**Taxation, Revenue, and Utilization**

**of Expenditures (TRUE) Commission**

**Niki Brunson, Chair**

**LEGISLATIVE TRACKING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**March 7, 2019**

**3:00 p.m.**

**City Council Conference Room A**

**Suite 425, City Hall**

**Attendance:** TRUE Commissioners John Roberts, Jim Mazur, Mark Merritt, Jon McGowan (arr. 3:09), Niki Brunson (arr. 3:09)

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

See attached sign-in sheet for additional attendees.

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. and the attendees introduced themselves for the record.

The following City Council legislation was discussed:

2019-180 (authorizing issuance of hospital revenue bonds on behalf of Baptist Hospital): the City bears no liability for these bonds; repayment is the responsibility of the borrower. These bonds are being issued to refinance a number of previous bonds at more favorable terms.

2019-179 (appropriation for purchase of Tree Hill Nature Center addition): the funding will pay to buy a house adjacent to Tree Hill for renovation as office space and parking. The City will hold title to the property and Tree Hill will make the improvements. Commissioner McGowan said that there is no apparent reference in the license agreement to a term ending date; will there be an accompanying bill later to deal with future operations? Staff was asked to inquire about the City’s future relationship with Tree Hill regarding this property.

2019-177 (appropriating $3,325,000 of residual FY 2018 Debt Service Capacity within the Sports Complex Maintenance Subfund & available revenue within the Amphitheater Subfund to provide funding for various CIP's in the Sports & Entertainment Area and to appropriate available revenue within the Amphitheater Subfund for various CIP projects): commissioners wondered if this appropriation will empty the FY18 residual debt service account. Is there a project list for what’s being spent? Where do “private contributions” come from? Staff was asked to request the project list for distribution.

Commissioner Roberts noted that in the last cycle there were several bills that sold park properties (2019-135 and -138), which seems unusual. He is curious if this indicates a pattern developing or is just a coincidence. He also noted several housing bond authorizations for low/moderate income housing purposes in the last cycle (2019-148 and -149). He wonders how well the City investigates the developers requesting these bonds to see if they can do the job. Chairwoman Brunson asked for someone to come from the Neighborhoods Department to tell the Commission how they vet the proposers for these bonds. Laura Stagner-Crites of the Housing Finance Authority staff will be invited to a future meeting of the Legislative Tracking Committee to explain what they do. The commission doesn’t intend to intend to step on the toes of the Jacksonville Housing Finance Authority board, but just want to understand how the process works.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

Jeff Clements, City Council Research Division

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Posted 3.8.19 5:30 p.m.

Tape: TRUE Legislative Tracking Committee 3.7.19 meeting – Legislative Services Division