

**THESE MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE  
CITY OF CULVER CITY FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
CITY OF CULVER CITY  
FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA**

**June 10, 2020  
7:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**

Chair Leonard called the regular meeting of the City of Culver City Finance Advisory Committee to order at 7:01 p.m. via teleconference.

**Members Present:**

JANE LEONARD, Chair  
DARREL MENTHE, Vice Chair  
CRYSTAL ALEXANDER, Member  
NANCY BARBA, Member  
KEITH JONES, Member  
SEAN KEARNEY, Member  
ANDREW LACHMAN, Member  
ALEJANDRO LARA, Member  
BRYAN SUA, Member

**Staff Present:**

Onyx Jones, Chief Finance Officer  
Erica McAdoo, Financial Systems & Purchasing  
Manager  
Punit Chokshi, Senior Management Analyst  
Michelle Villongco, Associate Analyst

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**Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Leonard led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**Public Comment - Items NOT on the Agenda**

Chair Leonard invited public comment .

Michelle Villongco, Associate Analyst, read public comment submitted by:

Lauren Pudney: wanted to see the budget of the Culver City Police Department (CCPD) cut significantly with funds redirected to social services, noting that people of color are disproportionately singled out by police services.

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**Consent Calendar**

**Item C-1**

**Approval of Minutes for the Adjourned Regular Meeting of May 13, 2020.**

MOVED BY MEMBER ALEXANDER, SECONDED BY MEMBER BARBA AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 10, 2020.

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**Order of the Agenda**

No changes were made.

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**Action Item**

**Item A-1**

**Approval of Measure CC and C Sales Tax Status Reports for Transmittal to City Council**

Erica McAdoo, Financial Systems & Purchasing Manager, noted that as a result of the March 3, 2020 ballot measure labelled as Measure CC, to extend Measure Y for an additional ten years, the report moving forward would be referred to as Measure CC rather than Measure Y; she discussed reporting lag; the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2020; information pre-COVID-19; original projections; top sales tax producers; the amount raised since the original measure was adopted; and, responding to inquiry, she indicated that the report was available as part of

the staff report for the agenda and would be available on the City website after approved and adopted by the City Council.

Member Barba added that the report was available on the Measure Y page.

MOVED BY MEMBER ALEXANDER, SECONDED BY MEMBER LACHMAN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPROVE THE MEASURE CC AND C SALES TAX STATUS REPORTS FOR TRANSMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL.

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**Item A-2**

**(1) Discuss Proposed Measure CW Annual Report and (2) Provide a Recommendation for Transmittal to City Council**

Erica McAdoo, Financial Systems & Purchasing Manager, discussed the annual report; delays with consideration and discussion due to the pandemic; generated revenue; expenditures; and total project estimates vs. money coming from non-City or other external entities.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding increased revenue; revenue reductions between 2016 vs. 2017; the initial loan from the General Fund; transparency; the goal to pay back the loan over time; matching grant programs; and work with Environmental Programs and Operations Manager, Kim Braun.

MOVED BY MEMBER ALEXANDER, SECONDED BY MEMBER LACHMAN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPROVE THE MEASURE CW ANNUAL REPORT FOR TRANSMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL.

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**Item A-3**

**Discussion of the City Manager's/Executive Director's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2020/2021**

Chair Leonard introduced the item.

Erica McAdoo, Financial Systems & Purchasing Manager, provided a summary of the material of record and noted that the item had been continued from May so that additional conversation could be held.

Chair Leonard noted that one of the primary reasons for holding the item over was to allow for further discussion of a letter received by the FAC with regard to rent control

Member Alexander indicated that this was her last meeting and she reflected on the FAC; she discussed her tenure; specific seats representing major stakeholders in the City; the budget as an annual values statement; financial transparency; implementation of best financial practices; the need for a paradigm shift to rethink whether law enforcement is the answer to all public safety issues; changes to fire services and successful adaptation; the importance of words; she clarified what calls to defund mean; discussed the state decreed dissolution of the redevelopment agency; the gradual process allowing for strategic reallocation of resources after much discussion by stakeholders; the ability of the FAC to think creatively and educate more deeply on the law enforcement portion of spending and provide dispassionate analysis with an eye toward best practices problem solving; the importance of putting personal and professional interests on hold during the analysis; making the right decision; support for CCPD; and she noted the urgent nature of the situation and asked for bravery moving forward as the community seeks new solutions to longstanding problems.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the opportunity to explore best practices in the new paradigm of public safety; investing resources to maintain quality of life while acknowledging that resources may be allocated toward more preventative measures; tools to address the root causes of poverty and violence; improving the quality of the community; services that can be provided as a City; support for the statement made by Member Alexander; and encouraging the FAC to study academic resources and existing data for guidance on making decisions.

Chair Leonard invited public comment.

The following individual addressed the Committee:

Michael Schirtzer discussed the proposed \$45 million budget for CCPD; the amount of funding and budget cuts for CCPD vs. for all other departments; the message being sent with disproportionate funding; the rating of CCPD by Campaign Zero; disproportionate amounts of people of color being arrested; racial profiling; the racist history of Culver City; and the need to divest from CCPD who cannot commit to not shooting in cars paid for by the City and instead invest in programs, rent control and other services that benefit communities of color.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the process for considering the issue; City Council guidance; support for the way CCPD handled the potential for rioting and looting in the City; the difficulty of proving a negative; local rent control vs. the state rent control measure, AB 1482;

concern with burdening the City with a large expenditure and that rent control has been under-budgeted; redundancy; the fiscal emergency; the dynamic budgeting process; support for CCPD; the needed transformation; addressing the issue of profiling; citizen participation; improving effectiveness; removing certain burdens from CCPD; partnerships; public input; letting the City Council know that the FAC is ready to serve as a forum; mandates and limitations of the FAC; encouragement to those terming out, to continue to provide support and input to the FAC; a ballot measure that could prevent the City Council from making the rent control measure permanent; associated costs; identifying segments of the program that would exist with a City program vs. the state program; examining which would be the best way to implement any policy; quantifying costs, relative gains and benefits to implement a City policy vs. using the state policy; the cost benefit analysis; the number of people being helped; the consultant report; different options available; policy levers that can be shifted; cost effectiveness; building a better public safety organization that reflects City values; increased costs; figuring out how much new plans will cost; designing the best, most cost effective policies that make use of existing personnel; the June 15 City Council meeting to discuss policing strategy; ensuring that the FAC is available for the fiscal analysis after the June 15 meeting; concern with making a recommendation to the City Council regarding rent control; evaluating options being put forward at the June 11 City Council meeting; support for examining the CCPD budget due to the large size; recent events; policing strategy; changes driven by emotion; people who move into Culver City because they feel safe; deployment of CCPD into other cities; harassment of police officers; purview of the FAC; funding for increased training to address issues; willingness of the FAC to help; and Committee consensus to support the City Council if they ask for assistance with evaluation and analysis of any decisions that need to be made regarding reallocation of funding for CCPD.

MOVED BY MEMBER LACHMAN, SECONDED BY MEMBER ALEXANDER AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE IS WILLING TO ASSIST IN ANY STUDIES, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION TO SUPPORT THE CITY COUNCIL IN ITS CONSIDERATION OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the rent control issue; community members who voiced opposition to rent control and costs associated with it; AB 1482; concern with the validity of the budget prepared by the City Manager's Office; the need for additional analysis; the BAE report completed before the pandemic; changes to the real estate market; a suggestion to draft a statement to the City Council to highlight issues; legal requirements; and extending the time period for interim rent control.

Member Jones moved that the Finance Advisory Committee recommend that the City Council not move forward with a permanent rent control ordinance, but

rather extend the Interim Rent Control Ordinance pending further review and consideration of updated information. The motion died for lack of a second.

Further discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding establishing a subcommittee to create a rent control statement; best practices with recovery; creating trigger points to return funds to the CIP; continued OPEB funding; reinstatement of programs and projects; recovery milestones and policies; bringing the issue to the budget presentation to the City Council on June 22; FAC involvement in the development of policy; items built into the forecast; and items before the City Council on the June 22 agenda.

MOVED BY MEMBER ALEXANDER, SECONDED BY MEMBER LARA AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THAT A RECOVERY POLICY BE DEVELOPED TO CREATE A FRAMEWORK FOR REINSTITUTING DEFERRED PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS TO RETURN TO BEST PRACTICES TO REPLENISH FUNDS ONCE THE ECONOMY IMPROVES.

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#### **Item A-4**

#### **Discussion of Upcoming Finance Advisory Committee Seat Vacancies and Status of Recruitment**

Erica McAdoo, Financial Systems & Purchasing Manager, indicated that the item had been deferred from the last meeting; discussed Members exiting the Committee; new Members joining; and the recommendation that an FAC Member be seated on the Economic Recovery Task Force (ERTF).

Member Lara indicated that serving on the Committee had been a valuable experience and that he intended to continue to remain active in the community.

Chair Leonard expressed appreciation for Member Lara's experience.

Member Barba expressed appreciation for the many things she had learned serving on the FAC.

Member Alexander expressed appreciation for being able to serve on the FAC; noted how much she had learned; and discussed the strong relationship of the Committee with the City Council.

Chair Leonard thanked City staff for their support and accommodation of requests; expressed appreciation for being able to serve; discussed personal and professional growth; the evolution of the City; creation of the Committee to provide representation by community members; she expressed disappointment

that the demographics of the Members are not diverse; appreciation for the expertise and talent of those serving; concern that qualified people are afraid to apply; acknowledged the need for the perspective of a Labor Representative, but advised against the FAC Chair position being held by a City Labor Representative; discussed challenges; strength in unity and community; the need for receptive, non-defensive dialogue and to understand other perspectives; the need to educate the entire community; financial sustainability of the City; the importance of local efforts; and groups coming together to sustain the City as a vibrant hub of economic, educational, and cultural activity.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the FAC seat on the ERTF; meetings held to date; involvement of Member Jones as a Business Representative, Member Menthe as a member of the Downtown Business Association and Chair Leonard as a Resident representative; internal meetings that only staff is invited to; whether an additional Member is necessary; and the need for reports back to the FAC.

MOVED BY MEMBER LARA, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR MENTHE AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINT MEMBER JONES TO SERVE AS THE PRIMARY LIAISON TO THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY TASK FORCE AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Chair Leonard indicated that Member Jones would provide reports back to the Finance Advisory Committee on a going forward basis.

Vice Chair Menthe indicated that it had been an honor serving with those Members leaving the Committee; he thanked them for their leadership noting that he had learned a lot from them; and he proposed agendaizing a discussion of gender balance issues and an amendment to the bylaws that at least one-third of the Members be women, as a model for other Committees.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members with consensus to move forward with a discussion of amending the bylaws; the women's group in the Chamber of Commerce; applicants; groundwork to be done; expanding awareness of opportunities; starting a process; the need for specific instruction; examples of requirements; and ensuring that the business community in the City is reflected in the FAC.

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**Item A-5**

**Discussion of July Agenda**

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding items for the July agenda including clarification that outgoing Members conclude their service after June 30, 2020; creating a subcommittee on efficiency and innovation; swearing in of new Members; selection of a Chair and Vice Chair; the quarterly report update; discussion of the work plan and bylaws; the ERTF report; allowing new Members time to acclimate; and the ability of the Chair to move things to another meeting if time runs out.

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**Public Comment – Items NOT on the Agenda (Continued)**

Chair Leonard invited public comment.

Michelle Villongco, Associate Analyst, reported that no public comment had been received.

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**Receipt of Correspondence**

Michelle Villongco, Associate Analyst, indicated that no additional correspondence had been received.

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**Items from Committee Members/Staff**

Erica McAdoo, Financial Systems & Purchasing Manager, reported that Heather Baker, Assistant City Attorney had indicated that the Interim Rent Control Ordinance would be expiring and could be extended if the City Council chooses.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding options available to the City Council and timing.

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## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, at 9:23 p.m., the Finance Advisory Committee adjourned its meeting to Wednesday, July 8, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

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Michelle Villongco  
SECRETARY of the Culver City Finance Advisory Committee  
Culver City, California

## **APPROVED**

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Jane Leonard  
CHAIR of the Finance Advisory Committee  
Culver City, California

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that, on the date below written, these minutes were filed in the Office of the City Clerk, Culver City, California and constitute the Official Minutes of said meeting.

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Jeremy Green  
CITY CLERK

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Date