



JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL

TRUE COMMISSION PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES November 3, 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, Joe Andrews, Tom Martin, Hiron Peck and Patti Anania – pending commissioner; Tony Bates – Concerned Taxpayers of Duval County; Connie Benham

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

Mr. Wendler handed out the City 5-year revenue and expenditure forecast that was an attachment to the FY11-12 budget ordinance and noted that over 70% of the projected deficits in the next 5 years will be attributable to the expenditure growth of the Fire and Rescue Department and Sheriff's Office. He suggested that the TRUE Commission take on the task of examining the budget and looking for areas where cost reductions or revenue increases might be possible. He feels the commission needs to start this task now so as to be well ahead of the FY12-13 budget process, unlike last year's attempt.

Mr. Wendler also handed out several slides from a presentation made to the Council Ad Hoc Budget Savings Committee last week by representatives of the Leroy Collins Institute at Florida State University who came to Jacksonville to make a presentation about their research on city and county pensions in Florida. Only one council member (Warren Jones, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee) was present for the presentation, which was fairly general in nature and did not address Jacksonville's pension plans in particular. The only specific reference to Jacksonville was the assignment of letter grades to the City's pension plans based on percentage of unfunded liability; the General Employees Pension Plan was given a "C" grade, the Police and Fire Pension and Correctional Officers Pension were rated "F".

Council Member Lowe reported that she had met with Council Members Greg Anderson and Robin Lumb about the TRUE Commission having more direct input to the City Council and/or its committees. The group discussed whether to request that the TRUE Commission have a place on the agenda of council or committee meetings when the commission adopts a resolution or completes a report in order to convey that directly to the council members. Tony Bates suggested concentrating on committee appearances rather than the full council, and contacting the committee chairs in advance of the committee agenda meeting to discuss the TRUE Commission's interest in being on the agenda.

Chairman Wendler requested the committee members to begin preparing budget study ideas for discussion at the December meeting. The Performance Committee needs to make a much earlier start to get ahead of the budget process this time around. The committee will pick one or two items in December to begin in-depth examination.

Connie Benham suggested the need to study the City Council's treatment of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and 2030 Comprehensive Plan and the financial implications of amending these documents as frequently as we do. She believes the City is violating state law by amending the CIP on a regular basis, deferring projects from one year to another, adding new projects with higher priority and funding while old projects languish, and not having a feasible financial plan for all 5 years of the CIP. She believes the TRUE Commission could play a valuable role in studying the CIP and Comp Plan and focusing attention on the City's cavalier treatment of those documents which should be binding and direct all of the City's other processes and funding priorities.

Commissioner Andrews asked if anyone in the City ever compared the 5-year revenue and expense projections required to be in the annual budget to determine how close the projections have come to reality. Jeff Clements indicated that the 5-year projection requirement is relatively new to the budgeting process and he is unaware that anyone has made the comparison of projections with reality yet. Connie Benham suggested that Mayor Peyton's transition documents included some information on the projections that might be useful.

Mr. Wendler said that he would call a noticed a meeting in the next week or so for anyone interested to discuss the Comprehensive Plan and CIP process to gain an understanding of what they require and how well the City is complying with the requirements.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Jeff Clements, Chief
Council Research Division
630-1405

Posted 11.4.11
5:00 p.m.