



## JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL

### TRUE COMMISSION BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES December 10, 2009 4:00 p.m.

City Council Conference Room B  
Suite 425, City Hall  
117 W. Duval Street

**Attendance:** Mark Cowart (Chair), Committee Members Ryan Jones, Thomas Martin, Mike McCollum, Jeff Clements, Council Research Division

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m. by Chairman Mark Cowart.

Jeff Clements reviewed the new City budget preparation process mandated by Ordinance 2009-701-E which requires the Mayor to present a tentative budget and tentative millage levy to the City Council by May 1 of each year for review and reaction by the Council prior to the submission of the formal budget and millage levy in July. The new procedure will be implemented for the first time in 2010 and it remains unclear exactly how the process will work.

The committee discussed potential work projects and issues of interest for the upcoming budget cycle. It was suggested that the committee might volunteer its services to the Mayor and City Council as a source of citizen input and advice and a review body for any ideas or problems the mayor or council may wish to refer for study. Another suggestion was to meet with presumptive Council President Jack Webb to offer the assistance of the committee and/or the full TRUE Commission in reviewing and commenting on budget challenges.

The group generally felt that it could have the most impact by choosing 2 or 3 major issues, studying them intensively and making substantive recommendations rather than taking on a wide range of issues and making only superficial comments about each. The following issues were suggested as being worthy of serious study and comment: capital budgeting process; use of the Banking Fund; pensions; AMIOs (Assistant Management Improvement Officers); and budget process, transparency and public participation. The recent JCCI study *Our Money, Our City: Financing Jacksonville's Future* was cited several times as a source of valuable background information and thoughtful recommendations on city finances and budget processes and the importance of developing a vision for the City's future and determining a set of core government services and priorities that should take precedence in funding decisions. The group discussed whether it would be worthwhile to try to tackle the pension issue given the number of other efforts already underway in that area and the uncertainty of where the collective bargaining process will take pension benefits.

The group established the following tentative list of activities:

- Review the JCCI report *Our Money, Our City: Financing Jacksonville's Future* and consider its recommendations.

- Invite Council Member Webb to a future meeting to talk about the implementation of the new tentative budget submission process.
- Offer the committee's assistance to the Mayor and City Council for the upcoming budget process.
- Follow the progress of the collective bargaining process and other efforts related to city pensions.
- Review the tentative budget when submitted in May 2010 and choose 2 or 3 important issues to study in-depth.
- Coordinate the Budget Committee's work with the work of the Performance Committee so as not to duplicate efforts and to maximize the TRUE Commission's effectiveness and credibility.

The committee established a regular meeting schedule on the second Thursday of each month at 4:00 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Jeff Clements, Chief  
Council Research Division  
630-1405

Posted 12.11.09  
5:00 p.m.