

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

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**FINANCE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES REVIEW**

 **SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES**

**November 26, 2013**

**2:30 p.m.**

**City Council Conference Room A**

**Suite 425, City Hall**

**117 West Duval Street**

**Attendance:** Council Members John Crescimbeni (Chair) and Greg Anderson

See attached sign-in sheet for additional attendees

Chairman Crescimbeni called the meeting to order at 2:40 p.m. and the attendees introduced themselves for the record. Ted Carter, Executive Director of the Office of Economic Development (OED), participated in the meeting via conference call.

Mr. Crescimbeni distributed a draft document outlining a set of committee objectives and a proposed meeting schedule from late November through early March, 2014. Ted Carter stated that the OED believes it is necessary to engage a consultant to do a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis of the City’s current economic development operations, compare Jacksonville with competitor cities, evaluate current programs in light of those comparative findings, and then re-write the City’s incentive policies. His staff has had exploratory discussions with several consultants in the field to begin exploring the scope and cost of such a study, which would probably take 60-90 days to complete. Mr. Carter suggested the International Economic Development Council as another possible study contractor.

For purposes of expediting the work given the upcoming holiday season and City Council’s abbreviated meeting schedule at the end of the year, the group discussed whether an RFP would be necessary to solicit contractors or if there are mechanisms to directly contract with an entity to perform the work, with or without a waiver of the competitive procurement regulations. It was suggested that the City might appropriate funding to the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce which would then contract for the study on the City’s behalf. Another suggestion was to explore whether the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity has a consultant under contract onto which the City could piggyback its work. The OED staff will explore the several suggestions and be ready to report its findings next week at committee.

The group discussed preferable meeting days and times. At Mr. Crescimbeni’s suggestion the group agreed to schedule their meetings for 10 a.m. on City Council meeting Tuesdays (second and fourth Tuesday of the month), with the real work of the committee beginning in January. The goal is to make findings and produce a report (with suggested legislative changes, if necessary) by the end of March 2014.

There being no further business, the agenda meeting was adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

Jeff Clements, Council Research Division (904) 630-1405

Posted 11.26.13

5:00 p.m.