**Taxation, Revenue, and Utilization**

**of Expenditures (TRUE) Commission**

**Niki Brunson, Chair**

**LEGISLATIVE TRACKING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**March 22, 2018**

**2:00 p.m.**

**City Council Conference Room B**

**Suite 425, City Hall**

**Attendance:** TRUE Commissioners Daniel Henry and Jon McGowan

**Excused:** Commissioner Ben Wasson

**Also**: Jeff Clements – Council Research Division

See attached sign-in sheet for additional attendees.

The meeting was called to order at 2:07 p.m. and the attendees introduced themselves for the record.

The commissioners discussed the TRUE Commission’s standing committees and their functions and its history of commenting or making recommendations on pending legislation and recent Council Auditor’s audits and reports. They discussed how the commission could have a positive impact on public policy – how reviewing legislation and audits could identify practices, shortfalls, opportunities for improvement, etc. that could be conveyed to the Mayor and City Council. Jeff Clements gave historical perspective on how the commission has operated in the past, what issues it’s studied, how it has issued its reports and recommendations, etc.

Commissioner McGowan discussed 2018-169 (authorizing issuance of multifamily housing revenue bonds for The Waves project in Jacksonville Beach), which he feels was poorly (or not at all) publicized in the community and the public had no knowledge of what was planned until after the project had been approved by the Housing Finance Authority. It points out the importance of information being made widely available to the public well in advance of decisions being made. Mr. McGowan may raise the issue of transparency and public information accessibility with regard to independent authorities and boards with the full commission for discussion.

Resolution 2018-149 (JinkoSolar Inc. economic development incentive package) was approved in Finance on Tuesday this week. Ordinance 2018-167 (repealing Resolution 2018-1 providing economic incentives to Project Volt, later revealed to be JinkoSolar) was recommended for approval as an emergency to coincide with the passage of 2018-149.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

Jeff Clements, City Council Research Division

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