



**JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL**

**TRUE COMMISSION  
LEGISLATIVE TRACKING COMMITTEE MEETING AMENDED MINUTES  
April 12, 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 12:00 p.m. by Chairman Andrews and the following bills were discussed:

**2013-121** (Ordinance Code amendment to enact an additional \$25,000 homestead exemption for low income seniors who are long-time homeowners): the committee discussed how many households might meet the fairly exacting criteria and what the fiscal impact of the new exemption might be.

**Motion** (Radlinski): that the TRUE Commission opposes passage of 2013-121 – **approved 3-0.**

**2013-213** (appropriating \$4.56 million from the Countywide General Facilities Maintenance Fund for 20 repair/remodeling projects): Commissioner Andrews questions the City’s definition of a “capital improvement” project and how capital improvement differs from maintenance. He believes the City is neglecting regular maintenance until facility conditions deteriorate to the point where large-scale, expensive renovation projects are needed that are expensive enough to exceed the threshold for inclusion in the Capital Improvement Program. The committee asked that a representative of the Public Buildings Division be invited to the next committee meeting to discuss the capital maintenance program.

**2013-214** (appropriating \$19,615.52 from Special Council Reserve for the purchase of new chairs for the City Council Chamber): the committee questioned why Office Environments and Systems (OES) was granted the contract without a competitive bidding process.

**Motion** (Radlinski): that the TRUE Commission recommends the City Council defer the purchase of the chairs while verifying OES’s status as a City-qualified contract provider and seeking competitive price proposals for the chairs, including exploring the possibility of utilizing the State of Florida’s furniture procurement contract – **approved 3-0.**

**2013-226** (amending the Ordinance Code to delete the Entertainment Zone provisions from the Special Events and Entertainment District chapter and amending the noise ordinance to remove exemptions for certain listed events): Jeff Clements gave an overview of how recent issues have arisen over the existence of the current Entertainment Zone and how it does or does not impact on the application of the City’s noise regulations to certain events. The work of the City Council’s Ad Hoc Committee on Metropolitan and Urban Parks was discussed. Commissioner Martin wondered if OSHA regulations regarding exposure to excessive noise apply to City employees who are on duty at concerts where loud amplified music may exceed OSHA guidelines.

**Motion** (Radlinski): that the TRUE Commission opposed passage of 2013-226 because of the possibility that loss of the exemption from the noise ordinance for fireworks shows and outdoor musical concerts may cause promoters to abandon those events and thereby cause a reduction in City revenues from the loss of such events – **approved 3-0**.

**2013-227** (appropriating \$75,000 from the Parks and Recreation/Capital Projects – Buck Park account to Ed Austin Regional Park for construction of a dog park): the committee questioned how the annual CIP project list is assembled for approval by City Council and questioned if this bill was being re-introduced before the 1 year anniversary of its defeat by Council in 2012. Jeff Clements confirmed that the bill was defeated by Council in February 2012, so the one year waiting period has expired.

**2013-241** (authorizing a lease to allow relocation of the Supervisor of Elections’ operations center to the Southgate Shopping Plaza on Beach Boulevard): the committee discussed the several pending proposals for alternative locations for the SOE’s operations center, the idea of constructing a new facility, and the option to renew the lease at the Gateway Center. A solid, “apples-to-apples” comparison of all of the various proposals is needed before deciding on the best course of action. Jeff Clements reported that a joint committee meeting, or perhaps a City Council workshop, is being contemplated in the next few weeks to put all proposals on the table for a thorough discussion.

**2013-230** (resolution pledging support for regional cooperation and the common policy framework provided by the Northeast Florida Regional Council’s Strategic Regional Policy Plan): Commissioner Andrews expressed reservations about several of the policy areas covered by the Regional Plan and whether they were truly issues of regional importance.

**2013-243** (appropriating \$2,040,000 from the Loblolly Wetlands Mitigation Fund to the Jacksonville Zoo to assist in funding an expansion project): the committee questioned whether the zoo project is an appropriate use of the funds under the “conservation and parks” category, and whether that use had been weighed against the proposal made by several council members to allocate the funds to the 14 council districts for park improvement uses.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Jeff Clements, Chief  
Council Research Division

Posted 4.16.13  
10:00 a.m.