

CITIZENS' ADVISORY BUDGET COMMITTEE (CABC)

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: February 6, 2024

Time: 6:30PM

Location: In-Person (AMC)

Next Meeting: March 5, 2024

Time: 6:30PM

Location: In-Person (AMC)

MISSION STATEMENT: *The mission of the Citizens' Advisory Budget Committee (CABC) is to study all phases of the budget of the City of Aurora and to make recommendations to City Council in regard to any and all budget matters.*

The CABC accomplishes the mission by examining and evaluating needs and priorities as they relate to the budget and by making recommendations for action to the City Council.

ATTENDANCE

Name		Name		Name		Name
Ericka Alfonso	P	Debra Johnson	P	Jonathan Scott	P ⁺	COA Staff
Sunny Banka	P	Danielle Lammon (chair)	P	Michael Senich	P	Greg Hays
Andris Berzins	A	Janet Marlow	P	JulieMarie Shepherd Macklin	P	
Marsha Berzins	P	Jim Mattson	P	Binisha Shrestha*	A	Guests
Gretchen Dirks	P	Omar Montgomery	A	Katrina Zerilli	P	Mayor Mike Coffman
Shane Doyle	E	George Peck	P			
Sandy Garcia*	P	David Rich	P			
Max Gimelshteyn	E	Bob Roth*	P ⁺			

Key: P=Present; P⁺ Present after roll call; E=Excused; A=Absent; R=Resigned; *New Member

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order	Chair Danielle Lammon called the meeting to order at 6:35pm	
2. Roll Call/ Establishment of Quorum	Attendance was recorded and with 14 members present, a quorum was established. Two members arrived after the roll call.	
3. Approval of February Agenda	Chair Lammon presented the February agenda. With no further additions, Dave Rich moved to adopt the February meeting agenda and the motion carried unanimously.	Motion Carried Yes: 14 No: 0 Abstain: 0
4. Mayor Coffman	<p>Chair Lammon welcomed Mayor Coffman to provide his updates as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marijuana revenues continue to be an important part of the City’s budget. There are on-going conversations with the federal government as the current federal drug schedule classification present challenges for businesses within the industry not being able to realize business tax deductions, creating additional strains on local Aurora businesses. • One-time ARPA funds (collaboration with state and county pass through funds) are being used for the capital construction/renovation for the Navigation Resource Center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Still need to identify a program operator, who will be responsible for fundraising for on-going operational dollars. ○ There will be three service levels offered with the goal of getting as many people as possible into employment and stable housing. • The area mayors (Aurora, Denver and Colorado Springs) discussed a common need for mental health services as one of the legislative priorities the mayors took to the Capitol. (Last year, this group’s priority was motor vehicle theft and making this a felony-level offense). • The entire I-225 corridor will be designated as a no-trespassing zone with a low-level offense structure. Similar model to the wellness court – extending the opportunity for low-level offenders to have charges removed from their record after meeting certain requirements. • Restructuring the Homeless Outreach Team – specialized officers, who will have the background and context knowledge, to interface with and refer for services unhoused individuals. Currently these responsibilities are carried out by PAR Officers. • Mayor Coffman encouraged CABC to review the 2017 study done on behalf of the Aurora Police Department, evaluating which positions could be carried out by civilians versus POST Officers. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New initiative (Save program) focused on gang-involved youth and connecting them with formal case management to help with supervision and resources. Aurora will be the first city in state to introduce this model. • Transportation impact fee for residential development only with no fee structure right now for commercial development. However the growth and development that is happening within City boundaries is associated with large, heavy vehicles on commercial sites. Mayor Coffman would like to explore the possibility of restructuring impact fees. • Mayor Coffman would like to explore a conversation regarding Debrucing property taxes with the goal of investing in public safety infrastructure – this will likely be a long-term conversation and effort given the political reality and Aurora/Colorado voters’ appetite for tax increases. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ COPs are a good finance tool in lieu of raising taxes. • There is an opportunity for strengthened partnerships with local school districts. For instance, the sharing of recreational facilities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In current conversations with Aurora Public Schools regarding identifying vacant commercial space for a teen space in collaboration with the City. • The City needs to recognize what the private sector is doing in recreation to identify what services are being offered and what gaps remain (for instance youth, disabled, active adults, etc.) and focus City efforts on filling in unmet needs as opposed to duplicating efforts and having a potential chilling effect on private industry. • Can the City evaluate its current use of governmental employees for non-governmental services. For instance janitorial services, grounds maintenance, etc. – are there opportunities to leverage private sector service providers? This could help by having more predictable costs and addressing current staffing challenges. • New animal shelter is needed. • Crime (a fully, appropriately staffed police department) and homelessness are his top two priorities 	
5. Approval of January Meeting Minutes	Janet Marlow moved to adopt the January meeting minutes as presented and the motion carried unanimously.	Motion Carried Yes: 16 No: 0 Abstain: 0

6. Revenue and Budget Updates	<p>December sales tax up 8.1% - in part due to the calendar and the longer period between Thanksgiving and the winter holidays. Once the January numbers are in, this will provide a more complete picture of the full holiday season for sales tax.</p> <p>Winners: eating, drinking, building materials, and auto. Losers: utilities.</p> <p>Council had its Winter Budget Workshop this past weekend.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strategy-based approach was introduced to include these five areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ well managed, healthy, safe, economically strong, and connected and engaged. ○ The goal is that Council will focus their conversations and policy making around these five areas (“if money was no object, what would success in each of these areas look like?”). This could be a helpful framing for CABC to also use for subcommittee work. 	
7. Bylaw Discussion	<p>After CABC’s discussion regarding attendance and quorum, Greg took these issues back to city staff and attorneys and generated a list of ways this could be remedied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greg will begin providing regular updates at the quarterly Management and Finance subcommittee meetings. As part of these updates, Greg will provide high-level overviews of CABC’s work and areas of focus. Additionally, these updates will provide an opportunity to flag challenges with meeting quorum should they continue to arise. • City Attorney recommended using the language “non-binding recommendation” and acknowledging that formal action could not be taken due to lack of attendance/lack of quorum. • Any formal change to our bylaws regarding changing quorum definitions would require discussion with Council and while technically possible, could be more difficult. • A final option recommended by the City Attorney: it is possible to explore modifying CABC membership to only have one appointee per Council Member. CABC members overwhelmingly expressed that this option was not necessary and could have unintended negative consequences. 	
8. Council Member Priorities Check-In	<p>Chair Lammon reminded members to connect with their appointing Council Member in advance of the March meeting. Everyone should be prepared to bring back feedback and ideas for the subcommittee formation conversations.</p>	
9. Housekeeping	<p>Chair Lammon reviewed the 2024 meeting dates and noted the tentative dates for the July Budget Workshop: July 23rd and 24th from 5:30-9pm.</p> <p>There was a request to have calendar invites sent for all future CABC meetings.</p>	
10. Meeting Adjourned	<p>Chair Lammon adjourned the formal business meeting 8:17pm.</p>	
11. Budget 101	<p>Greg invited interested members to stay for a Budget 101 session.</p>	