

**Finance Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2021**

Roll Call/Announcements

The Finance Commission (FC) meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Chair Davies requested staff call the roll.

Commissioners Present: Siafa Barclay, Bruce Bester, Wanda Davies, John Murray, Dan Sagisser

Commissioners Absent: Ryan Lee.

Staff Present: Finance Director Michelle Pietrick

Receive Public Comments

Mr. Roger Hess, 1906 Wagner Place, asked in the budget where would he could find claims that were previously paid as well as claims in the budget for 2022.

Ms. Pietrick explained the insurance fund would pay that.

Mr. Hess asked if there is anywhere that the public can find out what was paid in claims last year or the previous year.

Ms. Pietrick indicated this could be obtained from the Finance Department.

Chair Davies explained that is not a part of the budget, the City budgets to keep the fund at an adequate level.

Mr. Hess indicated he was curious if claims were budgeted and if there was some information about previous years. He noted his second question was with the Senior Deferred Loan Program and he wondered if the Commission reviewed this program before it started.

Chair Davies indicated the Commission did review the program.

Mr. Hess indicated the way he understood it is someone who is probably living on a fixed income and does not have a lot of disposable income to get their own loan would be someone to take advantage of this program. He noted he did not really understand the program.

Chair Davies indicated she did not remember all of the details, but Ms. Jeanne Kelsey was the one in charge of the program if Mr. Hess needed more information.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Barclay moved, seconded by Commissioner Murray to approve the August 25, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Receive Finance Commission Recommendations Tracking Report

Commissioner Bester updated the Commission on recent changes to the tracking report.

Review and Discuss 2022 City Manager Recommended Budget & Tax Levy

Finance Director Pietrick reviewed with the Commission discussion from the last Finance Commission meeting and indicated the Commission may want to submit guidance or recommendations to the City Council regarding the City Manager's recommended budget & tax levy which the Chair can provide at the City Council meeting on September 20, 2021.

The Commission discussed budget items with Ms. Pietrick including Police Vehicle Equipment funds, City Council expenses, Community Visioning, Administration expenses, County services and election costs, Property Tax Levy/EDA, embedded Social Work positions, Golf Course budget and TIF.

Commissioner Sagisser moved, seconded by Commissioner Bester to recommend the 2022 City Manager Budget & Tax Levy as presented to the City Council.

Commissioner Murray noted that he was wincing at the idea of increasing the levy because the real estate taxes are paid out of income, not out of valuations. While valuations are going up, income is not. He thought this will create a hardship on some people in the City. He thought if it was necessary to increase the levy than it was necessary, but he thought this will hurt some residents.

Commissioner Bester indicated that one of the things that pleased him with this budget was that the City budgeted a two-million-dollar reduction in fund balance.

Chair Davies explained the other piece that she noticed is that last year there was actually a decrease, so it did not surprise her that there was a larger increase this year because in a sense it is kind of two years of increases because given the hard times the Council really wanted to hold the line last year. She looked at the levy increase as being two years' worth.

Commissioner Murray encouraged the City Council to be sensitive to resident hardships.

Commissioner Barclay agreed because many people have been affected by COVID.

The motion carried unanimously.

Discuss Antennae Leases

Finance Director Pietrick explained the Commission is asked to discuss and review the antennae leases. She recapped the lease with the Commission.

Chair Davies asked how much revenue was budgeted for 2022.

Ms. Pietrick indicated it was \$450,000.

Chair Davies asked if this was fairly stable.

Ms. Pietrick indicated it was.

Chair Davies thanked Ms. Pietrick for providing the information.

Identify Discussion Items for Future Meetings

Chair Davies stated the next agenda would include an update on the Council adopted 2022 preliminary Budget & Tax Levy, review and adopt a recommendation on the 2022 proposed utility rates and review park dedication and other fees.

Ms. Pietrick asked if the Commission wanted to see the purchasing policy with the equity language inserted since the dollars did not change.

The Commission indicated they would like to see the policy but indicated no discussion was warranted.

Adjourn

Commissioner Bester made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Murray to adjourn. The **motion passed unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.