
Citizens' Taskforce Minutes

Monday, February 29, 2016 6:00PM

Sealing Cove Business Center

Citizens' Taskforce Members: Rob Allen, Maxwell Rule, Lawrence SpottedBird,
Dyan Bessette, Cynthia Gibson, Hugh Bevan, Alene Henning
Tristan Guevin (Assembly Liaison)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Allen called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Rob Allen, Vice Chair Maxwell Rule, Deputy Vice Chair Lawrence SpottedBird, Dyan Bessette, Cynthia Gibson, Hugh Bevan, Alene Henning

Absent: None

Assembly Liaison: Tristan Guevin

Staff: Acting Municipal Administrator Michael Harmon, Administrative Coordinator Renee Wheat, Chief Finance and Administrative Officer Jay Sweeney, Assessor Wendy Lawrence, Fire Chief David Miller, Centennial Building Manager Don Kluting

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M - Bevan/S - SpottedBird moved to approve the February 22, 2016 minutes with the following corrections: Item A of Draft Grand Budget Framework second sentence add the word "employee" before attrition and in the eleventh sentence add "sales tax" before exemption. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. REPORTS

Chair - Would like to discuss the possibility of holding the Town Hall meeting prior to giving the final report to the Assembly.

Members - None.

City Staff - CFAO Sweeney advised Michael Harmon was Acting Administrator. He relayed the latest Grand Bargain Budget and Gibson's spreadsheet were shared with the Assembly at the February 23, 2016 meeting.

Assembly Liaison - None.

Other(s) - None.

V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD/CORRESPONDENCE

Emily Kwong, Raven Radio proposed an on-air special interview with three Taskforce members to promote the upcoming Town Hall meeting and to field questions from the public. Chair Allen, Gibson and Henning agreed to attend the radio special on behalf of the Taskforce.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Draft Grand Budget Framework

Discussion occurred regarding the Draft Grand Budget Framework illustrated in a three

year plan. Vice Deputy Chair SpottedBird questioned line thirteen. CFAO Sweeney explained the spreadsheet in its entirety and relayed line thirteen was a subsidy from the General Fund to the Electric Department. Vice Chair Rule pointed out balancing the budget by subsidizing from the General Fund had not been discussed in prior Taskforce meetings. Discussion had surrounded budget cuts and revenue. Gibson came forward to relay knowledge was given of a budget defecit but it was not quantified. Acting Administrator Harmon assured the Taskforce it was up to them on what they recommend to the Assembly. He told of the spreadsheet recommending the subsidy to assist their three year plan relaying the subsidy was not included for the second and third year. Guevin told of the Assembly's need for the big picture of sustainable changes along with a more equitable tax and fee structure. He relayed if there was not a subsidy then rate payers would incur a large increase. Vice Chair Rule, Deputy Vice Chair SpottedBird and Bevan supported a recommendation to the Assembly to not subsidize the budget using budget reserves rather increase revenues and make buget reductions.

Gibson asked for clarification on the property tax mill rate increase projection on the Draft Grand Budget spreadsheet. Assessor Lawrence confirmed the projected rate increase was not on the spreadsheet. She advised of projected dollar figures if the mill rate cap were to increase.

Discussion occurred around making more specific recommendations about City services, funding to the Assembly, and to make a more in depth review of core services. Chair Allen polled the Taskforce and a concensus was reached to not re-evaluate core services.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion of property tax mill rate increase

Chair Allen asked for the property tax mill rate increase to be discussed at the next meeting due to time constraints. There were no objections.

VIII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

A. Agenda items for the next regular meeting of March 7, 2016

Agenda items for the next meeting would include the Draft Grand Budget Framework, discussion of a property tax mill rate increase, Assembly final report format recommendations and discussion of property tax code.

M - Seeing no objection, Chair Allen adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:07PM.

Attest:
Renee Wheat, Administrative Coordinator