

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

February 9, 2022  
7:00 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**

Chair Lachman called the regular meeting of the City of Culver City Finance Advisory Committee to order at 7:00 p.m. via Virtual Webex.

**Members Present:** ANDREW LACHMAN, Chair  
DARREL MENTHE, Vice Chair  
MARC BAUER, Member  
JOHNNIE GRIFFING, Member  
KEVIN LACHOFF, Member  
ROBERT QUINN, Member  
BRYAN SUA, Member

**Absent:** ANNE DIGA JACOBSEN, Member  
KEITH JONES, Member

**Staff Present:** Lisa Soghor, Chief Finance Officer  
Erica Melton, Financial Systems & Purchasing  
Manager  
Punit Chokshi, Senior Management Analyst  
John Figueroa, Senior Account Clerk

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**Pledge of Allegiance**

Member Sua led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Chair Lachman invited public comment.

The following member of the public addressed the Committee:

Crystal Alexander discussed continued independence of the Finance Advisory Committee; concern with comments by the City Clerk regarding inappropriateness of the FAC considering the parcel tax use for housing; the City Council subcommittee; concern with very little time or no time allowed for the FAC to review proposed tax increases; and she encouraged the FAC to examine issues they have an interest in.

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### **Receipt and Filing of Correspondence**

John Figueroa, Senior Account Clerk, indicated that correspondence had been distributed to Committee Members.

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### **Consent Calendar Items**

#### **Item C-1**

#### **Approval of the Minutes for the Finance Advisory Committee Meeting of December 8, 2021**

MOVED BY MEMBER GRIFFING AND SECONDED BY MEMBER QUINN THAT THE FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 8, 2021.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: BAUER, GRIFFING, LACHOFF, LACHMAN, MENTHE, QUINN, SUA  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: DIGA JACOBSEN, JONES

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#### **Item C-2**

#### **Approval of the Minutes for the Joint Meeting of the Finance Advisory Committee and the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission on January 12, 2022**

MOVED BY MEMBER BAUER AND SECONDED BY MEMBER QUINN THAT THE FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE JOINT

MEETING WITH THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES  
COMMISSION ON JANUARY 12, 2021.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: BAUER, GRIFFING, LACHOFF, LACHMAN, MENTHE, QUINN, SUA  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: DIGA JACOBSEN, JONES

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**Order of the Agenda**

No changes were made.

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**Action Items**

**Item A-1**

**(1) Receive Presentation from Staff on the Business License Ordinance and Associated Penalties; and (2) Hold Discussion of the Business License Ordinance and Associated Penalties**

Punit Chokshi, Senior Management Analyst, provided a summary of the material of record.

Lisa Soghor, Chief Finance Officer, reported communicating with the consultants who conducted polling in 2019; noted the intention to move forward with the process as quickly as possible; discussed the work of staff to update the numbers; fine-tuning the numbers; and reevaluation of work done before the pandemic.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the process; the work of the subcommittee; categories chosen by the consultant; the recommendation sent to the City Council for deliberation on March 18, 2020; using data from the prior recommendation with 2021 numbers; examination of new data and determination of whether substantive changes should be made; refining the recommendation already adopted for City Council approval; concern with making a presentation based on the presentation from the consultants; willingness of the public to raise the taxes; concern with a lack of specifics; providing tools in order to reevaluate the recommendation; disclosure rules; public comment from Crystal Alexander; ensuring the subcommittee has the chance to work on the item before it goes before the City Council; comparing rates for other cities with tech and movie studios; updated rates for other cities; working with the best and most updated numbers possible; timing of implementation; history of business taxes in the City;

different ways of conceptualizing how the rates work; the standard deduction; modernizing the way a 60 year old tax is handled; sharing the previous presentation; the previous work of the subcommittee; and agreement to send the item back to the subcommittee.

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Item A-2

**FAC - Receive an Update on the Culver City Economic Recovery Task Force (ERTF)**

Member Lachoff reported on the recent ERTF meeting noting discussions on reentry coming out of pandemic mode; identifying where businesses still need support; things that can be implemented in the City that are not directly tied to county orders; providing talking points to staff; transitioning into a less restrictive tier; and, responding to inquiry, he indicated that the Creative Economy had not been specifically discussed at the prior ERTF meeting.

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Item A-3

**FAC - (1) Receive Reports from the Government Efficiency Ad Hoc Subcommittee; (2) Discuss Report Recommendations and Determine Next Steps; and (3) Provide Direction to Staff, If Deemed Appropriate**

Member Griffing discussed the Governmental Efficiency Ad Hoc Subcommittee; submittals received to date; outreach to City staff and departments; extension of the timeline; outreach to the Mayor for involvement in the review and selection process as well as the presentation in May; the update to the launch page on the intranet site; and efforts to increase visibility and participation.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding awards for innovation and performance; the Equity and Human Relations award; and the potential for merging the two awards programs.

MOVED BY MEMBER QUINN AND SECONDED BY MEMBER LACHOFF THAT THE FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECEIVE AND FILE THE REPORT.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: BAUER, GRIFFING, LACHOFF, LACHMAN, MENTHE, QUINN, SUA  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: DIGA JACOBSEN, JONES

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Item A-4

**FAC – Discussion of Participatory Budgeting Process**

Lisa Soghor, Chief Finance Officer, discussed the budget cycle for the next fiscal year; development of the mid-year budget; the process for the 2023 budget; openness to public participation; difficulty getting the public to engage in the process; lead-time necessary for public engagement; and planning for the 2023-2024 year.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding consideration of models used by other cities; discussion of the topic by the City Council; continuing the discussion topic; recommendations from all Commissions, Boards and Committees; the annual budget calendar; evolution of the engagement process; and facilitating the conversation.

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

None.

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**Receipt of Correspondence**

Chair Lachman received clarification that correspondence received had been distributed to Committee Members and it was not necessary for it to be read into the record.

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**Items from Committee Members/Staff**

Member Sua reported that the meeting would be his last; he expressed appreciation for being able to serve; discussed his tenure; his current workload; Fire Service tradition; and he invited everyone to come to Station 1 for a meal when COVID restrictions lift.

Committee Members expressed appreciation to Member Sua for his service.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding interaction of the City Council Parcel Tax Subcommittee with the FAC; consideration of in-person meetings by the City Council on February 14; hybrid meetings; items for

the next agenda including participatory budget models, the parcel tax, the budget recommendation from the FAC, and the sales tax status report update; and Committee consensus was achieved to agendize public input on budget priorities in addition to input from the FAC.

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**Adjournment**

There being no further business, at 8:10 p.m., the City of Culver City Finance Advisory Committee adjourned their meeting.

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John Figueroa  
SECRETARY of the Culver City Finance Advisory Committee  
Culver City, California

APPROVED



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Andrew Lachman  
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.

  

Jeremy Green Bocchino  
CITY CLERK

May 23, 2022  
Date