



JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL

**TRUE COMMISSION
LEGISLATIVE TRACKING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
July 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), Greg Radlinski, Danny Becton

Also: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Chairman Andrews. One bill considered at a prior meeting was discussed: 2013-382 (authorizing the Sheriff to retain year-end fund balance in a designated reserve account for use for strategic initiatives; granting the Sheriff administrative transfer power to shift funding from one budget line item to another, within limits): Commissioner Andrews conveyed the main points of discussion from the previous committee meeting to Council Members Robin Lumb and Jim Love by letter, recommending consideration of amendments to the bill to better specify the types of strategic initiatives that would be eligible for the use of the fund balance contingency, a maximum limitation on the accumulation of fund balances in the contingency account, and possibly a sunset provision. Mr. Andrews reported that the bill was extensively debated at the last City Council meeting and was re-referred to committee for additional work.

Motion (Becton): that the TRUE Commission recommends against creation of a Sheriff's Office contingency fund for year-end fund balances (Section 1 of 2013-382), on the grounds that allowing individual departments to retain fund balances is detrimental to the City's ability to manage and balance its overall budget, and that the Commission recommends in favor of granting the Sheriff administrative transfer authority within his budget (Section 2 of the bill): **fails 1-2** (Becton in favor).

Motion (Radlinski): that the TRUE Commission recommends adoption of 2013-382 as originally introduced: **fails 1-2** (Radlinski in favor).

New legislation review

2013-465 (adopting the 2014-18 Capital Improvement Program): the committee discussed the proposed waiver of the definition in the Ordinance Code which provides that routine roadway resurfacing is deemed not to be a capital improvement. Commissioner Andrews opposed the waiver and its effect of allowing what should be a routine maintenance item paid for with annual operating revenues to be reclassified as a capital improvement and therefore eligible to be paid for with borrowed funds.

Motion (Becton): that the TRUE Commission urges the City Council to amend 2013-465 to remove the waiver of the prohibition against classifying routine roadway resurfacing as a capital improvement - **approved 3-0**.

2013-466 (authorizing Banking Fund borrowing for FY13-14 capital projects): after some discussion the committee voted to table discussion of this bill until the Finance Committee budget hearing process gets underway and the committee delves further into the Banking Fund borrowing proposal.

2013-485 (amending Ordinance Code Chapter 111 to revise reporting requirements for uses of funds from the Sports and Entertainment Trust Fund and deleting the requirement that fund uses must comply with rules established by the Sports and Entertainment Board for that purpose): the committee discussed the Navy-Marine Corps Carrier Classic basketball game that was the genesis for a City Council subcommittee investigation and that led to the introduction of this legislation.

Motion (Radlinski): that the TRUE Commission recommend approval of this bill but urges the Mayor and City Council to heighten oversight of the use of the Sports and Entertainment Trust Fund and institute requirements for better planning and execution of events funded through the trust fund – **approved 3-0**.

2013-492 (appropriating \$364,500 from a stormwater projects account to fund the purchase and demolition of three homes in a flood prone area adjacent to Country Creek): the committee questioned the City's liability for the flooding problems and whether the methodology chosen to remediate the flooding problem is sufficient for the task. The value of the homes and the proposed purchase prices was discussed, as was the rationale for buying only 3 scattered lots within a subdivision when it would seem that all of the adjacent properties probably suffer the same flooding situation.

Motion (Radlinski): that the TRUE Commission opposes action on this bill as an emergency and urges the City Council to exercise its due diligence in determining if the City has any liability for the flooding problems the area is experiencing, if all practical options for remediation have been explored, if the property owners should bear some responsibility and cost for the proposed remediation method, and if the City is being asked to pay a fair but not overly generous price for the properties – **approved 3-0**.

2013-496 (resolution encouraging the Finance Department to negotiate with the contract operator of the Jacksonville Beach Pier to offer a discounted admission price for senior citizens): Commissioner Andrews opposes the bill on philosophical grounds and will convey that opposition on individual basis.

2013-518 (appropriating \$150,000 from the Council Special Operating Reserve account to the Sports and Entertainment Board for promotional costs for the 2014 Florida Country Superfest): Commissioner Andrews opposes the bill on the grounds that concert promotion is not a core city function and that government should not be in the business of using public funds to benefit only certain business enterprises and not others. The committee felt that the use of public funding to advertise the availability and desirability of the City's public venues might be an appropriate use of public funds if it generates economic activity and tax revenue.

Motion (Radlinski): that the TRUE Commission opposes passage of the bill on the grounds that it uses public funds to subsidize one particular profit-making venture, and recommends that if the City desires to generate economic activity by use of the City's public venues, that it widely advertise the availability and features of those venues to event promoters – **approved 2-1** (Becton opposed).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Jeff Clements, Chief
Council Research Division

Posted 7.26.13
5:00 p.m.