

MINUTES

**Eugene Budget Committee
Bascom-Tykeson Room, 100 West 10th Avenue
Eugene, OR 97401**

**May 10, 2017
5:30 p.m.**

Committee Members Present: City Council Members Mike Clark, Chris Pryor, Emily Semple, Claire Syrett, Betty Taylor; Budget Committee Citizen Members Ken Beeson, Jill Fetherstonhaugh, Jon Jasper, Shaun Londahl, Scott Nowicki (Acting Chair), Josh Skov

Committee Members Absent: City Council Members Greg Evans, Alan Zelenka; Budget Committee Citizen Member Garrett Dunlavey

Guest: Mayor Lucy Vinis

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Nowicki called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. *Dana Petersen* – Deputy Program Manager of ShelterCare. Noted that ShelterCare provided services for over 1,200 homeless individuals last year. Advocated for continued funding to the Human Services Commission and for the Dusk to Dawn program. Declared that safety net programs like Dusk to Dawn offer a path to stable housing, which decreases related costs such as law enforcement and healthcare.
2. *Mike Caven* – President of the Lane Profession Fire Fighters Association. Appreciated the Budget Committee's focus on the ambulance transport system. Regarding the confusion over a previous comparison to the Seattle Fire Department, said that, although we should aspire to the high quality system Seattle demonstrates, their model does not fit what they are doing in the Eugene community. Also commented on the mental and physical toll of the additional call volume on employees, leading to attrition and sick leave. Stated that over the last few years, they have lost 15 firefighters to other departments.
3. *Brian Weaver* – Referencing Mr. Skov's motion for an open budget website, thinks the tool would be insufficient as it should be entirely independent of City staff. Argued instead for an unbiased, independent city auditor. Mr. Weaver noted that he has launched an initiative to put a ballot measure together for an elected city auditor. Stated that this would cost 0.12% of the City budget and save the City roughly 5% of the budget, so it would pay for itself.
4. *Pat Walsh* – Chair of Lane County Poverty and Homelessness Board. Concerned about the status of funding for the Dusk to Dawn program as well as a potential \$125,000 reduction to the Human Services Commission funds. Appreciates Mayor Vinis starting a conversation on the feasibility and viability of a low-barrier shelter in the community but believes funds for both Human Services and Dusk to Dawn should be maintained or increased until the shelter is operational.

5. *Jennifer Frenzer-Knowlton* – Reiterated a previous request to expand the outdoor programs that are providing shelter, such as the rest stops, Dusk to Dawn and car camping, and for seed money to plan and implement indoor shelter programs in advance of winter.
6. *John Barofsky* – Proposed setting aside some of the Comcast settlement money for other projects like a railroad quiet zone. Mentioned this would be an appropriate use for one-time funds, which would benefit the community as a whole.
7. *David Monk* – Excited by Mr. Skov’s proposal for an online budget resource but encouraged the Budget Committee not to take funds from the sister cities program and neighborhood associations. Feels that an open budget site, however, would not be enough to restore citizen trust in local government. Invited all attendees to a meeting with the former Portland City Auditor the subsequent week who will speak about how auditing can improve city government.

II. MINUTES APPROVAL

The Budget Committee received past meeting minutes for review and approval. The minutes pending approval were for the following meeting: May 3, 2017.

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Clark, seconded by Mr. Skov, moved to approve the minutes as described above. PASSED 11:0.

III. 2021 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS UPDATE

Assistant City Manager Sarah Medary provided historical context for the 2021 World Championships taking place in Eugene. Ms. Medary also discussed preparations, outcomes, criteria for project funding and next steps for the event, including an update and plan in the fall for City Council.

Acting Chair Nowicki opened up the queue for questions. Budget Committee members asked some clarifying questions regarding 2021 preparations and funding.

IV. URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY BUDGET

Denny Braud, Planning and Development Director, and Maurizio Bottalico, Senior Financial Analyst, provided a brief overview of the Urban Renewal Agency budget and current approved projects.

Acting Chair Nowicki opened up the queue for questions. Committee members asked questions related to the Urban Renewal projects.

V. BREAK

Acting Chair Nowicki called for the Committee to be in recess for a break at 6:30 p.m.

Acting Chair Nowicki called the meeting back to order at 6:41 p.m.

VI. BUDGET COMMITTEE DELIBERATION

Acting Chair Nowicki gave the author of each proposed motion three minutes to speak about their proposal and explain their rationale behind the motion. After the motions were presented, City Manager Jon Ruiz spoke about the potential impacts of the proposals. Acting Chair Nowicki had Budget Committee members express

their thoughts on any or all of the proposed motions in a round robin before opening up the queue for further questions and discussion.

Mr. Skov left at 7:40 p.m.

VII. NEXT STEPS

Acting Chair Nowicki advised Budget Committee members to refine and prepare their motions for vote at the May 24th meeting. He requested that motions be submitted to City staff by 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 18th so they can be circulated to the Committee as a whole prior to the meeting.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenna Boyd
Program Coordinator, Finance Division