

**City of Gresham Finance Committee
Wednesday, October 18, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting Minutes**

Finance Committee Members Present:

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

Finance Committee Members Absent:

Mike Schultze

Council Liaison in Attendance:

Janine Gladfelter

Staff Members in Attendance:

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

Christina Ott (Recording Secretary)

1. Convene Meeting

The meeting was convened at 7pm by Chair Dyk.

2. Meeting Minutes for August 16, 2023

There was a motion made by Ms. Tschirky and seconded by Mr. Allen to:

“Adopt the August 16, 2023 Meeting Minutes as submitted.”

Motion passes unanimously.

3. Public Comment

None

4. Long-Term Financial Roadmap Update

Before discussing updates concerning the Financial Roadmap, Ms. Monohon began by reviewing the presentation from the most recent Council meeting, so that the committee could give some feedback or commentary, as well as get updated on what discussions occurred during the meeting.

Ms. Monohon began her presentation.

“Presentation can be seen as a part of Attachment A.”

Ms. Monohon then opened it up to discussion for the committee.

Ms. Baker commented that lowering the levy proposal below the \$1.35 amount suggested may not be a good idea. From her perspective, it could make it seem as if the City was overstating the previous request and did not really need finding, which in turn may prompt citizens to not vote in favor.

Chair Dyk asked about the recent DHM presentation at Council which outlined reasons why the May 2023 voter turnout was low. He said this was one of the main reasons some people were encouraging Council to hold off until the November 2024 election where there would likely be a much larger turnout.

Ms. McCann reminded the committee that one of the main reasons staff recommended pursuing the levy in May 2024 over November 2024 is that delaying those 6 months would result in an additional 12 month delay before any revenue would be received.

Mr. McWilliams commented that asking for a larger levy amount (as someone asked about during the September Council meeting) would be problematic. He also commented that clarification about the true size of the funding gap was needed, especially given the somewhat confusing discussions regarding the fee. He suggested identifying the least amount we could ask for that would meet basic services, and better describing what outcome we are seeking in terms of service delivery. Messaging will require us to be clear about what problem we are fixing and what revenue is needed to do so.

Ms. Monohon added that staff is developing a service level evaluation, describing what level programs currently are at and what would be the impact of reductions to those service levels. Being able to describe how precarious and thinly staffed some services are is important. That work will be used to support the communication efforts with the voters.

Mr. McWilliams asked about the historical growth in the General Fund and asked about outside metrics to help evaluate appropriate staffing levels.

Ms. Monohon indicated that outside analysis regarding Police and Fire staffing levels has been completed and presented to Council in the last year or so. The levy proposal begins to implement measures recommended in those analyses.

5. American Rescue Plan Act Update

Ms. McCann began with her presentation.

“Presentation can be seen as a part of Attachment A.”

Ms. McCann opened it up to discussion from the committee.

Ms. Tschirky asked how the Gradin Sports Park upgrade qualifies under the ARPA funding rules.

Ms. McCann replied that one of the criteria for use of the funds was a focus on public health response and having strong healthy communities. One way to achieve this is to enhance facilities that provide the ability to recreate outdoors. Another relevant criterion is that the projects become easier to qualify if they are for areas that are considered qualified census tracts. Gresham has a number of those based on the economic conditions in those areas. There are several cities around the country that are doing very similar types of projects like this.

Ms. McCann added that unfortunately, the fire station upgrades do not fall under this category. They are our fundamental and emergency health response within the city, but they're not necessarily pandemic related. We have done a lot of research but haven't found a path yet.

6. Review of Financial Policies

Ms. Monohon began her review of the financial policies and discussion on them.

- Went over discussion from previous meeting regarding reserve policies.
- Looking into debt policies, bringing them together and stating the purpose and what we're looking to accomplish.
- Also looking into the section on Accounting and Financial Reporting, again updating the statement of purpose and desired achievement for the policies.

- Risk Management and Internal Controls is relatively thin, looking to bolster to show they are important statements and important practices to adhere to.
- More work is needed for the Structurally Balanced Budget category, as there are not many policies in place and actually achieving a structurally balance budget is quite challenging. One way to approach this may be instead of having a directive that may not be feasible to achieve, we could have language that states the need to be thoroughly transparent about whether or not recurring revenues and recurring expenses are balanced.

7. Project Updates

Ms. Monohon gave kudos to Susan Brown and the Accounting staff as Gresham received the annual Government Finance Officers Association award of excellence for the adopted financial report for the year ending June 30, 2022.

8. Committee Business

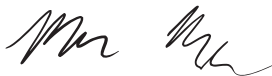
Ms. McCann shared that there will be a supplemental budget schedules for the next meeting.

9. Good of the order

None

10. Meeting Adjournment

Chair Dyk adjourned the meeting at 8:22pm. The next meeting will be held on November 15, 2023 at 7pm.



/s/ Dave Dyk 2/6/24

Dave Dyk, Chair



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Christina Ott
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Christina Ott, Recording Secretary