



MINUTES FINANCE COMMISSION

Wednesday, June 23, 2021 - 5:00 P.M.

City of Huntington Beach

Zoom Webinar

Civic Center – Lower Level Conference Room B-8

2000 Main Street

Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Chair Stephanie Gledhill called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Stephanie Gledhill, Chair
Casey McKeon, Vice-Chair
Jamie Craver, Commissioner
Frank Lo Grasso, Commissioner
Lawrence Owen, Commissioner
Charles “C.J.” Ray, Commissioner
Robert Sternberg, Commissioner

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT Oliver Chi, City Manager
Dahle Bulosan, Chief Financial Officer
Sunny Rief, Assistant Chief Financial Officer
Thuy Vi, Administrative Assistant, Finance

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (1:21) None.

MINUTES

(1:53) **Motion: Moved by Vice-Chair Casey McKeon and seconded by Commissioner Frank Lo Grasso to approve the Finance Commission Meeting Minutes dated May 26, 2021, as presented**

Ayes: Gledhill; McKeon; Lo Grasso; Owen; Ray; Sternberg

Noes: None

Abstain: Craver

Approved: 6-0-1 (Craver-Abstain)

DISCUSSION ITEMS AND POTENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

(3:32) **Community Choice Energy (CCE) Program Update**

City Manager Oliver Chi provided an update on the CCE Program. Chi noted that since CCE is a separate legal entity, City staff is not engaged in CCE’s operations. Chi stated that the joint powers authority (JPA) meets at Irvine City Hall, and the City has two Council representatives on the Board. Chi stated that staff would provide the Finance Commission with the JPA meeting schedule and their information links.

(18:06) 2021 Strategic Plan Review

Vice-Chair McKeon requested clarification on the Charter Review process. Chi stated that the City Council has assigned staff to coordinate a Charter Review process. Chi noted that one of the biggest challenges was cleanup of Measure C park improvement issues. Chi stated that another item was to clean up the language within the elected department head positions. Chi indicated that the City Council would direct what the review process will look like and what staff will review.

McKeon asked if the City has hired for the position dedicated to homelessness. Chi stated that interviews for the Deputy Director of Homeless and Behavioral Health Services will be conducted in early July, the position would be filled before the end of July, and would report to the Chief of Police. Chi noted that the position would play a big role in the Mobile Crisis Response Program that the City has established. Chi shared details on the City's partnership with Be Well OC and the Mobile Crisis Response Program.

McKeon requested more information on instituting the City's new economic development strategy. Chi stated that through the Economic Development Committee, the City has adopted a new way of thinking about economic development as a way to grow businesses locally. The City is looking to establish a Grow HB fund to leverage locally invested money, whereby locally based companies in Huntington Beach would have access to interest free loans to expand their operations within the City. The City is looking to attract new retail, will review local data to identify industry clusters, and will decide what to do with older shopping centers.

McKeon requested an update on cannabis. Chi stated that in the next two months, there will be a study session with the City Council to review what to do with cannabis locally, such as whether to allow retail sales, distribution, research and development, medicinal, cultivation, and generally, whether to allow cannabis shops in the City. Staff will outline methods to coordinate permitting of cannabis for City Council consideration.

McKeon asked for clarification on developing land use changes to encourage redevelopment of strip malls. Chi stated that there a lot of older strip malls in the City, and the City is looking to redevelop the sites. Analysis is being coordinated through the current Housing Element Update.

Commission Craver requested an update on finalizing labor contracts. Chi said the City has eight bargaining units and currently, only three of those groups have contracts in place. Chi stated that the City is currently in meet and confer sessions with labor groups, and in the next two to three months will discuss in closed session with the City Council how to resolve contractual issues. Chi noted that the City has good labor relations with the bargaining groups.

Chair Gledhill asked how much money the City would receive from the Federal government through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Chi indicated the City will be receiving \$29.6 million, and has already received the first half of the funds. The ARPA Funding Subcommittee is meeting to develop a proposed spending plan, and will submit an initial proposed spending plan to the U.S. Treasury Department by the end of August. Chi indicated that the spending priorities include: infrastructure, to connect the resort district with the downtown core of the City; facilitating affordable and permanent affordable housing efforts; and general infrastructure, to improve and

update the Parks Master Plan. Chi noted that ARPA funds will be invested in the community and not used to fund current operations.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

(1:04) Chair Gledhill asked for an update on the Committee Task List that was previously submitted to the City Council in order to get direction on what is needed of the Finance Commission.

McKeon stated that this was his last Finance Commission meeting, and thanked Staff and the Commission.

COMMISSIONER ITEMS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

(1:05:21) **Motion: Moved by Commissioner CJ Ray and seconded by Vice-Chair McKeon to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p.m.**

Ayes: Gledhill; McKeon; Craver; Lo Grasso; Owen; Ray; Sternberg

Noes: None

Approved: 7-0

Submitted by:

Dahle Bulosan, Chief Financial Officer

By: Thuy Vi, Administrative Assistant, Finance Department