



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

TRUE COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

*(Note: these minutes are not official until reviewed and
approved by the commission at a future meeting)*

December 4, 2025

4:00 p.m.

Lynwood Roberts Room

Attendance: Commissioners Day (Chair), Barr, Bass, Luhrs, Letizia and Pryor (late arrival 5:14 pm)

Excused: Commissioners Oglesby, Tyson, Hargrove, Rounsville, McHugh

Absent: Commissioner Hoffman

Also: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research; Tommy Carter, Council Auditor's Office; Daryl Joseph and Dan Piastuck, Parks Department; Dave McDaniel, Public Works

The meeting was convened at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Day.

Approval of Minutes

Due to the lack of quorum (5 members present), the previous meeting minutes could not be approved.

Daryl Joseph and Dan Piastuck, Parks Department

Mr. Piastuck spoke about Parks services and facilities. He said there are over 400 parks and facilities and 600 plus athletic fields and courts. Mr. Piastuck talked about the partnership with 42 athletic associations, which go through an RFP process for selection and involve various shared maintenance agreements. He said there are 150,000 participants in athletic programs annually, and he talked about the hosting of sport tournaments and special events. There was discussion about the installation of artificial turf at some fields and the benefits of such. Commissioner Bass asked about the cost for artificial turf installation, which is roughly \$1.2 million (\$150,000 for a baseball infield) but saves money in the long run for maintenance. Commissioner Barr asked about how the Parks Department allocates funds and services, and how its decided which parks get what amenities. Mr. Joseph highlighted the importance of maintaining all City parks to the same standards and making sure they are activated in various and appropriate ways. Commissioner Luhrs asked about the City's Park Score, as related to equity. He also asked about what the impact would be if property taxes were eliminated. Mr. Joseph indicated that there would have to be a drastic reduction in staffing, maintenance and programming under such circumstances. Mr. Joseph also highlighted the Adopt a Park program, wherein volunteers assist with litter removal and landscape maintenance in the "adopted" park.

Dave McDaniel – Mowing and Landscape Maintenance Division of Public Works

Mr. McDaniel fielded some questions about an audit of the division from a few years ago that identified a couple of discrepancies related to a system change, and were shown to be remedied in the Auditor's follow-up. Mr. Luhrs asked about how a potential cancellation of property taxes would impact his

division. Mr. McDaniel said that such a shortfall would lead to a reduction in upkeep and services. Mr. Day asked about the division's budget, staff, and contracted workers. Mr. McDaniel said that the majority of mowing services are performed by contractors, and he talked about mowing of properties with liens placed by Code Enforcement. Mr. McDaniel said the division oversees the mowing of more than 270 square miles per year. Mr. Bass extended kudos for the efforts of the division.

Council Auditor's Report

Tommy Carter, Council Auditor's Office, reported on the Audit Reports # 895, 896, 897 and 898. There were questions about #897, the Sheriff's Office Investigative Fund, related to the donation of funds by an outside party. Mr. Carter said such gifts are permissible by Code and that a new policy was established to handle such activities. When asked about who the donors were, Mr. Carter said he will report back on that.

Legislative Tracking Committee

None

Audit Committee

None

Public Comment

John Nooney spoke about the lack of OGC staffing for various boards, including the TRUE Commission and the Council on Elder Affairs. A second attendee was present to discuss youth athletic leagues with Mr. Piastuck.

Chair's Comments

Chairman Day presented handouts related to his proposed revisions to the Commission's by-laws, a modified agenda format and the creation of different committees (Income and Spending subcommittees). He also talked about altering the public comment format, with limitations on speaking only about items before the Commission and regulations about taking videos during the meetings. There was discussion about the need for, and legality of such changes. Several commissioners expressed objections to limiting speech/content or taking videos in a public meeting. Mr. Day proposed adding language about public comment regulations to the Commission's by-laws. The consensus was to include the Office of General Counsel on the by-law revision as related to the public comment portion. There was discussion about removing the nominating committee that selects the chairperson from the by-laws and designating a specific month for the selection of Commission leadership. No action could be taken due to the lack of quorum so the item will be revisited at the January meeting.

Old Business

None

New Business

The members discussed the proposed creation of 2 new committees – the Income and Spending Committees, replacing the Legislative Tracking and Audit Committees. They talked about how to organize the schedule of those committees and what the purviews would be. Chairman Day suggested the committees could alternate meeting each month prior to the full Commission meeting. Tommy Carter explained the timing as to when quarterly reports are released.

Commissioner Comments

Mr. Luhrs listed several items for the Commission to consider examining: the impact on the City's finances and services if property taxes are eliminated by the state, City grants and nonprofits, ethical conflicts, and a joint collaboration with the Ethics Commission. He also mentioned inviting the new DIA

CEO Colin Tarbert, to attend a future meeting to talk about the Pearl Street project. Mr. Bass said he'd like to look further into shared maintenance agreements with FDOT. Mr. Day requested a list of TRUE members' absences, which members need to take the required Ethics training, and who is serving on expired terms.

Next Meeting

The next TRUE Commission meeting will be on January 8, 2026 at 4:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

CHampsey@coj.net 904-255-5151

Posted 12.12.25 5:00 pm