



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

Marcella Lowe, Chair

John Palombi, Vice Chair

Meeting Minutes  
December 5, 2005  
4:00 p.m.

**Attendance:** Marcella Lowe (Chair), Lee Martin, Dick Berry, Lou Myers, Elaine Burnett, Louvenia Tippins, Charles Curley, Mike Meroney, Randy Deen, Charles Magee

**Excused:** Bruce Glassman, Arnold Whisenant, John Jolly, John Palombi, Mark Roeser

**Absent:**

The meeting convened at 4:00 p.m. lacking a quorum.

## Committee Reports

Jacksonville Housing Partnership Committee: Commissioner Myers reported that the committee had met last Friday and reviewed the user satisfaction survey information provided by the Housing Partnership. The data was not everything that the committee requested, consisting of 2 full surveys and summaries of the remainder rather than full copies of all the surveys. The committee will request additional information for its review.

## Performance Committee

Commissioner Deen reported that the committee had met since the last commission meeting and learned that there is a new person in charge of the City's performance system. They intend to meet with this new manager before determining how to proceed.

## Public Parking Committee

Commissioner Meroney reported that he and other members of the committee had attended the meetings of the City Council's subcommittee on parking rates and felt that they had contributed to the quality of the debate. The City's plan, now pending a final vote before City Council, calls for the parking rates at public facilities to reach market rate, but over a five year phase-in period due to the political realities of dealing with public employees' benefits.

## Minutes

The minutes of the October 31, 2005 meeting were previously distributed and, a quorum having arrived, were discussed. Commissioner Martin requested that the minutes be amended at the top of page 3 in the discussion of the JEA Pipe Bursting audit report during the Chair's Comments to indicate that the Pipe Bursting Committee continues to exist in the persons of himself (chair), and commissioners Lowe and Whisenant.

♦ The commission agreeing with the proposed clarification, the minutes were **approved as amended**.

## Auditor's Report

Council Auditor Richard Wallace introduced Kirk Sherman as the newly selected Council Auditor, who will be replacing Mr. Wallace when he retires at the end of January 2006. The commission congratulated Mr. Sherman on his selection and expressed its confidence in the continued good relationship between the Council Auditor's Office and the TRUE Commission. The commissioners also expressed their thanks to Mr. Wallace for his outstanding work, and praised the continuing good work and invaluable cooperation of Deputy Council Auditor Pam Markham, who had also been a candidate for the Council Auditor position.

Mr. Wallace reported that the following audits/reports are underway and will be coming to the commission in 2006: 4<sup>th</sup> quarter budget summary for FY04-05; audit of the new Oracle human resource computer system; audit of the Better Jacksonville Plan Northwest area roadwork program management by HDR; library audit; Children's Commission audit; City employee cellphone usage study; review of Amendment #8 to the Jaguar's lease for Alltel Stadium; and work with the external auditors for both the City and the JEA certified external audits.

Commissioner Lowe reported that her CPAC has been having difficulty in getting a response from the Children's Commission to an inquiry about grant funding and asked if the Auditor's Office could suggest an avenue more likely to produce an answer. Mr. Wallace felt that his office could help attain a response. Commissioner Martin asked about the proper procedure for requesting the Auditor's Office to conduct an audit. Mr. Wallace indicated that his office prefers that requests be made in writing, that the request contains a good rationale for why the study is needed, and that the area be "fertile" for an audit, that is, that it seems likely to the Auditor's Office that the suggested work will be productive and worth the investment of time and resources.

Commissioner Lowe indicated that she would continue to chair the committee on the Sheriff's Office Investigative Fund audit, the latest annual installment of which was recently released as Audit #608. Commissioners Tippins, Berry and Deen will serve on this year's committee.

#### Chair's Report

Chairwoman Lowe distributed copies of the amendments to Ordinance Code Chapter 118 – Miscellaneous Appropriations – enacted by Council in October. Richard Wallace explained that the changes provide that an organization receiving a Public Service Grant may certify expenditures up to \$50,000 by action of the entity's board and treasurer without the necessity of an independent audit. Expenditures of \$50,000 to \$500,000 will require an audit that meets American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) standards, and expenditures over \$500,000 will require an audit meeting the even more rigorous Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) requirements. The Auditor's Office hopes to see several additional changes made in the chapter.

Ms. Lowe reported that Mickey Miller, the City's Chief Financial Officer, is interested in meeting with the commission but was unavailable for today's meeting. He has offered to appear at the January meeting, and that invitation will be made. She also noted that Commissioner Burnett had requested and been granted a spot on the January agenda to discuss the Blueprint for Prosperity process currently being undertaken by the City, the Chamber of Commerce, and WorkSource Florida. Additionally, the paperwork has been filed with the City's Information Technology Division to provide commissioners with access to the City's Intranet, and a training session for interested commissioners will be scheduled.

#### Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Berry reported that the JEDC reorganization is still in flux, but that the agency has a new Executive Director and is close to adopting a new incentives policy. He suggested that new Executive Director Ron Barton be invited to the February commission meeting to meet the group and discuss his philosophy. The group concurred in that suggestion.

#### Next meeting

The commission's next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 3, 2006 (due to the City holiday on Monday the 2<sup>nd</sup>) at 4:00 p.m. following the GOOHS Committee meeting in the City Council Committee Room A (due to on-going renovations in the City Council Chamber).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Items pending further follow-up

- Housing Partnership home rehab program – Commissioner Myers
- TRUE commissioner access to the City Intranet – staff
- Mickey Miller invitation to January commission meeting – Chairwoman Lowe
- Request for clarification of TRUE Commission jurisdiction – Chairwoman Lowe
- Ron Barton invitation to February commission meeting – Chairwoman Lowe