

CITY OF OAKLAND

BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 17, 2005

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present:

Marcie Hodge, O. Fabomi Ojuola, Mike Petouhoff, Jessica Pitt, Benjamin Scott (chair), Iris Winogron, Derrick Yoon, Gene Zahas,

Committee Members Absent:

Maeve Elise Brown (excused), Thomas Doctor (excused), Jeff Fearn (excused), Ted Frey (excused), Henry Hieslmair, Donald White

City Representatives Present:

Deborah Spaulding, *Principal Financial Analyst, Budget Office*
Jean Quan, *Councilmember, District 4*

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm. A quorum was reached at 6:30.

I. Administrative Items

Benjamin Scott, the new chair of the BAC, invited members to introduce themselves. New members Marcie Hodge (District 5) and Derrick Yoon (Mayor's Office) were welcomed to the Committee.

Scott provided introductory remarks regarding his goals as the BAC Chair, and his desire to continue to elevate the Budget Advisory Committee's regard in the City.

II. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes from the September meeting were approved with an amendment to item IV, "Presentation by Dan Vanderpriem, Director of Redevelopment." The amendment reflects that a question was asked about whether redevelopment areas were a drain of resources from the General Purpose Fund (GPF). Vanderpriem explained that redevelopment areas result in a net gain in revenue to the GPF.

III. Report from Subcommittee on Police Budget and MOU

Benjamin Scott asked BAC members to review the "Draft of Letter Regarding the OPD MOU" prepared by the Subcommittee. Scott requested that BAC members particularly examine the two

bullet points on the 2nd page of the letter, to determine if these were the key recommendations that they would like to make to the Finance & Management Committee. BAC members made the following suggestions:

- Marcie Hodge suggested that the letter include some concrete language about goals or measurements for the new MOU.
- Fabomi Ojuola requested that the sentence regarding good faith negotiations be changed to read, “BAC hopes that the City and the OPOA will negotiate in good faith, keeping in mind that the interest of the City and its Citizens need to be represented in these negotiations.”
- Jessica Pitt suggested that the letter begin with some additional weight, indicating that Police overtime has been the single biggest cause of overspending in the City’s budget, and that the BAC has extensively studied this issue.
- Councilmember Quan recommended that the letter acknowledge the staffing shortages faced by the Police Department which have led to some of the overtime problems; that the letter acknowledge the OPOA’s service, and note that the Chief managed to reduce overtime spending substantially in the past year.
- Mike Petouhoff suggested a change to the second-to-last sentence in the letter, to read “Before they are finalized, any changes in the MOU have to be evaluated in terms of their impact on future City budgets.”
- Petouhoff also suggested including a sentence encouraging the Council to continue monitoring Police spending, and requiring department heads to report to the Council if overspending exceeds 10% of the GPF allocation, or \$1 million. He also suggested a sentence requesting “constructive collaboration” between OPOA and the City to decrease overtime if it continues to be a problem.
- Petouhoff recommended an additional bullet point to indicate that the MOU should give the Chief flexibility in making assignments, as well as flexibility in scheduling.

IV. Follow-up Discussion of Oakland Redevelopment

Benjamin Scott asked the Committee how they would like to follow up on Vanderprien’s presentation about redevelopment. He suggested that the downtown redevelopment area might be a good area of focus.

The Committee discussed inviting Jens Hilmer to the November meeting of the BAC, focusing on the following questions:

- What is the vision for the downtown area?
- What has been done in the downtown redevelopment district so far?
- What is still planned to occur? What is still needed?
- Discussion of larger projects – Forest City and “Oak to 9th”

Note: Jens Hilmer is unable to attend the November meeting; Patrick Lane, Urban Economic Analyst IV, will attend.

V. Quarterly report to Finance Committee for Q1 of FY 2005-06

The BAC's quarterly report is currently scheduled for the November 8th Finance & Management Committee meeting. (Councilmember Quan indicated that the BAC's report might need to be re-scheduled for later in November, such that it can be presented along with another report on the City's contracting processes.)

VI. Next Meeting - November 14, 2005.

Due to scheduling conflicts related to the Thanksgiving holiday, the next meeting has been scheduled for the second Monday, November 14th. The committee will discuss the Landscaping and Lighting Assessment District (LLAD) and downtown redevelopment. A smaller subset of BAC members will attempt to do a tour of the City's park areas in advance of the November 14th meeting, in preparation for the discussion about the LLAD.

VII. Open Forum

Deborah Spaulding announced that she has accepted a new position in the City as Administrative and Fiscal Manager of the City's Parks and Recreation Department. Another Budget Office staff person will be appointed to replace her as the Budget Office staff to the BAC.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.