

MINUTES

**Eugene Budget Committee
Bascom-Tykeson Room, 100 West 10th Avenue
Eugene, Oregon 97401**

**May 1, 2014
5:30 p.m.**

Committee Members Present: City Council Members George Brown, Mike Clark, Chris Pryor, George Poling, Betty Taylor, Claire Syrett, Greg Evans, Alan Zelenka; Budget Committee Citizen Members Laura Illig (Chair), Mark Rust (Vice-Chair), Marshall Wilde, Ken Beeson, Bob Clarke, Will Shaver, Jill Fetherstonhaugh

Committee Members Absent: Budget Committee Citizen Member Chelsea Clinton

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Illig called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

I. PUBLIC HEARING ON FY15 BUDGET

1. *Susan Tavakolian* – pleased that the process has provided citizen input which impacted the alternatives by the City Manager. Pleased that the Human Services Commission discretionary funding, Lane Regional Air Protection Authority (LRAPA) and Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) dues are being included in the budget. Supports one time sources of funding to continue Sheldon and Bethel branch library services, and believes voters should have the chance to vote on a local option levy regarding the library.
2. *Cindy Clarke* – thanked the Committee for the hard work in engaging the community in this process. Encouraged the Committee to look at management ratios, and noted the Fire and EMS department maintained staffing levels from FY12-15 while dropping materials and services budget.
3. *Linda Ague* – thanked the Committee for their hard work, and for continued funding for the branch libraries for another year. Would assist to help with a levy measure.
4. *Tom Mulhern* – urged the Committee to remove the “one-time funding” label from the \$250,000 Human Services Commission funding.
5. *Jim Stauffer* – did not wish to testify.
6. *Merle Bottge* – pleased that funding to keep the two branch libraries open for one year has been restored, and looking forward to working on a library local option levy if one is placed on the ballot.
7. *Jim McCarthy* – expressed concern over the potential shifting of \$605,000 from the General Fund to the Stormwater Fund for parks and open space maintenance.
8. *Beth Walsh* – supported the idea of a library local option levy being presented to the voters.
9. *Tawasi* – urged the Committee to continue funding for parks and open space maintenance. Asked the Committee if the City would have any input in the convention center project in Glenwood. Would like to see benches anywhere downtown for the community to sit on.
10. *Seda Collier* – expressed concern that everyone in the City will be affected negatively by cuts to the Equity and Human Rights program.
11. *David Sonnichsen* – concerned over reduced funding for the Neighborhood Services program, as well as funding for newsletter distribution within neighborhood associations.
12. *Bob Cassidy* – expressed disappointment with the FY15 budget outreach process. Urged the Council members on the Committee to discuss revenue options very soon.

13. *Jan Aho* – asserted human services funding should be a priority, along with public safety, and treated with the same consideration for reductions as have previously been the case for more than two decades.
14. *Moshe Immerman* – expressed the Equity and Human Rights program, along with the Neighborhood Services program, are excellent resources for the community and should receive continued funding. Expressed concern over any parks maintenance budget cuts. Stated revenue discussions should occur soon.

II. COMMITTEE DELIBERATION AND ACTION

Chair Illig informed the Committee that their objective tonight was to make a recommendation on the FY15 Proposed Budget to City Council. On May 27, 2014, the City Council will hold a public hearing and approve the budget.

Chair Illig provided a brief overview of the work the Revenue Team performed. In March, after addressing the General Fund gap, the planning team, consisting of Mayor Piercy, City Councilor Chris Pryor, Budget Committee Chair Laura Illig, and the City Manager, provided the Revenue Team direction to complete their revenue evaluations but to not make a recommended at the present time. A Revenue Team report, dated April 8, 2014, was provided to the Budget Committee. It is envisioned the Revenue Team will re-convene to match potential revenue streams and potential funding together at a future date, yet to be determined, after the Council holds discussions on a Library Local Option Levy.

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Poling, seconded by Councilor Syrett, moved that the Budget Committee recommend that the Council appoint a committee to develop for Council consideration one or more options for a 5-year library levy, including an option that would restore the downtown and branch library services that have been cut in recent years. The ad hoc committee should include members of the Council, the Revenue Team and advocates, and should report back to Council in the first part of June. PASSED 13:2, Councilors Brown and Taylor opposed.

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Poling, seconded by Councilor Clark, moved to extend the meeting by at most thirty minutes. MOTION CARRIED.

The Committee recessed at 6:49 p.m. Meeting reconvened at 6:55 p.m.

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Pryor, seconded by Councilor Clark, moved that the Budget Committee recommend to the Eugene City Council the FY15 Budget for the City of Eugene that consists of the City Manager's Proposed FY15 Budget, including the property tax levies and/or rates contained therein, amended to reflect appropriations for prior year encumbrances and prior year capital projects. PASSED 14:1, Ms. Fetherstonhaugh opposed.

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Pryor, seconded by Mr. Clarke, moved that the Budget Committee recommend to the Eugene City Council, acting as the Urban Renewal Agency Board of Directors, the FY15 Budget for the Eugene Urban Renewal Agency that consist of the City Manager's FY15 Proposed Budget, including the property tax levies and/or rates contained therein, amended to reflect appropriations for prior year encumbrances and prior year capital projects. PASSED 15:0.

III. NEXT STEPS AND RECOGNITION OF MARK RUST'S SERVICE ON THE COMMITTEE

Chair Illig announced to Budget Committee Citizen Members that service profile presentations would occur in the fall. Service profiles were postponed last fall.

Chair Illig noted Ms. Clinton and Mr. Beeson's terms for the Budget Committee were expiring, and both have re-applied to the Committee. Mr. Beeson was appointed as the Budget Committee Member to the Human

Services Commission at the April 28, 2014 City Council meeting. Vice-Chair Rust's term for the Budget Committee will be expiring, and Mr. Rust has elected to not re-apply. Chair Illig presented Vice-Chair Rust a plaque and thanked him for his service.

Chair Illig is stepping down as chair of the Budget Committee at the end of the budget cycle. A new chair will be elected at the next Budget Committee meeting.

Councilor Pryor recognized Chair Illig for maneuvering the Committee through a challenging budget process with grace and integrity.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Mumme,
Program Coordinator, Finance Division