

City of Huntington Woods
Long Range Budget & Planning Committee
July 15, 2019
Draft Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. at the Library.

Present: Kim Bateman, Kris Vigliotti, Fred Fechheimer, Nick Gruber, Joel Kellman, Jeff Samoray, Amit Bhagwan, Tony Lehmann, Frank Mioni, Mike Egnotovitch, Lisa Momblanco, Susan Klein, Sharon Abramsky, Amy Sullivan, Tim Rowland.

Absent: Seth Kritzman, Melanie Wiegand, Zac Andreoni, Adam Kaplan, Chuck Batcheller, John Nantais, Shelley Gach-Droz, Joseph Falik, Molly Trip.

Public: Clare Galed.

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of agenda: Moved by J. Kellman and seconded by M. Egnotovitch to approve the agenda. Approved unanimously.
3. Approval of June 17, 2019 minutes: Moved by F. Fechheimer and seconded by F. Mioni to approve the minutes. Approved unanimously.
4. Review of meeting format

N. Gruber thanked the Committee for their time and effort and also thanks to the communication subcommittee for compiling the final draft. He will make a motion to approve the final draft as written and everyone will have an opportunity to make comments after the vote. If a committee member feels there needs to be substantive changes to the draft, then they should vote no on the motion.

Moved by N. Gruber and second by A. Bhagwan to approve the final draft as presented.

Ayes: Kim Bateman, Kris Vigliotti, Nick Gruber, Jeff Samoray, Amit Bhagwan, Tony Lehmann, Frank Mioni, Mike Egnotovitch, Lisa Momblanco, Susan Klein, Sharon Abramsky

Nays: None

Abstain: Joel Kellman, Fred Fechheimer

5. Comments on final draft

Joel Kellman: What is the process to distribute the report? A. Sullivan said it would be passed out to the City Commission at their July 16th meeting and a special city commission meeting is set for Tuesday, August 20th at 6:30 p.m. to meet with the Budget Committee to discuss the report and answer questions.

Frank Mioni – he likes the report as written and apologized for missing meetings due to a family emergency.

Lisa Momblanco – no comments.

Sharon Abramsky – no comments.

Kim Bateman – no comments.

Tony Lehmann – he likes the report as written and reminded the Committee that the hard work will be to implement the recommendations.

Mike Egnotovitch – no comments.

Kris Vigliotti – wanted to clarify that the PA 345 millage in the second recommendation and the Headlee override millage in the sixth recommendation were two different millages.

Fred Fechheimer – he would like to see a 5-year projection to estimate the impact of the recommendations. He is concerned that if they are inadequate then revenue may be diverted from roads to pay for services and the Committee will not have addressed their charge to provide a long-term funding solution. T. Rowland believes that the recommendations will fund services through 2024 and then a Headlee override will need to be considered. He was concerned about making a number of assumptions for a projection but he will look at whether it will be possible to do for the August 20th meeting. Fred felt that the language in the Executive Summary that the post-retirement benefits were not “fully funded” did not accurately describe the City’s financial position. The Committee agreed to modify the sentence to read “post-retirement benefits are funded to XX percent” with Tim to provide the percent of funding.

Susan Klein – she is concerned that the reason that action needs to be taken quickly is not stressed enough. She believes graphs are effective in describing the City’s financial concerns and that the revenue shortfalls need to be included in the Executive Summary. She suggested a graph that shows the City’s historical revenue and expenditure figures. The Committee agreed that

in the Executive Summary to revise language that refers to “the cost to the City” as the “shortfall” instead. The Committee also agreed to add language that if the pension is not adequately funded, it could affect the City’s bond rating.

Amit Bhagwan - no comments.

Jeff Samoray – no comments.

Joel Kellman – he felt that the post-retirement funded level should be described as being “only funded to XX percent”. After discussion, the Committee decided to not revise the language.

N. Gruber amended his motion to approve the final draft with the language agreed on tonight and A. Bhagwan supported the amended motion.

Ayes: Kim Bateman, Kris Vigliotti, Nick Gruber, Jeff Samoray, Amit Bhagwan, Tony Lehmann, Frank Mioni, Mike Egnotovitch, Lisa Momblanco, Susan Klein, Joel Kellman, Sharon Abramsky

Nays: None

Abstain: Fred Fechheimer

A. Sullivan suggested the Committee consider writing a cover letter for the report that could express the thoughts that S. Klein had expressed. F. Fechheimer felt that the City Commission was already aware of the importance of taking action. The full Committee had previously agreed that the Final Report content would serve as an executive summary of the individual subcommittee reports. J. Samoray said the Committee’s job was to make recommendations to the City Commission and it was their responsibility to inform the public once they decided on a course of action. He reminded the Committee that the communications subcommittee had recommended the City Commission hold town halls to help inform residents. N. Gruber asked S. Klein to put together some talking points that could be emphasized at the August 20th joint meeting.

N. Gruber relayed Chuck Batcheller’s comments submitted via email that the first two paragraphs of the Executive Summary be deleted because they expressed opinions. The Committee did not incorporate those changes into the final draft.

6. Public Participation: C. Galed stressed that many departments and services are provided in the General Fund and that the Recreation Department and Library

should not be singled out as the only departments that run shortfalls or be required to offset their costs with revenue. Other departments, such as Public Safety, don't have this expectation so the Recreation Department and Library should not be treated differently.

7. Other Committee member business: The remainder of the 2019 scheduled meetings is canceled now that the final report has been completed. There is a joint meeting with the City Commission on Tuesday, August 20th at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the report in more detail.
8. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.