



RESIDENT OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

Minutes

City of Barstow Council Chambers
220 East Mountain View Street, Barstow, CA 92311

May 19, 2020
5:00 p.m.

Meeting conducted via teleconference due to the COVID1-19 crisis.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Leonard Williams called the meeting of the Resident Oversight Commission (ROC) to order at 5:01 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present:

City Manager Nikki Salas
Assistant City Manager Cindy Prothro
Executive Assistant Christina Rudsell
Park and Recreation Superintendent Kyle Wooley
Economic Development Administrator Amanda Hernandez
Chairman Leonard Williams
Commissioner Kimberly Johnson
Commissioner David Mendez
Commissioner Barbara Rose
Commissioner John Williams

Absent:

None

3. Approval of Agenda

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Barbara Rose, Commissioner
SECONDER: David Mendez, Commissioner
AYES: Johnson, Mendez, Rose, J. Williams, L. Williams
ABSENT: None

4. Approval of Minutes

a. Special Meeting – November 19, 2019

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Barbara Rose, Commissioner

SECONDER: Kimberly Johnson, Commissioner

AYES: Johnson, Mendez, Rose, J. Williams, L. Williams

ABSENT: None

b. Regular Meeting – December 19, 2019

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Leonard Williams, Chairman

SECONDER: John Williams, Commissioner

AYES: Johnson, Mendez, Rose, J. Williams, L. Williams

ABSENT: None

5. Ongoing Business

a. Measure Q Reporting Schedule

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Kimberly Johnson, Commissioner

SECONDER: David Mendez, Commissioner

AYES: Johnson, Mendez, Rose, J. Williams, L. Williams

ABSENT: None

6. New Business

a. Financial Report – Fiscal Year 2019-2020 – 2nd Quarter

Assistant City Manager Cindy Prothro presented the Measure Q Financial Report for the 2nd Quarter of Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

Commissioner J. Williams asked about more than one police officer riding in a squad car together. Assistant City Manager Prothro stated that was for field training purposes.

Commissioner J. Williams asked about Christmas Tree Lighting expenditures being higher than the Mardi Gras Parade. Assistant City Manager Prothro stated that the parade costs are higher because more man power and labor are involved in coordinating street closures for that event.

City Manager Salas stated that any events that benefited the community were transferred from the General Fund to the Measure Q Community Promotional Fund budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

Commissioner J. Williams asked when that decision was approved. City Manager Salas stated that transferring these types of expenditures was approved by the City Council during the budget workshop/ratification in June 2019.

Commissioner J. Williams also expressed that the Council should ask the public's opinion on moving items from the General Fund to Measure Q Fund. City Manager Salas suggested that each Commissioner reach out and have these types of discussions with their Council Member. Chairman L. Williams stated that none of the Commissioners were seated in their positions upon adoption of the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 budget.

Commissioner J. Williams asked about the Cost Allocation item in the financial report. Assistant City Manager Prothro stated that those costs are the proportional share of salaries and overhead from the General Fund for the services provided for Measure Q. She also stated that this allocation is more cost effective than Measure Q paying for these overhead items and services.

RESULT: APPROVED [4-1-0-0]
MOVER: Leonard Williams, Chairman
SECONDER: Kimberly Johnson, Commissioner
AYES: Johnson, Rose, J. Williams, L. Williams
NO: Mendez
ABSENT: None

- b. Measure Q Sales Tax by Industry Group – Fiscal Year 2019-2020 1st Quarter

Assistant City Manager Cindy Prothro presented the Measure Q Sales Tax by Industry Group for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 1st Quarter

- c. Measure Q Sales Tax by Industry Group – Fiscal Year 2019-2020 2nd Quarter

Assistant City Manager Cindy Prothro presented the Measure Q Sales Tax by Industry Group for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 2nd Quarter

Commissioner Mendez asked why the report had a category for Food and Drugs. Assistant City Manager Prothro stated that over the counter drug purchases are subject to sales tax.

Commissioner Rose asked how the City Council and staff were planning on addressing the shortfall of revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She expressed concern about making sure that the Council and staff are cognizant of expenditures during the pandemic.

Commissioner Mendez asked about updating the voter-approved Measure Q 5-year plan as a result of the pandemic. City Manager Salas stated that the Council will adopt the budget for the next two fiscal years followed by addressing the 5-year plan. She also discussed that staff needs to see how sales tax revenue will be affected with real figures and data which will not be available until later in the year. She also mentioned that planning for the impact to the Measure Q budget is an action taken by Council with the ROC ensuring that the spending plan is followed.

Commissioner Rose agreed that we need to wait until actual numbers come in, but staff should be running scenarios. Assistant City Manager Prothro stated that staff has been running scenarios however the COVID-19 pandemic is an unprecedented situation that no one has ever encountered and the type of recovery is going to be hard to estimate.

Discussion ensued about the Autos and Transportation, Unidentified and Building and Construction categories of the industry group breakdown.

d. Measure Q website.

City Manager Salas discussed the recent upgrade to the city website along with the ability to include Measure Q data points on the homepage in the future. She also stated that approved minutes are posted on the Measure Q page while draft minutes are posted as part of the agenda packet.

Commissioner Rose suggested putting the approval date on the minutes that are posted on the website. She also suggested identifying each item on the agenda as action or informational.

Commissioner Rose asked why there are no minutes from the July 30, 2019 meeting. City Manager Salas stated that the meeting format adjusted to a more formal process since formation of the ROC. She stated that staff is open to meeting format suggestions based on the charter established by the City Council.

7. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Johnson expressed concern about how some of the other Commissioners are confused about the purpose or authority of the ROC. The charter states that the ROC is a checks and balances to the City Council. She also asked about the expectations each Commissioner has with their relationship with their Council Member. Commissioner J. Williams stated he would rather have each Council

Member explain the reasoning behind their decision making when it comes to Measure Q spending.

Commissioner Rose stated that she is aware of the parameters of her role on the ROC, but it does not hinder her from asking the difficult questions and improving the community. She also stated that everyone is in the COVID-19 crisis together and appreciates what each member of the ROC brings to the table.

Commissioner J. Williams asked how many funds, particularly the General Fund, does the City have because there is a lot of misinformation being spread throughout the community regarding the City's financial status. He expressed concern about persevering the reputation of the City Manager and Assistant City Manager especially in responding to the COVID-19 crisis. He also stated that as the State and other cities are going into a deficit, Barstow is in a better financial situation because of Measure Q. He commended the ROC for caring about the community and doing a fantastic job at educating the community about Measure Q.

Commissioner Mendez also stated that he has heard misinformation regarding the state of the General Fund. He also stated that although Commissioner Johnson is correct on the roles and responsibilities of the ROC, that is not how it was initially presented to him. He does enjoy being on the ROC and appreciates what he has learned along the way.

Commissioner Mendez also expressed concern about negative or confidential information being shared with a potential mayoral candidate from internal City staff. Commissioner Rose stated that may not always being the case or true. City Manager Salas stated that personnel issues are never discussed publicly. She also stated that she has only had conversations with potential candidates and elected officials about what their role is in relation to personnel issues. She also stated that the City now has General Fund reserves which were not available one year ago when she started. She stated that staff will continue to clarify any misinformation.

Chairman L. Williams stated that what he hears throughout the community does not affect him and he tries not to get involved in rumors. He tries to keep his focus on Measure Q when interacting with staff and the Council. He agrees that Measure Q is helping the City economically in light of the COVID-19 crisis. He commended staff for looking ahead and also Assistant City Manager Prothro on her presentation about municipal finance during the Leadership Barstow program.

8. Staff Comments

City Manager Salas discussed the upcoming fiscal year in review that will be presented to the City Council in June which will also include a section on Measure Q. She also discussed Measure Q sidewalk repairs.

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Kyle Wooley provided an update on recreation programs and services during the COVID-19 crisis.

9. Public Comment

None

10. Suggested Items for the Next Agenda

Financial Report – Fiscal Year 2019-2020 – 3rd Quarter


11. Next Meeting Date

June 24, 2020 at 5 pm.

12. Adjourn


By consensus of the ROC, the meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:


Christina Rudsell
Executive Assistant

06.24.2020
Date

Approved:


Leonard Williams
Chairperson

24 JUNE 2020
Date