

BUDGET, INVESTMENT & TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2022 – 4:00 PM
ANAHEIM CITY HALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rajesh Arora, Paul Dallura, Jorge Gavino, Leonard Lahtinen,
Christopher Nguyen, John Noteboom, Rory Zaks

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Debbie Moreno, D'Anne Lee, Charlene Alfaro, Marnie Hunter

GUESTS PRESENT: Greg Garcia

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:06 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 23, 2022

Commissioner Lahtinen made a motion to approve the February 23, 2022 minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dallura. 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 1 Abstention

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE INTRODUCTION

Assistant City Manager Greg Garcia introduced himself and wanted Commissioners to know that he is available to answer any questions as the Commission goes about making its budget recommendations to City Council. Commission members introduced themselves. Commission members asked about the status of the Angel Stadium sale. Commissioners also asked about police staffing and Mr. Garcia talked about recent hires, the onboarding process, attrition, retention, compensation, the current hiring environment for police officers and, the competitive nature of attracting qualified and seasoned officers. The Commission asked about the disposition of the Community Care Response Team (CCRT) and Greg described how the program is going thus far. It is still in its infancy stage and a lot is being learned about getting the right balance and mix of officer involvement, the mental health profession and supporting services to help alleviate issues around homelessness. Street racing was discussed. Mr. Garcia talked about some of the challenges encountered with policing this activity and approaches taken to stop it including: social media monitoring, use of air surveillance, and penalties that are more effective. The group talked about tourism-crime and robberies in general. Greg talked about upgrades being done to the City Council Chamber including infrastructure and technology adjustments that will alleviate some of the issues associated with live streaming of the City Council meetings. Commissioners asked about the budget process which Greg described adding that the budget process is ongoing and that input could be given at any point in time by the Commission and the community at large. Much of the budget is tied to capital and operations and that leaves a small amount for discretionary use. This year the City has been fortunate to have enough rebound from the pandemic that it can invest in the community, debt repayment, and deferred maintenance. The Commission talked about resort debt, golf operations, enterprise funds, and community outreach.

CITY GRANTS

The Commission asked about various revenue streams including grants, business growth and business retention. Mr. Garcia talked about a consultant the City uses to help streamline

the grant seeking process and about the City's record of accomplishment in receiving grants. A listing was shared with the Commission showing some of the grants the City has applied for and been awarded. The Commission suggested exploring the possibilities of collaborating with some of the larger private firms in the City. Greg talked about reinvesting in the City's business districts and heightening partnerships with the business community. To help toward this end, the City recently established an Economic Development department. The Commissioners would be interested in hearing from the new executive of this department. Greg spoke further about grants and how some grants stipulate conditions that render them infeasible. The City does receive federal earmarks and state grants via legislature. The City also has representatives and advocates in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. that coordinate with our congressional members for grant funding and earmarks. Commissioners were curious about what city administration sees as areas for improvement for the City overall. Greg named employee retention, street improvements, street vendors, prostitution and homelessness as some of the issues at the top of the list. Commissioners also had discussion on investing in high school programs including STEM and e-sports, encouraging video gaming businesses, marketing the City to visiting business leaders, refreshing older strip malls and shopping centers, possibly rebranding the Canyon business district and, bringing in more grocery stores.

BUDGET UPDATE

Finance Director Debbie Moreno touched briefly on the highlights of the Mid-Year Budget update. Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) growth happened more quickly than anticipated. Sales and Use tax has also rebounded well. Property taxes are still flat. Other revenue upticks include permits in Planning. Transfers-in remain about the same. Operating sources are up significantly and expenditures look to be on target. Transfers-out are going to be much larger (resort debt service) and this is because TOT and Sales were greater necessitating that the required payment to the trustee be larger. We are getting the second portion of the federal stimulus this year. At this time, we will not need to use the bond proceeds we borrowed and can preserve those funds to help balance any gaps in outer years. Commissioners asked about bond ratings and for a comparison of current budget numbers versus prior budgets.

GOAL SETTING

The Commission would like to hear from the newly formed Economic Development Department.

ITEMS BY COMMISSION MEMBERS

Commissioner Lahtinen sought the group's opinion on City Council appointees to boards and commissions. The Commission and Mr. Garcia shared thoughts on this topic.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Noteboom adjourned the meeting at 5:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marnie Hunter, Secretary