



**JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL**

**TRUE COMMISSION  
LEGISLATIVE TRACKING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**April 26, 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

**Excused:** Greg Radlinski

**Also:** Jeff Clements – Council Research Division; Tom Goldsbury – Public Works Department

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Chairman Andrews who introduced Tom Goldsbury of the Public Works Department to discuss capital projects and maintenance budgeting. Mr. Goldsbury explained that the department annually proposes a list of individual building maintenance projects in the budget process as needs are identified, plus a separate single project budget for use in performing small jobs that come up throughout the course of a year, plus a separate plant renewal project for everyday wear and tear items.

Commissioner Andrews questioned how the City's definition of "capital improvement" ("a permanent addition, construction or fixture to real property or structures thereon that: 1) has a useful life or more than 10 years; 2) has an estimated purchase or construction cost of \$100,000 or more; or 3) will be financed, in whole or in part, from bonds issued by the City") is interpreted in the context of maintenance and repair projects. The definition of "capital improvement" also specifically excludes recurring annual items and routine maintenance and repair. He wondered if many City repair and renewal projects are listed as "capital improvements" because they cost over \$100,000, even if they don't add to the City's building stock and could reasonably be construed as routine and repair. Roof replacement, for example, may exceed the \$100,000 threshold for large buildings, but he would classify them as routine maintenance (something that has to be done from time to time to preserve the building's integrity and usefulness) rather than a capital improvement. He also questioned the appropriateness of using borrowed Banking Fund dollars for expenditures on maintenance and repairs, feeling that should be done out of annual operating revenues. Mr. Goldsbury suggested that the Finance Department and Council Auditor's Office be consulted about how the definitions are interpreted for purposes of determining what is and what is not a capital improvement.

Mr. Goldsbury stated that he has been given the task by Public Works Director Jim Robinson to oversee expenditures from the City's capital facilities maintenance account for the array of repair projects recently introduced in City Council as a series of appropriation and CIP amendment ordinances. The fund had accumulated up to \$11 million and now is being appropriated to long-standing maintenance and repair needs. The City is "piggybacking" on the School Board's roof replacement contract and having that contractor work on City buildings on the basis of the pre-bid unit price, so the City doesn't need to hire an architect to draw specifications for each new job. Mr. Goldsbury meets every two weeks with the Public Works project managers and the City's contracted architect to ensure that all the projects are progressing smoothly.

Chairman Andrews will propose that the TRUE Commission appoint a committee and undertake a study of the City's capital improvement project budgeting system.

#### Legislative review

**2013-248** (appropriating \$1,765,464 (\$1,324,098 Continuation Grant from Department of Justice & \$441,336 City In-Kind Contribution) to fund Department of Justice - Office of Juvenile & Delinquency Prevention/Juvenile Drug Court Reclaiming Futures Program): the committee requested that staff make inquiries about the success record of this grant – are there any measures of the outcomes for juveniles who participate in this program?

**2013-249** (appropriating \$2,000,000 from FDOT and re-appropriating \$2,280,194.14 from Northbank Riverwalk Renovations Project to fund \$4,870,194.14 for the new Artist Walk Extension Project): the committee asked staff to inquire who is promoting this project.

**2013-256** (authorizing 1st Amendment to the construction agreement with CSX Transportation, Inc. for construction of grade crossing and intersection improvements for Max Leggett Parkway at US-17): Commissioner Martin expressed philosophical opposition to creating new at-grade railroad crossings, believing that any new crossings should involve grade separation (roadway going under or over the railroad track).

**2013-264** (appropriating \$2,800,000 of Loblolly Wetlands Mitigation Bank revenues to district council members (14) for use in parks in accordance with the Parks Master Plan): the committee discussed how quickly this fund generates revenue and how long it will take to replenish these funds if appropriated for this use. Staff pointed out that another pending bill (2013-243) proposes to appropriate these same funds to the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens to fund a portion of the construction cost of the Tiger Trails exhibit. The committee questioned why, since the Loblolly Wetlands Mitigation Bank was created with Better Jacksonville Plan funding, the revenue from the bank was not being used to either: a) fund BJP projects that are going undone because of the shortfall in BJP sales tax revenue, or b) to pay down the principal on BJP bonds.

**Motion** (Andrews): that the committee recommends the TRUE Commission oppose passage of this bill on the grounds that any revenue produced from the Loblolly Wetlands Mitigation Bank should be used to either fund BJP projects that are going undone because of the shortfall in BJP sales tax revenue or to pay down the principal on BJP bonds – **approved 2-0.**

**Motion** (Andrews): that the committee recommends the TRUE Commission oppose passage of bill 2013-243 on the same grounds as 2013-264 – **approved 2-0.**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

Jeff Clements, Chief  
Council Research Division

Posted 4.29.13  
4:00 p.m.