



Taxation, Revenue, and Utilization of Expenditures (TRUE) Commission

Marc El Hassan, Chair
Greg Radlinski, Vice Chair
Diane Brown, Secretary

TRUE Commission Meeting Minutes

January 4, 2013
4:00 p.m.

Attendance: Marc El Hassan (Chair), Ernest McDuffie, Ted Wendler, Thomas Martin, Greg Radlinski, Joe Andrews, Leroy Kelly, Danny Becton, Diane Brown Patti Anania, Marcella Lowe

Excused: Alex Marerro, James Edwards, Daniel Blanchard

Absent: Jason Fischer, David Lane

Also: Tommy Carter and Kyle Billy – Council Auditor’s Office; Carla Miller – Ethics and Compliance Office; Jeff Clements – City Council Research;

Chairman El Hassan convened the meeting at 4:05 p.m. with a quorum present.

Minutes

The minutes of the December 6, 2012 commission meetings were approved as distributed.

Ethic Training Update

City Ethics and Compliance Officer Carla Miller gave the commissioners a quick refresher update on ethics and government in the sunshine policies and procedures. She discussed the work of the Ethics and Compliance Office which consists of one part-time employee. The ECO has picked up some of the work formerly being performed by the City’s Inspector General’s Office, which was disbanded after being unfunded in the latest City budget. Ms. Miller also updated the commission on the progress of the proposed Duval County J-bill to amend the City Charter with regard to the operations of the Police and Fire Pension Fund board. The bill would give the City Council a third appointment to the 5-member board (currently there is 1 appointee who is selected by the other 4 members, one of whom is selected by the police officers, one by the firefighters, and two by City Council. That fifth appointment would be given to the City Council under the proposed amendment). The J-bill would also clarify that the City Council has budgetary control over the PFPF’s administrative budget and salaries.

Ms. Miller noted that the Ethics Commission would be meeting on Monday, January 7th at 4:30 p.m. and welcomed any TRUE Commissioners to attend the meeting. She suggested that the two commissions schedule a joint meeting at some point to discuss their individual work and common areas of interest.

Committee Reports

Legislative Tracking Committee – Commissioner Andrews reported that the committee had not met in December, but that he was tracking a number of bills as they progressed through the legislative process, including the following:

2012-720 granting historic landmark status to the Bostwick Building on East Bay Street
2012-722 appropriating \$60,000 in new pari-mutuel revenue from the Best Bet poker room
2012-730 appropriating \$8 million for a new Supervisor of Elections unified facility.
2012-712 economic development incentives for Schratte Foods

Mr. Andrews stated that he had attended a meeting called by Council Member Gulliford with member of the Jacksonville Housing Finance Authority board and staff to discuss JHFA issues and affordable housing. While there he met the JHFA's financial consultant, Mark Hendrickson of Tallahassee, and posed a series of questions to him. Mr. Hendrickson's responses to those questions were circulated to the commissioners via e-mail earlier this week. He encouraged the commissioners to read Mr. Hendrickson's responses and, if there are any unanswered questions or interest in hearing further details, the commission can invite representatives of the JHFA to a future meeting for a more in-depth discussion.

The committee discussed the \$60,000 appropriation of pari-mutuel revenue and asked questions of Kyle Billy and Tommy Carter of the Council Auditor's Office about how unexpected revenues are received, accounted for and utilized. Mr. Billy explained all City revenues of any kind should be deposited with the Tax Collector, and that the Accounting Division of the Finance Department assigns all revenues to appropriate accounts, objects and sub-objects. The Accounting Division (on a monthly basis) and the Council Auditor's Office (on a quarterly basis) review revenue and expenditure funds for significant variations, either positive or negative. At some point the receipt of this unexpected revenue would have been recognized and the funds directed to an appropriate account. Since the check arrived in the Council President's office, he proposed this appropriation as a use for the funds, putting it under City Council's control, as all appropriations are.

The Legislative Tracking Committee's next meeting will be Friday, January 11th at 12 noon.

Performance Committee – Commissioner Wendler stated that the committee had met prior to the full commission meeting and continued review of the pension illustration spreadsheet. The committee experimented with changing the variables in the model (assumed rate of return on investments, pension accrual percentage per years worked, reduction or elimination of the cost of living adjustment, cap on total annual pension benefit, etc.) to see what changes produced what effects on the ultimate cost of the pension system. The committee will meet jointly with the Legislative Tracking Committee on January 11th to experiment further, with the hope of being able to formulate a set of recommendations for pension changes for the TRUE Commission to consider at its February meeting. Mr. Wendler related his continuing difficulty in obtaining copies of the audited financial statements of the Police and Fire Pension Fund, either from the PFPF staff or from the City Treasurer. Commissioner Radlinski will work with Commissioner Wendler to craft a letter to the City for Chairman El Hassan's signature pointing out the commission's authority under Ordinance Code Chapter 57 and requesting that the documents be produced in a timely fashion

Audit Review Committee – Commissioner Lowe reported that several audits had been released in the last two months.

#725 – Sheriff's Investigative Fund: the errors identified by the audit were primarily clerical in nature and have all been rectified. The JSO agreed with all recommendations. City Council is currently considering an ordinance to eliminate one of the two Sheriff's investigative funds by consolidating all expenditures into one fund.

Motion (Lowe): that the TRUE Commission accept audit #725 without further comment – **approved.**

#724 – Budget Summary FY12-13

Motion (Lowe): that the TRUE Commission accept Report #724 without further comment – **approved**.

Audits #726 – Municipal Code Compliance Division Revenue Audit, #727 – Quarterly Summary for 12 Months Ended 12-31-12, and #728 – Jacksonville Economic Development Commission Incentives Audit – all need review by the members and discussion at a future meeting.

Ms. Lowe requested that an Audit Committee meeting be scheduled for Thursday, February 7th at 2:30 p.m. prior to the full commission meeting at 4:00.

Auditor's Report

Tommy Carter of the Council Auditor's office reported that the office has released two new audits: #727 – Quarterly Budget Summary for 12 Months Ended 12-31-12 and #728 - Jacksonville Economic Development Commission Incentives Audit. The quarterly budget summary found a favorable budget variance of \$7.9 million at the end of FY11-12. Several more audits are underway.

Chair's Comments

None

Old Business

Commissioner McDuffie requested copies of the proposed specifications and subsequent bids for the State Attorney's Office building construction project to see if the City Procurement Division complied with Part 8 of the Procurement Code (Federal Affirmative Action Compliance).

New Business

None

Commissioner Comments

None

Public Comments

None

Next meeting

The commission's next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 7th at 4:00 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

Posted 2.13.13
12:00 p.m.

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City Council electronic file
Media box