



**JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL**

**TRUE COMMISSION  
JOINT LEGISLATIVE TRACKING COMMITTEE/  
PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
January 11, 2013  
12:00 p.m.**

**City Council Conference Room A  
Suite 425, City Hall  
117 W. Duval Street**

**Attendance:** Committee Members Joe Andrews (Legislative Tracking Committee Chair), Ted Wendler (Performance Committee Chair), Tom Martin, Greg Radlinski and Danny Becton

**Excused:** Marcella Lowe, Diane Brown

**Also:** Jeff Clements – Council Research Division

The Legislative Tracking Committee portion of the meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m. by Chairman Andrews and the following bills were discussed:

- 2013-1 appropriating \$44,260 from Council District 1 bond fund to Tree Hill nature preserve.
- 2013-7 amending the Ordinance Code to prohibit building new City buildings when vacant buildings suitable for the purpose already exist.
- 2013-8 amending the Ordinance Code to delete reference to 12 ticketed events from the Special Events chapter of the code for the purpose of making the City noise ordinance applicable to the events.

**Motion** (Radlinski): the TRUE Commission opposes passage of 2013-8 because of the possible adverse effect on City revenues from loss of concerts due to heightened noise enforcement – **approved 5-0.**

- 2013-9 amending the Ordinance Code to implement regulations on ice cream truck operators.
- 2013-11 appropriating \$60,000 in federal grant funds to the Children’s Commission for the Fostering Children’s Mental Health Initiative.
- 2013-12 appropriating \$105,674 in grant funds (\$49,200) and local in-kind match \$56,474) to the Ritz Theater and Museum for staff training in collections management.
- 2013-13 appropriating \$287,000 in grant funds from the St. Johns River Water Management District to the Lincoln Villa Septic Tank Phase-out project.
- 2013-15 appropriating \$47,000 from the Special Council Contingency Reserve Fund to contract with a consultant to pursue brownfields development grants.

**Motion** (Radlinski): the TRUE Commission opposes passage of the ordinance on the grounds that brownfields grant research should be done in-house by Planning Department personnel in available time as “other duties as assigned” – **approved 5-0.**

The Performance Committee portion of the meeting convened at 1:10 p.m. by Chairman Wendler. The committees discussed the public records request to City Treasurer Joey Grieve for copies of the audited financial statements of the Police and Fire Pension Fund. Staff will follow-up with Commission Chairman Marc El Hassan about signing and transmitting the letter.

Commissioner Wendler had experimented with several scenarios using his pension illustration spreadsheet. He finds that the bulk of the unfunded liability is attributable to payments to retirees, and it is unlikely, if not impossible, to make changes to those benefits. The City can only reasonably expect to change the pension benefits for future retirees, and it appears that that will be insufficient to solve the long-term funding problem. Commissioner Radlinski requested that the committee invite Curtis Lee, a retired pension fund manager and local expert on the subject, to a future meeting to discuss whether the City can legally change benefits for persons already retired (i.e. reducing cost-of-living increases). The committee also needs to gain clarity about who is intended to benefit from the application of state Chapter 175 and Chapter 185 pension funds – are retirees allowed to benefit from use of these funds, or is it intended solely for current active employees?

The committee asked staff to invite Deputy General Counsel Derrel Chatmon, the City's labor lawyer, to the next meeting to discuss the 30-year agreement between the City and the Police and Fire Pension Fund board, which the police and fire unions cite as the reason they will not negotiate any pension changes with the City administration. Commissioner Radlinski believes that without a clear answer, probably from a judge, about what the 30 year agreement is and how it impacts the collective bargaining process, the City will never be able to solve the problem of pension reform. Staff will invite Mr. Chatmon to the January 18<sup>th</sup> meeting (assuming he is available) to answer to primary questions: 1) can the City legally reduce cost-of-living adjustments for retired employees in the future, and 2) what is the nature of the litigation over the 30 year agreement with the Police and Fire Pension Fund, what are the parties' positions, and where does the legal process stand, particularly with regard to the ruling of the special magistrate hearing the case.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Jeff Clements, Chief  
Council Research Division

Posted 1.11.13  
5:00 p.m.