



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

Wes Benwick, Chair  
Jason Fischer, Vice Chair  
Joe Andrews, Secretary

## Meeting Minutes

January 6, 2011  
4:00 p.m.

**Attendance:** Wes Benwick (Chair), Ernest McDuffie, Thomas Martin, Joe Andrews, Mike McCollum, Gamal Lyons, Ruth Arnold, Ryan Jones

**Excused:** Hiron Peck, Jason Fischer, Marc El Hassan, Greg Anderson, Marcella Lowe, Ted Wendler

**Absent:** Mark Cowart

The meeting convened at 4:06 p.m. with a quorum present.

### Minutes

The revised minutes of the December 2, 2010 commission meeting were approved as distributed.

### Committee Reports

Legislative Tracking Committee – Commissioner Andrews reported that the committee is tracking several bills introduced at the City Council’s December meeting. A bill to prohibit transient vendors from locating within 1 mile of “bricks and mortar” stores selling the same products was to have been the subject of a joint meeting of several City Council committees last week but the meeting was cancelled. Mr. Andrews is particularly concerned about two bills: 2010-884 to appropriate \$40,000 from the Environmental Protection Trust Fund to finance a design competition for an “environmental low impact” redesign of Hemming Plaza and an appropriation of \$112,372 for construction of a dog park at Ed Austin Regional Park. He will continue to track those bills and will report further activity.

Performance Committee – In the absence of Commissioner Anderson, staff member Jeff Clements reported that he understands that Mr. Anderson intends for the committee to discuss the recent Council Auditor’s Office audit of the Shands Jacksonville indigent care contract at the February meeting, followed by an update on the next stage of the FAMIS accounting system replacement at the March meeting.

Banking Fund Committee – In the absence of Commissioner El Hassan, Chairman Benwick noted that the committee members should have received an e-mail from Mr. El Hassan transmitting a draft report of the committee report for review and comments. Staff was asked to forward the e-mail and report to all the members of the commission for their review.

Contract Management Committee – In the absence of Commissioner El Hassan, Chairman Benwick noted that he had received an e-mail from Mr. El Hassan transmitting a draft report of

the committee report for review and comments. Staff was asked to forward the e-mail and report to all the members of the commission for their review.

#### Auditor's Report

Kim Taylor of the Council Auditor's Office reported that three reports have been issued by the office since the last commission meeting: Audit #691 – Jacksonville Aviation Authority Accounts Payable Audit; Report #692 – FY09-10 Year-End Budget Wrap-up; and Audit #693 – Shands Jacksonville Indigent Care Contract Audit. Ms. Taylor specifically noted two findings. The first (from report #692) was a \$7 million unfavorable variance in the FY09-10 budget at year-end, resulting from a revenue shortfall of \$10.5 million below budget and expenditure reductions of \$3.5 million below budget. The second (from audit #693) was a finding, consistent with the TRUE Commission's previous research, that there seems to be no City department or office specifically assigned the task of monitoring or overseeing the operation of the Shands Jacksonville indigent care contract. Ms. Taylor will provide further information on any of the reports upon request.

#### Chairman's Comments

Mr. Benwick noted a recent flurry of e-mails and correspondence from the Police and Fire Pension Fund and from staff in response to recent stories in the media about public pension sustainability issues, both in Jacksonville and around the nation. Because the implications are so big for the City's future fiscal health, he believes the TRUE Commission should familiarize itself with the issues. It may be a subject beyond the scope and ability of the commission to fully study and make substantive recommendations, but a basic understanding of the issues would be helpful. Staff was asked to invite Police and Fire Pension Fund Executive Director John Keane to the February meeting to make a presentation.

The Chairman also noted that the TRUE Commission has been requested by Council President Webb to look into issues that aren't getting much attention elsewhere in City government and to bring important issues to light. Mr. Benwick believes the commission needs to choose a few work items for 2011 that will meet the goal of relevance and will make a positive impact on City finances and operations. The ongoing work of the Performance, Contract Management and Banking Fund Committees is a good start. Noting the e-mail distribution in December of Commissioner Wendler's spreadsheet of information on the City's internal service funds, the Chairman asked each commissioner to choose one of the funds listed in an area where they have some experience or familiarity and to do some personal investigating to try and understand if the fund is operating efficiently or if there are opportunities for possible cost savings.

#### Old Business

None

#### New Business

None

#### Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Martin commended the Council Auditor's Office on its quick follow-up on the TRUE Commission recommendation that the Shands Jacksonville indigent care contract be audited. From the time the recommendation was made in early 2010 the audit was scheduled, completed and reported in less than a year, and he appreciated the quick turnaround.

#### Public Comments

None

#### Next meeting

The commission's next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 3rd at 4:00 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

Posted 2.9.11  
5:00 p.m.

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