

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

117 WEST DUVAL STREET, SUITE 425

4TH FLOOR, CITY HALL

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202

**Brosche-Crescimbeni Noticed Meeting Minutes**

**Scope of Services for Advisor to Special Committee on Potential Sale of JEA**

 **March 19, 2018**

**1:00 p.m.**

**Topic:** Scope of services and qualifications for advisor to the Special Committee on Possible Sale of JEA

**Location:** City Council Conference Room A, 4th floor, City Hall – St. James Building, 117 West Duval Street

**In attendance:** Council Members Anna Lopez Brosche, John Crescimbeni, Lori Boyer (arr. 1:14)

Also: Philip Peterson – Council Auditor’s Office; Peggy Sidman and John Sawyer – Office of General Counsel; Jeff Clements – Council Research Division; Dr. Sherry Magill – Jessie Ball duPont Fund

**Meeting Convened**: 1:00 p.m.

Chairwoman Brosche called the meeting to order and the attendees introduced themselves for the record. She reported that she had forwarded the scope of services and qualifications for a City Council consultant to advise on JEA potential sale issues to Dr. Sherry Magill, President of the Jessie Ball duPont Fund.

Ms. Magill explained the Jessie Ball duPont Fund’s grant eligibility criteria and application requirements. The City of Jacksonville is the only government agency eligible to receive funding from the Fund as a result of having been a beneficiary of Ms. duPont’s beneficence during her lifetime. She offered the Fund’s financial assistance for a consultant because of the importance of the topic to the city. The Fund would need a letter from the Council requesting financial assistance to study a particular issue and could fund a consultant in one of two ways – either by means of an RFP to solicit interested consultants or by funding a consultant already selected by the City. She noted that the University of Florida has a Public Utility Research Center that might be a useful source of expertise. The duPont Fund has a committee that approves grant requests and she offered to convene that body by teleconference to expeditiously review the City’s request and approve a scope of service and a grant amount.

Ms. Brosche said that the special committee felt that it needed an expert in the field of utilities to be available as an independent expert to cross-check and verify what the committee is told by various speakers who appear at meetings. The committee has not compiled a set of questions or a topic that it wants researched. In response to a question about whether a representative of the committee could make contact with potential consultants to determine who might be qualified and interested before sending out an RFP, John Sawyer of the Office of General Counsel advised against that method if an RFP is to be issued so as to avoid any perception of unfair advantage. Mr. Crescimbeni said that he has received several indications of interest from a variety of people offering their assistance in the process, some more apparently qualified than others.

Ms. Magill said that the Pew Charitable Trusts in Philadelphia and the Arnold Foundation of Texas have supported City studies in the past. Ms. Magill also said that the duPont Fund could respond to an RFP issued by the City for potential funders of such an outside expert who would be present at the committee’s meetings and available to comment as issues arise and perhaps perform research on behalf of the committee as needs arise. This would be somewhat unusual for the Fund, not having a specific research question from the outset, but would be consistent with its intention to support the City in its exploration of a very important public policy issue. Ms. Magill said that it will be very important for the City Council to be satisfied that the consultant is appropriately qualified and has sufficient expertise to handle the work envisioned. The Fund typically pre-screens potential respondents to determine who is qualified and available before issuing an RFP.

Ms. Magill said that the duPont Fund does not have an opinion or position on the potential sale of the JEA and will not take a stand on the issue, but is willing to fund research to assist the City Council in making a decision in the best interests of the citizens on the most important public policy issue in Jacksonville’s history of consolidated government. Ms. Magill said that the Fund could commission a study itself, but would prefer that ownership of the result would be in the hands of the City. It is important that the end result be what the City needs to make its decision. President Brosche said that it appears the work of the Special Committee will generate more and more questions as its work progresses, so the task will likely evolve over time. Ms. Magill said that the duPont Fund could provide funding in two ways – either by means of a grant (only to eligible recipients previously funded by Ms. duPont or by the fund) or by means of a research contract. She said the Fund supports some of America’s finest universities and could utilize those contacts to find a qualified expert. Mr. Crescimbeni suggested that the Fund run the pre-qualification process and identify a set of qualified experts, from which the City would make a choice. He prefers a method that utilizes the duPont Fund’s ability to perform due diligence activities outside of the constraints of the City’s procurement processes.

Ms. Brosche distributed and reviewed a list of four potential procurement options provided by Greg Pease, Chief of the Procurement Division.

Ms. Magill offered to approach the Public Utility Research Center at the University of Florida to gauge their interest in undertaking the task and to invite Ted Kury, Director of Energy Studies for the Center, to attend a future special committee meeting to discuss the project and the Center’s potential interest. She will also do some further internet research on potential academic institutes that might have relevant expertise and may be interested in participating. Mr. Crescimbeni suggested contacting the Florida Association of Counties, Florida League of Cities and Florida Municipal Attorneys Association.

**Meeting Adjourned**: 1:50 p.m.

Minutes: Jeff Clements, Council Research

 3.19.18 Posted 3:00 p.m.

Tapes: Brosche/Crescimbeni noticed meeting on JEA advisor scope of services – LSD

 3.19.18