



MINUTES
National City Proposition "D" Finance Committee
Large Conference Room
Civic Center
1243 National City Boulevard
Thursday, September 22, 2011 @ 9:00 a.m.

These minutes have been abbreviated. Full audio recordings of the proceedings are on file and available to the public upon request.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cox at 9:00 a.m.

Pledge or Allegiance to the Flag

Led by Chair Cox

Roll Call

Committee members in attendance: Marney Cox, Chris Cate and Dale Nielsen

Also in attendance: Chris Zapata, City Manager, Leslie Deese, Assistant City Manager, Claudia Silva, City Attorney, Stacey Stevenson, Human Resources Director

Non-Agenda Public Oral Communication (three minute time limit)

None

Agenda Items

[NOTE: agenda item 2 was taken out of order, prior to agenda item 1]

1. Presentation by City Manager Chris Zapata

Mr. Zapata provided an overview of the City's general fund, current and historic. The presentation included a discussion of National City's demographics, its business base and key policies and decisions that have impacted the general fund.

Committee member Cates requested additional information be provided: departmental expenditures; full-time equivalents; general fund revenue figures; salary increases by group (as a percentage) and the cost of such; and the dollar cost allocated to step increases by group, all for a ten year period.

Chair Cox inquired as to the City Manager's expectations for the next few years, asking specifically if he thought the budget would be balanced in the span of two to three years. In response, Mr. Zapata noted that the sales tax will be stagnant and the structural deficit is projected for a period of five years. However, through actions such as not filling vacant positions, employee retirement contributions and new projects coming on board, the City will come close to balancing the budget in the timeframe suggested.

Committee Member Nielsen noted that as the City reaches the year 2016 he is hopeful that more of the district sales tax can be used for non-recurring expenses. Member Nielsen also noted from the City's comprehensive annual financial reports that public safety accounts for 86% of the operating budget.

2. Presentation by City Attorney Claudia Silva: the Brown Act

Ms. Silva presented an explanation of the Brown Act, which governs open meetings for legislative bodies. Ms. Silva outlined the manner in which the Committee can communicate with one another and conduct business under the provisions the Act.

3. Discussion – Next steps

The Committee initiated a discussion of the ultimate report format and the deadline for completion. Ms. Silva noted that a reasonable timeline would be two months.

4. Action Item – Establishment of meeting schedule

The committee will meet every other Thursday at 9:00 a.m., with the next meeting scheduled for October 6, 2011.

5. Committee Comments

None

6. Chair's Comments

None

7. Staff Comments

None

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.