

# CITY OF OAKLAND

## BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE

July 25, 2005

### Meeting Minutes

#### Committee Members Present:

Dinah Benson (vice-chair), Maeve Elise Brown, Thomas Doctor, Ben Fay (chair),  
Jeff Fearn, Thomas Limon, Mike Petouhoff, Jessica Pitt, Benjamin Scott,  
Donald White, Gene Zahas

#### Committee Members Absent:

Henry Hieslmair, O. Fabomi Ojuola

#### City Representatives Present:

Cheryl Taylor, *Principal Financial Analyst, Budget Office*  
Jean Quan, *Councilmember, District 4*

The meeting was called to order at 6:10pm.

#### I. Approval of the Minutes

Minutes were approved subject to the following amendments:

- Committee members absent. "Tomas" should be "Thomas" Limon
- Tom Doctor was appointed to the committee instead of Thomas Limon
- Mike Petouhoff's name was misspelled
- Iris Winogron is resigning pending replacement
- Item E, paragraph 3: discussed but didn't make a decision about whether infrastructure was part of redevelopment. Strike all of E and replaced with "Discussed infrastructure issues and merits of an in-house system versus externally contracting this function."

#### II. Administrative Items

Fruitvale Village Film Festival

Thomas Limon gave a quick report on the FVFF, which is every Friday at 8:00pm. The festival plays English movies with Spanish subtitles and caters to families.

Deb Spaulding will check with the City Clerk to determine committee members' term end-dates, and will report back at the next meeting.

### **III. Current Projects**

#### **A. City of Oakland Development Contracts and Projects**

Maeve Elise Brown stated that the subcommittee would like someone from the City's Redevelopment Agency to provide the BAC with an overview of existing projects and processes. Questions to address include: How redevelopment works, what's the day to day process, who's involved. What are the assumptions going into a redevelopment area and how did they get played out?

Jeff Fearn noted that the Committee should hear from someone who can speak generically, but who can also discuss real projects. Jessica Pitt suggested that Dan Vanderprieem, the City's Director of Redevelopment, would be the ideal person. Councilmember Quan agreed with this recommendation.

Pitt noted that the Committee should not discuss developer subsidy issues at this time, in order to focus on particular redevelopment areas. Mike Petouhoff noted that the BAC is not ready to talk about whether a project fits a particular plan.

Councilmember Quan noted that Vanderprieem could give a sense of how redevelopment law has changed and perhaps how the City's vision for redevelopment has changed. She noted that she does not believe the City has a comprehensive view of development.

Don White asked what the long-term and short-term objective for the review of redevelopment would be, noting that this would involve tax increments, site controls, and working with developers, and that these issues change over time, as regulations change. Brown stated that the committee is interested in how the money flows from the City and the process for how redevelopment happens. Fearn noted that redevelopment projects affect where the incremental tax revenue goes –potentially reducing money from the General Fund.

Councilmember Quan noted that she had considered extending redevelopment into the Laurel district in order to build a municipal parking lot and increase retail in the area, and that a project like this would be difficult to do without redevelopment. In many cases, redevelopment creates revenue where there previously wasn't any revenue, so it's not just an issue of "siphoning off money from the General Fund." For this reason, she suggested focusing the Committee's scope to specific redevelopment projects.

The Committee decided to invite Dan Vanderprieem to its next meeting.

#### **B. Police Budget and Police Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**

Petouhoff suggested that the Committee invite a staff person to provide an overview of the issue. Sanjiv Handa suggested that Debra Taylor Johnson would be helpful, and noted the following issues for discussion: 1) The number of officers are required for Measure Y; 2) The fact that Police union negotiators get comp time for participating in OPOA meetings; 3) That there are "side letters" added to the MOU that do not go before Council.

Petouhoff also noted that the Committee had discussed tracking Police spending through the quarterly Revenue and Expenditure report, and that it should continue to follow through on this.

White noted that it would be useful for the Committee to review and understand the MOU. Gene Zahas noted that there are concerns that whoever is negotiating on behalf of the City is “giving away the store.” Handa noted that the Brown Act says that elected officials can not participate in MOU negotiations, or they may lose their ability to attend Closed Session meeting. White recalled that Chief Wayne Tucker had stated that the MOU restricts his ability to manage staffing issues and his budget, and that for this reason, the Committee should become familiar with the MOU.

The Committee determined that Jeff Fearn and Ben Scott would review the existing Police MOU, side agreements, and audit.

C. Structural Budget Issues

Petouhoff and Ben Fay will redistribute this report at the September BAC meeting.

D. Landscaping and Lighting Assessment District (LLAD)

Councilmember Quan explained that the plan for the LLAD is to bring the issue back for the next tax ballot in May. Petouhoff stated that he was interested in being able to examine what would be added to LLAD services. Councilmember Quan noted that people don’t want to pay more to get the same thing. One proposal is to “re-green” OUSD fields that have been paved over and maintain them. However, there is a problem in convincing the school district to open up the facilities to the public, as well as in having the staff to maintain the facilities. The Committee decided to add the LLAD to the October BAC agenda.

**IV. New Project Proposals**

The BAC determined that its “plate was full,” and so no new projects should be discussed at this time.

**V. Next meeting**

The BAC decided to cancel their August meeting, and to hold the next meeting on September 19, 2005 at 6:00pm.

**VI. Open Forum**

Scott noted that Councilmember Brunner is introducing a local business tax for litter assessed to liquor and convenience stores, and facilities that allow for take out food. The tax would be a percentage of gross receipts, ranging from \$200 to \$3,000 per year, and the funds could be used to hire litter enforcement staff. Councilmember Quan noted that the proposal was to hire two teens per district who would be assigned to clean up each day from 4:00 to 7:00 pm, and that the

plan might also involve banning Styrofoam and could involve business improvement districts. Councilmember Brunner will be bringing the report back to Council in the fall.

## **VII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 pm.