



JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL

**TRUE COMMISSION
LEGISLATIVE TRACKING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
February 27, 2009
9:30 a.m.**

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

Attendance: Wes Benwick (Chair), Committee Members John Palombi and Joe Andrews

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m. by Chairman Benwick.

Staff provided a copy of the property appraisal on the lot for the Ramona Boulevard retention pond site pertaining to 2009-61 as requested at the previous committee meeting. The committee reviewed the comparable properties and had no further comment.

2009-185 (\$200,000 appropriation from Northwest Jacksonville Economic Development Fund): what is the requested waiver? Is it just to allow the City to hold a third lien position, or is there something additional? Chairman Benwick will call James Richardson, the program administrator in the Housing and Neighborhoods Department, to ask for further information on that project in particular and on the Northwest Jacksonville Economic Development Fund in general.

2009-231 (extension of Southside mulch site lease): is the \$30,000 per month lease rate an extension of the current rate or a new rate? Who is in charge of the site cleanup – the City or the contractor? Need to get a copy of the City's contract with the site operator and determine the contract's timeline and provisions. Chairman Benwick will investigate further.

2009-194 (approval to apply for FIND grants): how does the City decide how much to allocate to the grant match pool each year? Are the funds allocated on a first come, first served basis or is there a prioritization process?

The committee will recommend to Chairman Palombi that the Trail Ridge Landfill operational contract extension proposal be added to the agenda of the full commission for discussion next week.

2009-203 (\$1.5 million appropriation to SMG for maintenance and repairs to City public assembly facilities): How was the \$1.5 million arrived at? Is there a list of projects? Does SMG contract directly for the repairs itself or does it work through City Public Works? Commissioner Palombi will pose those questions to the Council Auditor's office.

2009-205 (revised auto allowance/take-home car policy): Does the new policy produce any cost savings or reduce the number of vehicles in the city's fleet? Commissioner Palombi will make inquiries.

2009-211 (“green” building program promotion): Why is the City creating an alternative green building certification standard when the national LEED system and the Florida Green Building Coalition program already exist? Is the \$1000 incentive really worthwhile to a building in the overall cost of the project? What will it cost the City to administer the incentive? Chairman Benwick will invite Vince Seibold of the City Environmental and Compliance Department to next week’s commission meeting to discuss this proposal.

2009-197 and 198 (resolutions opposing JEA’s proposal to close 5 satellite offices): Commissioner Andrews found it ironic that JEA is being criticized by some Council members for trying to operate the utility in a business-like manner. He believes there are many alternatives for customers to transact business with the JEA (by phone, on the internet, or in person at the JEA headquarters downtown) and the authority should be permitted to do what it thinks best without City interference.

Commissioner Palombi noted that the Auditor’s Office does not seem to be releasing audits in the same volume or same regularity throughout the year as it formerly did, so there is less opportunity for the TRUE Commission to react to audit reports and more opportunity to investigate issues of its own interest. Commissioner Andrews remarked on the huge amount of legislation the City Council processes on a regular basis and the size and complexity of city government operations.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

Jeff Clements, Chief
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630-1405

Posted 3.31.09
11:17 a.m.