



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

John Palombi, Chair

Ron Mallett, Vice Chair

## Meeting Minutes

August 3, 2006

4:00 p.m.

**Attendance:** John Palombi (Chair), Marcella Lowe, Ron Mallett, Gary Looney, Randy Deen, Mark Cowart, Louvenia Tippins, Lou Myers, Lee Martin, Bob Lee

**Excused:** John Jolly, Mike Meroney, Mark Roesser Elaine Burnett

**Absent:** Arnold Whisenant, Charles Magee, Charles Curley

The meeting convened at 4:06 p.m. with a quorum present.

### Minutes

The minutes of the June 5, 2006 meeting were distributed.

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

### Committee Reports

**Public Parking Committee:** Commissioner Mallett reported that the committee had scheduled a meeting with Adam Hollingsworth and Alan Mosley of the Mayor's Office to talk about the City's overall parking philosophy. What is the primary purpose – revenue production, efficient space allocation, downtown business promotion, other? City Council members Suzanne Jenkins and Elaine Brown are also hosting a series of meetings to talk about downtown parking issues.

### Performance Committee:

Commissioner Palombi reported that the committee had met and developed a survey letter that was sent to all departments, independent authorities and Constitutional officers requesting information on their procurement and contract management policies and processes – what are they doing, how do they judge their success, and how are best practices disseminated to other departments and agencies? About half of the agencies have responded to date, and the results varied widely. Members of the committee are reviewing and scoring the responses for committee review.

Audit #612 – Main Library Construction: Commissioner Mallett reported that his review of the audit indicated that a number of mistakes were made during the process of the library construction, but that by the end all of the parties were appropriately paid for work performed. He did not see a need to delve any deeper into the library construction project particularly, but saw a need for the commission to look at the larger issue of contract administration. Council Auditor Kirk Sherman stated that, for purposes of achieving implementation of the audit's many recommendations, it was actually helpful that there was considerable changeover of personnel in the Public Works Department following the library project. The new personnel seemed very receptive to making the changes recommended in the audit. Chairman Palombi noted that the Performance Committee has begun to tackle the issues of procurement and contact management, and this may well address many of the issues raised by the library audit.

Housing Partnership Committee: Commissioner Myers read into the record a letter he received from Ms. Rosa Walker expressing her gratitude to the commission for its help in resolving her issues with the Housing Partnership. She commended the commission for being willing to tackle the issue, for advocating with the Partnership on her behalf, and for producing the positive result of a reduced lien amount.

Chairman Palombi stated that, with Commissioner Myers' agreement, the work of the Housing Partnership Committee will be expanded to deal with the larger topic of the use, evaluation and oversight of City grants by outside agencies (i.e. Public Service Grants). The committee membership will be expanded to include Commissioners Myers (Chair), Burnett, Deen, Lowe and Tippins.

Special Presentation: Chairman Palombi presented a plaque of appreciation to Marcella Lowe for her good work as Chair of the TRUE Commission for 2005-06, and congratulations were generally exchanged.

#### Auditor's Report

Council Auditor Kirk highlighted the following points:

- Council President Corrigan has replaced the former Government Operations, Oversight, and Human Services (GOOHS) Committee with a new Audit Committee. Chairman Palombi will be meeting with the Council President and Audit Committee chairman Richard Clark to discuss the process of audit releases and the relationship between the work of the committee and TRUE.
- Audit #617 - Shands-Jacksonville Indigent Care - has been completed with no negative findings or comments. The audit and Shands' performance were both very positive.
- Special Report #621 – PUD Rezoning – has been completed and released. The study looked at compliance with conditions imposed in PUD rezonings to determine if conditions were met and if monetary and non-monetary contributions that were supposed to have been made by property owners and developers were in fact received. The study found that the PUD review and approval process in the Planning and Development Department is extremely paper intensive and almost completely non-automated. Only one original of each file exists, and is passed from office to office at each point of the review process. The monitoring process on PUD conditions also need strengthening. There have been numerous personnel changes in the Planning and Development Department and the new management is amenable to making the recommended changes, but money for new technology is an issue in lean budget times. City Council is looking at completely re-writing the Zoning Code to modernize it to address current development trends and practices and that may well substantially reduce the number PUDs.

#### Chair's Report

- Chairman Palombi thanked the staff for its continued good work on behalf of the commission.

- The Chair also encouraged the members to keep up their good work and to make the effort to volunteer to serve on committees and to propose and participate in projects of interest.

#### New Business

- The commission discussed its regular meeting schedule. Since the Council committees have been consolidated from 3 to 2 days during committee weeks, that will preclude TRUE from meeting at its usual time of 4:00 p.m. on the first committee Monday of the month. After some discussion the consensus of the group was to schedule the first Thursday of each month at 4:00 p.m. as the regular meeting time, recognizing that almost any time and day presents a scheduling problem for someone in a group as large as the TRUE Commission.
- **Motion:** Following up on the earlier committee report, Commissioner Lowe moved that Audit #612 – Main Library Construction – be approved without further comment.  
The motion was **approved**.
- **Motion:** Following up on the earlier discussion during the Council Auditor’s report, Commissioner Lowe moved that Audit #617 – Shands Jacksonville Indigent Care – be approved without further comment.  
The motion was **approved**.

#### Old Business

Commissioner Lowe reported that a draft of the long-awaited revisions to Ordinance Code Chapter 118 Public Service Grants - has been received. She will continue to chair the committee to review and comment on the draft.

#### Commissioner Comments

The commission welcomed new commissioner Bob Lee as the representative of the North CPAC.

#### Next meeting

The commission’s next meeting will be on Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. in the City Council Chamber.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

#### Items pending further follow-up

- Public Parking Committee report – Commissioner Roesser
- Performance Committee report – Commissioner Meroney
- City Grants Committee – Commissioner Myers
- Chapter 118 Public Service Grants Committee – Commissioner Lowe