



Budget Engagement Commission

Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2017 – 5pm,
Mayor Ceremonial Room

City Manager Call to Order

Adam Raymond, City Assistant Chief Financial Officer called to order the special meeting of the Budget Engagement Commission Meeting at 5:07pm on February 23, 2017 at the Mayor Ceremonial Room located on the seventh floor of Riverside City Hall.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Adam Raymond, City Assistant Chief Financial Officer

Commission Organization Matters (First Meeting Only)

1. Budget Engagement Commission and Staff Introductions
2. Budget Engagement Commission Swearing in by City Clerk
3. Budget Engagement Commission Terms of Office

Terms selected by random drawing.

Commissioner Persinger	Ward 1 - Resident	3-Year Term
Commissioner Fierro	Ward 1 – Business	3-Year Term
Commissioner Arballo	Ward 2 – Resident	4-Year Term
Commissioner Badger	Ward 2 – Business	4-Year Term
Commissioner Tavaglione	Ward 3 – Resident	4-Year Term
Commissioner Scarano	Ward 3 – Business	2-Year Term
Commissioner Lyell	Ward 4 – Resident	3-Year Term
Commissioner Lee	Ward 4 – Business	2-Year Term
Commissioner Segura	Ward 5 – Resident	2-Year Term
Commissioner Delgado	Ward 5 – Business	4-Year Term
Commissioner Hart	Ward 6 – Resident	2-Year Term
Commissioner Mackenroth	Ward 6 – Business	2-Year Term
Commissioner Mathis	Ward 7 – Resident	3-Year Term
Commissioner Mendez	Ward 7 – Business	3-Year Term
Commissioner Plascencia	Citywide – Resident	2-Year Term
Commissioner Wright	Citywide – Resident	4-Year Term
Commissioner Mayes	Citywide – Business	4-Year Term
Commissioner Montgomery	Citywide – Business	3-Year Term

4. Budget Engagement Commission Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.

Nominations for Chairperson: Commissioner Lee and Commissioner Mendez. After vote by show of hands, Commissioner Mendez was elected Commission Chairperson with ten (10) votes.

Nominations for Vice Chairperson: Commissioner Tavaglione and Commissioner Lee. First vote by show of hands resulted in six (6) votes for Commissioner Tavaglione and seven (7) votes for Commissioner Lee. After a meeting break, the vote was repeated as neither candidate received the majority vote of Commissioners in attendance (9 votes required). After a second vote by show of hands, Commissioner Lee was elected Commission Vice Chairperson with 11 votes.

Commission Chairperson Mendez called the meeting to order after the meeting break.

5. Budget Commission Staff Secretary Karen Johnson Called Roll.

All Commissioners were present with the exception of Commissioners Lyell and Wright.

Public Comment

7. Public Comment.

Chairperson Mendez called for public comments before Agenda Item #6. The following speakers made comments at this time:

- William Art Bailey, Jr. (distributed a handout to Commissioners)
- Tom Evans (distributed a handout to Commissioners)
- Phyllis Purcell
- Michael Yonezawa
- Erin Thomas
- Kevin Dawson
- Aaron Norris
- Barbara Puruis
- Cindi Roth

- Daniel Gaston (eComment via city website – distributed to the Budget Engagement Commission at the beginning of the meeting).
6. Brown Act, Conflict of Interest, and Sunshine Ordinance Information from the City Attorney's Office

Kristi Smith, Chief Assistant City Attorney gave a presentation about the Brown Act, Conflict of Interest, and Sunshine Ordinance. Information was also provided on the Code of Ethics and Conduct. There were no comments from the public on this item.

Commissioner Lyell was present and sat in the audience for the remainder of the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

8. First meeting, there were no minutes to approve.

Consent Calendar

9. No Items for consent.

Discussion Calendar

10. Budget Engagement Commission Discussion and Adoption of Bylaws.

There were no comments or questions for city staff from the Commissioners or the public. The bylaws were unanimously adopted by the Budget Engagement Commission as proposed.

11. Introduction to the Budget (Budget 101)

May Atencio, Budget and Revenue Manager from the City Budget Office, gave a presentation about the FYs 2016-18 Biennial Budget. Chairperson Mendez requested additional detail about personnel expenses. There were no other comments or questions for city staff from the Commissioners or the public.

12. Measure Z Spending Plan

Adam Raymond, City Assistant Chief Financial Officer, gave a presentation about the Measure Z proposed spending plan.

Commissioner Plascencia expressed concern regarding City Council's approval of additional funding for the Ward Action positions without Budget Engagement Commission input. Commissioner Plascencia requested more information about the frequency of City Council approval of additional spending of Measure Z revenue without Budget Engagement Commission input. Adam Raymond indicated this would not happen often.

Vice Chairperson Lee also expressed concern regarding City Council's approval of additional funding without Budget Engagement Commission input. Also requested additional information about the Library's unfunded needs. Adam Raymond indicated there was additional information in the Biennial Budget Book for all departments and city staff would provide specific page numbers to Commission Lee. Adam Raymond also indicated the topic would receive more coverage during the April 6, 2017 meeting. Chairperson Lee mentioned there were concerns regarding the reduction in staffing for libraries and the need to increase staffing to meet a public need. Also expressed that Quality of Life issues were important and would like to express these types of needs sooner. Adam Raymond indicated the Quality of Life needs would be addressed on the April 6, 2017 agenda. This would allow the March 9, 2017 meeting to be completed within meeting time constraints while allowing staff to provide a more comprehensive overview of the needs.

Commissioner Hart also expressed concern regarding City Council's approval of additional funding for the Ward Action positions without Budget Engagement Commission input. Requested that a representative from the department be present to justify the request. Commissioner Hart also requested that departments have a representative present at Budget Engagement Commission meetings to answer questions regarding spending and operations.

Commissioner Montgomery also expressed concern regarding City Council's approval of additional funding for the Ward Action positions without Budget Engagement Commission input. Expressed concern that the city was funding an obligation that belongs to the county. Adam Raymond explained the Ward Action positions handle municipal code violations, not penal code violations that are typically handled by the county.

Chairperson Mendez also expressed concern regarding City Council's approval of additional funding without Budget Engagement Commission input. Mendez also had additional questions about Pension Obligation Bonds. Scott Miller, City Chief Financial Officer answered Chairperson Mendez's questions.

Phillis Purcell, a member of the public, commented on this item. There were no other comments or questions for city staff from the Commissioners or the public.

Announcements, Meeting Dates, and Commission Requests

There were several requests from Commissioners. Commissioner Hart requested that representatives from other commissions be present to provide information about the needs of the city. Commissioner Plascencia requested that the presentations by other commissions be limited to 15 minutes. Commissioner Mayes requested that the requests from these commissions also be written.

13. Schedule of Meeting Dates

Chairperson Mendez announced the following updated schedule of meeting dates:

Special Meetings:

Thursday, March 9, 2017

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Thursday, May 4, 2017

Thursday, June 8, 2017

Joint Meetings with City Council:

Tuesday, May 9, 2017

BEC Chairperson/Vice Chairperson can provide verbal update during Council Meeting

Tuesday, April 11, 2017

Tuesday, June 13, 2017

Regular Meetings:

Thursday, May 25, 2017 (Potential)

Thursday, August 31, 2017

Thursday, November 30, 2017

Thursday, February 22, 2018

14. Announcements

There were no announcements. Commissioner Fierro encouraged an informal policy for media relations. Scott Miller, City Chief Financial Officer, indicated this item would be added to the March 9, 2017 agenda as a discussion item.

Adjournment

Chairperson Mendez adjourned the meeting at 7:12pm and announced that the next special and regular meeting dates.

Minutes submitted by: Karen Johnson, Principal Management Analyst – City of Riverside.