



4/25/2019 | 8:15 AM

The meeting of the Citizen Financial Review Task Force was called to order at 8:17 a.m. in the Lower Level Meeting Room, located at 3600 Tremont Road by Chairperson Ann Gabriel.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairperson Ann Gabriel, Jamie Crane, Colin Gawel*, Greg Guy, Ukeme Awakessien Jeter*, Tim Keen, Matthew J. Kirby, Matthew Rule, Kaz Unalan

STAFF PRESENT: Community Affairs Director Emma Speight, Finance Director Brent Lewis, Assistant Finance Director Jon Lindow, and Deputy City Clerk Liz Richards

1. Approval of Minutes of April 18, 2019 Meeting

Ms. Crane moved, seconded by Mr. Guy, to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2019 Citizen Financial Review Task Force Meeting.

Motion carried.

2. Complete City Finance 101

The Finance Director summarized the Citizen Financial Review Task Force Finance 101 PowerPoint that was presented at the April 18, 2019 Meeting. He advised he will have the Capital spending details for the Committee next week.

He stated last week he ended with discussing Tax Increment Financing (TIFs). The City has eleven TIFs, most are non-school TIFs, which means the Developer pays taxes to the school district, but the City does not get any money to fund the project.

He stated there are multiple types of revenues, restricted revenues must be used for a specific purpose. The gas tax, motor vehicle license tax, federal law enforcement seizure fund, fees from Mayor's Court, and a portion of the Hotel tax are restricted revenues.

In response to Mr. Keen, the Finance Director confirmed that the Hotel Tax is not a UA specific tax, it is a portion of a Franklin County tax. One-quarter of the tax goes to the visitor's bureau.

*Mr. Gawel and Ms. Jeter arrived at 8:27 a.m. and were present for all subsequent business.



The Finance Director provided an overview of the gas tax and vehicle registration tax. He stated these are tracked in their own fund, and are distributed to municipalities based on the number of registrations. Currently the gas tax brings in about \$1.8 million, and it is estimated that there will be \$735k in additional revenue next year. He said these funds have to be used on street work.

Mr. Kirby questioned if the funds could be used to build sidewalks. The Finance Director advised he will find out and report back.

The Finance Director related there is a \$5 portion of the motor vehicle registration tax that belongs to the City. The funds are held by the County to be used for specific cross jurisdictional thoroughfare projects. The City will have the option to impose another \$5 tax on registrations. This Committee can make a recommendation to Council to consider this.

In response to Mr. Keen, the Finance Director advised the tax is imposed by the City, but the County retains it.

Mr. Rule questioned if the funds would still be held by the County. The Finance Director advised he will find out and report back.

Mr. Gawel asked if there is a way for residents to find out when there will be construction on their street. The Community Affairs Director advised the CIP is on the City website, in addition when work is scheduled, notices are sent out.

The Finance Director conveyed the water and sewer surcharge fees were increased this year. He said usage fees go to Columbus, and there is an additional surcharge that comes to UA to fund operations, maintenance, and some capital projects.

The Finance Director advised the City operates three swimming pools. Collections from the pools pay for lifeguards and maintenance. He said fees are not set to cover all capital expenses associated with the pools. Committee members requested pool and tennis usage reports.

Mr. Keen questioned if the revenues are sufficient to cover all operating and capital costs associated with the activity. The Finance Director said operations and maintenance are covered by the fees. The fees do not cover capital projects, the City issues debt for those items and pays for it with income tax. He added one of the recommendations of the previous Task Force was to try to get operations to cover capital.

Chair Gabriel asked if the municipal tax exclusion on retirement income and investment income is state law, the Finance Director confirmed it is.

In response to Chair Gabriel, the Finance Director said certain programs cover operating costs and certain ones do not.



The Community Affairs Director added the Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan details the program areas and cost recovery goals. The Committee requested copies of the Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan and the RiverRidge/Kingsdale West Study.

In response to Mr. Rule, the Finance Director advised the first few years of the CIP are pretty solid.

In response to Mr. Rule, the Community Affairs Director conveyed the RiverRidge/Kingsdale West neighborhood was the first neighborhood to go through a study. She added there may be future studies of other areas.

3. Review/Discuss 2014 Task Force Statement of Values

Chair Gabriel advised the report from the 2014 Task Force has a statement of values the Committee received last week. She advised she would like to ratify or adopt these values.

Mr. Rule stated that the 3rd item listed is not as timely as it was five years ago, especially with the gas tax discussions they are having. Mr. Keen stated he objects to this item. Chair Gabriel stated they will remove the 3rd item and asked members if they had any other changes.

Mr. Kirby suggested they add a value for the importance of building for the future.

The Community Affairs Director said she will draft options for the Committee to review next week.

4. Discussion of Department Directors to Interview

Chair Gabriel advised the Public Service Director will come and present next week. She suggested adding the Parks & Recreation Director. She asked the Committee if there is anyone else they would like to meet with.

The Finance Director suggested they meet with The Public Service Director, Economic Development Director and Parks & Recreation Director at the same time.

Ms. Jeter expressed interest in meeting with the Community Development Director.

The Finance Director suggested the Committee work to define the scope of what they want the Directors to prepare to talk about.

Mr. Guy questioned the status of the Tree of Life property. The Community Affairs Director advised they are waiting to see if the Supreme Court will hear the case.

Chair Gabriel suggested meeting with Police and Fire, because they impact the capital equipment budget.

The Committee discussed what they want from the Directors' presentations. Chair Gabriel asked members to send their questions to her by Saturday.

The Finance Director stated next week they will start with the Public Service Director and the Parks & Recreation Director. The week after, they will have the Economic Development Director, Community Development Director, Police, and Fire.

The Committee agreed that Department Directors should prepare a broad overview of their department operations and budget and be prepared to answer questions.

The Finance Director stated he will send focused financial information to help.

5. Review/Discuss 2014 Recommendations Update (4-4-19)

Chair Gabriel stated during the first meeting, the Finance Director provided an update on the 2014 Task Force recommendations. She said it seems that two of the recommendations are completed, and the rest of them are ongoing.

She said they should look at additional privatization, user fees covering costs, and a 10 year CIP as ongoing. She suggested they specifically address staffing and operations, replacement of the 5 mill levy and the income tax credit. Many of these recommendations have been implemented and should be ongoing.

Mr. Keen suggested the Committee proceed through the list sequentially and discuss if it was done.

In response to Mr. Guy, Chair Gabriel advised the charge of this Committee is to evaluate and to make additional recommendations to Council. She said they can make the recommendation that these things are ongoing and become standard operating procedures.

6. Discussion of Timeline to Report Delivery

Chair Gabriel reviewed the timeline (attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as Exhibit A). She stated the Committee has a two-month time frame and they may need to meet more often than originally planned. In the next two weeks they will be hearing presentations from department heads. Starting with May 23rd, the Committee will begin to develop recommendations, assessing services, and brainstorming privatization and collaborative opportunities for the City. On May 30th, they will look into the prior recommendations, while thinking about their own recommendations. Chair Gabriel would like to discuss the final report on June 6th, and plan for approval on June 13th.

Chair Gabriel requested the City Clerk conduct another survey regarding upcoming meeting times.



Mr. Keen questioned what Council action the Committee should expect. The Community Affairs Director stated City Council will most likely bring forward a Resolution of Acceptance of the report from the Committee.

Chair Gabriel asked the Committee Members to submit any questions they have for Department Heads.

7. Public Comment

In response to Chair Gabriel's invitation, Mr. Jim Becker came forward.

Mr. Becker advised he would like to briefly address the AOL/Tree of Life property. He stated he attended two of the three appeals, and Judge Smith ruled all three times in favor of the City. He said the City is rightly serious about it. No school can go in there, and that is the issue. He said they are waiting to see if the U.S. Supreme Court will hear the case. He related this is a critical piece of property, and the City needs to continue with what the courts have held so far.

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There being no further business before the Citizen Financial Review Task Force, the meeting was adjourned at 9:43 a.m.


Chairperson

ATTEST: 
Deputy City Clerk



EXHIBIT A

UA Citizens Financial Review Task Force
Draft Timeline
April 25, 2019

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| May 2 | Presentation by Jackie Thiel, Public Service Director
Assess Capital Improvement Accomplished to Date and
Review 10 Year Capital Improvements Plan |
| May 9 | Meet with Department Heads |
| May 16 | Discussion of Municipal Income Taxes in Ohio
Review of City's Financial Status and Outlook |
| May 23 | Assess City Services/ Explore further privatization and/or
collaboration opportunities |
| May 30 | Review of Identified Recommendations of 2014 Task
Force |
| June 6 | Discuss Report and Recommendations to City Council |
| June 13 | Approval of Final Report |