Finance Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2024

Roll Call/Announcements

The Finance Commission (FC) meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Chair Bester called the roll.

Commissioners Present: Siafa Barclay, Bruce Bester, Sadiq Dahir, Kevin Davy, Dan Sagisser, and Anna Vervoort

Commissioners Absent: Joe Tupy

Staff Present: Finance Director Michelle Pietrick

Receive Public Comments

There being no one present wishing to speak to the Commission on an item not on the agenda, the Chair moved to the next agenda item.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Davy moved, seconded by Commissioner Vervoort, to approve the October 8, 2024, meeting minutes as presented. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Receive Finance Commission Recommendations Tracking Report

Chair Bester reviewed the Finance Commission Tracking Report.

Adopt 2025 Meeting Calendar

Finance Director Pietrick reviewed the 2025 Meeting Calendar with the Commission.

Commissioner Barclay moved, seconded by Commissioner Dahir, to adopt the 2025 meeting calendar as presented. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Establish a 2025 Work Plan

Finance Director Pietrick reviewed the 2025 proposed work plan with the Commission.

Chair Bester asked if the Commission could discuss Campus Redesign at the January or February 2025 meeting.

Ms. Pietrick explained that one of the sales tax referendums passed, but the license center sales tax did not pass. She noted staff were coming up with a potential list of options. She reviewed some options that have been discussed at the staff level.

The Commission discussed some possible options for funding the license center.

The Commission thought this item would be worth looking at further to find out if some funding was available.

Ms. Pietrick indicated she would add this topic to the January 2025 meeting.

Discussion on Roles/Specialization Among Commissioners as Requested by Chair Bester

Chair Bester explained that he indicated he would like to discuss roles/specializations among Commissioners at the last meeting. He noted that Mr. Roger Hess sent the Commission a note with suggestions. He reviewed the information with the Commission.

Commissioner Sagisser indicated that the Finance Commission has had trouble finding and keeping Commissioners over the years. He explained that his concern is that it would be more of a burden for people who do not have the time. His other opinion is that the Commission already gets the budget information from various other groups. He wishes there had been more discussion with different departments to better understand what they think.

Chair Bester explained that he has felt an interest in the latter of what Commissioner Sagisser spoke of and has promised to be better informed about what is happening with the different commissions.

Commissioner Vervoort explained she has come to the Finance Commission with minimal financial background, unlike the other Commissioners who bring particular skillsets and expertise to the Commission she does not necessarily have. She views herself as a proxy for the average citizen who can ask questions. She thought that breaking it down by the different groups that come into the general fund, or however it is described, seems more accessible for her. The idea of becoming well versed in public works or whatever may require her to go to a public works meeting, which would be more time than she has available. She asked how Chair Bester envisioned that working.

Chair Bester thought an easy way would be to go online and listen to one of their meetings. Knowing which and when is another matter, he felt the staff could give them a heads-up on what meetings to listen to.

Ms. Pietrick explained that each commission meeting and agenda are on the city website, so she could send each commissioner to the city calendar to see when the commissions meet.

Commissioner Vervoort asked if the intention was to return to the budget more informed.

Chair Bester explained that part of the intent was to stop rubber-stamping everything, take more time reviewing, and provide meaningful help to the City staff and teams.

Commissioner Davy asked how typical it is for a commissioner to fill out their entire term and how often people resign before their commission term ends.

Ms. Pietrick reviewed past changes to the Finance commission membership.

Chair Bester indicated he liked the idea of Ms. Pietrick sending the Commission other commission agendas.

Ms. Pietrick indicated that if the Commission wants more information for a meeting, she can add it or revise the information she presents.

Commissioner Sagisser did not think it was a bad idea, but it was a lot to think through. He thought inviting Commissions to the Finance Meeting to discuss budgets might be best in the Summer months.

Staff Updates

Ms. Pietrick reviewed the election results and utility rates presentation with the Commission. She noted she would send out a modified CIP to the Commission. She explained that the final budget would go to the City Council at the December meeting and that she would send the information to the Commission once it was approved.

Adjourn

Commissioner Davy made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sagisser, to adjourn. **The motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.