



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MINUTES

City Hall, Room 15
735 Anacapa Street

Wednesday, September 26, 2018, 4:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Byrne, Steve Epstein, Susan LaFond, Steve Lew, Ken Oplinger, Francis X Peters Jr., Lesley Wiscomb

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Steve Lew (left at 5:04 p.m.)

STAFF PRESENT: Robert Samario, Finance Director; Paul Casey, City Administrator; Rebecca J. Bjork, Public Works Director; Brian D'Amour, City Engineer; Jim Dewey, Streets Operations and Infrastructure Manager; Brandon Beaudette, Budget Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER: R. Samario called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL: All Committee Members present

3. INTRODUCTIONS: Committee members and staff all introduced and provided background on themselves.

4. SELECTION OF CHAIR:

S. Epstein moved to appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair. Annually, the Vice-Chair would move into the Chair position and a new Vice-Chair would be appointed.

Motion to approve this arrangement passed unanimously.

A vote was taken and K. Oplinger was voted Chair with four votes.

A vote was taken and S. Lew was voted Vice-Chair with four votes.

5. PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF COMMITTEE:

P. Casey provided background on the purpose and expectations of the Committee. The Committee would act on behalf of the citizens of the City to ensure that funds for the Measure C sales tax are being utilized as represented to the voters.

R. Samario informed the Committee that the initial plan was to meet twice a year. The Accountability Report would be produced at the closing of the fiscal year and a meeting to review it would be in the September time frame. An update would then be given at mid-year which would be the February time frame. He asked if the Committee has a desire to meet more often than that.

K. Oplinger suggested quarterly meetings to start with and if there is a need then more meetings could be arranged. K. Oplinger also asked the members if the day and time also work. It was agreed unanimously on quarterly meetings on a Wednesday at 4:00 p.m.

R. Samario explained how Sales Tax revenues are received. He explained that revenues are received from the state quarterly based on projected revenues and then a "true up" is done at the end of each quarter based on actual sales tax receipts.

R. Samario provided the draft 2018 Accountability Report and explained that the planned format and content of the Accountability Report was anticipated to stay the same in future spots. The Report will

include a schedule of sources and uses for the fiscal year ending, a project page providing information on each project from the fiscal year ending, a schedule of sources and uses for the current fiscal year, and project descriptions of planned projects for the current fiscal year.

The Committee agreed that they would prefer hard copies of the report unbound and hole-punched.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

It was asked by the lone member of the public to hold public comment until after Item 7. K. Oplinger acknowledged the request and held public comment after Item 7.

7. REVIEW OF FISCAL YEAR 2018 MEASURE C REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

R. Samario presented the Annual Accountability Report for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2018.

He clarified that budgeted projects not completed will have funds carried over into the next fiscal year. S. Lew asked if there is a cap as to how many times a budget can be carried over. R. Samario replied there is not.

R. Samario provided information regarding the shortfall of revenue received compared to what was budgeted in Fiscal Year 2018. He stated that the shortfall in Measure C Sales Tax is greater than the shortfall in regular Sales Tax. It is difficult to get clarification from the State Department of Tax and Fee Administration but R. Samario feels that it could be related to non-compliance issues with instituting the new tax rate. He expects this to get smoothed over time and trued-up. To address the shortfall, the shortage would need to be addressed in the current fiscal year 2019. Most likely, unspent funds would need to fall back to fund balance rather than be carried over.

J. Byrne asked if there were also contractual obligations included in the Fiscal Year 2018 projects. R. Bjork explained that there were but those are carried over with the remaining funds into the next fiscal year.

R. Bjork led off a discussion of project updates from Fiscal Year 2018 with an update on the Santa Barbara Police Station project. She explained that a consultant had been retained to evaluate feasible sites for the project. Currently, the two leading sites are the Cota Commuter Parking Lot located on the corner of Cota and Santa Barbara Streets, and the Louise Lowry Davis Center campus.

S. Lew left at 5:04 p.m.

J. Byrne would like to see traceability back to the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) document from the Accountability Report. R. Bjork informed the Committee that the CIP is currently being updated and will be finalized in March of 2019.

L. Wiscomb stated she would like to see a two year budget summary included with the project information. R. Samario clarified that future reports would include the two-year financial plan to coincide with the budget cycle.

J. Byrne asked about a change order done to the recent consultant for the Police Station Project site. R. Bjork explained that a change order had been done to the contract to coincide with the amount of work performed. The scope of work had expanded since first negotiating the contract.

S. Lafond asked what would happen to the existing Police Station site. R. Bjork stated no decisions had been made and only looking at the feasibility of new sites. S. Lafond asked if the new site has to be owned by the City. R. Bjork stated it does not and other non-city sites were reviewed but were not feasible due to constraints such as the Armory being located in a flood zone.

K. Oplinger requested that the presentation on possible sites for the new Police Station be given to this Committee. R. Samario stated that could be provided.

B. D'Amour explained the Pavement Grind and Overlay Capital Project. The project is still underway with work planned until November. L. Wiscomb asked if there was a map of all street work. R. Bjork explained they are working towards that goal but while they could provide public work being done there is quite a bit of private and work done by Edison and others that they don't currently have the means to track. New permit software is being investigated that could assist with this.

S. LaFond would like to see a cost done at a block level for Grind and Overlay. B. D'Amour stated that developing such cost is challenging as a lot of different work such as curb ramps and other concrete work is included.

J. Dewey provided detail on the City Streets Crews Pavement Repairs. This is work that is done daily that was not previously possible due to a lack of funding. A 10-ton Roller was purchased and asphalt can now be bought to perform more uncertain work and address problems immediately. He explained this is more cost effective than trying to hire a contractor to perform this work. Contract work is more cost effective for planned voluminous work.

S. Epstein asked if money spent on equipment would be ok in the public's eye. R. Bjork stated it was equipment purchased to perform work on infrastructure.

J. Byrne would like to see a Pavement Condition Index included in the next Accountability Report. R. Samario stated that an updated Index can be included.

R. Samario presented the project list for the current fiscal year ending June 30, 2019.

K. Oplinger asked if revenues come in short early into the current fiscal year how that would be handled. R. Samario stated that revenues are reviewed quarterly and staff would make adjustments as necessary.

L. Wiscomb inquired what the Business Corridor Improvements project entailed and was there a nexus to infrastructure. R. Samario stated that these are improvements like hardscape and sidewalk improvements and is considered infrastructure. This project does not include daily maintenance.

L. Wiscomb asked if projects like the City Wayfinding Signage and the Central Library Security Cameras projects were related to Measure C. P. Casey responded that there is an interest by the City Council to improve security at the Parks and Library as well as improve the Business Districts.

L. Wiscomb also asked about the \$500,000 for the Central Library Project as it's not enough for the project. R. Bjork clarified this project was included as direction from City Council for construction plans to act as seed money for a fund raising effort.

K. Oplinger opened the floor for Public Comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Anne Marie Gott stated: She would like to see why City Council gave direction to not spend money on streets. Why \$2,000,000 was budgeted for the Police Station. The Business Corridor Improvements project doesn't specify what part of town. The Wayfinding Signage does not belong in Measure C. There should be no beautification projects included in Measure C.

8. MEETING AJOURNED AT 5:47 p.m.