

City of Jacksonville

*117 W. Duval Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202*



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 16, 2026

9:30 AM

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

Transportation, Energy & Utilities Committee

Will Lahnen, Chair

Ju'Coby Pittman, Vice Chair-Excused Late Arrival

Rahman Johnson - Excused Late Arrival

Ken Amaro

Matt Carlucci

Reggie Gaffney, Jr.

Tyrona Clark-Murray

Legislative Assistant: Vanessa Galan

Council Auditor's Office: Edward Linsky

Council Research: Steven Libby

Office of General Counsel: Carla Schell

Administration: Bill Delaney

COUNCIL RULE 4.505 DISRUPTION OF MEETING

Any person who disrupts a regular meeting of the City Council, standing committees, special or select committees, sub-committees or any other public meeting presided over by a City Council Member may be forthwith barred, removed, or otherwise ejected, in the discretion of the presiding officer, from further attendance at that meeting. If necessary, due to the nature of the disruption, the audience may be cleared from the Council Chambers or meeting location in the discretion of the presiding officer.

Any person who refuses to leave the City Council Chamber may be subject to arrest.

Disruption of a meeting includes the following types of behaviors:

- 1) Any form of political campaigning or electioneering regarding a specific candidate or group of candidates in City elections;**
- 2) Impeding the orderly progress of the meeting by shouting, yelling, whistling, chanting, singing, dancing, clapping, foot stomping, snapping fingers, cheering, jeering, using artificial noise makers or musical instruments, waving signs of any size, or engaging in any other display of excessive noise, sounds, or movement;**
- 3) Displaying or waving signs of any sort, except where used to support the speaker's presentation at the podium, and only where the sign is 21 inches by 21 inches or smaller in size and cannot be displayed in a manner which unreasonably obstructs the view of the dais for any member of the audience, regardless of message;**
- 4) Audible noise from cellphones or other electronic devices;**
- 5) Consumption of alcohol or controlled substances;**
- 6) Making vulgar or offensive remarks or gestures, or using threatening language or gestures, including but not limited to pantomiming discharging a firearm, choking, or throat-cutting;**
- 7) Refusing to stop speaking when his or her time has expired or is otherwise directed by the presiding officer to do so due to disruptive behavior as described herein;**
- 8) Returning to the meeting after having been removed or ejected, or attempting to do so.**

Meeting Convened: 9:30 AM

Meeting Adjourned: 10:09 AM

Attendance:

Council Member Gay: 2026-0358

Present: 7 - Will Lahnen, Ju'Coby Pittman, Rahman Johnson, Matt Carlucci, Reggie Gaffney Jr., Tyrone Clark-Murray and Ken Amaro

Presentation by Elizabeth Filippelli on the Lights Out Northeast Florida initiative

Ms. Elizabeth Filippelli, Lights Out Northeast Florida, and Mr. Mike Taylor, Jacksonville Zoo and Botanical Gardens, introduced themselves at the podium. Ms. Filippelli stated that Lights Out Northeast Florida has operated for about seven years and that it has conducted about 14 seasons of collecting deceased birds killed by glass in downtown. She further noted that the Lights Out initiative was first created 27 years ago in Chicago, following a large glass collision event in which hundreds of birds died.

She stated that over 1 billion birds die every year from colliding with buildings. She identified the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the American Bird Conservancy, and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology as sources. Ms. Filippelli highlighted a photograph of a bird that she believed had been saved by one of the initiative's collision monitors, whose role is to check buildings in downtown for injured birds early in the morning. Ms. Filippelli further highlighted the importance of protecting birds as an economic opportunity for eco-tourism in the City, noting that \$107 billion is spent annually on birding nationwide.

Ms. Filippelli then highlighted that 2.9 billion birds have been lost in North America since 1970 and presented several reasons for protecting birds. Ms. Filippelli stated that Jacksonville lies in the Atlantic Flyway, which she described as the second largest flyway in North America, and listed several facts about the migratory patterns of songbirds. Ms. Filippelli highlighted a finding from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology that over 7 million birds flew over Duval County in one night, then presented the initiative's data collected in Fall 2025 from 31 walkers on 5 routes.

Ms. Filippelli used the example of the September 11 memorial beacon lights to highlight the dangers of artificial light to birds. She noted that many birds are affected by the beacon lights and that a large number of dead birds were found at the site in the mornings. She stated that when many birds are seen flying, the lights are physically shut off and then turned back on to help the birds.

Ms. Filippelli then stated that birds have trouble recognizing glass and that collisions happen everywhere and at all times of the day, with over half occurring at low-rise buildings because of reflections from tree foliage. Ms. Filippelli then mentioned a 2023 mass collision event in Chicago in which over 1,000 birds collided with a single building in one night.

Ms. Filippelli made several recommendations to reduce bird collisions. Ms. Filippelli then listed several properties that have implemented changes to make their buildings safer for birds, including the Jacksonville Zoo and Botanical Gardens, the University of Florida Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering, and Stetson University's Sandra Stetson Aquatic Center.

CM Carlucci recommended that Lights Out Northeast Florida share its presentation with the Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Vision to build further support. He then stated that window blinds may help prevent bird collisions. Mr. Taylor responded that because window blinds are interior, they do not reduce reflection and would not do much to reduce bird collisions. Ms. Filippelli then stated that the initiative offers free bird-friendly building audits.

CM Clark-Murray stated that she had received a call from a constituent about Canada geese and asked for confirmation that they are an invasive species in Florida. Mr. Taylor responded that they are not. He stated that Canada geese would naturally be present in Florida only in winter, but that people have released barnyard geese. He stated that he had spoken with FWC about the issue, and that FWC cannot classify the geese as an invasive species because they would naturally migrate to the area. He stated that

FWC cannot distinguish between the native geese and the released barnyard geese, which have mated and produced offspring. He noted that the geese have not migrated and do not need to, and they have learned to live in the area. Mr. Taylor stated that Georgia has a program that handles nuisance geese and that the USDA has a branch, Wildlife Control, that may handle it as well.

CM Clark-Murray explained her constituent's concerns and asked what one can do about the geese. Mr. Taylor stated that he would look into the issue. Chair Lahnen noted that CM Clark-Murray's question is relevant for district Council Members who receive constituent complaints regarding geese, and redirected the question to Mr. Bill Delaney, Mayor's Office. Mr. Delaney stated that he would look into the issue and that Council Members can reach out to him directly if they receive those types of complaints. He recalled that while he was working at UNF, a dog handler was hired to manage non-migratory geese that colonized the area.

CM Amaro asked whether the recommended bird-friendly windows add cost and whether the presenters would recommend a change in the building code to encourage the use of bird-friendly windows. Mr. Taylor stated that retrofitting windows costs money, while designing new buildings with bird-friendly windows adds minimal cost.

CM Amaro asked what was driving the loss of one in four birds over the past 50 years. Mr. Taylor stated that experts believe the disappearance of those birds has been caused by human-related factors, including glass collisions, artificial light, telephone towers, and cats.

Ms. Filippelli stated that she would send the Council Members additional materials, including a California study on Canada geese and dogs. Ms. Filippelli then presented a slide containing several examples of bird-friendly policies.

Item/File No.	Title History
1. <u>2026-0358</u>	ORD re Towing & Storage of Vehicles or Vessels; Repealing Pt 12 (Wrecker Facilities & Charges) & Pt 13 (Towing on Private Property), Ch 804 (Jacksonville Traffic Code), Ord Code; Creating a New Pt 12 (Towing & Storage of Vehicles & Vessels from Public Property), Ch 804 (Jacksonville Traffic Code), Ord Code, to Update & Clarify Provisions Related to Nonconsensual Towing & Storage of Vehicles & Vessels from Public Property; Creating a New Pt 13 (Towing & Storage of Vehicles & Vessels from Private Property), Ch 804 (Jacksonville Traffic Code), Ord Code, to Update & Clarify Provisions Related to Nonconsensual Towing & Storage of Vehicles & Vessels from Private Property; Prov for Codification Instructions (MacGillis) (Introduced by CM Gay) (Co-Sponsor CM Peluso) 4/28/26 CO Introduced: NCSPHS, R, TEU 5/4/26 NCSPHS Read 2nd & Rerefer 5/4/26 R Read 2nd & Rerefer 5/5/26 TEU Read 2nd & Rerefer 5/12/26 CO PH Read 2nd & Rerefer 6/15/26 NCSPHS Amend/Approve 7-0 6/15/26 R Amend/Approve 6-0 6/16/26 TEU Amend/Approve 6-0 Public Hearing Pursuant to Ch 166, F.S. & C.R. 3.601 - 5/12/26

AMEND/APPROVE

Aye: 6 - Lahnen, Pittman, Carlucci, Gaffney Jr., Clark-Murray and Amaro

The NCSPHS amendment was moved and seconded. Mr. Ed Linsky, Council Auditor's Office, explained the amendment. The NCSPHS amendment was approved unanimously.

NCSPHS AMENDMENT:

1. Amends insurance requirements for participating wreckers to reflect a modified Florida Highway Patrol wrecker program model with inclusion of \$300,000 garage keeper's general liability, \$50,000 off hook property liability, and \$100,000 on hook property liability insurance

2. Correct Scrivener's

• Repeals and replaces Chapter 804 (Jacksonville Traffic Code), Part 12 (Towing and Storage of Vehicles and Vessels from Public Property) and Part 13 (Towing and Storage of Vehicles and Vessels from Private Property) to effectuate the following changes:

- Update references and definitions based on State Statutes
- Reference “vessels” as a separate vehicle type
- Expand non-business hours from 8pm – 7am to 6pm – 8am
- Allow for additional Service Charges and Fees for unique vehicles/vessels and situations such as electric vehicles, heavy equipment, notice fees, etc.
- Clarify present JSO practices and procedures

NOTE: The next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, July 21, 2026.

*******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.

Public Comment

Mr. Carnell Oliver spoke on the legislative process.

Chair Lahnen stated that a public comment card was submitted by Mr. Marshall Adkinson for 2026-0358, for questions only.

Minutes: Steven Libby, Council Research

slibby@coj.net, (904) 255-5147

Posted: June 17, 2026, 4:30 pm