

CITIZENS' ADVISORY BUDGET COMMITTEE (CABC)

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: March 5, 2024 Time: 6:30PM Location: In-Person (AMC)
 Next Meeting: April 2, 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)	E	Michael Senich	P	Greg Hays
Andris Berzins	P	Janet Marlow	P	JulieMarie Shepherd Macklin	P	
Marsha Berzins	P	Jim Mattson	P	Binisha Shrestha	A	Guests
Gretchen Dirks	E	Omar Montgomery	A	Katrina Zerilli	P	
Shane Doyle	A	George Peck	P			
Sandy Garcia	P	David Rich	P			
Max Gimelshteyn	A	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	Acting Chair Jono Scott called the meeting to order at 6:37pm	
2. Roll Call/ Establishment of Quorum	Attendance was recorded and with 15 members present, a quorum was established.	
3. Approval of March Agenda	Chair Scott presented the March agenda. George Peck moved to adopt the March meeting agenda and the motion carried unanimously.	Motion Carried Yes: 15 No: 0 Abstain: 0
4. Approval of February Meeting Minutes	A small clerical edit was noted and with that change, the February minutes stand approved as presented.	
5. Revenue and Budget Updates	<p>January saw a 5.6% decrease in sales tax. This was not necessarily a surprise given shopping/spending habits with the holiday season. This marks a 0.4% decrease compared to the same time period last year.</p> <p>Winners: industrial sales, building materials, misc. top taxpayers. Losers: electronics, utilities, sporting goods, grocery, furniture, auto sales. Overall: 10 of 15 sectors down.</p> <p>There was discussion and questions from the floor about construction defect legislation as it relates to sales tax.</p>	
6. CABC Priorities and Potential Subcommittees	<p>Chair Scott provided an overview of the subcommittee process along with a recap of the five strategic outcome Council has preliminarily identified (well-managed, healthy, safe, economically strong, and connected and engaged).</p> <p>CABC members shared high-level summaries of their appointing Council Members' budget priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunny and Janet (Mayor Coffman): most of the mayor's priorities mirrored what the Mayor shared with CABC earlier this year. He did emphasis a desire to look at what services can be contracted/privatized (well-managed) • Mike and Dave (Dustin Zvonek): well-managed, deeper dive into services and how these show up in the budget; what services does the city provide – what are the costs and where can services be outsourced, partnered etc. For instance: with the animal shelter, is there an opportunity to partner with Dumb Friends League? Larger question of what is the role of the City? • JulieMarie (Gardner): capital projects, not just roads (to include whether or not it is feasible to take a tax question to voters for funding of specific capital projects); deeper look at privatization (when does it make sense for contracting vs CoPs for example meeting the need for a new animal shelter); consider a department review of courts with a focus on new courts (trespassing diversion and restorative justice); long-term fiscal implications of Crown Plaza 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jono and Gretchen (Sundberg): water; infrastructure/roads; widening of Gun Club Road; Crown Plaza initial and long-term costs • Debra and Erika (Medina): youth center; arts and cultural venue • Sandy (Hancock): streamlining of the budget to eliminate waste and duplication of services and programs; what is funded by marijuana tax and implications for drop in revenue here; explore the potential bloat in charges that are being levied; spending around DEI, homeless, and the industrial complex; relationship between city and non-profits – cost benefit analysis; Anshutz and Gaylord – sales tax revenue generated by these entities • Jim (Bergan): audit of how dollars flow and cost benefit around non-profits; complete medians; sports park II – is there a more effective use of this city land that could become revenue generation? • Marsha and Andris (Jurinsky): public safety (crime rates, recidivism rates, first responder gear, response rates); safety and protection for small businesses and how to support expansion; staffing rates/resources compared to comparable-sized cities <p>Chair Scott invited Marsha, Bob, and Greg to provide high-level recommendations and input on how to constructively frame subcommittee work given their respective backgrounds: avoid highly political topics; use common sense language and framing; include clear rationale.</p> <p>Chair Scott then facilitated a brainstorming session for CABC members to identify how budget priorities aligned with the five strategic outcomes.</p> <p>The Executive Committee and Greg will compile and review the notes from the brainstorming session. These will be shared with CABC members in advance of the April meeting. At the next meeting, members can identify subcommittee preferences and begin the process of defining subcommittee focus areas.</p>	
7. Housekeeping	<p>Chair Scott 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>	
8. Meeting Adjourned	<p>Chair Scott adjourned the meeting 8:18pm.</p>	