



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

Marcella Lowe, Chair

John Palombi, Vice Chair

Meeting Minutes

October 3, 2005

4:00 p.m.

Attendance: Marcella Lowe (Chair), Mike Meroney, Lee Martin, Charles Curley, Dick Berry, John Palombi, Lou Myers, Elaine Burnett, Arnold Whisenant, Louvenia Tippins,

Excused: Bruce Glassman, Tony Bates, Mark Roeser

Absent: Tom Crabtree, Randy Deen, Charles Magee

The meeting convened at 4:05 p.m. with a quorum present.

Minutes

The minutes of the September 6, 2005 meeting were previously distributed.

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

Committee Reports

Jacksonville Housing Partnership Committee: Commissioner Myers reported that the committee had met twice with representatives of the housing rehabilitation program and several program participants to discuss the problems participants had earlier reported to the commission. A new contract is being prepared and was supposed to be going into effect October 1, but is still awaiting final approval in the Office of General Counsel. The current contract appears to be generally sufficient, but apparently some existing provisions are not being followed in all cases. Mr. Myers attended a recent settlement hearing at the Housing Partnership offices between a participant and the program's administrators at the participant's request. Promises were made that, if kept, should help resolve the homeowner's concerns. Commissioner Palombi urged that the final report on this subject stress the need for full buy-in by the Partnership of proper processes and enforcement of the contract as written; if not there will continue to be problems and complaints.

Performance Committee

Commissioner Palombi reported that he had appeared before the City Council's Government Operations, Oversight, and Human Services (GOOHS) Committee just prior to the commission meeting at the invitation of committee chair Suzanne Jenkins to update the committee on TRUE's work on this topic. He highlighted 2 major recommendations: 1) the results of performance measurement need to be integrated into the City Council budget review and adoption process, and 2) departments need to share their "lessons learned" from performance measurement with other City departments, with the Council, and with the general public. He noted that the GOOHS Committee is starting its own review of city departments and agencies by inviting one department or agency to appear at each committee meeting over the next year to talk about its functions and processes, what's working well, and where improvements might be made. The GOOHS Committee may subsequently refer items of interest to the TRUE Commission for a more detailed look. Council Member Jenkins praised the TRUE Commission's work and expertise. Mr. Palombi also noted that, as several Performance Committee members

cycle off of the commission as their terms end, the committee is looking for volunteers to join the committee in its work.

Auditor's Report

Richard Wallace reported that the FY2005-06 budget is complete and took effect this week. His office's budget wrap-up report is underway and should be released soon. In response to a question from Commissioner Berry, Mr. Wallace reported that the \$150,000 annual allocation for the New Way grant program was not included in this year's budget and also that the FY04-05 have not yet been paid out to the recipients by the Children's Commission (overdue since May).

Chair's Report

Chairwoman Lowe introduced new commissioner Arnold Whisenant to his first meeting as a commissioner and introduced John Jolly, whose appointment resolution is currently pending in the Council and will be approved shortly. She noted that the Cash Management Committee's work is still pending and will re-start now that the budget process is complete. Ms. Lowe noted that Council Member Gwen Yates had expressed her appreciation of the TRUE Commission's interest in and assistance to her in reviewing CityLink. She also reported that Council Member Glorious Johnson was interested in the Commission's work and would be attending future meetings, but was excused today because of family commitments.

Old Business

City Intranet access: as requested at the September meeting, commission staffer Jeff Clements reviewed a list of potentially relevant sites and suggested that interested commissioners start by requesting access via the City's Intranet to links under the Department of Administration and Finance's Management Analysis site, which includes data on quality teams, comparative analysis, performance dimensions, process management and quality improvement. All commissioners indicated their interest in signing up for electronic access, which will require signing a "Virtual Private Network" user agreement and being assigned a user code and password by the City's Information Technology Division. Forms for this purpose will be distributed and staff will work with ITD to provide a training session for interested commissioners to demonstrate the system's functions.

Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Burnett called the commission's attention to a September 27th article in *Folio* magazine regarding reported problems in another home repair program for low-income residents, this one operated by the Northeast Florida Community Action Agency.
- Commissioner Meroney reported that he was favorably impressed with the budget process he witnessed, although he feels that there is still a great deal of money that could be saved by cutting unnecessary or outdated programs.

Next meeting

The commission's next meeting will be on Monday, October 31st at 4:00 p.m. following the GOOHS Committee meeting in the City Council Chamber. Staff was requested to e-mail the meeting dates for the remainder of the year to all commissioners.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Items pending further follow-up

- Housing Commission response to TRUE inquiries – Chairwoman Lowe
- Housing Partnership home rehab program – Commissioner Myers

- CityLink – Chairwoman Lowe
- JEDC reorganization – Commissioner Berry
- TRUE commissioner access to the City Intranet – staff
- CityLink audit follow-up – Commissioner Bates
- Public Service Grants Chapter 118 amendments – Chairwoman Lowe