



JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL

**TRUE COMMISSION
LEGISLATIVE TRACKING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

March 29, 2013

12:00 p.m.

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

Attendance: Committee Members Joe Andrews (Chair), Tom Martin and Greg Radlinski

Also: Jeff Clements – Council Research Division

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chairman Andrews and the following bills were discussed:

2013-155 (amending Ordinance Code to create position of bicycle/pedestrian coordinator in the Planning and Development Department): Commissioner Radlinski expressed opposition to the bill on the grounds that the City already has personnel that should be able to perform this function with a reassignment of the priorities of their regular duties to make this function more important.

Motion (Radlinski): that the TRUE Commission opposes passage of 2013-155 because the City should already have the capacity to perform this function with reprioritization of existing resources – **approved 3-0.**

2013-156 (establishing a Neighborhood Enhancement Trust Fund for the pari-mutuel card room revenue): the committee questioned what conditions are being created by the poker room that need remediation and discussed whether these funds should be restricted to expenditure in the area surrounding the facility or whether they were more appropriately put in the General Fund for use citywide.

Motion (Radlinski): that the TRUE Commission opposes passage of 2013-156 – **approved 3-0.**

2013-170 (opposing legislation that would restrict, reduce or eliminate municipal revenue generated by the communications services tax): the committee was interested in knowing the amount of revenue being lost because of the reduction of landline telephones versus the amount of revenue being gained because of taxes on the increasing number of cellular phones and other new communications devices. Senate Bill 1422 and House Bill 303 are pending in the Florida Legislature to amend the telecom services tax.

Motion (Radlinski): that the TRUE Commission supports passage of 2013-170 but opposes the proposal of the state Communications Services Tax Working Group to raise the state sales tax by 0.34% to compensate for the loss of telecommunications tax revenue – **no vote taken.** Staff was asked to determine if telecom tax revenue is going up or down over time as a result of the shift from landlines to cellphones.

2013-178 (urging support of HB 721 and SB922 which would authorize an additional \$2 million sales tax rebate to Florida stadiums housing professional sports franchises): Commissioner Andrews is opposed to

the bills on philosophical grounds, believing that sales tax revenue should be used for general government uses, not benefitting specific private businesses.

Motion (Andrews): that the TRUE Commission opposes 2013-178 – **fails 1-2.**

Motion (Radlinski): that the TRUE Commission supports passage of 2013-178 – **approved 2-1.**

2013-187 (appropriating \$14,255,000 in Banking Fund borrowing for the purchase of the Jake Godbold City Hall Annex (Haverty's Building): the committee discussed the history of the building's acquisition by the City and conveyance to the Police and Fire Pension Fund with a lease-back plan and a lease/purchase option. The bill was deferred for further conversation at a future meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:27 p.m.

Jeff Clements, Chief
Council Research Division

Posted 4.1.13
6:00 p.m.