**Taxation, Revenue, and Utilization**

**of Expenditures (TRUE) Commission**

**Daniel Henry, Chair**

**LEGISLATIVE TRACKING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**September 9, 2020**

**3:00 p.m.**

**Virtual meeting via Zoom.com**

**Attendance:** Commissioner John Roberts

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

The meeting was convened at 3:02 p.m. and the following items were discussed:

2020- 517: appropriating $5,450,501 in FEMA grant funds ($4,087,875.75) and City match ($1,362,625.25) to buy flood prone properties, relocate the residents and demolish the buildings. Commissioner Roberts wondered if there is a study showing how many flood-prone properties there are in the city that might qualify for this type of remediation. Jeff Clements said that the City as a study underway looking at expanding the existing flood plain and storm surge maps which will probably produce that information.

2020-520: appropriating $193,248 in Florida Department of Law Enforcement grant funds to the Sheriff’s Office for data conversion for reporting crime data to FDLE and the FBI. The grant will fund 2 temporary contract positions to do data conversion and formatting.

2020-518: establishing a 2-year moratorium on renaming City facilities while a uniform naming/renaming policy is developed.

2020-523: appropriating $ 45,130.14 in U.S. Department of Homeland Security grant funds for a heavy tow vehicle to pull a mobile infectious disease response unit.

2020-524: ratifying and approving a settlement agreement regarding Jacksonville Landing Investments, LLC’s claim for costs incurred in the litigation of City of Jacksonville v. Jacksonville Landing Investments. This represents the final step in the litigation, the payment of court costs to the Jax Landing owners.

2020-521: appropriating $385,785 in FDLE Safe Neighborhoods Project grant funds to purchase fixed location license plate readers to be installed in areas covered by the ShotSpotter system.

2020-527: Ordinance Code amendment creating a new Downtown Preservation & Revitalization Program (“DPRP”) and guidelines. The amendment revises and replaces the existing program and guidelines with an updated program.

2020-529: amending the Ordinance Code to provide for a temporary early retirement window for City employees. Mr. Roberts said he couldn’t tell if the purpose of the ordinance was as an employee benefit or a cost saver for the City by reducing its workforce. He’s run some basic calculations and thinks replacing employees who take early retirement would be more expensive than leaving the positions vacant. In his opinion, if the goal is to reduce workforce, offering a severance package (i.e. one year of salary) would be a cleaner option to incentivize employees to leave without impacting future pension costs. He felt it could be hard to do an actuarial study of the proposal if you don’t know how many employees will leave, or by how much the City intends to reduce its workforce. Some cap on the maximum number of retirements to be allowed should be imposed and then the actuarial study done on that basis.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:19 p.m.

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