



JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL

TRUE COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE TRACKING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES March 13, 2009 9:30 a.m.

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

Attendance: Wes Benwick (Chair), Committee Member Joe Andrews

Guest: pending commission nominee Thomas Martin

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m. by Chairman Benwick who reviewed the list of outstanding items from previous meetings:

- 2009-203 - \$1.5 million appropriation to SMG: Commissioner Benwick is making inquiries about the uses of these funds and whether City procurement regulations and processes will apply to the use of the funds.
- 2009-194 – FY09 FIND grant applications: Commissioner Palombi is making inquiries into the process for developing and prioritizing the project list.
- 2009-205 – revised auto allowance/take-home vehicle policy: the committee understands that Commissioner Palombi has determined that the new policy does not produce any cost savings to the City over the old policy; it apparently does not reduce the number of vehicles needed or allowances paid, but states the rationale for their need and establishes control policies.
- 2009-185 – Northwest Jacksonville Economic Development fund grand and loan to Cedar Grove Corp. truck wash facility: Commissioner Benwick is trying to schedule a meeting with NWJEDF administrator James Richardson of the Housing and Neighborhoods dept. to discuss.
- 2009-231 – Philips Highway mulch site lease extension: staff provided information obtained from the Environmental and Compliance Department indicating that the current contractor cleaning up the site is the fourth contractor to work on this project. Two others were discharged by the City for failure to perform and the City recovered \$158,000 from their bid and performance bonds. The third company went out of business. The committee discussed whether the City's bidding process is somehow defective in having chosen 3 contractors incapable of completing the work. Is the low bid requirement producing this result?
- 2009-197, -198: resolutions re: proposed closure of JEA satellite office – Commissioner Andrews spoke with Sheila Pressley of JEA who provided maps showing the locations of the 6 JEA full-service offices (downtown headquarters plus 5 satellite offices) with the locations of the nearby remote payment acceptance locations (generally convenience stores). Mr. Andrews stated that the JEA is publicizing the locations of the alternate payment locations in 4 ways: 1) on the JEA web site; 2) via a phone system; 3) brochures available at the current satellite offices; and 4) via a special icon on the computers at all public libraries. They stated that it is not feasible to print the locations on the JEA bill because particular locations may join or drop out of the program periodically so absolute accuracy would be a problem. Staff was asked to forward the maps to

TRUE Chairman John Palombi with the recommendation that he finalize the letter/resolution authorized by the full commission at its meeting last week urging the City Council to refrain from blocking the JEA's efforts to save money by closing the satellite offices. Commissioner Andrews will revise the letter he distributed at the full commission meeting and forward it to Chairman Palombi for his use in drafting the letter to the Council.

New legislation

The committee discussed and asked questions of staff about the following bills:

- 2009-263 – appropriation from Tree Mitigation Trust Fund for tree planting for the Long Branch project.
- 2009-262 – appropriation from landfill mitigation trust fund to Scott Park and Singleton Park.
- 2009-232 – appropriation from Nuisance Abatement Trust Fund to nuisance abatement contractors.
- 2009-233 – appropriation of Florida Fish and Wildlife grant and local match for installation of boater water and power pedestals at Metro Park marina.
- 2009-234 – appropriation of Florida Fish and Wildlife grant and local match for construction of an artificial reef.

2009-261 – increase in Banking Fund cap to \$342.9 million to purchase fleet vehicles and Fire and Rescue Department computer aided dispatch system: the committee discussed the larger issue of City borrowing capacity and the philosophy of making capital purchases via long-term borrowing versus pay-as-you-go. The committee will request TRUE Chairman Palombi to request an appearance by City Finance Director Mickey Miller at a future full commission meeting to discuss this issue.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

Jeff Clements, Chief
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630-1405

Posted 3.16.09
11:15 a.m.