

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
June 2, 2009

Vice Mayor Gray chaired the meeting calling it to order at 9:04 am. All council members present.

Jerry Southers, Council Office Budget Analyst explained there were three schedules included in today's packet. Each schedule includes all recommendations from links committees which should be discussed and voted either up or down. VM Gray suggested a 15 minute recess due to lack of a quorum.

Motion by Lane to take a short recess, seconded by Crosbie, motion passed.

Meeting was reconvened at 9:25 am

VM Gray called for report out for Outside Agency Committee, to which Myers responded he was not prepared to report out at this time. Gray said to move on to other recommendations asking the chair of each link to cover recommendations from their respective committee.

James asked Southers what are the last dates to make changes to the MPB. June 9 and 11, 2009 is the deadline.

Ellinger stated in the past budget cycles the council has voted to either accept or revise the Mayor's proposed revenue. Gray suggested waiting on revenue and look at that before proceeding.

Beard asked if it was possible to look at the latest revenue closing numbers.

Bill O'Mara said May revenues will not close until this Friday.

James asked about estimate of change to revenue in MPB. O'Mara said was not able to speak to estimated fund balance. James wanted an updated fund balance.

Martin said we should continue to be conservative in the light of the recent downturns in the economy.

Review of Recommendations:

Crosbie outlined Public Safety recommendations

Div. of Police purchase of 6 radar trailers for use by districts funding will come from asset forfeiture account, purchase price \$69K – this recommendation was not voted on today and put into General Recommendations, schedule 2 of today's presentation.

Lawless asked for update on hiring 2 vacant nuisance control officers. Crosbie said to add providing updates as part of the recommendations. Stinnett suggested link chairperson provide updates on link recommendations at the regular Budget & Finance Committee meetings.

Myers ask about follow up on hiring procedures and if there is a method to insure any positions or vacancies approved in the budget are filled.

Shaye Rabold, Mayor's Office explained the process allows for the council to approve funding and the administration to approve hiring and the law department might provide an opinion explaining the administration's role in hiring decisions. O'Mara explained how hiring process works within the budget. Myers mentioned the need to pass an ordinance about hiring positions allowed for in a budget cycle.

Stinnett explained the role as legislators is not to manage hiring but to pass a budget. Lane echoed Stinnett's comments regarding budget policy and cautioned on micro-managing.

Martin referred to the charter and the Mayor's authority to hire. He agreed council's role in the budget process in approval and the Mayor's role is to manage the resources the council has authorized to use.

Logan Askew, Commissioner of Law answered questions, saying authorized strength is outlined in a different portion of the ordinance than the budget. He added there were also civil service issues to consider. He offered to provide more in depth information regarding this issue at the June 9th COW meeting. Lawless indicated the need to re-look at some of these types of issues.

Motion by Feigel to refer review of hiring ordinance, Council's role, Mayor's role to the Budget & Finance Committee, seconded by Crosbie, passed.

Askew asked if the opinion and/or information to be provided at the June 9, 2009 COW meeting should instead be forwarded to the Budget & Finance Committee chair. The answer was yes, this issue will be taken up by B& F Committee rather than COW.

There were several questions regarding details of \$11K cost for office relocations for Code Enforcement within the Phoenix Building. The recommendation was tabled until David Jarvis was available to address the committee. The recommendation was approved later in the meeting.

Crosbie commented on Public Safety recommendations saying the link is waiting on a presentation by EOC regarding \$10 million for radios and results of COPS stimulus program that may result in hiring additional police officers. If not, there should be discussions held regarding hiring officers.

Henson outlined Finance, Budgeting, and Social Services & Outside Services

Partner Agencies – representatives from DDA and Commerce Lexington who were in the audience today were dismissed due to lack of recommendations at this time.

Blues outlined recommendations from General Government link. Due to lack of time council will resume review and approval of recommendations at the next COW meeting to be held June 9, 2009.

Stinnett referred to recommendation for funding to re-class employees of Corner's Office saying it was not appropriate due to current economic conditions. Lane agreed. Myers and James spoke in favor of the recommendation.

A complete list of approved recommendations is attached:

Motion by Stinnett to change time of next Tuesday's COW meeting (June 9, 2009) to 9:00 am, seconded by James passed without dissent.

Motion to adjourn at 12:50 pm