**Taxation, Revenue, and Utilization**

**of Expenditures (TRUE) Commission**

**Niki Brunson, Chair**

**LEGISLATIVE TRACKING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**July 18, 2019**

**3:00 p.m.**

**City Council Conference Room A**

**Suite 425, City Hall**

**Attendance:** Commissioners John Roberts and Jim Mazur

**Excused**: Commissioner Mark Merritt

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

The meeting was convened at 3:01 p.m. and the following bills were discussed:

2019-527 (Old Fire Station #5 property purchase): the bill appropriates $2.6 million in excess debt service payment capacity to the purchase of the fire station property, which the City previously conveyed to the developer of an adjacent office building via a land swap to obtain the property on which Sidney Geffen Park was constructed adjacent to the Northbank Riverwalk.

2019-508 (pension liability sales tax annual growth rate assumption): this is an annual bill required by the pension reform plan adopted several years ago that ensures that the sales tax growth rate assumption incorporated in the funding plan is still reasonable to meet the plan’s ultimate funding needs.

Commissioner Roberts had reviewed the City’s annual Debt Affordability Study and questioned what the annual rate of return of 2% cited in the report applies to.

Commissioner Mazur asked if the TRUE Commission could pass a resolution requesting the City to ensure that the new ERP is completely accessible to the general public, for instance by allowing real time access to expenditure details. He will draft up a proposal for the commission to consider at its next meeting regarding information he believes the public should be able to easily access via the City web site.

Commissioner Roberts requested an explanation of the “rolled-back” millage rate mentioned in 2019-500. Mr. Clements explained that it is a state-mandated calculation that uses the Property Appraiser’s latest taxable valuations (June of each year) to determine what millage rate would be required in the upcoming tax year to produce the same amount of ad valorem revenue that was collected in the previous tax year. Since property values generally increase year over year, the calculation generally produces a lower millage rate (the “rolled back” rate) for the future year to generate the same amount of revenue. That rate must be advertised to property owners along with the proposed millage rate for the upcoming tax year and the amount of revenue that rate would generate using the new property valuation figures.

Mr. Clements pointed out that bills 2019-500 through 2019-511 are all budget-related bills. He noted that 2019-511 and -512 are filed to make specific appropriations outside of the overall budget bill in order to allow certain council members who have personal conflicts of interest due to their employment to vote on the overall budget but abstain from voting on the appropriations that specifically apply to their employers.

Commissioner Roberts said that he has been researching the reporting practices of economic development offices in other Florida jurisdictions and by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and Enterprise Florida.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Jeff Clements, City Council Research Division

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Posted 7.18.19 5:30 p.m.

Tape: TRUE Legislative Tracking Committee 7.18.19 meeting – Legislative Services Division