



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

Daniel Henry, Chair

Jimmy Daniel, Vice Chair

Keshan Chambliss, Secretary

TRUE Commission Meeting Minutes

August 1, 2019
4:00 p.m.

Attendance: Commissioners Daniel Henry (Chair) John Roberts, Mark Merritt, Jim Mazur

Excused: Commissioners Niki Brunson, Jon McGowan, Jimmy Daniel, Greg Rachal

Also: Jeff Clements – City Council Research; Tommy Carter – Council Auditor’s Office

See attached sign-in sheet for additional attendees.

Commissioner Henry convened the meeting at 4:02 p.m. without a quorum present and the attendees introduced themselves for the record.

Minutes

Lacking a quorum, the minutes of the commission’s June 6, 2019 meetings were held over to the September meeting.

Public comment

None

Auditor’s report

Tommy Carter, Council Auditor’s Office, reported that 2 reports have been issued since the last commission meeting.

#766B JPA Payroll Audit follow-up – the last 2 remaining unresolved issues from the first follow-up have been completed and the audit is considered closed.

#826 Metropolitan Parking Solutions Redevelopment Agreement Audit – the audit will be discussed at the upcoming Audit Committee meeting on August 15th.

Mr. Carter reported that all Auditor’s Office staff are working on the FY19-20 budget so no additional audits will be released until the completion of the budget process. He also noted that the Audit Committee on August 15th coincides with a Finance Committee budget hearing, which some members may wish to observe; the group decided that the meeting will go on as scheduled.

Committee reports

Audit Committee

The committee did not meet in July. The next quarterly budget summary report is due to be released by August 15th, the day of the scheduled committee meeting.

Legislative Tracking Committee

The committee met on July 18th and reviewed several bills without comment. The committee also discussed the list of questions to be posed to the Sheriff's Office as a follow-up to their visit to the commission at its June meeting. The list was finalized and forwarded to the Sheriff's Office. A response has since been received and was distributed to the commissioners via email.

The group talked about the new City Council legislative system and where to find pending legislation. There are links on the City Council web page for both the old and new systems.

Parks and Recreation Maintenance Committee

Commissioner Roberts said that final adoption of the report will have to wait until a quorum is present.

Chair's Comments

Mr. Henry thanked the group for electing him as Chairman and expressed his hope for a good year for the commission doing valuable work. He will be scheduling a meeting with new Council President Scott Wilson to discuss the City Council's strategic plan and how the TRUE Commission might be useful to the Council.

Old Business

- Sheriff's Office budget/hiring questions follow-up: the responses from the Sheriff's Office were distributed for review. Commissioner Merritt reviewed the genesis of the commission's questions after the discussion with the JSO representatives at the June commission meeting. He believes there must be a less expensive solution to hiring the needed number of school guardians than using expensive JSO officers on overtime (\$45-\$51 per hour). If the School Board paid more than \$12.50 an hour it would attract a better quality of applicants, and even hiring additional JSO officers specifically for this duty at their regular rate of pay would be less expensive than using officers on time-and-a-half overtime. It seems that the most expensive option, done as a stop-gap to meet the immediate state mandate in the current fiscal year, is proposed to be continued into next year. The proposed FY19-20 JSO budget contains a line item of nearly \$7.5 million for overtime for school guardians, of which approximately \$3.6 million would be reimbursed by the School Board. Without a quorum present the commission could not vote to approve transmittal of the letter prepared and distributed by Commissioner Merritt. After some discussion the consensus of those present was to ask staff to rework Mr. Merritt's proposed memorandum into a letter to the City Council for the Chairman's signature expressing the commission's concerns on the subject. The commissioners are interested in knowing how many total guardians are needed to cover all the schools and why the School Board doesn't take the \$3.6 million it proposes to refund to the City for JSO guardians and use it to hire more school district police officers at something less than \$45-\$51 per hour.
- Policies and Procedures Manual: deferred to the next meeting.

New Business

None

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Roberts said that he has done some research on other Florida cities and counties and discovered that many of them produce annual reports on their economic development activities, as he has previously suggested for Jacksonville. He has found a state Office of Economic Opportunity database that provides voluminous information on incentives in which the state is involved. He also found considerable information on the City's Office of Economic Development web site about individual projects, but it is not compiled into a single summary report. Staff was asked to inquire of the Office of Economic Development about their compliance with the Ordinance Code requirement that quarterly reports be given to the City Council and to acquire copies of any such reports that have been made.

Commissioner Mazur will be working on a report on transparency in City and School Board finances, especially in conjunction with the implementation of the City's new ERP financial management system. Commissioner Merritt is interested in looking at how accessible the budgets of the City and school district will be online to the average citizen.

Next meetings

The Legislative Tracking Committee will meet on August 8th and 22nd at 3 p.m.

The Audit Committee will meet on August 15th at 3 p.m.

The full commission will meet on September 5th at 4 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

Jeff Clements, Council Research Division
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