



CITY OF ATWATER

CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE FOR PUBLIC SAFETY TRANSACTIONS AND USE TAX

ACTION MINUTES

August 11, 2016

CALL TO ORDER:

The City of Atwater Citizens' Oversight Committee for Public Safety Transactions and Use Tax met in regular session this date at 5:35 PM in the City Council Chambers, 750 Bellevue Road, Atwater, California; Chairperson Lee presiding.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Committee Member Raymond.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Committee Members Maurer, Raymond, Winningham,
Chairperson Lee

Absent: Committee Members Barkman, Olzack, Vice Chairperson
Bowling

Staff Present: Interim Police Chief Joseph, Mayor Price, City Attorney
Terpstra, CAL FIRE Battalion Chief Pimentel, Finance Director
Deol, Recording Secretary Saavedra

Staff Absent: None

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Notice to the public was read.

Chairperson Lee invited public comments.

No one came forward to speak.

MINUTES:

Regular meeting, April 18, 2016

MOTION: Committee Member Maurer moved to approve the minutes as listed. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Raymond and the vote was: Ayes: Maurer, Winningham, Raymond, Lee. Noes: None; Absent: Barkman, Olzack and Bowling. The motion carried.

REPORTS:

Finance Director Deol

Finance Director Deol presented a verbal report regarding the financial status of the Citizens' Oversight Committee for Public Safety Transactions and Use Tax.

City Attorney

City Attorney Terpstra responded to questions from Chairperson Lee regarding the use of Measure H funds to pay salaries. City Attorney Terpstra stated according to the ordinance outlining the use of Measure H funds it is appropriate to utilize Measure H funds to supplement not supplant existing city expenditures for public safety. He suggested utilizing the current Public Safety Expenditure Plan instead of the budget to review spending priorities.

City Attorney Terpstra clarified the purpose and jurisdiction of the citizens' oversight committee. He stated the role of the Measure H oversight committee to assess expenditures is an important role and is what the public voted for.

Committee Member Raymond questioned why the committee had not received copies of the Public Safety Expenditure Plan and asked who was responsible to provide the plan, and requested copies of the plan.

City Attorney Terpstra responded the Public Safety Plan has not been updated since 2014/15 and he had recently spoken with the City Manager regarding updating the plan.

Finance Director Deol stated she would attempt to locate the Expenditure Plan to provide to the Committee Members.

Interim Police Chief Joseph

Interim Police Chief Joseph stated he is working on generating revenue with a City owned Tow Yard and he is working with Grants Manager Lori Waterman to acquire grant funding.

CAL FIRE Battalion Chief Pimentel

CAL FIRE Battalion Chief Pimentel presented a verbal update/report regarding use of Citizens' Oversight Committee for Public Safety Transactions and Use Tax funds.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS:

Committee members requested a venue to communicate to City Council their concerns regarding the Measure H fund lack of reserve for unpredicted emergency expenditures and the usage of Measure H funds to pay salaries.

Committee Member Maurer stated the Measure H Committee will need to sell the continuation of the ½ cent tax to residents in 7 years and stressed the importance of spending the funds well in order to present to the residents the necessity of the continuation of the ½ tax.

Committee Member Winningham stated the City Council and the Measure H Committee are a team even if it does not appear so at times. He requested better communication between the Measure H Committee and City Council in order to be better prepared and more informed about the financial status prior to the Measure H Committee meetings. He requested monthly financial updates.

Committee Member Lee thanked Mayor Price for attending the meeting and requested City Council members attend the meetings to answer questions or take concerns back to City Council. He reiterated Committee Member Winningham's comments regarding the importance of the Measure H Committee, City Council, and various departments being a team that work well together. He stated he agreed with Committee Member Maurer's comments concerning the Measure H Committee fulfilling their obligations well, in order to sell the ½ cent tax again in 7 years and believes the ½ tax is an important way to generate funds for Public Safety. He would like to possibly mirror the City of Los Banos in implementing the ½ cent tax permanently.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Lee adjourned the meeting at 6:45 PM.



ERIC LEE, CHAIRPERSON

By: Margarita Saavedra,
Recording Secretary