



**City of Gresham Finance Committee
Wednesday, September 21, 2022, 7:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting Minutes**

Finance Committee Members Present:

Rusty Allen
Jan Baker
Theresa Tschirky, Vice-Chair
Claire Lider
Nick McWilliams
Dave Dyk, Chair

Finance Committee Members Absent:

Sue O'Halloran

Council Liaison in Attendance:

Janine Gladfelter

Staff Members in Attendance:

Elizabeth McCann, Budget Manager
Sharron Monohon, Director of Budget & Finance

Christina Ott (Recording Secretary)

1. Convene Meeting

Chair Dyk convened the meeting of the Gresham Finance Committee at 7:00 p.m.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Strategic Plan – Recap & Next Steps

Ms. Monohon shared a presentation and reviewed the city's strategic plan, which was officially adopted by Council on August 16th. She also noted that the link to the city's website was included in the agenda. The plan includes five priorities that were identified in the plan, financial sustainability, community safety, thriving economy, housing for all and community vibrancy.

“A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes as Attachment A”

The next phase of the work with the strategic plan will be to develop yearly action plans. Internal staff will compile a list of potential steps and action items that can be undertaken and identify how best to move forward. Consideration will be given to staff resources, time availability, overall effectiveness of the action, and a determination as to how much will it move us forward toward the goals. The desire is to gather some input and ideas from the committee about some potential action items.

Ms. Monohon noted a specific interest in a discussion about the thriving economy goal. She referenced the goal statement about a greater opportunity for economic well-being and shared wealth for all, and also reviewed some of the objectives that considered business owners, creating partnerships, developing a strong local workforce, keep existing businesses, recruit new ones, enhancing the cultural of the business community, and supporting future development.

There was discussion and ideas within the group, and Ms. Monohon agreed to share the feedback with staff who will be creating the annual action plans.

4. The Long-Term Financial Roadmap – Recap and Next Steps.

Ms. Monohon shared a presentation and reviewed the city's Long-term Financial Roadmap that was adopted by the Council on September 6th.

“A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes as Attachment A”

Chair Dyk asked how much discussion the City staff had about the level of revenue and if Council or voters were to make changes in the future, what would be a reasonable range to either maintain or expand the services per the plan.

Ms. Monohon responded that we need to address and acknowledge the fact that services have been provided on a shoestring budget for a very long time, including through the pandemic and various changes, and it is simply not sustainable to continue with the low staffing levels. It's not something that we could continue at that level without putting some additional resources into key strategic service areas. Within the plan, there's not significant expansion, but there is room for some additions based on conversation with the community.

Ms. McCann added that the plan mainly to try to avoid further layoffs or service reductions in the future.

Ms. McCann presented the next steps in the roadmap.

The committee discussed how the ballot measures should be presented, as well as when and how they are applied, with reflection on past proposals.

Ms. Tschirky suggested that we don't repeat what happened with the police, fire and parks fee, where it was not indexed to cost of living. Since the expenses that these fees are designed to cover do not stay steady state, the fee structure should be upfront in the beginning and needs to be moving with the moving of the expenses.

Chair Dyk asked about if there would be a possibility of different tiers of fees similar to the structure used in some other cities in Oregon.

Ms. McCann responded with that most of the places that applied tiered fees are doing it through assistance programs. If you apply for help after being billed for the flat fee, there may be help provided based on your income.

Ms. Monohon added that we have learned a lot through some of the special utility assistance programs that we have done over the last few years resulting from the pandemic. Income threshold verification can be challenging and it can be a difficult thing to validate for an extended period. But we are continuing to look into it. The other piece with the assistance that we do still have some challenges is trying to figure out the best way to work through with multifamily customers where the tenants are not our direct customers.

Chair Dyk then transitioned to the next segment of the meeting.

5. Financial Policies – Review and Update

Ms. Monohon stated she did not have time to make much headway, so she recommended deferring this item to a future meeting.

Ms. Tschirky commented that she was very happy to see the progress that has been made. She indicated that she particularly liked the idea of preserving the institutional knowledge via policies and thought there were some great points made in that regard. She did express caution to make sure the policy is at a sufficiently high level that it doesn't get into standard operating practices. Ms. Tschirky also recognized that the committee's job is to advise Council and that these are about Council's policies, so she reminded the group that it is important to make sure that Council is good with the direction we're going regarding cleaning up the policies.

Ms. Monohon agreed that the priority is to stabilize the revenue and stabilize the financial plan overall first. She added that making improvements and having a better fund balance policy in the general fund is also important and will be important as community conversations take place in the future.

6. Project Updates

The following project updates from the group.

- 2023 Budget Adoption Process
 - Completed and copies are available to view

7. Committee Business Updates

- Champion of Gresham Project– volunteer to help the city
- Parks and Recreation Community Advisory Group – local share funding

8. Good of the Order

None

9. Meeting Adjournment

Chair Dyk adjourned the meeting at 9:00pm

The next regular Finance Committee meeting will be via October 19, 2022 at 7:00pm via the online Zoom platform.



Dave Dyk, Chair



Christina Ott, Recording Secretary