**Taxation, Revenue, and Utilization**

**of Expenditures (TRUE) Commission**

**Niki Brunson, Chair**

**LEGISLATIVE TRACKING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**June 20, 2019**

**3:00 p.m.**

**City Council Conference Room A**

**Suite 425, City Hall**

**Attendance:** Commissioners Daniel Henry (via telephone), Mark Merritt (via telephone)

**Excused**: Commissioners Niki Brunson, John Roberts

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

The gathering was convened at 3:02 p.m. Lacking a quorum of members physically present, an official meeting was not held but the following City Council legislation was briefly described by Mr. Clements and discussed by the members:

2019-463 (ORD-MC Approp $10,000 from the Florida Boaters' Improvement Program (Sec. 110.413) for Signage; Amend Chapt 614 (Public Order & Safety), Sec. 614.132 (Regulations on Operation of Boats), Ord. Code to establish a Boating Safety Zone around the Shad's Creek Bridge): this bill derived from a complaint by a constituent to Council Member Ferraro and then to the Jacksonville Waterways Commission.

2019-464 (ORD-MC Creating a New Sec. 321.103.1 (Changing Table Requirements), Chapt 321 (Adoption of Building Code), Ord Code, to add specific requirements & a certain exemption related to changing tables; Requesting 1 Cycle Emergency Passage): this bill was introduced by Council Member Becton as a companion to pending Ordinance 2019-392 requiring the installation of baby changing tables in new or renovated commercial and public buildings.

2019-465 (ORD Apv acceptance of portions of Ed Austin Regional Park peacefully yielded up to the City by the PAL of Jax; Inc. Pursuant to Lease Agreement of 5/13/1999): the Police Athletic League did not wish to renew its lease for the gymnasium, which made PAL responsible for maintenance of the building, when it expired recently. PAL requests to enter into a license agreement under which they will continue to provide their programming at the facility, but the City will be responsible for future maintnenance.

2019- 466 (ORD Approp $345, 000.000 (a $30,000.000 transfer of funds btwn projects in Subfund 32E and $315, 000.00 in available unapprop revenue in subfund 324) for the acquisition of 2 parcels along Orange Picker Rd & Brady Rd, Environmental Remediation & Demolition of any structures for the expansion of the parking lot at Alberts Field, & Rdwy Intersection Improvemts)

2019-467 (ORD-MC re Code Enforcemt Citations ; Amend Sec 609.104 (Procedures), Chapt 609 (Code Enforcemnt Citations), Ord Code, to provide that a copy of a notice of violation be provided to a commercial property owner along with the tenant or lessee where the tenant or lessee has committed a civil infraction)

2019-468 (ORD Auth & Apv Mayor & Corp Sec to Exec. & Deliver, for & on behalf of the City, the Developmnt Agreemnt. for the Reconstruction of Palm Ave btwn the City and Southern Baptist Hospital of FL., Inc. (the "Developer") in order to provide the Developer Authority for the Planning, Design, Engineering, Permitting, CEI, & Construction of the Palm Ave Improvemts & for City Cost reimbursemt to developer for undertaking said activities): Baptist Hospital has constructed a new parking garage and will be connecting it to another building via a pedestrian bridge over Palm Avenue. This bill authorizes a cost sharing agreement between the City and Baptist Hospital for improvements to the street.

2019-469 (ORD Approp $1,600,000.00 from the Tree Protection & Related Trust Fund, Subfund 15F, for the County-Wide Program called the "630-CITY Tree Planting Program" also known as the "Level 1 Tree Planting Program" to provide tree planting in the public r/w's in locations where adjacent property owners have made requests thru 630-CITY): the bill provides additional funding to a popular program begun last year with an initial appropriation of $200,000.

2019-470 (ORD-MC re the Safety & Crime Reduction Commission Amend. Section 78.103 (Membership; Terms), Chapter 78 (Safety & Crime Reduction Commission) Ord Code, Allow for the Council President to Appoint Additional Members Annually to Serve as Non-Voting Liaisons): the bill will provide for the appointment of subject matter experts to advise the Commission but who will not be voting members so that the requirements of the Government in the Sunshine Law do not apply to their day-to-day interactions in the course of their jobs.

2019-471 (ORD Auth & Apv Mayor & Corp Sec. to Execute & Deliver an amended & restated Economic Dev Agreemnt btwn. The City of Jax & Fanatics Inc.): the company has decided not to participate in the state’s QTI job creation incentive program.

2019-472 (ORD Concerning Surplus Personal Propty of the City, conveying 6 surplus cars to the Nassau County School Board at no cost): the vehicles will be used by the school district’s police officers.

2019-473 (ORD Concerning Surplus Personal Propty of the City, conveying a surplus van to Families of Slain Children of Jax, FL.,Inc.): the van will be used to transport participants in the agency’s programs.

2019-474 (ORD Auth Mayor & Corp Sec to Exec. & Deliver, for & on behalf of the City, the Funding Agreemt the Interlocal Agreemnt btwn the City of Jax Beach for Adv Life Support & Fire Svcs): this bill provides for the City of Jacksonville’s Fire and Rescue Department to take over fire and EMS Service provision to Jacksonville Beach. The commissioners were interested in whether the $2.22 million first year payment covers the full cost of the service or is a negotiated figure on some other basis.

2019-475 (ORD Auth & Apv Mayor & Corp Sec to Exec. & Deliver a Purchase & Sale Agreemt (Agreemnt) btwn City of Jax & Janice R. Nelson (Seller), Inc. for the of Real Propty, on Edgewood Ave. W. Comprised of Approx. 2.64 Acre Parcel for the construction of Fire Station 36)

2019-476 (RESO Encouraging the Creation of a Census 2020 Complete Count Committee to plan and conduct local educational initiatives, publicity & promotional activities to increase community awareness and participation in the 2020 census)

The commissioners turned to a discussion of the Sheriff’s Office’s provision of police officers on overtime to the School Board to ensure that every elementary school has a “guardian” as required by a new state law. While understanding that the school district and the JSO are doing the best they can to deal with an unexpected and largely unfunded mandate imposed by the Florida Legislature, they expressed the opinion that it seems to be inefficient to use JSO officers on overtime to provide School Guardian personnel and felt there must be better ways to provide the mandated coverage at a lower cost. They suggested exploring options to find the right salary that would attract the right kind of people to take those jobs and present that to the School Board. If the school district could find good candidates who would work for $25/hour for example, that would be much better than the $40-50/hour the City is spending now for JSO officers on overtime (which is only partially reimbursed by the school district) and would relieve the burden on JSO to provide those officers. The City could cover the difference between the cost for these new guardians and what the School Board is currently paying and achieve a net lower cost than paying for JSO overtime.

Commissioner Merritt proposed the following questions for transmittal to the JSO:

1. Can TRUE have the total number of Overtime hours JSO committed to the Guardian program (exclusive of training) to date?

2. Can TRUE have the actual Overtime cost of the above?

3. How much Overtime funding has JSO requested in the FY20 Budget to support the Guardian Program and how many overtime hours is JSO earmarking for the same?

4. How many guardians are needed to fully staff the School Board’s needs for this program for FY20?

Commissioner Henry proposed the following additional questions:

1. What portion of JSO’s total overtime for the first 3 months of the year was related to the Sheriff’s policy initiative to offer JSO officers unlimited overtime in an effort to fight a spike in violent crime in January – March of this year (perhaps by comparison with the first 3 months of 2018 )?
2. How many newly hired JSO officers leave within their first 5 years of service to go work in another jurisdiction, and did that percentage change noticeably when the City switched from the DB pension to the DC retirement plan ?
3. When JSO asks the Mayor’s Budget Review Committee for additional employees as part of the budget process, how do they arrive at the number the department requests? How does normal turnover (the usual retirements and resignations) figure into that calculation (i.e. what counts as “new officers” when some hirings are replacements for departing personnel)?

Mr. Clements will forward those questions to the JSO personnel who attended the Commission’s June meeting for written responses.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

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Posted 6.21.19 11:00 a.m.

Tape: TRUE Legislative Tracking Committee 6.20.19 meeting – Legislative Services Division