



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

Wes Benwick, Chair
Robert Jones, Vice Chair
Joe Andrews, Secretary

Meeting Minutes
October 1, 2009

4:00 p.m.

Attendance: Wes Benwick (Chair), Greg Anderson Thomas Martin, Mark McCollum, Jason Fischer, Mark Cowart, Joe Andrews, Ruth Arnold, Ryan Jones, Robert Jones, Louvenia Tippins

Excused: Marcella Lowe

Absent: Randy Deen, Nicole Lester

The meeting convened at 4:03 p.m. with a quorum present.

Minutes

The minutes of the September 3, 2009 commission meeting were amended in the discussion of the Budget Review Committee draft resolution regarding the City budget to re-characterize the treatment of recommendation #1 from “substantially rewritten” to “largely maintained” – **approved as amended.**

Committee Reports

Legislative Tracking Committee – Commissioner Anderson distributed the committee issues matrix of issues considered at the last meeting and a page of Findings and Recommendations. The committee identified five items of particular interest and made the following recommendations for each:

- 1) Banking Fund – the committee recommends a return visit to the commission by Chief Financial Officer Mickey Miller to update the commission on the latest expansions of the fund and the plans for its future uses.
- 2) City election timing – Commissioner Jones is gathering information about the 2 proposals and should have a draft resolution ready for circulation to the commission in the next couple of weeks.
- 3) Shands Jacksonville indigent care funding – the committee suggests the possibility that on-site clinics might divert primary care cases away from the more expensive Shands emergency room and reduce indigent care costs. It was suggested that this might be an item for the TRUE Budget Review Committee to consider.
- 4) Fair share assessments – Commissioner Andrews recommended that the commission conduct a study of impact fees and fair share assessments and their costs to the development process.
- 5) Saft America – while information about the structure of the economic incentive package received from the JEDC staff makes Mr. Andrews feel somewhat comfortable with this particular deal, he believes a TRUE Commission review of the history of the performance of JEDC incentive deals would be in order.

Chairman Benwick referred the issue of fair share agreements (Ordinance 2009-762) and Shands Indigent Care (2009-702) to the Performance Committee for further study. The Banking Fund (Ordinance 2009-514) was referred to the Budget Review Committee.

In response to a question about the last time the Council Auditor's Office audited the JEDC, Tommy Carter of the Auditor's Office reported that the last report was in 2002. Mr. Carter explained the Auditor's Office's annual risk assessment and audit scheduling process, and offered to convey the TRUE Commission's interest in another look at the JEDC to Council Auditor Kirk Sherman. Chairman Benwick stated that during his recent meeting with the Council President, Mr. Clark noted an apparent weakness in the amount of follow-up of audit recommendations and suggested that the TRUE Commission might play a bigger role in audit follow-ups to ensure that recommendations are actually being implemented. Mr. Carter noted that the Auditor's Office follows up on its audits 12 to 18 months after completion and makes an annual report of the status of the recommendations.

Motion (Benwick): that the TRUE Commission make a formal request to the Council Auditor to undertake a new study of the JEDC's economic development incentive deals to determine their results – **approved.**

Performance Committee – Commissioner Anderson stated that the committee would resume work now that the budget process is complete. The committee will resume meeting at 3:00 p.m. immediately prior to the full commission meeting on the first Thursday of each month. Heath Beach of the City Budget Office will be the guest at the November meeting to discuss the latest performance measurement initiative.

Budget Review Committee

Commissioner Cowart thanked the members of the committee for their participation in the meeting earlier and welcomed additional members and suggestions for topics to be studied. Suggestions should be e-mailed to staff who will compile them and circulate a list to the commissioners to consider before the next committee meeting.

Auditor's Report

Thomas Carter, representing the Council Auditors Office, reported that the office has released four audits/reports since the last commission meeting. Audits #668, 669 and 670 were Lifeguard and Beach Cleanup attestations for Atlantic Beach, Jacksonville Beach and Neptune Beach, respectively. Audit #671 – Treasury Check Pick-Up – was also released in late September. A budget wrap-up report and fiscal year-end report will both be released in the next month.

Commissioner Anderson asked several questions about the last quarterly fiscal report, including why there was a shortfall in the parking garage fund and why there was mention of a possible reduction in the bond rating of the Water and Sewer Expansion Authority. Commission McCollum asked about the follow-up procedures for the disagreement between the Auditor's Office and the City of Jacksonville Beach over the Auditor's finding that some of the expenses paid by Jacksonville Beach with City of Jacksonville funds were not "reasonably necessary" as required by the Interlocal Agreement. Mr. Carter stated that the Auditor's Office has asked Jacksonville Beach to pay the expenses that the City questioned out of another Jacksonville Beach account separate from the account that received City of Jacksonville funding.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Chair's Comments

Chairman Benwick stated that he would be scheduling an orientation session for new commissioners in the near future. He will also be meeting with the Mayor in the near future and will raise the commission's questions about the Banking Fund during that discussion. Finally, he stated his intention to meet with Council auditor Kirk Sherman to discuss the Auditor's Office upcoming audit schedule.

Commissioner Comments

None.

Public Comments

None

Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 5th at 4:00 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Posted 10.2.09
5:00 p.m.

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