

MINUTES

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

**May 3, 2017
5:30 p.m.**

Committee Members Present: City Council Members Mike Clark, Chris Pryor, Emily Semple, Betty Taylor, Alan Zelenka; Budget Committee Citizen Members Ken Beeson, Jill Fetherstonhaugh, Jon Jasper, Shaun Londahl, Scott Nowicki (Acting Chair), Josh Skov

Committee Members Absent: City Council Members Greg Evans, Claire Syrett; Budget Committee Citizen Member Garrett Dunlavey

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Nowicki called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. *Mike Caven* – President of the Lane Profession Fire Fighters Association. Stated there is not enough ambulance capacity to address call volume. Advised changing thinking that the City cannot add transport resources without generating additional revenue, noting upcoming demand related to 2021 and Envision Eugene.
2. *Kelly Johnson* – Development Director for ShelterCare. Grateful for past support and advocated for continued funding.
3. *Bob Cassidy* – Concerned about low-paid City employees, specifically temporary workers. Suggested paying a higher cost of living adjustment to employees making less than \$15 an hour.
4. *Jennifer Frenzer-Knowlton* – Requested Comcast money be directed to various homeless initiatives such as seed money for a shelter, day respite center, transition expenses for Nightingale Health Sanctuary, new rest stops in preparation for winter and fees for consultation with Eric Tars (Senior Attorney with the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty) to provide comprehensive strategies and alternatives to criminalization of homelessness.
5. *Lee Deveau* – Suggested that directing funds towards a homeless shelter could reduce law enforcement costs. Made recommendations to direct funds for a low-barrier shelter, day respite shelter, multi-day storage facilities and emergency shelter.
6. *Cindy Koehler* – President of local AFSCME 1724. Called for restoring parking meters to pay for safety and cleaning downtown. Asked for reconsidering the use of Comcast funds for City Hall and proposed instead to put funding towards deferred maintenance of existing City facilities and ambulance services.
7. *Michael Carrigan* – Represented Community Alliance of Lane County and Nightingale Health Sanctuary. Said more needs to be done to help the homeless as there is a great need. Stated rest stops work. Requested help for a low barrier shelter with the Comcast settlement as a potential funding source.

II. MINUTES APPROVAL

The Budget Committee received past meeting minutes for review and approval. The minutes pending approval were for the following meetings: March 15, 2017 and April 26, 2017.

MOTION AND VOTE: Mr. Skov, seconded by Councilor Clark, moved to approve the minutes as described above. PASSED 10:0.

III. COMCAST SETTLEMENT DISCUSSION

Sue Cutsogeorge, Finance Director, reviewed the details of the Comcast settlement, covering the amount of one-time funds received from the settlement, the amount kept in reserve and appropriated for use on FY17 Supplemental Budget 1, the amount and uses proposed with the FY18 Budget, relevant Council adopted financial policies and the purpose of the Reserve for Revenue Shortfall account.

Councilor Taylor arrived at 5:53 p.m.

Ms. Cutsogeorge posed two questions for Budget Committee consideration: one, should the City keep \$9.5 million of the one-time Comcast settlement dollars in the Reserve for Revenue Shortfall to help maintain a projected balance of at least 5% of General Fund expenditures over the next six fiscal years; and two, what should happen with the remaining Comcast dollars?

Acting Chair Nowicki invited each Budget Committee member to provide three minutes of comments or feedback regarding the use of Comcast settlement funds in a round robin format. After each of the Committee members present had the opportunity to speak, Acting Chair Nowicki opened the queue for questions and further discussion.

IV. BREAK

Acting Chair Nowicki called for the Committee to be in recess for a break at 6:53 p.m.

Acting Chair Nowicki called the meeting back to order at 7:05 p.m.

V. AMBULANCE CAPACITY

Eugene-Springfield Fire and EMS Chief, Joe Zaludek, provided an overview of current Emergency Medical Services. Chief Zaludek summarized system changes since 2002, new additions to current services scheduled for later in the year and considerations for the FY18 budget. Relying in part on statistics from the City of Seattle Fire Department's 2015 Annual Report, Chief Zaludek highlighted the need for a more in-depth study to identify the appropriate mix of basic life and advanced life support, given service demands in the Eugene-Springfield metro region.

Acting Chair Nowicki invited each Budget Committee member to provide three minutes of comments or feedback pertaining to ambulance capacity in a round robin format. After each of the Committee members present had the opportunity to speak, Acting Chair Nowicki opened the queue for questions and further discussion.

VI. NEXT STEPS

Acting Chair Nowicki requested Budget Committee members send their draft motions to Twylla Miller by Monday, May 8th at noon in preparation for discussion and votes at the Budget Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 24th. Acting Chair Nowicki noted that the motions will be consolidated by City staff and sent to the Budget Committee the evening of May 8th.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenna Boyd
Program Coordinator, Finance Division