abstain: 1 - Howland

Council Member Howland said he would be abstaining from the vote due to his employment with Fire Watch. Council Member Lahnen said he has confirmed with the Ethics Office that he does not have a voting conflict and will be participating. Council Member Diamond said the Fire Watch has been a tremendous success in combatting veterans’ suicide in Northeast Florida using a hybrid government/private model. It is transitioning to a fully private non-profit three years earlier than originally projected.

AMENDMENT

Clarify that the expenditure of any remaining funds shall be for a public purpose in keeping with the mission of the Northeast Florida Fire Watch Council and expended in accordance with all applicable laws

- **Authorizes termination of the Interlocal Agreement Regarding Veterans’ Suicide Prevention which established the Northeast Florida Fire Watch Council, a multi-jurisdictional governmental entity**
- **Authorizes transfer of all remaining non-monetary assets of the Northeast Florida Fire Watch Council to The Fire Watch Project, Inc., a Florida not-for-profit entity**
- **Any remaining monetary assets will be used for a celebration**

- 22. [2024-0621](#) ORD Approp \$443,989.00 from the ARP Local Fiscal Recovery Fund - Public Health & Safety Enhancements - Computer Equipment Acct (564270) to the ARP Local Fiscal Recovery Fund - Tech Replacements Activity, to Provide Funding for 345± Personal Computer Replacements (B.T. 24-128) (Dillard) (Req of Mayor)
 8/13/24 CO Introduced: R, F
 8/19/24 R Read 2nd & Rerefer
 8/20/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
 8/27/24 CO PH Read 2nd & Rerefer
 9/3/24 R Amend/Approve 7-0
 9/4/24 F Amend/Approve 6-0
 Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 8/27/24

Sponsors: Mayor

AMEND/APPROVE

Aye: 6 - Salem, Freeman, Howland, Arias, Lahnen and Diamond

Excused: 1 - Pittman

Phillip Peterson explained the amendment which was approved unanimously via a voice vote.

AMENDMENT

- 1. **Revise funding source to include:**
 - a. **\$161,138.42 from the Computer Equipment Account (564270)**
 - b. **\$223,195.26 from the Miscellaneous Services & Charges Account (549040)**
 - c. **\$59,655.32 from the Hardware-Software Maintenance & Licenses Account (546620)**
- 2. **Attach Revised Exhibit 1 (BT) to reflect adjusted funding source**

• **Funds must be obligated by 12/31/24 and expensed by 12/31/26**

23. [2024-0622](#) ORD Approp \$113,609.00 in Fund Balance from the Environmental Protection Fund to Provide Funding for the 17th State of the River Report for the Lower St. Johns River Basin; Prov for Waiver of Sec 111.755 (Environmental Protection Fund), Pt 7 (Environment & Conservation), Ch 111 (Special Revenue & Trust Accounts), Ord Code, to Auth Utilization of Funds from the Fund to Continue Funding the Annual State of the River Report; Prov for Waiver of Sec 360.602 (Uses of Fund), Pt 6 (Environmental Protection Fund), Ch 360 (Environmental Regulation), Ord Code, to Allow for the Utilization of Funds from the Fund to Continue Funding the Annual State of the River Report; Apv, & Auth the Mayor, or Her Desig, & the Corp Secretary to Execute & Deliver an Agrmt btwn the City & JU for the Proj; Invoking the Exemption in 126.107(g) (Exemptions), Pt 1 (General Regulations), Ch 126 (Procurement Code), Ord Code, to Direct Contract with JU for the Proj; Waiving Sec 118.107 (Nonprofits to Receive Funding through a Competitive Evaluated Award Process), Pt 1 (General Provisions), Ch 118 (City Grants), Ord Code, to Allow a Direct Contract with JU; Prov for Oversight by the Neighborhoods Dept, Environmental Quality Div; Requiring Annual Reports (B.T. 24-130) (Dillard) (Req of Mayor) (Co-Sponsor CM Johnson) (JWC Apv)
 8/13/24 CO Introduced: R, F, TEU, JWC
 8/19/24 R Read 2nd & Rerefer
 8/20/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
 8/20/24 TEU Read 2nd & Rerefer
 8/27/24 CO PH Read 2nd & Rerefer
 9/3/24 R Amend/Approve 7-0
 9/4/24 F Amend/Approve 6-0
 9/4/24 TEU Amend/Approve 6-0
 Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 8/27/24

Sponsors: Mayor and Johnson

AMEND/APPROVE

Aye: 6 - Salem, Freeman, Howland, Arias, Lahnen and Diamond

Excused: 1 - Pittman

Phillip Peterson explained the amendment which was approved unanimously via a voice vote.

AMENDMENT

- 1. Place revised Agreement on file to revise effective date to May 1, 2024, update expenditure reporting date, and correct scrivener’s errors**
- 2. Attach Revised Exhibit 1 (BT) to correct account code**
- 3. Correct scrivener’s errors**

- **Waives Code Sections 111.755 (Environmental Protection Fund) and 360.602 (Uses of Fund) to allow for the expenditure of Environmental Protection Fund dollars on continuing studies**
- **Waives Code Sec. 118.107 (Nonprofits to receive funding through a competitive evaluated award process) to allow for a direct contract with Jacksonville University**

24. [2024-0624](#) ORD Approp \$114,886.89 from SOE Fund Balance & Investment Pool Earnings Generated from Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Grant Funds Awarded by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission through the State of FL, Dept of State, Div of Elections, to Pay for Election Education & for Building & Security Enhancements; Prov for Carryover of Funds into FY 24-25; Req 1 Cycle Emergency Passage (B.T. 24-133) (Dillard) (Req of Mayor)
 8/13/24 CO Introduced: R, F
 8/19/24 R Read 2nd & Rerefer
 8/20/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
 8/27/24 CO PH Read 2nd & Rerefer
 9/3/24 R Amend/Approve 7-0
 9/4/24 F Amend/Approve 6-0
 Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 8/27/24

Sponsors: Mayor

AMEND/APPROVE

Aye: 6 - Salem, Freeman, Howland, Arias, Lahnen and Diamond

Excused: 1 - Pittman

Phillip Peterson explained the amendment which was approved unanimously via a voice vote.

AMENDMENT

- 1. Remove emergency language**
- 2. Correct appropriation amount to \$118,426.15**
- 3. Attach revised Exhibit 1 (BT) to correct appropriation amount**

- 25. [2024-0625](#) ORD Approp \$180,000.00 in Available Revenue from the Downtown Dev Loan - Loan Repayment Revenue Acct to the Downtown Dev Loan - Loans Acct, All Within the Downtown Northbank CRA Trust Fund, for Future Projs (B.T. 24-134) (Dillard) (Req of Mayor)
8/13/24 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, F
8/19/24 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer
8/20/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
8/27/24 CO PH Read 2nd & Rerefer
9/3/24 NCSPHS Approve 6-0
9/4/24 F Approve 5-1 (Diamond)
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 8/27/24

Sponsors: Mayor

APPROVE

Aye: 5 - Salem, Freeman, Howland, Arias and Lahnen

Nay: 1 - Diamond

Excused: 1 - Pittman

- 26. [2024-0627](#) ORD-MC Concerning the Mayor’s Transfer Authority; Amend Secs 106.304 (Mayor’s Transfer Power) & 106.308 (Capital Improvement Transfers, Appropriation Amendments & Change Orders), Subpt A (General Provisions), Pt 3 (Appropriations), Ch 106 (Budget & Accounting Code), Ord Code, to Limit the Mayor’s Transfer Authority to \$100,000 Among the Capital Improvement Projs Listed in the CIP Appvd by the Council & to \$100,000 During Any FY into or Out of Any Agency, Nondept or Dept Existing Line Item; Prov for Codification Instructions (Staffopoulos) (Introduced by CM Diamond)
8/13/24 CO Introduced: R, F
8/19/24 R Read 2nd & Rerefer
8/20/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
8/27/24 CO PH Read 2nd & Rerefer
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 8/27/24

Sponsors: Diamond

DEFER

- 27. [2024-0629](#) ORD Apv the Proposed 10/1/24 - 9/30/27 Collective Bargaining Agrmts btwn the City & the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), Representing 1,700± Members (Granat) (Req of Mayor)
 8/13/24 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, R, F
 8/19/24 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer
 8/19/24 R Read 2nd & Rerefer
 8/20/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
 8/27/24 CO PH Read 2nd & Rerefer
 9/3/24 NCSPHS Approve 8-0
 9/3/24 R Approve 8-0
 9/7/24 F Approve 7-0
 Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 8/27/24

Sponsors: Mayor

APPROVE

Aye: 7 - Salem, Freeman, Howland, Arias, Lahnen, Diamond and White

Excused: 1 - Pittman

Todd Norman, Chief of Labor Relations, explained the 6 collective bargaining agreements for the City’s 4,200 public safety officers in the Sheriff’s Office and Fire and Rescue Department. He said Jacksonville’s salaries had become non-competitive and we don’t have a defined benefit pension, so these contracts will make the City more competitive in hiring via substantial raises and future participation in the Florida Retirement System in 2027. Phillip Peterson distributed and reviewed a summary of the financial impacts of the agreements by years. Council Member Howland said this vote will signal that public safety is the Council’s highest priority but will entail a need to carefully scrutinize all non-public safety expenditures in the future to cover the higher costs it entails. Council Member Lahnen asked about the union ratification percentages; Mr. Norman said they were all approximately 99%. Mr. Lahnen asked if budget Schedule 3(b) reflects the FRS conversion impacts; Mr. Peterson confirmed it did not. Mr. Lahnen noted that the future fiscal year budget projections show deficits totaling over \$300M over 4 years.

Council Member Diamond said firefighters and police officers suffer greatly from post-traumatic stress disorder and don't have the support mechanism that military veterans have, so this is a social contract to help them. He said the City is financially broke and can't afford to do many of the things it has traditionally done so he will be voting against many requests for discretionary spending. Council Member Arias echoed the call for fiscal responsibility. Council Member Freeman said the Council needs to decide when it will take a stand and make the hard decisions to stop adding additional spending, beginning with the negotiations over the Stadium Community Benefits Agreement. Chairman Salem said the Council that voted for defined contribution retirement plans thought they were doing the right thing and that more governments would be going that way. That turned out to be wrong and Jacksonville has paid the price in its inability to recruit for police and fire jobs. Mr. Lahnen asked to be added as a co-sponsor on 2024-629 and -630. Council Member Matt Carlucci said the City is not broke, but the Council refuses to make difficult decisions such as raising the solid waste fee to a rate that covers its costs. Jacksonville is one of the least-taxed cities in Florida and could do better for its employees and its citizens by thinking bigger, making investments, and not being so tax-averse that our quality of life declines.

- 28. [2024-0630](#) ORD Apv the Proposed 10/1/24 - 9/30/27 Collective Bargaining Agrmts btwn the City & the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), Representing 2,500± Members (Granat) (Req of Mayor)
8/13/24 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, R, F
8/19/24 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer
8/19/24 R Read 2nd & Rerefer
8/20/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
8/27/24 CO PH Read 2nd & Rerefer
9/3/24 NCSPHS Approve 8-0
9/3/24 R Approve 8-0
9/7/24 F Approve 7-0
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 8/27/24

Sponsors: Mayor

APPROVE

Aye: 7 - Salem, Freeman, Howland, Arias, Lahnen, Diamond and White

Excused: 1 - Pittman

- 29. [2024-0632](#) ORD, Pursuant to Ch 170, F.S., & Ch 491 & 715, Ord Code, Estab the 2024 Special Assessments for FL Agency for Healthcare Admin (AHCA) Licensed Hospitals Pursuant to Ord 2021-456-E; Estab the 2024 Assessment Rate; Prov Notice of Public Hearings; Apv the 2024 Final Assessment Roll; Auth Execution of Agrmt & Recording (Reingold) (Req of Mayor)
 8/13/24 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, F
 8/19/24 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer
 8/20/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
 8/27/24 CO PH Addnt'l 9/10/24 Read 2nd & Rerefer
 9/3/24 NCSPHS Amend/Approve 7-0
 9/4/24 F Amend/Approve 5-1 (Diamond)
 Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S., Sec. 170.07, F.S., & C.R. 3.601 - 8/27/24 & 9/10/24

Sponsors: Mayor

AMEND/APPROVE

Aye: 5 - Salem, Freeman, Howland, Arias and Lahnen

Nay: 1 - Diamond

Excused: 1 - Pittman

Phillip Peterson explained the amendment which was approved unanimously via a voice vote.

AMENDMENT

- 1. Reflect that twelve facilities will be assessed
- 2. Reflect total assessment of \$79,273,515

- 30.** [2024-0633](#) ORD Making Certain Findings & Auth the Mayor, or Her Desig, to Execute: (1) a Redev Agrmt Among the City, DIA, & Jacksonville Properties I, LLC, which Redev Agrmt Provides for the Construction of 240 Multi-Family Residential Units, a 280 Space Structured Parking Facility, Including 7,400 sq ft of Retail/Restaurant/Lounge Space, at 930 E Adams St, within the Downtown Northbank CRA, & (2) a Land Use Restriction Agrmt with a 30 Yr Term Restricting Rents of 15 2-Bedroom Units & 70 1-Bedroom Units of Workforce Housing at the Proj; Auth a 75%, 20 Yr, Multi-Family REV Grant in the Max Amt Not to Exceed \$11,450,000 in Connection with the Proj; Auth a Workforce Housing Completion Grant in the Amt of \$3,000,000; Auth an Emergency Rapid Response Grant in the Amt of \$1,000,000; for City Oversight of the Proj by the DIA; Auth the Execution of All Docs Relating to the Above Agrmts & Transactions, & Auth Technical Changes; Waiver of that Portion of the Public Investment Policy Adopted by Ord 2024-286-E, as Amended, to Auth the Workforce Housing Completion Grant & the Emergency Rapid Response Grant, which Are Not Authorized by the Public Investment Policy (Dillard) (Req of DIA)
- 8/13/24 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, R, F
8/19/24 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer
8/19/24 R Read 2nd & Rerefer
8/20/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
8/27/24 CO PH Read 2nd & Rerefer
9/3/24 NCSPHS Amend/Approve 7-0
9/3/24 R Amend/Approve 7-0
9/4/24 F Amend/Approve 6-0
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 8/27/24

Sponsors: Downtown Investment Authority

AMEND/APPROVE

Aye: 6 - Salem, Freeman, Howland, Arias, Lahnen and Diamond

Excused: 1 - Pittman

Phillip Peterson explained the amendment. Council Member Arias asked if these dollars can be used as part of the Community Benefits Agreement match – Mr. Peterson said that will be a discussion for later when a definition of what is “affordable” housing will be determined. Mary Staffopoulos said the Jaguars have responded with concerns about some of the actions taken by the CBA Special Committee so another meeting is going to be scheduled for this Friday.

31. [2024-0635](#) ORD-MC Establishing the Jax Journey Forward, a Public Body & Independent Brd of the City with the Comprehensive Mission of Reducing Factors Contributing to Crime in Duval County & Making Duval County a Safer & More Productive Community by Aligning All City Agencies, Progs, & Resources Affecting Crime Reduction & Fostering an Integrative, Collaborative, & Innovative Community & County-wide Solution Based Approach to Crime Reduction; Creating a New Ch 85 (Jacksonville Journey Forward), Ord Code; Amend Sec 24.601 (Establishment; Functions), Pt 6 (Grants & Contract Compliance Division), Ch 24 (Finance Department), Ord Code; Amend Sec 28.103 (Powers; Functions & Duties of Director), Pt 1 (General), Ch 28 (Parks, Recreation & Community Services), Ord Code; Amend Sec 34.801 (Neighborhood Services Office Functions), Pt 8 (Neighborhood Services Office), Ch 34 (Neighborhoods Department), Ord Code...(Wilson) (Req of Mayor) (Co-Sponsors CMs Carlucci & Johnson)
 8/13/24 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, R, F
 8/19/24 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer
 8/19/24 R Read 2nd & Rerefer
 8/20/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
 8/27/24 CO PH Read 2nd & Rerefer
 9/3/24 NCSPHS Substitute/Approve 7-0
 9/3/24 R Substitute/Approve 7-0
 9/4/24 F Substitute/Approve 6-0
 Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 8/27/24

Sponsors: Mayor, Carlucci and Johnson

SUBSTITUTE/APPROVE

Aye: 6 - Salem, Freeman, Howland, Arias, Lahnen and Diamond

Excused: 1 - Pittman

Phillip Peterson described all of the elements in the NCSPHS substitute and the changes further proposed by the Rules Committee to that substitute. Council Member Diamond said he supported the Rules amendment and the Journey Forward as a way to divert young people away from the criminal justice system at the earliest opportunity. He advocated for a very broadly representative board to govern the new program. Council Member Lahnen asked for clarification of the appointment authority and council's confirmation power. Council Member Howland congratulated the NCSPHS Committee on its great work on this bill. Council Member Freeman cautioned that as crime decreases in one area it moves to another, so the whole city needs to be involved in the solution. Council Member Arias asked Charles Griggs of the Mayor's Office about how much funding will be needed in future years. Mr. Griggs said that will be a recommendation of the board once it is appointed and designs the programs. Council Member Arias asked when the board will make some recommendations; Mr. Griggs said they hope to have a board seated and meeting by early 2025 to develop a strategic plan.

Mr. Arias asked why the NCSPHS amendment specifically provides that the organization's report will go to the mayor only; Mr. Peterson said the mayor was not included on the distribution to the Council and others as originally drafted, so the amendment was intended to correct that. Chairman Salem said no one really knows why crime came down during the time of the first Jacksonville Journey and the new Journey Forward needs to have more research and data on what is actually working and what isn't so we know how to invest in the future. Mr. Freeman said he served on the Journey governing board in its first iteration and there was a lot of data available at the time and philosophical discussions about what programs were the best investments. He urged council members to be involved with the work of the Journey Forward and be in contact with the board members. Council Member Peluso recommended that the Journey Forward partner with local experts such as the JU Public Policy Institute to gather and analyze program data to determine what works.

RULES AMENDMENT

- 1. Amend Sections 4 and 5 to reflect not to exceed amounts of \$3,000,000 for the Workforce Housing Completion Grant and \$1,000,000 for the Emergency Rapid Response Grant**
- 2. Clarify that the \$1 million Emergency Rapid Response Grant will be funded from the CRA and the \$3 million Workforce Housing Completion Grant will be funded from the General Fund**
- 3. Correct scrivener's errors**

- **Authorizes a new Redevelopment Agreement to:**
 - **Increase REV grant from \$5,751,559 (15 Year @ 65%) to \$11,450,000 (20 Year @ 75%)**
 - **Include \$3,000,000 Workforce Housing Completion Grant, payable upon completion**
 - **Include \$1,000,000 Emergency Rapid Response Grant, payable upon agreement execution and proof of financing**
 - **Establish an estimated completion date of Spring 2027**
 - **Reflect an estimated capital investment of \$79,123,500**
- **Workforce Housing Completion Grant requires a minimum of 15 2-bedroom units and 70 1-bedroom units be set aside for a term of 30 years with rent limits for individuals who qualify at 120% Area Median Income**
- **DIA has calculated a 20-year ROI of 1.01**
- **Waives Public Investment Policy to allow for Workforce Housing Completion Grant and Emergency Rapid Response Grant**

AUDITOR CONCERN

The Emergency Rapid Response Grant is proposed to be paid upon execution of the Redevelopment Agreement and the Developer obtaining all necessary financing required to complete the project. While the agreement includes a clawback provision requiring the Developer repay the Emergency Rapid Response Grant if the project is not completed in accordance with the performance schedule, the City would have to pursue action against the Developer to recover the funds.

- 32. [2024-0636](#) ORD Approp \$3,781,211.73 from Gen Fund Operating - Fund Level Activities - Transfer Fund Balance & Mayor Cure Violence Prog - Contingency to Fund the Jax Journey Forward Strategic Initiative; Prov for Carryover of Funds into FY 24-25 (B.T. 24-136) (Wilson) (Req of Mayor) (Co-Sponsors CMs Carlucci & Johnson)
 8/13/24 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, R, F
 8/19/24 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer
 8/19/24 R Read 2nd & Rerefer
 8/20/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
 8/27/24 CO PH Read 2nd & Rerefer
 Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 8/27/24

Sponsors: Mayor, Carlucci and Johnson

DEFER

- 33. [2024-0637](#) RESO Making Certain Findings & Auth the Mayor, or Her Desig, to Apply to the U.S. Dept of Housing & Urban Dev (HUD) on Behalf of the City for a Sec 108 Loan in the Amt of \$7,500,000, to Provide Funding for the Historic Jax Armory Restoration Proj; Appt the Mayor, or Her Desig, as the Official Rep of the City with Respect to the Loan Application & Amendments Thereto; Prov for City Oversight of the Loan Application by the Housing & Community Dev Div (Dillard) (Req of Mayor)
 8/13/24 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, F
 8/19/24 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer
 8/20/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
 8/27/24 CO Read 2nd & Rerefer
 9/3/24 NCSPHS Amend/Approve 7-0
 9/4/24 F Amend/Approve 6-0

Sponsors: Mayor

AMEND/APPROVE

Aye: 6 - Salem, Freeman, Howland, Arias, Lahnen and Diamond

Excused: 1 - Pittman

Phillip Peterson explained the amendment which was approved unanimously via a voice vote.

AMENDMENT

- 1. Reflect that legislation is granting approval to submit a loan application to HUD and that approval of any future related loan shall be subject to appropriation by City Council**
- 2. Attach Revised Exhibit 1 (Loan Application) to correct amortization schedules and pro forma**

- **City previously approved a 40-year lease of Armory**
- **Loan funding would be eligible to go towards the \$20,000,000 funding commitment required by December 2024**
- **Application includes job creation requirements for low/moderate income persons**
- **The future loan, if approved, would require the City to pay HUD back with future CDBG allocations if Developer defaults on loan payments**

34. [2024-0638](#) RESO Encouraging the Use of Council Contingency Accts, When & Where Appropriate, in a Manner that Clearly Indicates Equity Among All Council Members When Proposing Uses of Contingency Funds & Determining How the Funds Are Spent (Staffopoulos) (Introduced by CM Freeman) (Co-Sponsors CMs Carlucci & Johnson)
 8/13/24 CO Introduced: R, F
 8/19/24 R Read 2nd & Rerefer
 8/20/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
 8/27/24 CO Read 2nd & Rerefer
 9/3/24 R Approve 7-0
 9/4/24 F Approve 5-1 (Diamond)

Sponsors: Freeman, Carlucci and Johnson

APPROVE

Aye: 5 - Salem, Freeman, Howland, Arias and Lahnen

Nay: 1 - Diamond

Excused: 1 - Pittman

35. [2024-0686](#) RESO Apv & Auth the Execution of an Economic Dev Agrmt btwn the City & Project Forte, to Support the Construction of a New Industrial Building Containing ± 300,000 Sq Ft to Be Located in NW Jax; Auth a 5-Yr REV Grant Not to Exceed \$1,000,000; Apv & Auth the Execution of Docs by the Mayor, or Her Desig, & Corp Sec; Auth Appvl of Tech Amends by the Executive Dir of OED; Prov for City Oversight by OED; Prov a Deadline for the Company to Execute the Agrmt; Affirming the Proj's Compliance With the Public Investment Policy Adopted by Ord 2024-286-E; Req 2-Reading Passage Pursuant to C.R. 3.305 (Dillard) (Req of Mayor)
8/27/24 CO Introduced: F
9/4/24 F Amend/Approve 6-0

Sponsors: Mayor

AMEND/APPROVE

Aye: 6 - Salem, Freeman, Howland, Arias, Lahnen and Diamond

Excused: 1 - Pittman

Phillip Peterson explained the amendment which was approved unanimously via a voice vote. Council Member Lahnen noted that this is a project with a high return on investment and with no completion grant requested

AMENDMENT

Attach Revised On File (Economic Development Agreement) to correct Base Year value for purposes of calculating REV Grant

- **Authorizes a 5-year, 50% REV Grant up to \$1,000,000**
- **Project includes:**
 - **Construction of an approximately 300,000 square foot building in the Northwest Jax boundary**
 - **Estimated capital investment of \$35 million**
 - **Completion of the improvements by 12/31/25**
 - **Requirement of creation of at least 10 jobs by 12/31/27**
- **OED has calculated a 10-year ROI of 4.10**

36. [2024-0688](#) ORD Approp \$278,664.00 From the Tax Collector Current & Delinquent Taxes - Tax Redemption Fees - Tax Sale Acct to the Tax Collector Gen Operations - Office Equipment Account to Provide Funding for the Replacement of 6 Coin & Currency Recycling/Verification Machines; Prov for Carryover of Funds into FY 24-25 (B.T. 24-135) (Dillard) (Req of Mayor)
8/27/24 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, F
9/3/24 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer
9/4/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 9/10/24

Sponsors: Mayor

READ 2ND & REREFER

37. [2024-0689](#) ORD Apv & Auth the Mayor, or Her Desig, & Corp Sec to Execute & Deliver, an Amendment 6 to Economic Dev Agrmt btwn the COJ & AA Auto Parts, Inc. to Extend the Completion of Construction Date from 9/20/24 to 9/30/25 (Dillard) (Req of Mayor)
8/27/24 CO Introduced: F
9/4/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 9/10/24

Sponsors: Mayor

READ 2ND & REREFER

38. [2024-0690](#) ORD Auth the Dir of Parks, Recreation And Community Services, or His Desig, to Apply to the FL Dept of Agriculture & Consumer Svcs (FDACS) for a Grant to Provide Funding for the Renovation of the Jax Canning Center Located at 2525 Commonwealth Ave; Auth the Dir of Parks, Recreation And Community Services, or His Desig, to Execute & Deliver on Behalf of the City All Grant & Funding Agrmts btwn the City & FDACS Related to the Project; Prov Oversight by Parks, Recreation & Community Svcs; Req 1 Cycle Emergency Passage (Dillard) (Req of Mayor)
8/27/24 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, F
9/3/24 NCSPHS Emergency/Amend/Approve 7-0
9/4/24 F Emergency/Amend/Approve 6-0
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 9/10/24

Sponsors: Mayor

EMERGENCY/AMEND/APPROVE

Aye: 6 - Salem, Freeman, Howland, Arias, Lahnen and Diamond

Excused: 1 - Pittman

Phillip Peterson explained the request for the emergency and the amendment, both of which were approved via voice votes. Council Member Diamond said this bill demonstrates how easy it is for the administration to ask for funds as needed for projects and get timely action from the Council.

AMENDMENT

1. Pg. 2, line 5: strike “2023-349-E” and insert “2023-348-E”
2. Attach revised Exhibit 1 to include grant application with all attachments and correct typo

- Authorizes application to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for a grant of \$274,992.23 for improvements to the City’s Canning Center
- The grant requires a minimum match of 40%, which the City intends to meet through a previous appropriation of \$500,000 in Ord. 2023-348-E (this would be a match of 182%)
- A one cycle emergency has been requested in order to apply by the October 1 deadline

39. [2024-0691](#) ORD Approp \$5,177,094.00 in Grant Funds from the FL Dept of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to Prov Funding for the Mccoy’s Creek Branches Project; Amend the 24-28 5-Yr CIP Appvd by Ord 2023-505-E to Reflect this Approp of Funds; Prov for Oversight by the Dept of Public Works, Engineering & Construction Mgmt Div (B.T. 24-137) (Dillard) (Req of Mayor)
8/27/24 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, F, JWC
9/3/24 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer
9/4/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 9/10/24

Sponsors: Mayor

READ 2ND & REREFER

40. [2024-0692](#) ORD Approp \$790,631.03 in Grant Funds From the Voting Access for Individuals With Disabilities (Vote) Prog, Awarded by the U.S. Dep of Health & Human Services Thru the FL Dept of State, Div of Elections, to Prov Reimbursement to the City for the Costs of Offsetting Any Remaining Variances for the FY 25-26 Budget & Funding Security & Building Enhancements; Prov for Carryover of Funds to Subsequent FYs; Prov Oversight by the SOE (B.T. 24-141) (Dillard) (Req of Mayor)
8/27/24 CO Introduced: R, F
9/3/24 R Read 2nd & Rerefer
9/4/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601-9/10/24

Sponsors: Mayor

READ 2ND & REREFER

41. [2024-0693](#) ORD Approp \$986,000.00, Including (1) \$493,000.00 From the Proj Titled Nungezer Road to the Proj Titled San Mateo Elementary School Sidewalk (San Mateo Proj) to Pay for the Completion of the San Mateo Proj, & (2) \$493,000.00 From the Authorized Capital Projs Fund to the Local Option & Constitutional Gas Taxes Fund With Respect to the Cedar Point/Sawpit Rd (New Berlin to Shark) Proj (Cedar Point Proj) & Updating Prior Approps to Reflect Actuals; Amend the 24-28 5-Yr CIP Appvd by Ord 2023-505-E to Reflect this Approp of Funds to the Projs; Prov for Oversight by the Engineering & Construction Mgmt Div of the Dept of Public Works (B.T. 24-140) (Dillard) (Req of Mayor)
8/27/24 Co Introduced: NCSPHS, F, TEU
9/3/24 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer
9/4/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
9/4/24 TEU Read 2nd & Rerefer
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601-9/10/24

Sponsors: Mayor

READ 2ND & REREFER

42. [2024-0694](#) ORD Approp \$15,000 from the Council President's Designated Contingency to the Gen Fund - Gen Svcs Dist Subsidies & Contributions to Private Org Acct to Prov a Grant to Revitalize Arlington, Inc., for the Engage Arlington Prog as Described Herein; Prov for Carryover to 12/31/24; Prov for Reverter of Funds; Invoking the Exemption in Sec 126.108(g) (Exemptions from Competitive Solicitation), Part 1 (Gen Regulations; Ethics & Transparency in Public Contracting), Chapter 126 (Procurement Code), Ord Code, to Allow for a Direct Contract with Revitalize Arlington, Inc.; Waiving Sec 118.107 (Nonprofits to Receive Funding Through a Competitive Evaluated Award Process), Part 1 (Gen Provisions), Ch 118 (City Grants), Ord Code, to Allow for a Direct Contract with Revitalize Arlington, Inc.; Appv, & Auth the Mayor, or Her Desig, & the Corp Secretary to Execute & Deliver on Behalf of the City a Grant Agreement btwn the COJ & Revitalize Arlington, Inc. for the Prog; Prov for Oversight by the Grants & Contract Compliance Div of the Finance Dept (Staffopoulos) (Introduced by CM Amaro)
8/27/24 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, R, F
9/3/24 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer
9/3/24 R Read 2nd & Rerefer
9/4/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 9/10/24

Sponsors: Amaro

READ 2ND & REREFER

43. [2024-0695](#) ORD Approp \$2,395,000.00 from the Public Bldg Allocations Fund, including \$2,366,627.21 from the Public Bldgs Utilities, Electricity - Utility Bills Acct & \$28,372.79 from the PWPB Bldg Maintenance - Public Bldgs - Other Governmental, Contribution - Loss Deductible Acct, to Pay the Costs for Electrical Repairs to the St. James Bldg (City Hall) by Miller Electric Company; Prov for Proj Oversight by the Dept of Public Works, Public Bldgs Div; Req 1 Cycle Emergency Passage (Staffopoulos) (Introduced by CM Lahnen) (Co-Sponsor CM Miller)
 8/27/24 CO Introduced: F, TEU
 9/4/24 F Emergency/Approve 5-0-1 (Freeman)
 9/4/24 TEU Emergency/Approve 6-0
 Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 9/10/24

Sponsors: Lahnen and Miller

EMERGENCY/APPROVE

Aye: 5 - Salem, Howland, Arias, Lahnen and Diamond

Excused: 1 - Pittman

Abstain: 1 - Freeman

Council Member Freeman said he would be abstaining from the vote due to a conflict of interest due to his employment. Council Member Lahnen said he had met with the Public Works Director about the needs for this repair and the length of time it will take to get the needed repair parts. Public Works Director Nina Sickler said the funds were already in the Public Buildings budget and can be reallocated for this use.

• **The nature of the emergency is that some of the parts needed are expected to take 20 – 30 weeks to receive**

44. [2024-0697](#) ORD Regarding Installation of a Historic Monument Marker in Honor of Mrs. Johnnie Mae Chappell; Approp \$10,000 from the Council President's Designated Contingency to the Parks, Recreation & Community Svcs - Office of the Dir, Misc Svcs & Charges Acct to Prov Funds for the Design, Fabrication, Installation & Maintenance of a Historic Monument Marker as Described Herein; Providing for Carryover of Funds to 12/31/24; Prov for Reverter of Funds; Auth Installation of a Historic Monument Marker at the Intersection of New Kings Rd & Flicker Ave to Remember & Honor Mrs. Johnnie Mae Chappell; Finding a Public Purpose; Prov for Oversight by Parks, Recreation & Community Svcs Dept & the Dept of Public Works; Directing the Legislative Svcs Div to Forward a Copy of this Ord, Once Enacted, to the Dir of Parks, Recreation & Community Svcs Dept & the Dept of Public Works (Staffopoulos) (Introduced by CM Howland) (Co-Sponsors CMs Johnson, Amaro, Lahnen & Miller)
8/27/24 CO Introduced: R, F, TEU
9/3/24 R Read 2nd & Rerefer
9/4/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
9/4/24 TEU Read 2nd & Rerefer
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 9/10/24

Sponsors: Howland, Johnson, Amaro, Lahnen and Miller

READ 2ND & REREFER

45. [2024-0698](#) ORD Approp \$12,500 from the Council President's Designated Contingency to the Office of Sports & Entertainment - Special Events Food Acct to Prov Additional Funds for the Purchase of Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages as Described Herein (Staffopoulos) (Introduced by CM White)
8/27/24 CO Introduced: F
9/4/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 9/10/24

Sponsors: White

READ 2ND & REREFER

46. [2024-0700](#) ORD re the Better Jacksonville Plan (BJP) Set Forth in Ords 2000-572-E, 2000-671-E & 2000-965-E & Revised Per Ord 2005-898-E & Modified Per Ord 2022-416-E; Determining Just Cause & Necessity for an Amdt to the BJP Revised Infrastructure & Transportation Work Prog, Which Amended Revised Work Prog Adds Eligible Projs; Noting the Corresponding Passage of the 24-29 CIP Per Ord 2024-505-E Reflecting the BJP Funding of the Amended Revised Work Prog Projs (Reingold) (Req of Mayor)
8/27/24 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, F, TEU
9/3/24 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer
9/4/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
9/4/24 TEU Read 2nd & Rerefer
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 9/10/24

Sponsors: Mayor

READ 2ND & REREFER

47. [2024-0701](#) RESO Desig 7407 & 7447 Salisbury Rd, Jax, FL, as a Brownfield Area for Environmental Rehab & Economic Dev; Prov for Notification of a Brownfield Site Rehab Agrmt (R.E. # 152577-0020, 152577-0010, 152577-0050, 152578-0010, 152578-0000) (District 11-Arias) (Harvey) (Req of Mayor)
8/27/24 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, F, TEU
9/3/24 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer
9/4/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
9/4/24 TEU Read 2nd & Rerefer
Public Hearings Pursuant to Sec 376.80, F.S.& Ch 166, F.S - 9/10/24 & 9/24/24

Sponsors: Mayor

READ 2ND & REREFER

48. [2024-0713](#) ORD re Development & Implementation of a Homelessness Strategic Plan for Duval County; Approp \$2,500,000 from a Homelessness Initiatives Special Rev Fund Designated Contingency Acct to Provide Funds to the JFRD for Implementation of a Homelessness Strategic Plan for Duval County, of Which \$1,003,303 Will be Used to Pay for Salaries, Benefits & Equipment for Personnel Retained to Implement & Administer the Plan, Including a JFRD 24/7 EMS Response Team, with the Remaining \$1,496,697 to Be Used for Authorized Plan Expenditures in Accordance with Sec 111.920 (Homelessness Initiatives Special Revenue Fund), Pt 9 (Neighborhood Development), Ch 111 (Special Revenue & Trust Accounts), Ord Code, & as More Specifically Described Herein; Apv 7 New FT Equivalent Positions Within JFRD as Described Herein; Auth OGC & the Council Auditor’s Office to Make All Changes Necessary to Effectuate the Council’s Action (Reingold) (Introduced by CMs White, Carlucci, Lahnen, Amaro, Carrico & Peluso) (Co-Sponsors CMs Boylan & Miller)
8/27/24 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, R, F
9/3/24 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer
9/3/24 R Read 2nd & Rerefer
9/4/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 9/10/24

Sponsors: White, Carlucci, Carrico, Lahnen, Amaro, Peluso, Boylan and Miller

READ 2ND & REREFER

49. [2024-0714](#) ORD Approp \$120,000 from the Economic Grant Program, Misc Non Departmental Expenditures Acct to the Municipal Dues & Affiliations - Chamber Of Commerce, Dues & Subscriptions Acct to Procure the Professional Svcs of Jax Chamber to Attract & Retain Key Business Headquarters in Downtown Jax as Described Herein; Providing for Carryover to 9/30/25; Waiving Sec 110.112 (Advance Of City Funds; Prohibition Against), Pt 1 (The City Treasury), Ch 110 (City Treasury), Ord Code, to Allow for Quarterly Payments to Jax Chamber; Invoking the Exemption in Sec 126.108(g) (Exemptions from Competitive Solicitation), Pt 1 (General Regulations; Ethics & Transparency in Public Contracting), Ch 126 (Procurement Code), Ord Code, to Allow for a Direct Contract with Jax Chamber; Waiving Sec 118.107 (Nonprofits to Receive Funding Through a Competitive Evaluated Award Process), Pt 1 (General Provisions), Ch 118 (City Grants), Ord Code, to Allow for a Direct Contract with Jax Chamber; Apv, & Auth the Mayor, or Her Desig, & the Corp Sec to Execute & Deliver on Behalf of the City an Agrmt btwn the City & Jax Chamber; Providing for Oversight by OED (Staffopoulos) (Introduced by CM White)
8/27/24 CO Introduced: R, F
9/3/24 R Read 2nd & Rerefer
9/4/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
Public Hearing Pursuant to CH 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 9/10/24

Sponsors: White

READ 2ND & REREFER

50. [2024-0905](#) ORD Making Certain Findings & Auth the Mayor, or Her Desig, & Corp Sec to Execute & Deliver a Supplemental Community Benefits Agrmt btwn the City & Jacksonville Jaguars, LLC Setting Forth the Strategic Focus & Respective Add'l Community Investments to Be Made Over the Term of the Amended & Restated Stadium Lease Agrmt btwn the City & Jax Stadium, LLC Auth by 2024-904-E; Auth Appvl of Technical Amendments by the Mayor or Her Desig; Prov for City Oversight by the OED (Dillard) (Req of Mayor & Co-Introduced by CM Carlucci)
7/23/24 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, F
8/6/24 F Read 2nd & Rerefer
8/7/24 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer
8/13/24 CO PH Read 2nd & Rerefer
Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 8/13/24

Sponsors: Mayor and Carlucci

DEFER

Presentation on Riverfront Plaza, Shipyards West Park and Metro Park

Daryl Joseph, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services, said he has met with numerous council members to discuss these parks in detail. Lori Boyer, CEO of the Downtown Investment Authority, gave a high-level overview of the vision for downtown riverfront parks and the holistic vision for both public and private developments. The Jacksonville Landing site and Shipyards property were both development sites in the DIA inventory and a decision was made to develop some of the area as public parks and the rest privately to generate economic activity and tax revenue. Planning began in 2020 when the Landing was reacquired by the City but not yet demolished. A destination park plan was approved by City Council. Council approved the transfer of some development rights in Metropolitan Park to accomplish the Four Seasons Hotel project now under construction. Ms. Boyer said there have been no major changes in scope of the various downtown riverfront parks, with some minor changes in location of some features as designs progressed.

In March 2024 the DIA made a presentation to the NCSPSH Committee and forwarded the materials to all council member regarding the budget shortfalls for the parks and the need for additional CIP funding. Ms. Boyer said DIA is the high-level planner for downtown and its amenities, the Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for the design and contracting of the chosen projects, with the Public Works Department taking over responsibility once a project goes into construction. Costs are all estimated during the conceptual and early design process, the hard numbers come in when bidding takes place, and a contingency is always budgeted to account for the unknowns. Riverfront Plaza is under construction and there are no scope changes, but they have found previously unmarked utilities and multiple bulkheads on the site that need to be dealt with. Construction prices have skyrocketed post-COVID.

Mr. Joseph described the plans for the Riverfront Plaza project in Phase 1 and Phase 2 and for Shipyards West Park. He reviewed the project budgets by phase for each project, noting that there is a substantial contingency in the Shipyards West budget because it is not as far along in the design process. Metropolitan Park is still in the early conceptual phase and the cost details won't be known until design progresses.

Mr. Joseph proposed some CIP project budget reductions totaling \$20M for the Shipyards West and Metropolitan Park projects in FY24-25 and FY25-26. Council Member Howland said the \$194M combined budgets for the 3 projects is only one cost – there is also the foregone revenue from the uses that the land could have been put to via private development. Mr. Joseph said his department wants to generate revenue to support the parks and the development of quality parks increases the value of adjacent private properties and therefore tax revenue generated by them. Council Member Arias asked if the expenses could be deferred for a time. Mr. Joseph said he consulted with Mike Weinstein about the CBA requirements, and he said Metro Park could be deferred for a year. Mr. Weinstein said the CBA dollars are intended to be the last into the projects and the CBA commitment to the Jaguars is that the parks will be completed by the stadium completion date. Mr. Arias said a previous Council was over-aggressive in planning to do 3 destination parks simultaneously. He thinks \$12.5M in CBA funding is far too much to spend on Metropolitan Park if the intent is for the facility to not change very much. Mr. Weinstein said Metro Park is the most important park to the Jaguars because it is immediately adjacent to the stadium and Four Seasons Hotel. He reiterated that the City committed to having the three parks completed by the time the new stadium opens. Mr. Arias said 3 adjacent parks is too much for downtown. Mr. Joseph said many cities have multiple destination parks and having them adjacent to each other increases their value to users.

Kim Taylor said the \$56M CBA parks commitment was due in FY25-26. Council Member Lahnen said there are projects showing up in the CIP that weren't there in previous years (MOSH, UF Health) and costs are increasing substantially from one year to the next so the Council is surprised at the cumulative effect. Council Member Diamond said there is no way to pay for what is being planned without tax increases which he absolutely opposes. Cuts have to be made. Chairman Salem said the cumulative \$200+M budget for the three parks was stunning despite the Council having received some of that information in various ways over time. The Council hasn't been given the opportunity to consider possible reductions as the costs skyrocket. The \$20M cuts identified today are a start, but aren't enough given the magnitude of the increases. Public Works Director Nina Sickler said part of the problem is the time it takes to go from initial concept to design to bidding and construction, and costs have skyrocketed over the last 4 years. Her staff has been told to be much more cognizant of increasing costs and the need to adjust designs as costs rise. She is confident that the costs shown are going to be sufficient to get the jobs done. Mr. Joseph said the Riverfront Plaza numbers are contractually locked in.

Kim Taylor said Sec. 122.603 of the Ordinance Code requires each project to have a comprehensive completion budget that is supposed to prevent the City from getting halfway through a project and then being committed to doing the rest regardless of cost because of the previous expenditures. The Auditor's Office has asked departments about total costs for projects and will continue to ask in the future in order to provide Council with the best estimates of total expected costs on each project. Chairman Salem said communication about increasing costs needs to be better with Council. In response to a question from Mr. Salem about when changes can be made in the budget ordinance, Ms. Taylor said it could be done today in committee but then not again until the final vote in City Council on September 24th because the budget has to be "laid on the table" with no changes after the September 10th meeting.

Council Member Arias asked about revenue generating opportunities in the parks such as naming rights agreements and about getting private capital invested on the front end for construction rather than later after facilities open. He said he doesn't think the Parks and Recreation Department knows how to operate its facilities on a profit-making basis. The Council never sees the full picture, always making decisions on partial information and getting stuck with commitments to spend more than was originally planned.

Council Member Pittman asked about the \$6M that was put "above the line" in the budget and what it is being used for. Ms. Sickler said it is being used to complete the construction of Phase 1 of Riverfront Plaza. Ms. Pittman asked why the projects should be continued at the current budgets. Lori Boyer said the City has firm numbers on Phases 1 and 2 of Riverfront Plaza and there are 2 private development parcels that were specifically reserved in that design to generate revenue. Shipyards West has to be done because that is the property that was swapped for the Metro Park parcel as required by the National Park Service and FDEP to free that up that property for the Jaguars to develop. The exhibition hall at Shipyards West was included as a means to generate revenue to help fund park operations, then was taken out, then was put back in last year. Mr. Joseph said the \$10M from Shipyards West contingency and \$10M from Metro Park are funds the department has identified that can be cut now without seriously impacting the projects, especially Riverfront Plaza which is currently under contract.

Motion (Diamond): reconsider the previous action on 2024-504 – approved unanimously via a voice vote.

Motion – approve the substitute to 2024-504 - approved unanimously via a voice

Motion – approve the Auditor's marked amendments to 2024-504 - approved unanimously via a voice.

Kim Taylor said the \$56M CBA commitment for parks is already in the budget and the \$6M additional for Riverfront Plaza was previously approved. The remainder of funding for the riverfront parks was removed during the budget hearing process.

Chairman Salem says he believes the Finance Committee feels handcuffed by a lack of information and changing project budgets and the requirement to either spend more money to finish a job or lose what has already been invested. Council Member Peluso said linear parks are common in great cities and provide great value. He asked if the Perkins and Will design firm could come back and work on a redesign to reduce costs. Daryl Joseph said it would cost more to start over on redesign. Mike Weinstein reiterated that the \$56M CBA commitment was to complete the parks by the time the stadium opens. Mr. Peluso said it would be helpful to have Perkins and Will to come back and deal with the unknown conditions that keep cropping up in Riverfront Plaza; Mr. Joseph said they are still on the job and doing some work to deal with those unknowns. Council Member Matt Carlucci said the linear parks are important to downtown and should be considered as a unit, not three separate parks. They will increase the property values downtown if built as planned. He urged thinking and acting boldly to be visionary for the future of the city.

Council Member Lahnen said he wants to avoid demobilization of the Riverfront Plaza Phase 1 project because that will cost even more. He advocated for cutting the \$20M identified by the Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Joseph said there could be \$10M in additional savings by removing the exhibition space from Shipyards West Park. Mary Staffopoulos cautioned that the original CBA specifically references the construction of that building. Mr. Weinstein cautioned against trying to back out of commitments made in the CBA, which was intended to create benefits greater than just a stadium renovation.

Motion (Salem): remove the \$20M proposed by the department and instruct the department that this represents the final budget for the projects; any additional funding would require action by Council -

Council Member Pittman asked Mr. Weinstein the ramifications of backing away from the CBA. Mr. Weinstein urged not backpedaling from commitments already made. He spoke to the Jaguars today and they are not opposed to the \$20M reduction being proposed in this motion. Mr. Weinstein said the Jaguars have proposed that \$1M per year of their \$150M CBA commitment go to park maintenance. Council Member Arias asked if the \$10M being removed from Metro Park is going to reappear later. Mr. Joseph said that will depend on the design of the park. Mr. Arias said he wants it to be clear that the cuts being made are permanent and he doesn't want to see proposals to put the funds back later. He said the Council has made some very bold actions in the last few months.

Kim Taylor provided clarification on the intent of the motion – a \$20M net reduction after several funding moves.

Council Member Diamond said it's easy to talk about bold action when you're using other people's money. He thinks the CBA obligations could be met for far less money than what is being proposed and urged spending a little bit to have the designers produce a revised design that will save a lot. Council Member Howland said there will be very little new money in future budgets and responsible cuts have to be made. He suggested including military veteran-related, fire department-related, and African American history exhibits in the new MOSH building and cutting out money from park and Emerald Trail projects that was intended to highlight those areas. He believes the City needs to find more ways to generate new revenue from the increasingly valuable property in the Sports Complex.

The Salem amendment was approved 5-1 (Diamond opposed) via a voice vote

A motion to approve the Finance substitute was approved 5-1 (Diamond opposed) via a voice vote.

Daryl Joseph pledged to keep open lines of communication and to come back to the committee with additional proposed reductions if they can be identified.

NOTE: The next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, September 17, 2024.

*******Note: Items may be added at the discretion of the Chair.*******

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Jeff Clements - Council Research Division

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Posted 9.6.24 5:00 p.m.