



JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL

**TRUE COMMISSION
LEGISLATIVE TRACKING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
February 15, 2013
9:30 a.m.**

**City Council Conference Room B
Suite 425, City Hall
117 W. Duval Street**

Attendance: Committee Members Joe Andrews (Chair), Tom Martin and Greg Radlinski
Also: Jeff Clements – Council Research Division

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chairman Andrews and the following bills were discussed:

2013-87 (encumbering \$26.37 million within the Better Jacksonville Plan Unified Courthouse Project budget for conversion of the old federal courthouse to the State Attorney's Office): the committee discussed the shortfall in Better Jacksonville Plan funding and the number of road projects that are being deferred and may not be built. The committee would like to hear from a member of the City administration on the subject of BJP funding status and plans for completing projects.

2013-89 (appropriating \$11 million in cost savings from bond refinancing to economic development purposes): Commissioner Andrews is concerned about directing cost savings to new spending purposes rather than paying down existing debt, and especially does not want to see the funds directed to economic development incentives to which he is philosophically opposed.

2013-90 (appropriation of \$140,373 from Special Law Enforcement Trust Fund and \$12,899 from Police Explorers Trust Fund to a variety of non-profit organizations for crime prevention and community improvement programs): the committee requested to see a copy of the Sheriff's certification letter that the uses to which these funds are being appropriated are proper and meet the requirements for use of these funds. The committee requested staff to ask the Council Auditor's Office if the use of these funds is ever audited.

2013-91 (appropriating \$4,087,118 in Sector 6.1 fair share revenues to the Alta Road widening project): the committee asked staff to inquire of the sponsor what this appropriation is for – engineering, right-of-way acquisition, construction, other – and if there is a plan for paying the total cost of the project, which is projected at over \$12 million.

2013-92 (appropriating \$898,105 from the Supervisor of Elections' FY11-12 year-end budget surplus to reduce the office's Banking Fund debt principal): the committee is supportive of the bill, and asked that the Supervisor of Elections be invited to the TRUE Commission's monthly meeting in March to discuss the various proposals for a new SOR office/operations center or for renewing the lease at the Gateway Center location.

2013-94 (waiving the city's mobility fee for 3 years): the committee discussed the merits of a fee moratorium and the need for City revenue to deal with existing and future road construction needs.

Commissioner Martin noted that St. Johns County has never waived its mobility fee and is growing faster than Jacksonville, so the fee is apparently not an impediment to growth if other conditions the support growth are in place. Commissioner Radlinski stated that the Urban Core CPAC, which he represents, is opposed to the moratorium proposal.

Motion (Radlinski): the committee recommends that the TRUE Commission oppose passage of 2013-94 – **approved 2-1** (Andrews opposed).

2013-116 (amending the Ordinance Code to revise the Public Service Grant application scoring and ranking process and making revisions to the Public Service Grant Committee): Jeff Clements explained Council Member Boyer’s recent investigation of the PSG process, her concerns about some of the procedures, and her suggestions for improvements of the process.

Motion (Radlinski): the committee recommends that the TRUE Commission support passage of 2013-116, but recommends that it be amended to keep the size of the PSG Committee at 7 members, with the commission expressing no opinion about how the committee should be appointed – **approved 3-0**.

2013-118 (authorizing lease agreement with Terranova Inc. to extend the Supervisor of Elections’ lease at Gateway Center after improvements are made to the facility): Supervisor Holland will be invited to attend the TRUE Commission meeting on March 7th to address.

2013-119 (authorizing engagement of outside legal counsel for labor relations and collective bargaining purposes): staff was requested to find out which City attorneys perform labor-related tasks and which attorneys who formerly did that work have left City employment recently.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Jeff Clements, Chief
Council Research Division

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11:00 a.m.