

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



JEFFREY R. CLEMENTS
Chief of Research
(904) 255-5137

117 West Duval Street
City Hall, Suite 425
Jacksonville, FL 32202
FAX (904) 255-5229

Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2023-490

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council President at the request of the Mayor

Date of Introduction: August 8, 2023

Committee(s) of Reference: F, R, TEU, Waterways Commission

Date of Analysis: August 10, 2023

Type of Action: Authorization to execute agreement; invocation of direct contracting exemption in the Procurement Code; designation of oversight agency.

Bill Summary: The bill authorizes the Mayor to execute an Operating Services Agreement between the City of Jacksonville and St. Johns River Taxi, LLC for on-demand St. Johns River water taxi services for a term of 5 years with one 5-year renewal option. It invokes the exemption in the Procurement Code permitting direct contracting with an entity specifically named in an appropriation ordinance without a competitive procurement process. The Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services is designated as the City's oversight agency for the contract.

Background Information: By Ordinance 2015-397-E the Council approved an agreement between the City and St. Johns River Taxi for the exclusive rights to operate the water taxi service on the river, including regular water taxi service, sunset cruises, eco-tours, historical tours, private tours or charters, and other events, to be provided with 3 river taxis. The City committed to provide \$120,000 annually to help subsidize the service. The agreement has been extended several times and the current version expires on September 30, 2023. The company is required to pay the City a \$600 monthly dockage fee for the water taxis to utilize City docking facilities on the Southbank Riverwalk. The City appropriates the \$120,000 subsidy in the annual budget ordinance.

Policy Impact Area: River taxi operations.

Fiscal Impact: The City provides an annual appropriation of \$120,000 to support the service; the operator pays the City a \$600 monthly docking fee.

Analyst: Clements