



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

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

TRUE Commission Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2013
4:00 p.m.

Attendance: Greg Radlinski (Vice Chair), Ted Wendler, Thomas Martin, Joe Andrews, Danny Becton, Diane Brown Patti Anania, Marcella Lowe, James Edwards (arr. 4:56)

Excused: Alex Marerro, Daniel Blanchard, Marc El Hassan, Ernest McDuffie, Leroy Kelly

Absent: David Lane

Also: Tommy Carter– Council Auditor’s Office; Jeff Clements – City Council Research

Acting Chairman Radlinski convened the meeting at 4:05 p.m. with a quorum present.

Minutes

The minutes of the January 4, 2013 commission meetings were approved as distributed.

Committee Reports

Legislative Tracking Committee – Commissioner Andrews reported that the committee had met on January 11th and was tracking several of bills as they progressed through the legislative process, including the following:

2013-8 (removing 12 ticketed events at Metropolitan Park from the list of events exempt from the City’s noise ordinance): Commissioner Andrews proposed on behalf of the committee that the TRUE Commission pass a resolution opposing the bill because of the potential to reduce City revenues by a loss of concert events. After further discussion it was determined that the bill had been withdrawn by City Council. Jeff Clements reported that the Council President has appointed an ad hoc committee (chaired by Council Member Denise Lee) to review Metropolitan Park’s noise issues, which should issue a report by May.

2013-15 (appropriating \$47,000 from a Special Council Contingency fund to hire a brownfields consultant to pursue grants for brownfields redevelopment): the committee recommended that the commission oppose passage because this is a function that should be performed in-house by City personnel.

Motion (Andrews): that the TRUE Commission expresses its opposition to the passage of 2013-15 on the grounds that this is a function that should be performed in-house by City personnel – **approved.**

With regard to older legislation, Mr. Andrews reported that 2012-654 (restructuring an affordable housing loan to Logan's Pointe Associates, Inc.) was withdrawn on January 22nd. 2012-720 (designating the Bostwick Building at 101 East Bay Street as a historic landmark) is still pending in committees. 2012-722 (appropriating \$60,000 in pari-mutuel revenues to the Special Council Contingency fund) was approved on January 22nd. 2012-730 (appropriating funding to authorize an RFP process for a new Supervisor of Elections office/warehouse) is still in committee. Mr. Andrews also noted that the first economic incentive package processed under the new "fast track" system was approved on January 22nd on first reading (2013-43 – incentives for Body Central Corp. corporate headquarters relocation).

Performance Committee – Commissioner Wendler stated that the committee had met prior to the full commission meeting and, as all members in attendance at the commission meeting were also present at the committee meeting, no report was necessary. Anyone interested may refer to the minutes of the February 7th Performance Committee meeting.

Audit Review Committee – Commissioner Lowe reported that the committee had met earlier in the day and reviewed two recent Council Auditor audits/reports:

#726 – Municipal Code Compliance Division Revenue Audit: the committee discussed the audit at length and produced a list of 9 questions/issues that will be referred to the Council Auditor's office for follow-up and a report back to the Audit Committee. The committee is anxious that the Auditor's Office follow up on its findings and the Code Compliance Division's promises to make various improvements in standard operating procedures, data security and money handling procedures much sooner than the usual 12-18 month follow-up period. Several of the recommended solutions to identified problems/issues will require the cooperation of other divisions, specifically the General Accounting Division and the Information Technology Division.

Motion (Lowe): that the commission accepts the Code Enforcement Revenue audit (#726) with the referral of the list of committee questions to the Council Auditor's Office for a response – **approved.**

#728 – JEDC Incentives Audit - the committee felt like the actions requested by the City Council's Audit Committee with regard to the JEDC have been accomplished and, with the dissolution of the JEDC, no more needs to be said on that issue. The committee did wonder if the new Office of Economic Development would have better procedures and regulations than the JEDC did. The committee would like to see a copy of the OED's new standard template economic incentive contract to see how it compares to the JEDC's contracts.

Motion (Lowe): that the commission accepts the JEDC audit (#728) without comment, but requests a copy of the Office of Economic Development's standard incentive contract template for review – **approved.**

The committee will review Audit #727 – Fourth Quarter Summary for FY11-12 – at its next meeting.

#729 - Statement of County Funded Court-Related Costs – the committee asked Tommy Carter of the Council Auditor's Office for an explanation of this report since its purpose was not readily apparent. Mr. Carter explained that this is an annual attestation (not an audit) required by the state to verify the reasonableness of the accounting of county-funded court costs. The committee requested that the auditor

responsible for the report come to next Audit Committee meeting to discuss its findings with the committee.

The committee's next meeting will be on Thursday, March 7th at 2:30 immediately prior to the Performance Committee meeting at 3:00 and the full TRUE Commission meeting at 4:00 that day.

Auditor's Report

Tommy Carter of the Council Auditor's office reported that the office has released two new audits: #728 - Jacksonville Economic Development Commission Incentives Audit and #729 – Report on County-Funded Court Costs. The report on the first quarter of FY12-13 should be released in the next couple of weeks. In response to a question from Commissioner Wendler about whether City pension fund audited financial reports or actuarial reports are sent to a state agency in Tallahassee, Mr. Carter indicated that if they were, they would be sent to the Division of Retirement in the Florida Department of Management Services. He suspected that actuarial reports were required to be filed, but that audited financial statements might not.

Chair's Comments

None

Old Business

Commissioner Andrews noted that several proposals were being discussed regarding potential new sites for a Supervisor of Elections headquarters/operations center and asked if the commission would be interested in hearing from Supervisor of Elections Jerry Holland at the next commission meeting. The group was interested and Mr. Holland will be invited to attend. Commissioner Radlinski asked staff to inquire of the Public Works Department about their cost estimate to renovate the old armory on North Market Street for that purpose.

New Business

Commissioner Wendler said that he had recently had a conversation with City Council Member Bill Gulliford and presented him with a copy of the commission's Banking Fund report, and Mr. Gulliford expressed interest in speaking with one or more commissioners and with Council Auditor Kirk Sherman about the report and its findings. Staff will pass this expression of interest on to Chairman El Hassan, who was also the chair of the Banking Fund Committee, to see if he wants to be the person to meet with Mr. Gulliford. Commissioner Becton requested a copy of the Banking Fund report.

Tommy Carter provided further information about Report #729 and the nature of the attestation of the court costs in response to questions raised earlier in the meeting.

Motion (Lowe): that the TRUE Commission accept Audit #729, Statement of County-Funded Court Costs, without comment – approved.

Commissioner Comments

None

Public Comments

None

Next meeting

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Posted 3.14.13
11:00 a.m.

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City Council electronic file
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