



JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL

**TRUE COMMISSION
LEGISLATIVE TRACKING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
July 27, 2012
12:00 p.m.**

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

Attendance: Committee Members Joe Andrews (Chair), Greg Radlinski and Tom Martin
Also: Jeff Clements – Council Research Division

The meeting was called to order at 12:02 p.m. by Chairman Andrews. The committee reviewed and staff answered questions about the following bills:

2012-372 (appropriation of \$417,000 from the Banking Fund to reconstruct a culvert, curbs and sidewalks on Herschel Street): the committee discussed the definition of “capital project” and the difference between a capital project and maintenance.

2012-422 (renewal of downtown Business Improvement District special assessment and contract for services with Downtown Vision, Inc.): the committee questioned whether the service contract with DVI was advertised for competitive bidding and/or RFP or was simply extended. Commissioner Radlinski suggested that if the contract was not the subject of an RFP or competitive bidding process, then the TRUE Commission should recommend that the City extend the DVI contract for one year and engage in a competitive procurement process for a BID operator.

2012-433 (FY12-13 city budget): With regard to the waiver of the Ordinance Code requirement that replacement fleet vehicles be purchased with cash funding, Commissioner Martin asked why the budget ordinance did not also waive the provision of Sec. 110.503 that prohibits the use of the Banking Fund to finance the purchase of items that have a useful life of less than 5 years and/or a unit value of less than \$50,000. The list of vehicles to be purchased with Banking Fund proceeds includes a number of cars valued under \$50,000. Commissioner Martin also expressed concern with the lack of capital investment in road construction projects, especially in the Collins Road/I-295 area where an FDOT interchange project is nearing completion and will dump more traffic on narrow local roads that need widening.

Motion (Martin): recommend that the TRUE Commission object to the waiver of the Banking Fund prohibition against using the fund to purchase replacement vehicles, as the purchase also violates the prohibition contained in Sec. 110.503 – **approved**.

2012-438 (appropriation of \$25,000 from the Environmental Protection Fund to the Jacksonville Zoo for a shoreline improvement project): the committee questioned whether this is an appropriate authorized use of the Environmental Protection Fund. As described by staff, the project may be proposed for justification as an educational use, demonstrating different shoreline erosion protection structures.

2012-449 (Ordinance Code amendment regarding use of red light camera enforcement): the committee had several questions about the effectiveness of such cameras and about how the City is planning for their deployment and use. Staff was asked to find out who is leading the effort for the City and to attempt to find research or articles on the subject of the cameras.

Motion (Radlinski): that the TRUE Commission requests a City expert on the subject of red light cameras (Traffic Engineering Division? Sheriff's Office? Other?) to provide the commission with information on the effectiveness and implications involved in the use of red light camera enforcement systems – **approved.**

2012-450 (appropriating \$6.1 million in Sheriff's Office budget savings to the JSO's FY12-13 budget to offset an additional lapse factor imposed on the JSO budget): staff explained that the Sheriff had requested withdrawal of related bill 2012-401 which would have appropriated \$1.8 million to pay off the JSO's Banking Fund balance and returned \$3.2 million to General Fund balance to help fill the gap in the current FY11-12 budget. When the Mayor's proposed FY13-14 budget imposed an additional \$6 million salary lapse on top of the \$19 million in cuts already agreed to by the Sheriff, the Sheriff requested withdrawal of 2012-401 and introduced 2012-450 to allocate all budget savings from FY11-12 to the Sheriff's FY12-13 lapse factor.

Motion (Radlinski): that the TRUE Commission recommend approval of 2012-450 – **approved.**

2012-461 (authorizing execution of Memorandum of Understanding between the City and FDOT for the City to take over maintenance of a 2 acre site underneath I-95 in Riverside for an expansion of Riverside Park for use as a dog park and other amenities. Commissioners objected to the City taking over additional maintenance expenses from the FDOT in a very difficult budget situation.

Motion (Radlinski): that the TRUE Commission opposes passage of 2012-461 and recommends that private organizers deal directly with the FDOT for construction and maintenance of the desired facilities – **approved.**

2012-487 (economic development incentive agreement with Deutsche Bank for creation of 260 new jobs in Jacksonville): Commissioner Andrews opposes economic incentive deals on philosophical grounds and will pursue that opposition on an individual basis.

The minutes of the June 20, 2012 Legislative Tracking Committee meeting were **approved as distributed.**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Jeff Clements, Chief
Council Research Division

Posted 8.1.12
4:00 p.m.