



Budget, Finance & Economic Development Committee

March 15th, 2016

Summary and Motions

Chair Stinnett called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. Committee Members Moloney, Kay, Lamb, Farmer, Scutchfield, F. Brown, Mossotti, Bledsoe and Hensley were in attendance. Council Members Akers and J. Brown were also in attendance as non-voting members.

I. Approval of Committee Summary

A motion was made by Farmer to approve the February 23, 2016 Budget, Finance & economic Development Committee Summary, seconded by Hensley. The motion passed without dissent.

II. Urban Services Fund – Additional Data

Wes Holbrook, Administrative Officer Sr. in the Department of Finance, gave a presentation of the options for funding streetlights with the franchise fees and funding street cleaning with the water quality management fees.

Mossotti inquired about the portion of the franchise fee retained by LFUCG and Holbrook stated they receive 100% of that fee.

Hensley stated he would like to see a study of the number of streetlights in the county to determine if there are lights that could be removed and stated his preference to see this done prior to raising any fees.

Stinnett inquired if they can raise only the rate for electric. David Barbarie, from Law, stated that they do not have the latitude to make this a dedicated funding source and they recommend having the same amount for each franchise.

Mossotti asked if the Law Department has filed anything against the KAWC's request for a rate increase. Barbarie stated they are working with the Attorney General to advocate against that increase.

Moloney inquired about using the franchise fee to pay for fire hydrants and Barbarie stated the General Fund is used to pay for them.

Hensley stated the 12th district is the largest contributor of property tax revenue and that he did not want to see the 12th district residents pay for streetlights they don't have. Holbrook stated this would be on top of utility bills and if they were not paying for utilities they would pay a fee of approximately \$26.

Kay noted that the franchise fee is not a dedicated fee.

Stinnett stated the franchise fee would keep the cost closer to prices than property taxes and asked Finance to return with suggestions to fully fund the streetlight program.

Moloney stated his agreement with Stinnett and stated his desire to see new options for the fund.

III. Occupational License Fee Exemption

Hensley presented the item.

Stinnett inquired if the profit they predicted is net profit, which Hensley affirmed.

Mossotti noted the Community Action Council may be a good resource for the job training.

Kay inquired if this proposal drops the occupational license fee exemption. Hensley stated he would like to amend the ordinance to create a jobs fund.

Lamb stated she is not sure if it is a good practice to work from an assumption of increased revenue, but stated her desire to see Council put more resources towards workforce development.

Stinnett stated they are considering a Workforce Development Coordinator that could potentially be the administrator of this fund and also noted the Jobs Fund Board as another avenue to administer this. Stinnett stated this item will come back in June.

In response to Lamb, Hensley stated the \$1M amount is based on the first year of the minimum wage increase.

Kay stated he would like to see a comprehensive listing of all job creation programs throughout the City and that he feels this would be an important discussion to have before moving forward with this item.

Moloney inquired about the Supreme Court ruling about minimum wage and inquired if there is data about the number of applicants for manufacturing jobs who are denied employment due to failed drug tests. Stinnett noted the recent creation of the Substance Abuse office.

Hensley stated that Council on Post-Secondary Training may have this information about job creations.

Lamb noted the Fair Housing and Homelessness Prevention Departments that utilize both the private and public sector and their successes, noting a Workforce Development Officer could be used in a similar way and they could ask the Administration to consider this kind of position.

Mossotti stated they won't know what revenue will be created from the minimum wage raise until 2018 and noted they could go forward with this in the meantime.

IV. The Lyric Theatre Presentation

Donald Mason, Executive Director of The Lyric Theatre gave a presentation. Paula King, Treasurer, gave an overview of the Lyric's Budget.

Lamb thanked them for the presentation.

Stinnett requested that the bond debt service for the Lyric's building be brought back to Committee.

V. LexArts Presentation

Nan Plummer, from Lex Arts, gave a presentation.

Moloney complimented their achievements. He further inquired of Kevin Adkins, a representative from the Mayor's Office, if all of the arts organizations could be placed under one umbrella. Adkins stated they could consider this. Stinnett stated the Administration is looking into this and will return to Council with that information.

At Lamb's request, Nathan Zamarron from LexArts gave an overview of the ways the murals are facilitated, noting the open calls for artists when public funds are involved. Lamb further inquired about artwork on roadways. Zamarron stated there has been discussion about that type of installation at the Legacy Trail and that it is becoming a national trend.

Akers stated her support for the Business Arts Volunteers and voiced her desire to see a mural in the Kroger on Leestown Rd.

J. Brown stated his appreciation for the presentation and their hard work.

VI. Items Referred to Committee

A motion was made by Kay to remove the discussion of occupational license fee on Earned Wages for individuals earning minimum wage, seconded by Mossotti. The motion passed without dissent.

A motion was made by Scutchfield to adjourn, seconded by Mossotti. The motion passed without dissent.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

D.S. 3-16-2016