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| **OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL** | | |
| CHERYL L BROWN  DIRECTOR/COUNCIL SECRETARY  JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL  OFFICE (904) 630-1452  FAX (904) 630-2906  E-MAIL: CLBrown@coj.net | July 26, 2013  5:00 p.m. | 117 West Duval Street  SUITE 425  JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA  32202 |

**Meeting Minutes for City Council Executive Committee**

**On Monday, July 22, 2013**

**Topic:** Independent Legislative Counsel and 2013-2014 City of Jacksonville Budget

**Location:** Conference Room A, 117 West Duval St. Suite 425

**In Attendance:** Council Members Bill Gulliford, Clay Yarborough, Greg Anderson, Bill Bishop, John Crescimbeni, Matt Schellenberg, and Jim Love, Cheryl Brown, Director/Council Secretary; Kirk Sherman Council Auditor’s Office; Margaret “Peggy” Sidman, and Paige Johnston – Office of General Counsel; Steve Patterson, Florida Times Union; Rick Burke, Lowell Waters, Grier Wells, Fred Leonhardt Attorneys At Law at Gray Robinson Law Firm; Kevin Kuzel, Edward Suggs, Leeann Krieg, Suzanne Warren, BeLinda Peeples, Scott Wilson, Executive Council Assistants; Michelle Barth, Council Liaison, Office of the Mayor; Ashley Kowalezyk, Intern- Council Member Love’s Office; Carla Miller, Ethics Office – City of Jacksonville.

**Meeting Convened:**  4:02 p.m.

Council President Gulliford opened the meeting and introduced the following attorneys, Rick Burke, Lowell Waters, Grier Wells, and Fred Leonhardt Attorneys At Law at Gray Robinson Law Firm. The Attorneys were invited to meet with the Executive Committee to discuss the possibility and feasibility of utilizing their services as a “collective” unit in the engagement as a resource for the

Page 2 of 3

Meeting – Executive Committee Meeting

July 22, 2013 – 4:00 pm

Independent Legislative Counsel for the Jacksonville City Council. Brief overview of the skill set was provided (Click on link for detail discussion <http://media.coj.net/City_Council/Audio/Executive%20Committee%207-22-13.mp3> ). CP Crescimbeni inquired as to Pension experience and names of clients or they represent or represented? Give a brief description of plans serviced by your firm and size. (Click on link for detail discussion <http://media.coj.net/City_Council/Audio/Executive%20Committee%207-22-13.mp3>.) CM Anderson – review of engagement letter addressed to CP Gulliford from Gray Robinson Attorney at Law: What can you tell us that we do not already know? What can you contribute if selected? Representatives informed Committee that they were not sure of “what the Committee actually had knowledge of; however, they were committed to providing the Committee with guidance on legislation as directed. They have vast skill sets and are prepared to meet the request(s) of the Council. CM Crescimbeni was recognized by CP Gulliford… the following question was asked, “Does your firm have actuarial expertise on staff? Response – not on staff, however, the firm has an excellent working relationship with well-known actuarial firm. (Click for details <http://media.coj.net/City_Council/Audio/Executive%20Committee%207-22-13.mp3>. Note that if selected Gray Robinson Attorney at Law will work with any firm selected by the Council.

Additional questions were asked. “If Gray Robinson would be a part of the Shade Meeting being held on July 23, 2013?” CP Gulliford stated, “Timing on the passage and confirmation of the Council of the Independent Counsel would reminder their participation impossible.” CM Bishop gave insight on the engagement letter and staying narrowly tailored to meet the requirements of as stated in the 2013-367-E. Additionally, the Committee agreed with Attorney Sidman to work with Gray Robinson Law Firm to include language about travel expenses, communication via video conferencing, fees and copying expenses and directing all correspondence through the Council President’s office. Also, insert language that approval must be obtained from the Council President prior to expending funds. (Click for detailed discussion <http://media.coj.net/City_Council/Audio/Executive%20Committee%207-22-13.mp3>)

The Committee voted unanimously to recommend the Gray Robinson Law Firm as Independent Legislative Counsel for the Jacksonville City Council and instructing Attorney’s Sidman and Johnston to prepare the necessary enacting legislation. The enacting legislation should include emergency language and all required attachments, as required by 2013-367-E. Representative from Gray Robinson left thanked everyone and exited the meeting at 4:27 p.m.

CP Gulliford recognized CM Anderson who was present to receive guidance as it pertained to the 2013-2014 City of Jacksonville Budget. CM Anderson informed the Committee of his request to the Office of General Counsel to provide insight and clarification on the power of the Mayor to use his veto power during the budget process. (Click on link for details of discussion

Page 3 of 3

Meeting – Executive Committee Meeting

July 22, 2013 – 4:00 pm

<http://media.coj.net/City_Council/Audio/Executive%20Committee%207-22-13.mp3>). Cindy Laquidara, General Counsel provided Legal Opinion 13-2, with exhibits, dated July 22, 2013 to all Council Members detailing the options afforded to the Mayor as found in the Charter and Florida Statutes. Cheryl Brown Director/Council Secretary provided all meeting attendees with a hard copy of the document. CM Anderson then addressed the Mayor’s request for all departments to provide 14 percent reductions. A discussion of review of the definition of a balanced budget was discussed and reviewed (Exhibit A – page 2, item number 2- Legal Opinion 13-2). Discussions continue about new items in budgets in near future to address individual department facility charge as a line item. Committee members remind Attorney’s Sidman and Johnston to draft necessary amendments changing the effective date and authorizing signatures on the legislation.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 4:520 pm

**Minutes Prepared By:** Cheryl L Brown, Director Jacksonville City Council

Posted 7.26.2013

**Items Forwarded to Legislative Services:**

Minutes

CD – Already on file

Sign-in Sheet

Agenda

Notice- Already on file

Amended Notice- Already on file

Ordinance 2013-367-E

Gray Robinson correspondence to CP William Gulliford

Cindy Laquidara, General Counsel - Legal Opinion 13-2

cc: Council Members/Staff

Cheryl Brown, Director/CouncilSecretary

Dana Farris, Chief, Legislative Services Division

Carol Owens, Asst. Chief – Legislative Services Division

Paula Shoup, Legislative Services – Records Retention

CITYC & CouncilRecords@coj.net