



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Finance Committee

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501

Information: 360.753.8244

Wednesday, September 20, 2017

5:00 PM

Room 207

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Cooper called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Committee member Bateman joined the meeting via conference call.

Present: 3 - Chair Jim Cooper, Committee member Jessica Bateman and Committee member Jeannine Roe

OTHERS PRESENT

The Washington Center for the Performing Arts Executive Director Jill Barnes
The Washington Center for the Performing Arts Development Director Joselyn Wood
City Manager Steve Hall
Assistant City Manager Jay Burney
City Attorney Mark Barber
Administrative Services Acting Director Dean Walz
Administrative Services Deputy Director Debbie Sullivan
Community Planning & Development Director Keith Stahley
Building Official Todd Cunningham

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

City Manager Steve Hall requested item 5.E Oral Report - Long Term Budget Sustainability be postponed to the next Finance Committee meeting.

The agenda was approved as amended.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.A [17-0966](#) Approval of August 9, 2017 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved.

5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

5.A [17-0964](#) Consideration of Joint Funding for the Development Director at the Washington Center of the Performing Arts

Ms. Barnes has received the audit for fiscal year 2016 - 2017 and is happy to report that the Center finished in the black for the first time in many years. She shared some of the different funding tracks that they have engaged in with the help of Joselyn Wood, Development Director for the Center. Currently the position of development director is funded through the City.

To establish and solidify the funding tracks, Ms. Barnes is requesting that the City continue to fund the position for two more years at 75% and then 50%. This would allow for gradual impact to their operating expenses.

Committee member Roe commended Ms. Barnes and Ms. Wood for the tremendous effort put forth to strengthen the downtown, the growth of the Center and drawing people to the area. She proposed a three year funding solution of 75%, 75% and then 50% for the development director position.

The committee members unanimously agree to send to the Council consent calendar for three year extension of the development director position at 75%, 75% and 50%.

The recommendation was approved as amended to proceed to Council consent calendar.

5.B [17-0967](#) Operating Budget Challenges - Criminal Division's Vital Needs

Mr. Barber presented information regarding staffing and software needs for the Criminal Division.

The workload for the prosecution staff has increased tremendously due to increase referrals from the Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney Office and a change in generating and filing complaints. Unfortunately, this trend is expected to continue. Mr. Barber is asking for \$50,000 in the 2018 budget to hire outside prosecution services. The City needs a third prosecutor however the budget doesn't support it at this time. Hiring outside prosecution services would provide a temporary patch that offers coverage for vacations, illness and additional support.

The committee members discussed the staffing situation and asked Mr. Hall to budget \$50,000 for prosecution services in the 2018 budget.

The lack of a case management system has also hindered the prosecution department, Mr. Barber said. The current paper oriented system is labor intensive, requires duplication, and lacks the ability to provide necessary statistical information. Prosecution is working with IT to put out a request for information (RFI) for case management software. Initial quotes range from \$250,000 to \$700,000 for implementation and software.

Chair Cooper mentioned that the entire City has software needs and it could be beneficial to have Shawn Ward, Chief Information Officer, provide an overview of the needs.

The discussion was completed.**5.C** [17-0915](#) Operating Budget Challenges - Code Enforcement Briefing

Mr. Cunningham discussed the workload of the two code enforcement officers. The areas of responsibility for the code enforcement program include: zoning and land violations, vegetation violations, nuisance property abatement, encampment enforcement, graffiti and emergency management support.

The number of encampment enforcement and abatements has grown tremendously in 2017 and has required other enforcement responsibilities to be placed on the back burner. Dealing with encampments takes a great deal of time, attention and funding. Unfortunately, once an encampment has been cleaned another will establish itself near the site.

The cost of an additional code enforcement officer has been included in the upcoming public safety ballot measure. Should the measure not pass, there would still be a need for a third officer.

The report was received.**5.D** [17-0971](#) Consideration of Funding for a Lobbyist

The City had a lobbyist prior to the recession. Mr. Burney picked up many of the responsibilities of advocating, tracking, monitoring and promoting legislation with the help of Associated Washington Cities (AWC) and has been effective. However, the City has some bigger transportation issues on the horizon, such as the State Route 101/West Olympia Interchange, that need a dedicated individual to nurture them. Council identified the need for a lobbyist as a priority at the 2017 Council Retreat.

Jennifer Ziegler Public Affairs has been highly recommended by local delegation and other communities. Ms. Ziegler has expressed interest in working with the City of Olympia.

Staff is looking for \$11,000 from the Council Goal money fund to hire a lobbyist in 2017 to help the Council develop the 2018 legislative session agenda and \$35,000 to \$40,000 in the 2018 budget for the lobbyist.

Committee members want to move forward with the 2017 request for \$11,000 and asked that Mr. Burney enter into negotiations for the 2018 budget as the dollar figure is high for a short legislative session.

The recommendation was completed.**5.E** [17-0965](#) Oral Report - Long Term Budget Sustainability

The report was postponed to be discussed at a future Finance Committee meeting.

6. REPORTS AND UPDATES - None

7. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Cooper adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.