



MINUTES

Fiscal Policy Task Force
Special Meeting
Mountain View Conference Room
300 West Third Street, Fourth Floor
Oxnard, CA 93030

February 15, 2012
11 a.m.

A. Roll Call

Chairperson Bryan MacDonald called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. Chairperson MacDonald and Vice-Chairperson Carmen Ramirez were present. In addition, the following staff members were present: Karen Burnham, Grace Magistrale Hoffman, Danielle Navas, Christina Aerenlund, Jim Cameron, Martin Erickson, Alan Holmberg, Kymberly Horner, Mike More, Beth Vo, and Tamara Reese. Members of the public present were: Martin Jones, Sylvia Medranu, Steve Nash, Bert Perello, Linda Seaholm, Donald Thiebeault, and Gretchen Wenner with the Ventura County Star.

B. Public Comments

Comments were made by Mr. Jones, Mr. Nash, and Mr. Perello.

C. Review and Approval of Minutes from February 1, 2012

A motion was made by Vice-Chairperson Ramirez and seconded by Chairperson MacDonald that the minutes be approved as presented.

D. Task Force Business

Fiscal Year 2011 – 2012 General Fund Financial Update

Mr. Cameron presented a handout detailing the current General Fund revenue shortfall of approximately \$957,000. He explained various revenue projection shortfalls, such as in property and economic growth capacity, as well as a \$709,000 vehicle license fee take away by the State.

In addition, General Fund expenditures are projected to exceed the budget by \$2.3 million, including: public safety overtime expenses, increases in fuel costs, and temporary labor charges. Ms. Burnham explained that years ago, decisions were made to leave permanent personnel positions unfilled and use temporary labor instead as a means of saving money and having greater flexibility. Unfortunately, many of these temporary positions were not funded when the budget was formed.

The combined deficit is \$3.3 million.

It was also noted that Recreation's temporary labor expenses have risen due to the demand for services, such as the PAL programs, which require hiring temporary staff. Vice-Chairperson Ramirez asked if hiring more permanent firefighters might help address some of the public safety overtime issue. It was noted firefighter academy training is a requirement that takes a certain amount of time to complete before new firefighters can be hired.

Mr. Cameron provided information on the State mandated CDC dissolution process, outlining CDC costs that may require General Fund expenditures. Ms. Horner provided information on current CDC properties.

Fiscal Year 2012 – 2013 Budget Update Process

Mr. Cameron shared a Budget Calendar Summary with the group and explained the proposed timelines. Discussion followed on fiscal challenges facing the City in FY 2012 – 2013. The budget calendar was approved as presented. Vice-Chairperson Ramirez suggested residents be encouraged to reduce City expenditures by doing such things as spaying and neutering their pets and eliminating graffiti.

Measure "O" Next Steps

Mr. Erickson noted Council last discussed Measure "O" in November, 2011. Mr. Erickson said preliminary discussions have been held on developing a Senior Center, projects for Ormond Beach, and street repair.

The next Measure "O" Citizen Oversight Committee meeting will be held on Feb. 23, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. Projects already funded by Measure "O" include recreation programs, gang activity reduction, and street repair.

Discussion followed on how Measure "O" monies can legally be used. Mr. Cameron noted a special meeting could be held in March to discuss the Council's priorities with regard to Measure "O".

Fiscal Year 2011 – 2012 Financial Audit

There has been some concern has been expressed regarding the continued use by the City of the auditing firm of Mayor, Hoffman, McCann P.C. due to its services with the City of Bell. Mr. Cameron noted that a different MHM office was used in the City of Bell audits. He provided information on what is involved in bringing a new accounting firm onboard for the City, including extensive review of legislative and Council actions affecting the budget. The required dissolution of the CDC will add further challenges to next year's audit process. Mr. Cameron stated he would follow up with the State Controller's Office regarding any issues with MHM.

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Meeting Schedule

The meeting schedule was approved as presented. Vice-Chairperson Ramirez stated she may not be able to attend the meeting scheduled for July, 2012.

E. Discussion of Future Agenda Items

Vice-Chairperson Ramirez asked again for a report on Enterprise Fund future infrastructure needs.

F. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.