

Citizens' Finance Advisory Commission Minutes

November 10th – 6:00 PM

City of Loveland Council Chambers, 500 E. 3rd Street, Loveland, CO 80537

Committee Members Present: Jim Atkins, Bruce Finger, Ralph Trenary, Jon Smela, John Case. (Jodi Radke arrived late)

Staff & Council Liaison Present: John Hartman, Renee Wheeler, Cathleen McEwen, and Dawn Wirth.

CALL TO ORDER:

Ralph Trenary called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ralph asked if there were any changes to the October minutes. Discussion ensued on the changes Renee suggested.

Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as amended. Motion passed 5-0.

REGULAR AGENDA:

Ballot Measure Response

Ballot measures Amendment 60 and 61 and Proposition 101 all failed during the election. Commission's goal of public outreach needs to be reviewed and changed to another focus. Subcommittee needs to reset and work towards a new presentation regarding structural imbalance. Discussion ensued.

REPORTS:

Council Update

Cathleen wanted to personally thank the commission for their hard work regarding the ballot initiatives. The education outreach she believed made the difference.

Director Update

Renee wanted to thank Jim and Ralph and the other commission members regarding getting the ballot measures facts out to the public. She also mentioned that another project for CFAC might be looking into the "Debrucing" voter approved initiative that is about to sunset. (Voter approved retention of revenue in excess of the TABOR revenue limit for parks, streets, police and fire.) She continued by explaining the handouts regarding the lodging tax revenue projections and the utility bill assistance. Discussion ensued.

OLD BUSINESS:

Vacancies

Ralph announced that Bob Foley has decided not to reapply for CFAC. He is hoping to attend the December meeting to say farewell. Also, Ryan Cosner has been unreachable. Staff has submitted a request for dismissal to Council to open that position for another applicant. Ralph and Bruce have both reapplied for their expiring terms. In addition, there will be two vacancies in January, one 3-year term and a partial one-year term. He requested that the commission look for new talent to bring to the commission.

Roles & Responsibilities

Ralph continued to discuss roles and responsibilities for the members. Going into 2011 we will be looking at the 2012 and 2013 budgets. A passive review will become more active due to the challenges of a structural imbalance. In February, CFAC discussed individual members spending a few meetings with departments and with other supporting commissions to gain a perspective of their budget challenges. Discussion ensued regarding the role CFAC member will have at the departmental level. Observation and better understanding, etc... roundtable discussion to have a better understanding to what will be coming. Discussion ensued on the purpose of attending the other meetings and how it will impact the commission.

Suggestions were made for potential 2011 projects, including structural imbalance, the effectiveness of the health care clinic, the plan design of the clinic, etc.

Resolution of Open Actions/Issues

It was suggested that the commission receive information on the commercial real estate market, perhaps including vacancy rates for both residential and commercial properties for the economic indicator dashboard. Discussion ensued regarding the need to know about commercial vacancies and how that relates to lack of jobs in the area. Commission would like to find an indicator that would reflect the impact on the city. He also mentioned inviting Betsey Hale in to give an update on economic development for the City. Ralph will ask her to present at a future meeting.

Ralph also asked about a resolution on Human Service information regarding free or reduced lunch as a possible leading indicator. He asked if this is data worth gathering. Cathleen suggested that Darcy McClure might have that information. Renee stated she would contact the Assistant Superintendent of the Thompson School District for information on free and reduced lunches. She also stated that Gordan Thibedeau provides the funding to many social programs and he may be able present the information to the commission. Discussion ensued on what information specifically might be the most beneficial as an indicator.

Ralph asked if there was a question about the current grants the City is receiving and having a noticeable impact. Are there additional opportunities that we can tap into? Request was made to keep this as an open agenda item and commission agreed to add this as a future agenda item.

NEW BUSINESS:

Solutions for Structural Imbalance

John Hartman introduced a budget trivia game to challenge their knowledge and to show members an option for outreach communication to assist with balancing future years budgets. The group answered 20 questions to see how well they knew the details in the 2011 Adopted Budget. Trivia game ensued.

John then moved ahead with the current projected structural imbalance in the next 10 years, specifically looking at the first 5 years. Discussion ensued on the projections.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Jim asked if there has been any interest in getting downtown Loveland with free wireless. The IBM Smart City Grant could be possible. Discussion ensued.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made and seconded for adjournment. Meeting was adjourned at 7:55PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Dawn Wirth, Secretary to the Board