



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

**Bruce Glassman, Chair**  
**Tom Crabtree, Vice Chair**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**March 15, 2005**

**4:00 p.m.**

**Attendance:** Bruce Glassman (Chair), Lee Martin, Tony Bates, John Palombi, Marcella Lowe, Charles Curley, Charles Magee, Louvenia Tippins, Tom Crabtree, Mark Roesser, Mike Meroney, Elaine Burnett

**Excused:** Dick Berry

**Absent\*:** Randall Deen, Lou Myers

\* Note – meeting notices were inadvertently not e-mailed to commissioners in advance of the meeting.

The meeting convened at 4:03 p.m. with a quorum present.

### Minutes

The minutes of the February 15, 2005 meeting were previously distributed.

◆ The minutes were **approved as distributed**.

Staff distributed parking permit signature pages to the members to members whose commission parking permits may be expiring. Any changes in license tag numbers should be submitted for permit revisions.

### Committee Reports

Audit #595 – Public Parking Division: Commissioner Roesser reported that he had carefully reviewed the audit with Kim Taylor of the Council Auditor’s Office. One of his primary findings is that the division does not act as an enterprise fund as the Ordinance Code contemplates – the division last year required a \$1.8 million subsidy from the City General Fund to balance its budget. He believes the division needs to take its enterprise fund role seriously and request from the City Council the budgetary resources and legislative authority it needs to operate efficiently and balance revenues with expenditures.

After some discussion among the commissioners it was recommended that the committee (Roesser, Meroney and Bates) meet to separate out “micro” from “macro” issues; that is, issues specific and internal to the Public Parking Division vs. larger city policy issues on how downtown parking should be provided and managed. Staff was requested to forward written comments by Commissioner Bates on the Public Parking audit to all commissioners.

Audit #541 – Jacksonville Children’s Commission and Audit #531 – Duval County Housing Finance Authority: Chairman Glassman requested staff to e-mail him these audits for review and further action. Commissioner Bates noted that he had tried several times without success to follow up on these audits, both by letter and via personal contacts. With regard to the Children’s Commission audit, the review found the audit to be complete and approvable, but the committee hoped that someone could provide a comprehensive tally of how much was being spent by all city and state agencies (Children’s Commission, Florida Department of Children and Families, School Board, Health Department, Jacksonville Public Library, Head Start, etc. etc.) on all manner of children’s programs.

The commission engaged in a discussion about the relative merits of early versus later reporting on audits. There were differing opinions on whether the commission would be more effective by initiating in-depth review of audits at the time they are released and reporting findings to the City Council before the audited department/division has time to fully implement recommended changes, or alternatively would be more effective by waiting until the Auditor’s post-audit review takes place within 6 months to a year and then commenting only on those items that were not satisfactorily corrected.

Audit #600 – Sheriff’s Investigative Fund: Commissioners Lowe (chair), Berry and Bates volunteered to form the committee to review this new audit and to revisit the recommendations from the prior audit on this fund to determine if the commission’s recommendations had been adopted.

Performance Measurement Committee: Commissioner Palombi reported that he had not received any commissioner comments since his presentation of the draft report at the last meeting, except from Commissioner Bates. He recommended that the commission adopt the committee’s phase 1 report before the committee could move on to phase 2 of its study, and promised to ensure that the participating departments received feedback on their efforts.

◆ Commissioner Palombi moved that the committee’s phase 1 report be circulated to all of the departments and agencies that were originally requested to participate in the survey and to the GPATE Committee, with Chairman Glassman delegated the authority to draft an appropriate cover memo for transmittal of the report, to include a brief synopsis of findings.

The motion was **approved**.

Commissioner Bates requested that his comments on the report formerly e-mailed to Commissioner Palombi be circulated to all of the commissioners by staff.

Audit #589 – JEA Pipe Bursting Contract: deferred

Hill-Burton Act Committee: Commissioner Burnett presented her report on the issue. Her main finding is that the process of determining qualification for benefits under the Hill-Burton Act is problematic; because of the factors involved, there is no simple way to determine who does and does not qualify for financial assistance, so a patient cannot tell upon arrival at a hospital if they qualify or not. That determination is not made until later. Other findings: Hill-Burton eligibility is based on Medicare standards for household income, which vary from state to state; Florida counts children’s income in the calculation of a patient’s household income – is this fair?; patients need to be treated respectfully by hospital staff whether they are covered by Hill-Burton standards, by private insurance, or otherwise. Staff was requested to distribute copies of Commissioner Burnett’s report to all commissioners, although the commission determined that there was no formal action to be taken.

Cash Management Committee: Commissioner Lowe requested that a committee meeting be scheduled for Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in a location to be determined. Staff will provide a meeting notice.

### Chairman's Report

Chairman Glassman noted two potential topics of interest for future commission investigation: the recent newspaper report of impending City budget shortfalls; and the on-going reorganization of the Jacksonville Economic Development Commission.

### Commissioner Comments

- The commission requested an update on the status of the proposed amendments to Ordinance Code Chapter 118 – Public Service Grants – that arose out of the animal control audit last fall.
- The commission requested staff to invite new City Chief Financial Officer Mickey Miller to address the TRUE Commission at a future meeting.
- The commission requested that “tickler notes” of unfinished business items be included at the bottom of each commission meeting agenda for ready reference.
- The commission requested an update on what has been accomplished by the various “powers and duties” committees.
- Staff was requested to ensure that the names of the commissioners removed by virtue of excessive absences at the last meeting be removed from the commission letterhead.
- Commissioner Lowe noted that the time is approaching to appoint a nominating committee to select next year’s slate of commission officers.
- Chairman Glassman asked for recommendations for replacement commissioners to fill vacancies.
- Staff was requested to notify the appropriate CPACs of impending vacancies in June.
- The City Council Special Courthouse Committee will meet on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:30 p.m. in the City Council Chamber.

### Next meeting

The commission's next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 19th at 4:00 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

### Items pending further follow-up

- Children’s Commission audit
- Cash Management Committee – Commissioner Lowe
- JEA Pipe Bursting audit committee – Commissioner Martin
- Powers and Duties – 57.105(b) – Commissioners Curley and Myers
- Powers and Duties – 57.105(f) – Commissioners Roesser, Glassman and Palombi
- Fleet Management audit – Commissioners Glassman and Lowe (recommendation #2)
- Housing Commission response to TRUE inquiries – Chairman Glassman
- JEDC reorganization – Commissioners Berry and Bates
- Better Jacksonville Plan courthouse and roadway projects update – Chairman Glassman
- TRUE commissioner access to the City Intranet – staff
- Audit #595, Public Parking Division – Commissioner Roesser
- CityLink audit follow-up – Commissioner Bates
- Sheriff’s Office Investigative Fund audit follow-up – Commissioner Lowe
- Public Service Grants Chapter 118 amendments - staff