

# CITIZENS' ADVISORY BUDGET COMMITTEE (CABC)

## Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: February 7, 2023      Time: 6:30PM      Location: Hybrid In-Person (AMC) and Teams Virtual Meeting

Next Meeting: March 7, 2023      Time: 6:30PM      Location: To be confirmed

**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	P <sup>+</sup>	Max Gimelshteyn	P	Michael Senich	P	<b>COA Staff</b>
Ericka Alfonso	P	Debra Johnson	P	JulieMarie Shepherd Macklin	P	Greg Hays
Sunny Banka	P	Danielle Lammon	P	Janet Marlow	P	
Tikneshia L. Beauford	E	Jim Mattson	P	Katrice Traylor	A	<b>Guests</b>
Andris Berzins	P	Omar Montgomery	A	Katrina Zerilli	P	Jim Twombly
Marsha Berzins	P	George Peck	A			
Reno Carollo	P	David Rich	P			
Gretchen Dirks	P	Jonathan Scott	P			

Key: P=Present; P<sup>+</sup> Present after roll call; E=Excused; A=Absent; R=Resigned; \*New Member

### HANDOUTS

(Emailed to committee)

January Minutes *(Sent February 3, 2023, via email)*

February Meeting Agenda *(Sent February 3, 2023, via email)*

### ITEMS FOR FOLLOW-UP

- Connect with appointing CM to discuss their budget priorities and bring to the February CABC meeting (all CABC members)

**MEETING MINUTES**

1. Call to Order	Chair Danielle Lammon called the meeting to order at 6:31pm	
2. Roll Call/ Establishment of Quorum	Roll call was taken by Secretary JulieMarie Shepherd Macklin and a quorum was established with 12 members present in-person and 4 members joining virtually.	
3. Approval of February Agenda	<p>Chair Lammon introduced the February agenda for consideration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair Lammon noted that Mayor Coffman was unable to attend, but we would still hear from City Manger Jim Twombly.</li> <li>• With no substantive changes or additions, the February agenda stands approved as presented.</li> </ul>	
4. City Manager Update / CABC Goals for 2023	<p>Chair Lammon welcomed City Manager Jim Twombly to provide an update.</p> <p>City Manager Twombly expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to connect with the CABC and then went on to share key updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Of interest to CABC given this body’s past recommendations and study areas, Mr. Twombly shared that an event/venue study is in the works. This study will include exploration of what this could look like, feasibility, costs, etc. As part of this, there will also be a stakeholder feedback session – likely in March. The goal is to take this all to the City Council spring workshop (late April). The City of Thornton is currently going through a similar study process (<a href="#">here is their 2019 report</a>)</li> <li>• There was a Winter Workshop with Council last Saturday. Infrastructure continues to be a focus. There are hundreds of millions of dollars of identified needs that will must be addressed in the coming years ranging from roads, emergency services (fire stations), the animal shelter (possibly a satellite facility in the south part of the city), maintenance and upkeep on existing city buildings, and more.</li> <li>• Questions from CABC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ One recommendation that came out of CABC’s subcommittee work last year was the separation of Cultural and Library Services. Is this structural/organizational change being considered as part of the event venue study? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No definite plans, but something that could be considered.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Where did the \$35m for roads come from? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Certificates of Participation (COPs) are being used to fund this with the debt servicing coming out of the capital fund.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ An update was requested about how the increased snowplowing would be funded.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This was a focused area of discussion at the winter budget workshop and in response to community feedback. The price tag is significant at \$1.6m labor and \$2m+ for initial equipment investment. In the coming weeks, the complaints/reports that came in from the community will be evaluated in efforts to identify priority areas. This will help inform a strategic approach and allow the City to address key areas and promote public safety.</li> <li>○ Will individual neighborhoods/HOAs be able to plow their own streets if they want to? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ There is currently a pilot program with a metro district. This will be evaluated to determine its success and if it should be scaled-up more broadly across the city.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Recruitment and retention of employees was a high-focus area last year and created significant staffing challenges. What is being done about this? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Some of the challenges have resolved with notably fewer vacancies. But this is still an issue and some departments are disproportionately experiencing staffing challenges. In the coming weeks, HR is going to be working extra (including evenings and weekends) to get through a backlog of postings and vetting applications.</li> <li>▪ The state trend right now is 2 job postings per person – meaning there are simply more open jobs than people to fill said jobs and the city is experiencing similar trends.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Any guidance on what CABC should focus on in the coming year? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ We are likely facing budget uncertainty in the coming months/years (recession, downturn, etc). It will be helpful for CABC to provide insights as to what we’re seeing in our respective communities and any feedback we can provide could help inform future budget decisions that may have to be made depending on what happens in the larger budget landscape.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p>5. Approval of January Minutes</p>	<p>Chair Lammon introduced the January minutes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With no changes or additions, the January minutes stand approved as presented.</li> </ul>	
<p>6. Revenue and Budget Updates</p>	<p>Greg Hays provided the monthly budget update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1.5% December – while this seems abnormally small compared to December 2021, this is because there was a large one-time payment that the City received in December 2021. 1.5% still marks positive growth and may not fully capture all holiday spending.</li> <li>• Trends for the year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Utilities, auto dealers, building materials, eating and drinking have consistently been strong this year</li> <li>○ Furniture, electronics, department stores have consistently been down all year.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• See chart on following page</li> <li>• Question from the floor:</li> </ul>	

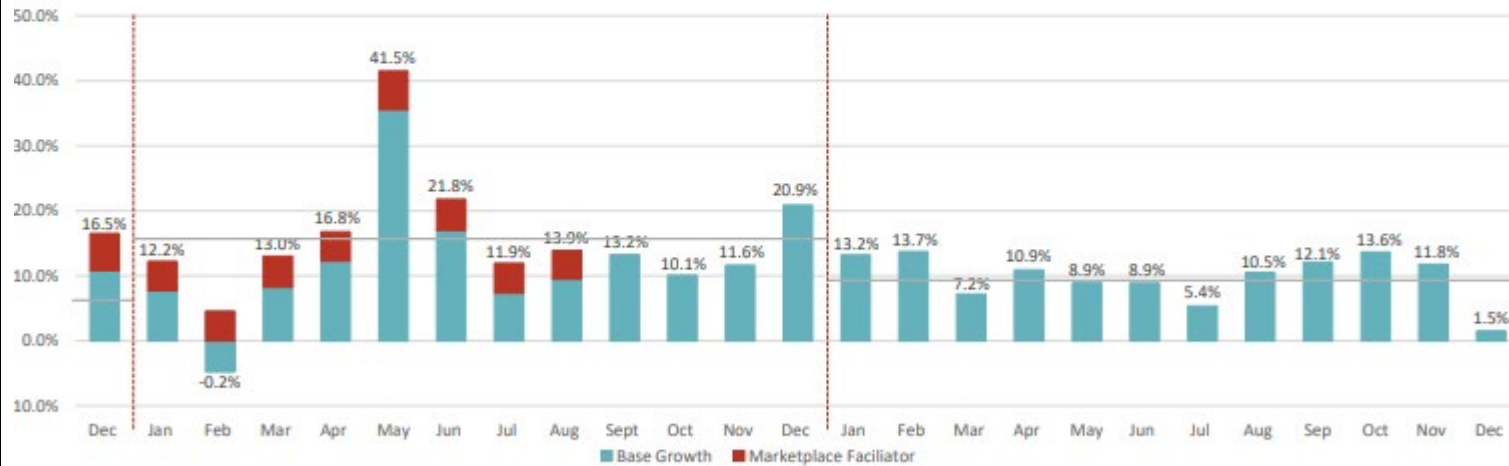
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Last month, a member asked for clarification regarding the inflation numbers.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Greg reported that these figures reflect federal inflation rates.</li></ul></li><li>○ What is the trend around marijuana sales?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Marijuana sales were slightly down. This may be in part due to the fact that marijuana costs are declining and consumption patterns may be shifting as remote work is declining.</li></ul></li><li>○ When will the Occupational Privilege Tax (OPT) be removed?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ It is set to take effect Jan 1 2025. But responsible budgeting will mean there are adjustments made starting in the 2024 budget year.</li></ul></li><li>○ Clarification on the bag tax – does the city receive revenues?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ There will be money coming into the city from the new tax – but it is unclear how much this will be and it is not currently accounted for in the budget. This is an area Greg will look into further and report back.</li></ul></li></ul>	
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# December 2022 Sales Tax Performance



## Percent Change from Prior Year By Month

December YTD Variance to  
Projection: \$6.5M (2.5%)  
2021: \$24.1M (9.8%)



**2020**  
5.3%

**2021**  
14.9%

**2022**  
9.8%

7. Council Member Priorities Quick Check-in

Chair Lammon encouraged all CABC members to connect with their appointing Council Members before the March meeting. Further, Chair Lammon urged members to prioritize in-person attendance for the March meeting to the extent possible. She would like to have an active planning process, utilizing the physical space in the room.

8. Housekeeping

Chair Lammon reviewed the 2023 Meeting Dates.

Further ideas were brought forward for potential 2023 speaker/presentation topics including:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gun Club road widening efforts</li> <li>• An update on the strategic master plan</li> <li>• Policies and protocols on how the city interfaces with developers to determine fees, parks, schools, etc. And more generally, what is the process for new development proposals in the city.</li> </ul>	
9. Meeting Adjourned	With no further business, Chair Lammon adjourned the meeting at 8:02pm.	
10. Budget 101	After the formal business meeting adjourned, Greg Hayes hosted a Budget 101 session for interested members.	