



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

Daniel Henry, Chair

TRUE COMMISSION Meeting Minutes

May 4, 2023

4:00 p.m.

Don Davis Room

1st floor, City Hall

Attendance: Commissioners Keshan Chambliss, Bruce Tyson, Velma Rounsville, Carter Jones, Charles Barr, Ramon Day, Daniel Henry (arr. 4:46 p.m.)

Excused: None

Absent: None

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

The meeting was convened at 4:00 p.m. by Vice Chair Ramon Day and the attendees introduced themselves for the record.

Approval of minutes

The minutes of the April 6, 2023 commission meeting were **approved unanimously as distributed.**

Public Comment

None

Council Auditor’s Report

Tommy Carter of the Auditor’s Office reported that the office has released 3 new reports since the last commission meeting.

#813B: Follow-up on Tourist Development and Convention Development Taxes Audit - Issued 04/11/23
Mr. Carter reported that there were 3 issues remaining after the first audit follow-up and 1 remains open after this second follow-up – an opportunity for improvement dealing with collection of tourist development taxes from peer-to-peer rentals (e.g. via Airbnb). The Finance and Administration Department noted in its response to the follow-up that the City Council tried to tackle this subject with a special committee several years ago but it failed to produce a resolution. The Finance Department does track property owners who have registered individually with the Tax Collector and remit their TDC taxes. There will be a third follow-up. In response to a question from Commissioner Tyson about how much revenue the City might be losing due to the failure to collect from peer-to-peer rental transactions, Mr. Carter said the audit estimated \$500,000 per year.

#845A: Follow-up on License Fees - Adult Bookstores Audit - Issued 04/11/23

The original audit produced 6 findings and all 6 are cleared as of the follow-up and the audit is closed.

#846A: Follow-up on Kids Hope Alliance Grants Audit - Issued 04/18/23

The original audit identified 24 issues, of which 23 were cleared by the follow-up. The remaining issue deals with management and tracking of grant close-outs. KHA agreed with the finding and is working with the Division of Grants and Compliance to expedite close-outs in a more timely manner. There will be another follow-up. Commissioner Day noted that the audit covered a time period before Mike Weinstein arrived as the new CEO of KHA.

Capital Improvement Program discussion

Jeff Clements described the written handouts distributed at the members' seats in response to a series of questions posed at the last commission meeting regarding the CIP development process:

- Responses from Kathleen Collins, CIP Administrator, and Monica Cichowlas, Customer Service Center Manager, to questions posed by the Commission regarding the availability of information on CARE system complaints/issues to City Council members and to the 6 CPACs and any noticeable changes in call system volume as a result of a change to state law prohibiting investigation of anonymous code compliance complaints.
- A chart showing CARE system service request volumes over 4 fiscal years.
- The FY2024 Capital Improvement Program project evaluation form.
- Text of portions of Ordinance Code Chapter 122 regarding instructions for development of the annual CIP proposal.

Audit Committee Report

None

Legislative Tracking Committee:

None

Old Business

None

New Business

Election of officers – Commissioner Day suggested deferring the election until next month given Commissioner Henry's absence.

Motion (Rounsville/2nd Tyson) – defer the election of officers to next month's meeting given the absence of Commissioner Henry.

In response to a question from Commissioner Chambliss about when election of officers is usually held, Mr. Clements said it is usually in May.

The motion failed on a vote of 3-3.

There was discussion among the members of who might be interested in serving as Chair.

Motion (Rounsville/2nd Day) – the commission elects Keshan Chambliss as Chair – **approved 6-0.**

Motion (Jones/2nd Rounsville) – the commission elects Charles Barr as Vice Chair - **approved 6-0.**

Motion (Jones/2nd/ Chambliss) – the commission elects Velma Rounsville as Secretary – **approved 6-0.**

TRUE Commission Annual Report - Mr. Clements said will prepare a draft report based on the meeting minutes for the past year for distribution to the membership and consideration at the June meeting, at which time the commission can make improvements and adopt the report for transmittal to the City Council.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Barr said he enjoys getting the bi-weekly bill summaries of the new legislation introduced in City Council, which helps him to keep up with what's happening in the city.

Commissioner Chambliss echoed Mr. Barr's comments and said serving on the commission has been very enlightening about what's going on in the city government.

Commissioner Day noted that he is finishing his third year on the commission.

Commissioner Jones said it is very educational being on the commission.

Commissioner Rounsville said her current term has expired and she will talk to her CPAC about being reappointed. She relays word of the TRUE Commission's discussions back to her CPAC to spread the knowledge more widely.

Commissioner Tyson said serving on the commission is an opportunity to learn a lot about things you had no idea about until reading the pending legislation. The TRUE Commission has done a good job of digging into various issues. He said he is involved in leadership positions on several other groups and didn't know how long he will be able to continue serving on the commission. He has asked his CPAC to find a replacement for him.

Vice Chair Day relinquished the chair to new Chair Keshan Chambliss. The group discussed vacant seats and the need for replacements and reappointments. Mr. Clements said he will inform the CPAC coordinators about vacancies and ask for replacements.

Chair's Comments

Chairwoman Chambliss asked staff for research on the contentious issue of a new liquor store locating next to the KIPP school on Norwood Avenue, including a timeline of events and how the Zoning Code regulations on alcoholic beverage establishments near schools applies.

Commissioner Henry said the Inspector General Selection and Retention Committee is going to do the IG's annual evaluation on May 15th based on his first year of performance. It could be an interesting process given the controversy in the office that has played out over the last few months. He noted for the benefit of new commissioners that the Chair of the TRUE Commission is a member of the IG Selection and Retention Committee.

Commissioner Henry said the TRUE Commission has wide-ranging powers in the Ordinance Code but has not really exercised them. The Commission has the right to ask for and receive information from City agencies and has a General Counsel's opinion from 20 years ago to back up that authority. He hopes that with more members the commission can be more active.

In response to a question, Mr. Clements said that he would send out upcoming dates for the mandatory ethics training for new board and commission members.

Next meetings

Audit Committee – at the call of the Chair as needed when new audits/reports are released.

Legislative Tracking Committee – at the call of the Chair as needed.
Full commission – June 8, 2023

The meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

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Posted 6.9.23 9:30 a.m.