JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL

TRUE COMMISSION
PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
October 6, 2011
3:00p.m.

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

Attendance: Committee Members Ted Wendler (Chair), Diane Brown, Marcella Lowe, Gamal Lyons, Ernest McDuffie, Joe Andrews, Ryan Jones and Tom Martin; Patti Anania – pending commissioner; Tony Bates – Concerned Taxpayers of Duval County

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chairman Wendler.

The Council Member Lumb questionnaire response prepared at the last meeting was transmitted to the council member and we are awaiting his reaction to that document.

Commissioner Andrews discussed four motions he intended to propose to the full commission at the 4:00 meeting. First, every TRUE Commission resolution should be read into the record at a City Council meeting, preferably as a scheduled Council agenda item or, failing that, during the public comment period. Second, a liaison relationship should be established between the TRUE Commission and the City Council in the form of personal introductions and meetings of commissioner leadership (Chairman and committee chairs) with individual council members to raise the commission's profile. Third, create an archive on the TRUE Commission's web page of all of the commission's resolutions and reports for easy access by the City Council, TRUE commissioners, the media and the general public.

The committee generally discussed the commission's profile and level of knowledge among the city council members. A few individual council members have shown sporadic interest in the TRUE Commission's work and have attended a few meetings over the years, but never on a continuous basis. The commission would like to achieve a greater level of respect akin to the Planning Commission. Currently commission resolutions and reports are sent to City Council and the Mayor, but there is never any indication if they are read or heeded. No acknowledgement of receipt or direct response is ever received.

The 30-year agreement between the City and the Police and Fire Pension Fund was discussed. The Concerned Taxpayers' lawsuit over the legality of the agreement was the subject of a second hearing recently, and the judge may issue a preliminary ruling in the next few days. Commissioner Wendler cited the unfunded pension liability as the most serious issue facing the City's financial future and advocated for doing away with the defined benefit plan immediately and issuing bonds to convert all current liabilities into individual defined contribution accounts. He believes the current model is unsustainable and protecting the current benefit structure is absolutely pointless if the plans go bankrupt and there is no money left to pay the obligations to the retirees.

The group discussed ways of getting more attention for TRUE issues from the media which seem to have little interest in the commission's work or resolutions. Use of social media (Facebook) was suggested as a means of getting information directly into the hands of the public.

Commissioner Lowe stressed the importance of reviewing and acting on Council Auditor audits and reports. That is a definite responsibility of the commission and needs to be taken seriously. Every member should read every audit and bring questions and comments to the next commission meeting for full discussion. She plans to suggest that the commission pose questions to the Council Auditor about items left unresolved in audits and reports and urge that follow-up take place to get confirmation of promised actions and improvements prior to the normally scheduled audit follow-up 12 to 18 months later.

Motion: move that the Performance Committee recommend that the TRUE Commission assign commission members to attend and speak at City Council and council committee meetings to convey commission resolutions and reports – **unanimously approved.**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

Jeff Clements, Chief
Council Research Division
630-1405

Posted 10.11.11
5:00 p.m.