



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

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

TRUE Commission Preliminary Meeting Minutes

The minutes of this meeting are preliminary until reviewed and approved by the TRUE Commission at its August meeting.

June 13, 2013
4:00 p.m.

Attendance: Marc El Hassan (Chair), Greg Radlinski, Thomas Martin, Joe Andrews, Marcella Lowe, Patti Anania Ted Wendler; Daniel Blanchard, Danny Becton, George Spencer, Leroy Kelly, Alex Marerro

Excused: Diane Brown, John Campbell, Ernest McDuffie, Keith Johnson

Absent: James Edwards

Also: Tommy Carter– Council Auditor’s Office, Jeff Clements – City Council Research; Wayne Ezell – *Florida Times-Union*

Chairman El Hassan convened the meeting at 4:09 p.m. with a quorum present.

Minutes

The minutes of the May 2, 2013 commission meetings were approved as distributed.

Committee Reports

Legislative Tracking Committee – Commissioner Andrews reported the committee’s recommendations on a number of pending and recently approved bills by the City Council. No action is required of the commission on any pending bills at this time.

Performance Committee – Commissioner Wendler reported that the committee met earlier in the day and had voted to recommend that the TRUE Commission adopt a resolution expressing the commission’s opposition to the passage of Ordinance 2013-366 which approves a mediated settlement agreement and makes changes to the Police and Fire Pension system. The committee’s draft resolution states that the changes to the pension plan, a matter that should be accomplished through the collective bargaining process in meetings open to the public. Instead, the negotiations were conducted in secret under the guise of a mediated legal settlement and amount to the adoption of a revised collective bargaining agreement that lasts for 20 years in violation of state law the limits collective bargaining agreements to no more than 3 years.

Motion (Andrews): that the TRUE Commission approves resolution 2013-2 as recommended by the Performance Committee

Motion (Radlinski): that the TRUE Commission approves resolution 2013-2 as recommended by the Performance Committee after the deletion of the “Be it further resolved” clause regarding the establishment of a defined contribution pension plan for future employees – **approved unanimously**

Commissioner Wendler cited research showing that the City’s Police and Fire Pension Fund and General Employees’ Pension Plan are ranked first and second in the state for highest normal cost, highest unfunded actuarial accrued liability and highest employer contribution.

Audit Review Committee – Commissioner Lowe reported that three audits have been released since the last meeting:

#372 – Purchasing Card Audit

#373 – Quarterly Budget Summary for the Quarter Ending March 31, 2013

#374 – Jacksonville Sunshine Law Compliance Review

The committee urges all commissioners to read the audits and provide comments and insights. The Audit Committee will assign specific members to read and lead discussion on particular audits. Commissioner Lowe noted that audit review is one of the TRUE Commission’s specific charges in the Ordinance Code and urged the members to be proactive and to apply their personal business knowledge to the audit reviews and make suggestions from a non-governmental, best business practices perspective.

CIP Committee

Commissioner Anania reported that the committee had met earlier in the day with Council Member Boyer to brainstorm about how the CIP review process should proceed. The committee will invite City Treasurer Joey Greive to its next meeting on June 26th to discuss how CIP project borrowing takes place and how the Banking Fund and capital improvement bonds interrelate. Mrs. Boyer and the CIP Committee members have been having difficulty getting requested information from various city department representatives, in part because of the priority of budget preparations. The committee will continue its inquiries.

Auditor’s Report

Tommy Carter reported that the office had released three new reports as noted by Mrs. Lowe in the Audit Committee report earlier. He noted that the City Council had just passed an amendment to the local Government in the Sunshine ordinance to require that the Council Auditor do a review and report of compliance with the law every other year rather than every year. The Auditor’s Office is trying to wrap up all audit work before the budget review process begins in earnest in mid-July.

Mr. Carter noted that he had sent the commissioners an e-mail outlining how the red light camera revenues are collected and distributed and corrected an erroneous statement in the e-mail. The City’s general ledger shows revenue of \$469,836 which is the total gross revenue from ticket collections before any distributions are made to the state. The City will remit the total amount collected to the state and will receive a \$75 share for each ticket paid. \$70 goes to the state’s General Fund, \$10 is deposited into the state’s Emergency Medical Services Trust Fund and \$3 goes to the Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund. Of the City’s \$75 share, the cameras’ operator, RedFlex, gets \$3,999 per month per camera. The City keeps anything over that amount.

Chair's Comments

None

Old Business

None

New Business

TRUE Commission membership – city versus county residence. Jeff Clements explained an Ordinance Code amendment pending before City Council that would amend the Code regarding membership eligibility for the TRUE Commission and the Library Board of Trustees. Currently those chapters state that members of those bodies must be residents of the “city”, which is defined elsewhere as being the City of Jacksonville, excluding the Beaches and Baldwin. The bill would change the eligibility to residents of the county, which would include the Beaches and Baldwin. Mr. Clements distributed a draft TRUE Commission resolution expressing the commission’s support for the passage of 2013-350.

Motion (Radlinski): to amend the resolution to conditionally support the passage of 2013-350 if the City Council would first amend the bill to strike lines 23-29 on page 3 to delete reference to amending the eligibility criteria for CPAC members since Beaches residents are not currently members of a CPAC – **failed 4-8.**

Motion: that the TRUE Commission adopts Resolution 2013-1 urging City Council support for passage of pending Ordinance 2013-350 – **approved unanimously.**

Nominating Committee – Election of New Officers

Chairwoman Lowe reported on the committee’s deliberations and its preference to offer a candidate for the office of Vice Chair who would then succeed to the chairmanship the following year. The committee offers the following slate of candidates: Chair – Joe Andrews; Vice Chair – Diane Brown; Secretary – Patti Anania.

There being no other nominations from the floor, the nominations were closed and the slate was elected by acclamation. Mrs. Lowe presented a plaque to outgoing Chairman Marc El Hassan with the commission’s thanks for two good years of productive leadership.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Andrews recommended to the new commissioners that they become familiar with the coj.net web site which has a wealth of valuable information.

Commissioner Martin announced that he would not be seeking reappointment to the commission for a second term due to other obligations.

Public Comments

None

Next meeting

The commission will emulate the City Council’s legislative break in July and will meet again on Thursday, August 1st.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Posted 6.20.13
5:00 p.m.

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City Council electronic file
Media box