

CITY OF OAKLAND BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 20, 2005

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present:

Dinah Benson (vice-chair), Maeve Elise Brown, Thomas Doctor, Ben Fay (chair),
Jeff Fearn, Mike Petouhoff, Benjamin Scott, Iris Winogron, Gene Zahas

Committee Members Absent:

Thomas Limon (excused), Henry Hieslmair, O. Fabomi Ojuola, Jessica Pitt (excused)
Donald White

City Representatives Present:

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:10pm. A quorum was reached at 6:18pm.

1. Report-out on BAC Report and Recommendations to Council on the FY 2005-07 Proposed Budget

Councilmember Quan spoke on the budget process, and reviewed the list of items that had been “restored” from previously-proposed cuts, or newly added to the budget as part of her budget amendment. She noted that the Council had brought back all staff that had been laid-off as part of the FY 2004-05 budget, and had authorized repayment of the 3% that had been contributed by Local 21 in lieu of layoffs.

The following items were included in Council’s amendments to the FY 2005-07 budget:

- Restoration of 2 Litter Enforcement Officers
- Restoration of 4 Public Works Maintenance Workers and 1 Street Maintenance Leader
- Addition of one Park Maintenance crew
- Addition of one Tree crew
- Restoration of 8 Ranger positions
- Addition of 2 Abandoned Auto staff
- Restoration of 1 Literacy Librarian and 2 Branch Librarians
- Restoration of 1 Curatorial Staff at Main Library
- Addition of Veterinarian Staff (costs offset by anticipated revenue-generation)
- Restoration of OBRA Coordination funding (for FY 2005-06 only)

Councilmember Quan noted that the budget amendment also stated:

- The Proposed FY 2006-07 Midcycle budget should be brought forward in April 2006
- The jail employees should be redeployed
- PWA staff should review fleet vehicles for improved fuel- and cost-efficiencies
- A report on improvements to the contracting process (as proposed by the BAC) should be brought to Council in the fall
- Budget compliance should be a part of performance evaluations for department heads and agency directors.

Additionally, Councilmember Quan noted that all of the immediately-possible recommendations from the PFM report would be implemented, with the exception of the redeployment of “walking officers” and “school officers.”

Councilmember Quan thanked the BAC for their very helpful input throughout the budget process.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the May 23rd meeting were approved.

3. Discussion of Next Projects

The Committee discussed how to move forward with their existing projects and reports and / or new project ideas, including: a) Research on the Lighting and Landscaping Assessment District (LLAD); b) investigation of the City’s spending of its Redevelopment funds; c) Oakland Police spending and overtime; d) the “Structural Issues” report; e) investigation of the City’s infrastructure needs; f) Community Outreach and Education; and g) Contracts

- a) Research on LLAD – the Committee decided to postpone this project for a few months, given that the Council does not appear to be immediately moving forward to increase the district’s assessments.
- b) Redevelopment Spending – A great deal of interest was expressed by the Committee. Members discussed the Redevelopment budgeting process, and projects that had been approved in prior years, which could be analyzed to determine whether the promised cost-benefit had been realized. A temporary sub-committee was formed, chaired by Maeve Elise Brown and including Jeff Fearn, Mike Pettouhoff, Tom Doctor and Ben Fay. It was suggested that speakers from CEDA and from the development industry be invited to future BAC meetings, once the Subcommittee had determined its specific focus and questions.
- c) Police over-spending - the Committee determined that this issue should be monitored for the next several months, until the MOU negotiations begin (most

likely at the end of this calendar year). Jeff Fearn was added to this temporary subcommittee.

- d) Structural Issues Report – Mike Petouhoff expressed interest in continuing the project. The BAC decided to move forward with the intent of bringing a complete report to the full Committee for review as soon as possible.
- e) Infrastructure – Discussed infrastructure issues and merits of an in-house system versus externally contracting this function.
- f) Community Outreach / Education – the BAC decided that this item could be put on hold until outreach was needed for the next BAC project.
- g) Contracts – Council and City Staff appear to be moving forward with the BAC’s recommendations on contracts. The BAC determined that it would wait for the staff report (to be brought to Council in the fall) before determining whether to move forward on this item.

4. Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, July 25th (the *fourth* Monday of the month) at 6:00 pm in the Building Bridges Conference Room.

5. Open Forum

There were no speakers for open forum.

Iris Winogronnd noted that she was resigning from the Committee due to her need to commit time to other endeavors.