



Taxation, Revenue, and Utilization of Expenditures (TRUE) Commission

Niki Brunson, Chair

LEGISLATIVE TRACKING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

April 18, 2019

3:00 p.m.

City Council Conference Room B

Suite 425, City Hall

Attendance: Commissioners John Roberts, Jim Mazur

Excused:

Also: Jeff Clements – Council Research Division

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. and the attendees introduced themselves for the record.

The following City Council legislation was discussed:

2019-274 – future land use map amendment on Merrill Road – CGC to LDR: Commissioner Roberts is interested in the proposal and will study it further.

2019-279 – appeal of Planning Commission final order for a zoning exception to allow automobile storage yard, bus and tractor storage and building contractor outdoor storage at 5918 Commerce Street: Commissioner Roberts is interested in the proposal and will study it further.

2019-247 – appropriation of \$345,862.61 for the Emerald Trail Model Mile Project: Jeff Clements explained how the City's 5-year Capital Improvement Program works and is updated each year. Commissioner Mazur said that he sat in on the Council Lunch-and-Learn where this project was explained and said the total project budget (FY18-19 and FY19-20 combined) in this bill seems to be more expensive than what was discussed in that meeting. He questioned when Groundworks Jax would be putting in its private contribution. Staff will inquire about the amount and timing of Groundworks' contribution. He also said that the Lunch and Learn presentation talked about the City buying out and demolishing a block of houses to facilitate this project and wondered if any of them had participated in the City's nuisance abatement lien amnesty program, and, if so, will that be factored into the City's purchase price for those lots?

Commissioner Mazur asked about how TRUE Commissioners can get the word out the general public and the media (blogs, radio talk shows, etc.) about City projects and finances when the need arises. Who is authorized to speak on behalf of the commission and how? He doesn't want to speak out of turn and make life difficult for the TRUE Commission, but feels like the general public doesn't know the full story about lots of issues going on at City Hall. Mr. Clements and Commissioner Roberts reviewed the TRUE Commission's previous discussions on this subject, particularly with regard to the revision of the commission's Policies and Procedures Manual and its section on public relations. The general rule is that the commission speaks as a body, with the chairperson being the spokesperson and disseminating the positions formally adopted by vote of the commission. Individual members may attend meetings and

speak about issues, but should be careful to ensure that they represent their statements as being personal opinions and not reflecting the official position of the commission.

2019-239 – Creating a Renew Arlington Zoning Overlay: Commissioner Roberts noted that the Arlington Community Redevelopment Area only covers the 3 main commercial streets in the Old Arlington area (University Boulevard, Merrill Road, Arlington Road) and questioned whether the Renew Arlington Overlay could cover more than just the CRA area, since much more of the surrounding area than just the major roadway corridors needs improvement. Mr. Roberts will read the bill and explore its implications further.

Commissioner Roberts asked if staff had gotten a response from Daryl Joseph, Director of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services, regarding the draft report of the commission's Parks and Recreation Maintenance Committee sent to him for review. No response has been received, so staff will inquire if the department has any comments or corrections.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:44 p.m.

Jeff Clements, City Council Research Division
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Posted 4.19.19 10:30 a.m.

Tape: TRUE Legislative Tracking Committee 4.18.19 meeting – Legislative Services Division