**Taxation, Revenue, and Utilization**

**of Expenditures (TRUE) Commission**

**Niki Brunson, Chair**

**LEGISLATIVE TRACKING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**January 17, 2019**

**3:00 p.m.**

**City Council Conference Room B**

**Suite 425, City Hall**

**Attendance:** TRUE Commissioners Niki Brunson, John Roberts

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

See attached sign-in sheet for additional attendees.

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m. and the attendees introduced themselves for the record.

The following City Council legislation was discussed:

2019-19 (Amending Council Rules to move public hearings earlier in the meeting prior to Public Comment): Jeff Clements explained that the sponsor’s intention is to allow persons attending a council meeting to speak at a scheduled public hearing to have that opportunity before the open public comment period, which sometimes is very lengthy.

In response to a question from Commissioner Roberts, Mr.Clements explained the JEA annual contribution formula that determines its payment to the City.

2019-21: (appropriation of $200,000 for commercial/retail façade grant program replenishment): the program was created in 2016 with an initial appropriation of $200,000, of which over $183,000 has been encumbered (but not yet expended). This appropriation will replenish the account to make additional grants.

2019-20: (appropriation of a $200,000 state grant for Hanna Park improvements): the grant will be matched with $200,000 in City funds for a variety of repairs and improvements at the park.

2019-23: (appropriating $1,500,000.00 from Kids Hope Alliance Operating Subfund Fund into Kids Hope Alliance Budget to fund Progs & Svcs for At-Hope Children and Youth in Jax): the bill appropriates recaptured funds from unexpended contracts for re-use in other KHA contracts.

2019-30 (confirming TRUE Commissioner appointee Walter Bryant)

2019-44 (Approp $781,748 from Tree Protection & Related Expenses Trust Fund for “RAP Releaf Tree Planting” project)

2019-46 (Approp $723,236.00 from U.S. Dept of Justice, Ofc of Victims of Crimes): the funds will be used to hire 2 additional employees in the Victim Services office, pay for travel to training sessions for 2 JSO employees, and for other victim assistance purposes.

2019-51 (Amend Sec 16.06, City Charter, to permit $20.00 Booking Fee to be used for any legal use for the Benefit of Corrections Officers): Mr. Clements explained that when the City recently negotiated new collective bargaining agreements with its police, fire and corrections officers unions, the corrections officers received pay raises above and beyond what the police and fire unions received because of the difficulty the department faces in retaining correctional officers. This ordinance expands the authorized use of this $20 booking fee, already allocated to correctional officer pensions, to retirement plans, insurance, or other state-authorized uses of the funds for the benefit of corrections officers.

2019-53 (Changing the location of 5 polling places): the existing locations (4 churches and an Elk’s lodge) no longer wish to be used as polling places and alternative locations have been identified.

2019-54 (Amending Ethics Code to remove the language allowing appointees to the Ethics Commission to begin serving on the commission before confirmation of their appointments): Mr. Clements explained that the Ethics Commission is the only board or commission that currently allows a nominee to begin serving before the appointment is confirmed by City Council.

The minutes of the December 6, 2018 committee meeting were **approved as distributed**.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:48 p.m.

Jeff Clements, City Council Research Division

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Posted 1.18.19 11:30 a.m.

Tape: TRUE Legislative Tracking Committee 1.17.19 meeting – Legislative Services Division