

**Minutes of the Community Redevelopment Agency Workshop
held Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 3:00 PM
in the Council Chambers, 11 North 3rd Street,
Jacksonville Beach, Florida**



CALL TO ORDER:

This workshop was called to order at 3:00 PM.

ROLL CALL:

Chairman: Gerhard Paetau
Board Members: Meghan Edwards Thad Moseley
Kevin Myers Ron Whittington (absent)
Alternates: Sydney Talcott Marcus Kampfe (absent)
Also present: CRA Coordinator Taylor Mobbs, Police Chief Gene Paul Smith, Chief
Financial Officer Ashlie Gossett, Commander Thomas Crumley, and Deputy
City Clerk Jodilynn Byrd.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

A. 1st Street Traffic Study Report

Community Redevelopment Agency Coordinator Taylor Mobbs presented an overview of the First Street traffic study and reported the data did not identify major safety issues within the study area. It was explained staff initially approached the study from the perspective of improving safety, but the findings showed First Street was functioning safely and generally as intended. Ms. Mobbs noted crash data reflected relatively few incidents, none involving major injuries, and noted staff discussions with the Police Department confirmed the shared-street design appeared to slow traffic and encourage more cautious behavior by drivers.

Police Chief Gene Paul Smith provided historical context regarding the original design of First Street and explained the configuration was intended to calm traffic, reduce speeding, and accommodate bicycles and pedestrians without relying on traditional curbs and lane markings.

Ms. Mobbs noted pending and potential projects, including Latham Plaza improvements, the low-speed vehicle parking lot, the public-private partnership parking project, and additional redevelopment activity, could all affect how First Street functions in the future.

Ms. Mobbs indicated no immediate capital changes were recommended at this time and suggested allowing related projects and planning efforts to progress before pursuing major physical modifications.

Police Commander Thomas Crumley and Chief Smith stated the Jacksonville Beach Police Department did not support closing First Street to vehicles and cautioned a pedestrian-only configuration could create additional gathering space and increase enforcement challenges. Chief Smith stated the current design did not create a significant policing problem, noted any major traffic pattern changes would affect surrounding streets and downtown circulation, and emphasized the larger issue was determining the long-term vision for downtown rather than making changes for the sake of change. Commander Crumley and Chief Smith answered questions from the board.

It was discussed the potential need for a future joint meeting with City Council, possibly later in the summer or fall, to help identify policy direction for First Street and the broader downtown area before any major capital decisions are made.

Discussion also addressed the need to improve education and signage, as well as the importance of coordinating any future First Street work with upcoming City and CRA projects.

Board discussion reflected general support for continuing to evaluate First Street within the larger downtown framework and adding the topic as a regular CRA agenda item.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, this meeting was adjourned at 4:28 PM.

Submitted by: Taylor Mobbs, CRA Coordinator

Approval:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sean Paster", is written over a horizontal line.

Chairman

Date: 5.18.26