

	City Council Study Session Finance, Technology and Economic Development Special Focus Area April 12, 2021 - 5:30 PM Virtual MINUTES Watch the meeting LIVE! Watch the meeting video Meeting videos are not available until 72 hours after the meeting has concluded.
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I. CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Mayor DaCorsi called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

II. Virtual Participation Link

A. Virtual Participation Link

The City Council Meeting was held virtually.

B. Roll Call

Councilmembers virtually present: Deputy Mayor Claude DaCorsi, Bob Baggett, Larry Brown, James Jeyaraj, Robyn Mulenga, Chris Stearns and Yolanda Trout-Manuel. Councilmember Trout-Manuel left the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Innovation and Technical Support Specialist Danika Olson, Police Chief Dan O'Neil and City Clerk Shawn Campbell were in Chambers.

The following department directors and staff members attended the meeting virtually: City Attorney Kendra Comeau, Senior City Staff Attorney Harry Boesche, Director of Community Development Jeff Tate, Director of Public Works Ingrid Gaub, Director of Parks, Arts, and Recreation Daryl Faber, Director of Finance Jamie Thomas, Director of Administration Dana Hinman, Assistant Finance Director Kevin Fuhrer, Director of Human Resources Candis Martinson, Director of Innovation and Technology David Travis, Capital & Construction Engineering Manager Ryan Vondrak, Senior Project Engineer Matt Larson and Outreach Program Administrator Kent Hay.

III. AGENDA ITEMS FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION

A. Facility Needs Assessment and Master Plan – Draft Final Plan Briefing (Gaub)(45 Minutes)

Senior Project Engineer Larson introduced Julie Bassuk and Beth Batchelder from Makers Architects. They provided Council with a project overview, project goals, major findings and recommendations, alternative analysis findings, initial draft recommendations, updated recommendations, facility maintenance recommendations, a draft phasing and financing plan, facilities maintenance funding, a capital spending plan, a draft financing strategy, potential impacts to the General Fund and the Utility Fund, the benefits of the plan, and the final steps for the Facility Needs Assessment.

Council discussed the differences in the initial plan and the amended recommendations, the size of property needed for a police campus, timing of funding, plans for the current Justice Center, community use of ball fields, outsourcing services and eligible purchases with bond funding.

B. Ordinance No. 6817 (Tate)(30 Minutes)

An Ordinance amending Chapters 2.22 and 9.50 of Auburn City Code as it relates to camping on City property, providing for an admonishment process and administrative appeal

Director Tate provided Council with a presentation on Ordinance No. 6814. He explained why Staff is bringing the proposed ordinance before Council, he shared photos and videos of an encampment that is typical of encampments around Auburn, the immediate required responses, factors to consider after an encampment is cleaned up, a map of known encampments locations, cost of cleanup in the last 6 months, estimated future costs, comments from residents, business owners, and the Police Advisory Committee, the availability of the Auburn Community Court as a diversionary court, the sheltering services available in the community both locally and regionally. If staff has a trespass option, it will only be used if there are services available and not accepted and the individual also refuses to leave the area.

Attorney Boesche provided Council with the different scenario if someone is issued an infraction opposed to an criminal citation. Chief O'Neil described what a trespass admonishment looks like from the police interaction side.

Christian Faltenberger, General Manager of the Outlet Collection thanked the Staff and Council for allowing him share on behalf of the local business owners. He stated the property owners are working together to maintain their properties. Local businesses receive complaints daily regarding the aggressive panhandling and garbage near their properties. He encouraged the Council to use all the tools available to maintain City owned property. He asked Council to hold all residents accountable.

Debbie Christian, Executive Director for the Auburn Food Bank encouraged people to not give to people who are panhandling, she stated services are offered to people through the shelter. Ms. Christian encouraged Council to hold all residents accountable.

Council discussed services people need, unhoused people that have died, the impacts of homelessness, the cost of housing, living wage jobs, the diversion program of Community Court, the living conditions in the encampments, the impact on the environment, capacity for providing services, other jurisdictions with similar ordinances and how the City is dealing with the mental health concerns.

Deputy Mayor DaCorsi called for a 7 minute recessed at 8:08 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:15 p.m.

IV. FINANCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Ordinance No. 6814 (Thomas)(30 Minutes)
Draft B&O Tax Code

Councilmember Baggett presided over this section of the meeting.

Director Thomas presented Council with proposed Ordinance No. 6814. She explained the purpose of the proposed Business and Occupation (B&O) Tax. She reviewed the General Fund forecasts, expected expenditure growth and revenue growth, she reviewed the considerations for balancing the budget, options for budget cuts, proposed B&O square footage tax, an alternative tax structure, and the pros and cons of the proposed options.

Council discussed sharing the burden across many businesses, increasing needs within the General Fund, why warehouses are charged differently than other types of businesses, services that the City would not be able to offer if there was not sufficient revenue and budget cuts.

V. OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

There were no other discussion items.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

APPROVED this 19th day of April, 2021.



CLAUDE DACORSI, DEPUTY MAYOR Shawn Campbell, City Clerk

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