



City of Jacksonville – The Jacksonville Journey

Funding Subcommittee

MINUTES

OF

FUNDING SUB-COMMITTEE

May 20, 2008

**The Jacksonville Journey –
Funding Sub-Committee**

May 20, 2008

2 p.m. Meeting

PROCEEDINGS before the Jacksonville Journey - Funding Sub-Committee, taken on Tuesday, May 20, 2008, Edward Ball Building, 8th Floor, Room 851 - 214 N. Hogan Street, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida commencing at approximately 2 p.m.

Funding Subcommittee

Tom Petway, Chair
John Baker, Member
Ed Burr, Member
Gary Chartrand, Member
Laurie Dubow, Member
John Falconetti, Member
Marty Fiorentino, Member
Chris Hand, Member
Mike Hightower, Member
Ashton Hudson, Member
Howard Korman, Member
Gasper Lazzara, Member
Susan Lehr, Member
Sherry Magill, member
Michael Munz, Member
John Thrasher, Member
Nina Water, Member

APPEARANCES

COMMITTEE CHAIRS & MEMBERS:

TOM PETWAY, CHAIR
JOHN BAKER, MEMBER
ED BURR, Member
MARTY FIORENTINO, Member
CHRIS HAND, Member
MICHAEL HIGHTOWER, Member
SUSAN LEHR, Member
SHERRY MAGILL, Member
MICHAEL MUNZ, Member
NINA WATERS, Member
W.C. GENTRY, Chair

ABSENTEE MEMBERS:

LAURIE DUBOW, Member
JOHN FALCONETTI, Member
ASHTON HUDSON, Member
GARY CHARTRAND, Member
HOWARD KORMAN, Member
JOHN THRASHER, Member

STAFF:

Susie Wiles
Kerri Stewart
Adam Hollingsworth
Roslyn Phillips
Linda Lanier
Misty Skipper
Kandi Begue
Rachelle Sundy
Rachel Davis
Renee Brust
Kristen Beach
Dan Cronrath
Cameron Siple
Wight Greger
James Richardson
Shannon Hewett

OTHERS PRESENT:

The Honorable Kevin Hyde
Alan Mosley, CAO
Kent Olsen
Various Members of the Press

PROCEEDINGS

April 14, 2008

Funding Sub-Committee

2 p.m.

Call to Order and Comments. Tom Petway, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 2:05 p.m.

1. Purpose of Meeting.

Discuss the Mayor's crime initiative, *The Jacksonville Journey - Take a Step* Funding Sub-committee.

2. Discussion Items

Chairman Petway opened the meeting by welcoming the members of the Funding sub-committee and reviewing the housekeeping notes. He reminded the group that we operate under the Sunshine Law.

Chairman Petway then turned the meeting over to Ms. Susie Wiles for an overview of the letter from Patton Boggs and the status of state funding.

Susie noted that this is a very difficult budget year and there was not much hope of funding from the state. Ms. Susan Lehr also provided an overview of the federal funding, and noted that revenues for the State of Florida will be showing a loss to the tune of \$100 million per month for the next budget year. She further noted that the Governor has the authority to use some of the trust funds without having to go to a special session for vote.

Chairman Petway then turned the meeting over to the city's Chief Administrative Officer, Mr. Alan Mosley to provide an overview of the city budget.

Mr. Mosley presented major points in the city's budget for FY '08-09; noting that as with the ongoing theme of the day, there will be shortfalls in the city's budget as well. He provided some insight to the new user fees that were recently presented to the city and explained that even without *Journey* recommendations, the city's budget will be approximately \$23 million short; which will prompt further discussion on how to obtain the necessary dollars to fund both the shortfall and the *Journey* recommendations. Questions were posed to Mr. Mosley as to how the city plans to address these shortfalls, to which Mr. Mosley noted that there is discussion about raising the city's millage rate. At this point, Chairman Petway opened the floor to discussion before the committee made a motion to vote. Discussion ensued about what that would look like and how that would impact budget dollars. Mr. Mosley noted that 1 mill would equate to about \$52 million dollars.

Mr. Munz spoke to the millage rate and how, during the Delaney administration, he was one of the architects who crafted the path to reduce the millage rate. He notes that looking back, he feels that at the time it was the right thing to do, but it also surprised him at how the impact has been felt this many years later. Mr. Munz states "we need to be willing to start the conversation; we need to be big and be bold. I'm not willing to go so far to say publicly, even though I have a private opinion about where I think that big and bold needs to be; but I think maybe, today we can start that conversation because it's time to

re-evaluate the lowering of the millage rate and decide again the conversation we've all had; what kind of city do we want to live in?" Mr. Munz further stated, "I want to throw the millage rate conversation on the table. I think we all know it's out there; let's stop dancing around it and let's jump into it."

Ms. Susan Lehr posed a question to Mr. Mosley, "Is the millage rate override option still available to the City Council?" Mr. Mosley affirmed that it is; he notes that the city will present a budget to the City Council in July, and they will have until the first week of August to produce a resolution stating the new millage increase.

Chairman Petway noted that he felt we had a good answer to the millage rate increase question; he feels that we have had efficient government and prudent taxing, with reductions for at least 13 years. He notes that we do need to be looking out for ourselves and not be too concerned about what Tallahassee may be doing in the future.

Mr. Munz made a motion to move forward that this committee recommend to the Mayor they move forward with the millage rate conversation and that we strongly encourage them to bring back to the community that recommendation, whatever that number is, and fund not just the *Journey*, but fund what kind of a city we want to be. The citizens need to realize that the *Jacksonville Journey* process has been a model that deserves their support. That is the campaign for whatever the Council and the Mayor and others decide.

Chairman Petway accepted Mr. Munz's motion and Mr. Michael Hightower made the 2nd. Before the floor was opened to the full vote, Dr. Magill asked that we take a moment to discuss why other options besides millage rate should be considered. She brought up the topic of special taxing districts; she cautioned that we should seriously encourage discussion on both options. Chairman Petway notes that since there was a motion on the floor to accept the discussion of Ad Valorem tax increases...he asked the committee to voice their vote - all were in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

At this point, Chairman Petway asked Mr. Kent Olsen to address Dr. Magill's concerns regarding special taxing districts.

Mr. Olsen notes that this is something that can be done, but not in time to impact this budget year. Mr. Hand noted concerns that "how do we ensure the funds that come from millage will be appropriated to *The Jacksonville Journey*?" Mr. Olsen explained that the way it comes into the budget is the way it will be allocated - we don't have a substitution affect, no trust funds are necessary to be set up for this effort.

One question that was posed - "Will this require a modification to the City's Charter?" Mr. Olsen noted that he believes that is correct. Mr. Burr stated that "Even though millage rates appear to be the option - he hopes all avenues will be explored for this purpose, it should not just be exclusive to millage rates." Mr. Olsen assured the committee that all avenues have been and will continue to be exhausted.

At the conclusion of this discussion, Chairman Petway asked if there were any other comments or questions. Seeing none, he adjourned the final meeting of the Funding Sub-Committee at approximately 10:30 a.m., and thanked everyone for their time and support to this endeavor.