

CITIZENS' ADVISORY BUDGET COMMITTEE (CABC)

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: March 8, 2022 Time: 6:30PM Location: WebEx (Video-conference platform)

Next Meeting: April 5, 2022 Time: 6:30PM Location: TBD

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
Mustafa Abdullah	A	Max Gimelshteyn	A	Michael Senich	P	COA Staff
Candice Bailey	A	Debra Johnson	P	JulieMarie Shepherd Macklin	P	Gregg Hays
Sunny Banka	P+	Danielle Lammon	P	Janet Marlow	P+	
Tikneshia L. Beauford	P	Jim Mattson	P	Chesca Smotherman	P	Guests
Andris Berzins	P	Omar Montgomery	P+	Katrice Traylor	P	
Marsha Berzins	P	George Peck	P	Michael Westerberg	P+	
Reno Carollo	P+	David Rich	P			
Gretchen Dirks	P	Jonathan Scott	P			

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

**HANDOUTS
(Emailed to committee)**

February Meeting Minutes <i>(Sent February 28, 2022, via email)</i>
March Meeting Agenda <i>(Sent February 28, 2022, via email)</i>
Due-Outs and Action Items from the March Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greg: provide expenditure reports as they are available (quarterly?) • Chair Scott: circulate the initial list of five themes for potential subcommittees • All CABC Members: respond to Chair Scott's email with individual preferences for subcommittee efforts (be sure to specify which sub-topic within the topic) by Friday.

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order	Chair Jono Scott called the meeting to order at 6:38pm	
2. Roll Call/ Establishment of Quorum	Roll call was taken by Secretary JulieMarie Shepherd Macklin and a quorum was established.	
3. Approval of March Agenda	<p>Chair Scott entertained a motion to approve the March agenda as presented.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andris Berzins moved to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously. 	<p>Motion Carried Yes: 15 No: 0 Abstain: 0</p>
4. Approval of February Minutes	<p>Chair Scott introduced the January minutes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With no changes brought forward from the floor, the February minutes stand approved as presented. 	
5. Revenue and Budget Updates	<p>Greg provided the monthly budget update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January was a strong month. The same trends from past months are still present. • The marketplace facilitator is now just considered part of the base, so it will no longer be called out • Question from the floor: what is the impact to revenues of inflation? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The city benefits when things cost more (more tax revenue) ○ But if inflation gets too high, and consumers curb spending to essentials like only groceries and gas, the city will suffer as it doesn't collect taxes on grocery items • Question from the floor: is it possible to receive information on expenses? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Greg will plan to share quarterly reports on expenditures. • Question from the floor: in the last year, over 200 FTE were added – how are staffing levels looking? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The city is seeing similar staffing challenges and has unfilled positions (public safety, 911 operators, maintenance workers) 	

January 2022 Sales Tax Performance



Percent Change from Prior Year By Month



6. Subcommittee Discussion and Development

Chair Scott opened the floor for CABC members to bring forward their appointing council members' budget priorities:

- CM Medina's appointee Debra Johnson
 - Public Safety – Community policing and officers on the ground. Community engagement and trust building. Youth intervention programs
 - Community engagement – increase the scope of community services within Neighborhood Services Dept. Invigorate Youth commission and have them be part of the budget process.
 - Capital Improvements – long term funding, especially around the facilities project (rec centers, police/fire stations). Learn more about the possibility of using bonds.
 - Homelessness – make sure that there is funding for the City Manger study that was approved at a recent meeting. Provide storage for unhoused belongings

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Immigrant/refugee – funding to better engage these communities. Increase the period of time for Global Fest ○ Departmental Efficiencies – what technologies to create more efficiencies and what metrics are used to measure these? ○ Affordable Housing – what incentives can be created for builders to build affordable housing, and explore bond options here. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CM Gardner’s appointees Danielle Lammon and JulieMarie Shepherd Macklin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increased Mental Health Funding/Creation of Mental Health Board (along the lines of Caring 4 Denver) ○ Pay increases for First Responders at the top end across metro area ○ Funding for arts/entertainment complex ○ Funding for part-time Council Aide position (approx. \$370k) ○ Sales Tax Exemption for Diapers (approx. reduction in revenue of \$550k) ○ Funding for fire station construction and modernization ● CM Murillo’s appointee Omar Montgomery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Affordable, attainable, and transitional housing, with focus in the Ward I area ○ Public Safety – expand youth services, look at after school programming, increased partnership with school districts ○ Immigrant and Refugee communities in Ward I (ensuring community centers like Mango House in Ward I have the resources they need) ○ Workforce initiatives based on the capital development projects in Aurora and Ward I specifically – prioritizing the training and hiring for those in the community who are unhoused ○ Support the Arts – especially on historic Colfax corridor – not just one-time, but ongoing funding and create a tourist attraction to generate revenue ● CM Marcano’s appointee Chesca Smotherman <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Affordable housing ○ How to protect and support constituents against wage theft (especially for lower income individuals and individuals of color). Are people being appropriated compensated for the work they are doing? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Denver has a department of auditors who study this issue. 	
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- Water and water usage in the city
- CM Lawson's appointee George Peck
 - Public Safety – police and fire and call center
 - Quality of Life – event center
 - Public Works – broadly speaking – extra money that is coming into the city – how can that be applied to public works. Specifically roads, bridges, and infrastructure.
- CM Coombs' appointee Tish Beauford
 - Affordable housing
 - Immigrant issues (living wages)
 - Police department accountability
- CM Sundberg's appointees Gretchen Dirks and Jono Scott
 - Road maintenance
 - Fully funded police force in-line with 2 per thousand
 - Proper funding of fire department
- Mayor Coffman's appointee Sunny Banka and Janet Marlow
 - Transportation
 - Camping ban, homeless population

Below is a recap from CABC members who shared their appointing CM's priorities in the February meeting:

- CM Bergan's appointees Jim Mattson and Max Gimelshteyn
 - Public works
 - Gun Club Road expansion, given all of the development on the east side of town (Murphy Creek etc.) and will require coordination between municipal, county, state and likely federal government
 - Parks and Rec – unfinished projects in Ward VI
 - Retail development. There was 1 or 2 FTE allocated to focus on this – has the position been filled?

- Department reviews
- Snow removal – likely part of the larger roads conversation
- New Sports Park in SE Aurora – a potential to bring in revenue

- CM Zvonek’s appointees Dave Rich and Mike Senich:
 - Road maintenance and non-road capital projects
 - How ARPA money will be used
 - Look at an updated fire department review since the last report CABC did in 2018

- CM Jurinsky’s appointee Andris Berzins and Marsha Berzins:
 - Public safety – police training – specifically around less-than-letahl strategies and other training to help diffuse situations
 - Police and fire response – dispatch
 - Road maintenance (*Marsha Berzins added this from her most recent conversation with CM Jurinsky*)

- CM Medina’s appointee Debra Johnson (*see more detailed updates above that were provided in the March meeting*)
 - Public safety – specifically community policing
 - Efficiencies in each department – what metrics are being used to gauge this
 - Affordable housing


Chair Scott began to synthesize these lists into broad themes and asked that CABC members review these (to be emailed out) and respond with preferences:

1. Road Maintenance (public works, transportation, road maintenance)
2. Public Safety (youth intervention services, police including training, fire, and dispatch personnel retention)
3. Affordability (unhoused and homelessness, attainable, affordable, and transitional housing, wages, and immigrant, and refugee services)
4. Capital (projects/improvements, needs, CIMP)
5. Revenue Generation (how to generate revenue, increase efficiencies with existing revenues)

	<p>Then Chair Scott opened the floor for discussion about next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several of these are very broad topics (especially around public safety) – may need to narrow or break out into multiple subcommittees • Department reviews are very broad – would need to have a more narrowed focus for this work to be meaningful. Consider using reviews to look at specific/known issues rather than a broad-sweeping review. In the past, department reviews have included site visits and meetings with department heads for contextual information • CABC members need time to review these – possibly send out a list and have members identify top areas of interest • Greg reminded everyone: the purpose of CABC isn't about “finding issues” but to learn and hear stories from different departments and help tell their stories especially when there are budgetary implications. • Greg also noted that there is an existing Capital Infrastructure Master Plan (CIMP) – this would address several of the budget priorities 	
7. Housekeeping	<p>Chair Scott discussed upcoming meetings. Of note, he flagged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our next meeting will be Tuesday April 5th and it will likely be offered as hybrid with an in-person option at the AMC along with a virtual option • July 5, 2022 meeting will likely be held for subcommittee work in lieu of a full CABC meeting. • Tentative dates for budget workshop are 7/26 and 7/27. Greg will keep us updated as this is finalized. 	
8. Meeting Adjourned	<p>Chair Scott asked for any further questions or comments - seeing none, the meeting was adjourned at 8:09pm.</p>	



Jonathan Scott, Chair



JulieMarie Shepherd Macklin, Secretary

March 8, 2022

Date of Approval