



JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL

TRUE COMMISSION PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES September 1, 2011 3:00p.m.

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

Attendance: Committee Members Ted Wendler (Chair), Diane Brown, Marcella Lowe, Joe Andrews, Gamal Lyons, Ernest McDuffie and Tom Martin

The meeting was called to order at 3:00.m. by Chairman Wendler. Mr. Wendler stated that he had spoken to the City Council during the public comment portion of the August 20th meeting to present the TRUE Commission's resolution regarding pending Ordinance 2011-400.

Minutes – the minutes of the August 4, 2011 Performance Committee meeting were approved as distributed.

The committee worked on a joint response to a questionnaire submitted to each of the TRUE Commissioners by City Council Member Robin Lumb. The responses are summarized as follows:

1. What is the purpose of the TRUE Commission? Attach packet with Ordinance Code Chapter 57 and the commission's by-laws and policies and procedures manual.
2. How would you rate its performance? List several accomplishments, including the cash management Executive Order and the JSO investigative fund changes. It's hard to tell what effect is being had because the commission gets very little feedback from the Mayor or City Council.
3. Is there anything the City Council needs to do to strengthen the TRUE Commission? Appoint a Council Member liaison to attend TRUE meetings; acknowledge receipt of and any action taken on TRUE recommendations. TRUE needs more respect, along the lines of the Planning Commission.
4. Is the City generally supportive of the commission? Departmental staff have been very accommodating and cooperative with TRUE's activities, but it's hard to tell if the Council and Mayor are listening.
5. How often do City Council members attend TRUE meetings? Glorious Johnson attended a few early in her first term, as did Clay Yarborough. No regular attendance in recent years.
6. Has the City Council ever given TRUE special assignments? Council President Webb asked the commission to look at internal service funds, and Council Member Yarborough asked for assistance in looking at inventory write-offs.
7. Would it be appropriate for TRUE to take on special tasks at the Council's request? Yes, contingent upon it being within the commission's capacity. Some commissioners welcomed the idea of having definite tasks. Commissioner Andrews cautioned against letting City Council dictate TRUE's agenda and urged independence. A Council liaison would be helpful.

8. Has TRUE ever studied the City's pension systems or their constituent parts? Not in an in-depth fashion, but the commission has adopted 2 resolutions on the subject (2011-3 and -4).
9. Have there been any TRUE findings that were especially important that were acted on by the Mayor and Council? The cash handling report that resulted in Executive Order 2006-1.
10. Have there been any TRUE findings that were especially important that were not acted on by the Mayor and Council? Yes, pension reform.
11. Can you identify any specific cost savings measurements you think the City could implement in the short term? Self insurance for employee health care.
12. Can you identify any specific cost savings measurements you think the City should be thinking about implementing in the medium or long term? Self-insurance for employee health care; defined contribution pension plans.
13. Are there any cost saving measures that you would recommend at this time?
14. Are there any specific inefficiencies within City government that you've been able to identify? ITD leaving old computers in departments when it delivers new machines – they should be inventoried and removed with proper paperwork. JEDC project oversight seems lax in some areas, particularly the SMG contract. Take-home police cars. Control over Banking Fund uses.
15. Are there any specific areas of waste within City government that you've been able to identify? Hard for TRUE to say.
16. Are there any specific areas of duplication within City government that you've been able to identify? ITD operations being duplicated by Constitutional officers and independent authorities because they don't want to be part of ITD. The Inspector General's Office and the Council Auditor's Office do not represent duplication because they have different functions and points of emphasis.
17. In your opinion, what departments or functions of the City government could or should be privatized through competitive bidding? Hard to say.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Jeff Clements, Chief
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5:00 p.m.