



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

Daniel Henry, Chair

LEGISLATIVE TRACKING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 19, 2019

3:00 p.m.

City Council Conference Room B
Suite 425, City Hall

Attendance: Commissioners John Roberts and Jim Mazur

Also: Jeff Clements – Council Research Division

The meeting was convened at 3:00 p.m. and the following bills were discussed:

2019-649 appropriating \$500,000 from the Disabled Parking Fines Special Revenue Fund to various purposes benefitting persons with disabilities – Mr. Clements explained that this is an annual appropriation of revenues from fines for parking illegally in a handicapped parking space to fund capital improvements and programs that benefit persons with disabilities.

2019-651 appropriating \$80,000 from the Northwest Jacksonville Economic Development Fund to DPC Jax, LLC D/B/A Driver Performance Center (“Company”) for the purpose of offsetting a portion of the infrastructure costs attendant to the construction by company of a driver training facility – Mr. Clements explained that the purpose of the NWJEDF is to provide financial assistance to incentivize business development in the city’s northwest area (north of I-10, west of I-95), mostly in the form of grants for infrastructure improvements like water and sewer lines, road widening, sidewalks, etc. that will benefit the area regardless of whether the particular business applicant is successful or not.

2019-652 appropriating \$250,000 from the Northwest Jacksonville Economic Development Fund in the form of a \$100,000 grant and \$150,000 loan to AA Auto Parts, Inc. for the purpose of providing assistance with the installation by the company of a metal shredder system - Mr. Clements explained that this bill includes both an infrastructure grant and a loan to the developer to assist in the private development portion of the project at an interest rate lower than could typically be obtained through private borrowing.

2019-647 appropriating \$144,032 from the Loblolly Mitigation Bank Trust Fund to provide \$10,288 to each of the 14 city council districts to be used as directed by the council members for park-related improvements – Mr. Clements related the history of the Loblolly Mitigation Bank (created in the early 2000s to provide wetlands mitigation credits for Better Jacksonville Plan projects) and the subsequent use of a portion of the revenues generated from sale of mitigation credits to private developers to create district-specific recreation improvement funds.

2019-711 expressing Council’s opposition to the J-bill that would provide for an elected School Superintendent - Clements explained the J-bill process and the Council’s ability to comment on and suggest changes to, but not to directly amend, a legislator’s proposed bill to be filed in the state legislature in the upcoming session.

Commissioner Roberts said that he didn't see the rationale for electing a school superintendent, and felt that for practical purposes it would mean that only a local resident could run for the office; the school board could not hire an outsider with expert knowledge and experience in the field, so in all likelihood the superintendent would always be someone from inside the current system.

2019-693 amending Sec 21.07 (Fiscal & Budgetary Functions) of Article 21 (JEA) of the City Charter to create a new Subsection M to provide for a sharing of dividends to JEA customers based on JEA's change in net position – Mr. Clements read the text of the proposed Charter amendment and the group speculated about what “change in net position” might incorporate. It presumably is a term of art in the financial reporting world.

Commissioner Mazur asked questions about North Florida Transportation Planning Organization's 5-year regional road plan that was discussed by FDOT officials at a recent CPAC meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:51 p.m.

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