



CITY OF ATWATER

CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE FOR PUBLIC SAFETY TRANSACTIONS AND USE TAX

ACTION MINUTES

March 8, 2022

REGULAR SESSION: (Council Chambers)

The City of Atwater Citizens' Oversight Committee for Public Safety Transactions and Use Tax met in Regular Session this date at 5:31 PM in the City Council Chambers located at the Atwater Civic Center, 750 Bellevue Road, Atwater, California; Chairperson Hyler presiding.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairperson Hyler.

INVOCATION:

The Invocation was led by Police Chaplain Jim McClellan.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Committee Members Brantley, Castro (5:42 PM), Dash, Garner, Pirtle, Vice Chairperson Brice, Chairperson Hyler

Absent: None

Staff Present: City Manager Waterman, City Attorney Splendorio, CAL FIRE Battalion Chief Ayuso, Police Chief Salvador (via teleconference), Finance Director Youmara, Deputy City Clerk Martin, Recording Secretary Thuang

SUBSEQUENT NEED ITEMS: *None*

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AS POSTED OR AS AMENDED:

MOTION: *Committee Member Dash moved to approve the agenda as posted. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Brantley and the vote was: Ayes: Dash, Brantley, Brice, Garner, Pirtle, Hyler; Noes: None; Absent: Castro. The motion passed.*

MINUTES:

1. December 14, 2021 – Special meeting

MOTION: *Committee Member Dash moved to approve the minutes as listed. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Garner and the vote was: Ayes: Pirtle, Garner, Brantley, Dash, Hyler; Noes: None; Abstain: Brice; Absent: Castro. The motion passed.*

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS FROM STAFF:

Let's Talk Atwater Presentation (City Manager Waterman)

City Manager Waterman presented a PowerPoint presentation detailing Let's Talk Atwater, a campaign by the City for local conversation on the City's service needs and priorities. She also addressed concerns of the Committee Members regarding the timeline, process, and cost of the balloting process, the advertising of different campaigns, details of the ballot measure, and the total number of respondents, public accessibility, and language offerings of the current campaign.

One person spoke regarding the advertising of the current campaign, different potential sources of revenue, the need for town hall meetings, changes to a potential public safety sales tax, and the current usage of Measure H funds.

One person spoke in opposition against any additional tax increases within the City.

Police Department Update (Police Chief Salvador)

Police Chief Salvador spoke regarding the Police Department's annual report that will be presented at the regular City Council meeting of March 14, 2022, and of the mid-year budget review where Measure H funds were reallocated to purchase a police vehicle. He also addressed concerns of the Committee Members regarding the service and efficiencies of the Police Department, quality control, safety within the community and for businessowners, city vehicle usage and electric vehicles, the proactive policing approaches, and current staffing levels.

Police Lieutenant Novetzke spoke regarding the implementation of strategic policing within the city and addressed concerns of the Committee Members regarding the areas of commands of police sergeants and Police Department training.

One person spoke regarding crime in the city and town hall meetings.

Fire Department Update (CAL FIRE Battalion Chief Ayuso)

CAL FIRE Battalion Chief Ayuso spoke regarding additional funding for a fire command vehicle, grants for funding and equipment, the total call volume for 2021, Fire Marshal inspections, and of a personnel ladder truck training with the City of Madera Fire Department.

Financial Report (Finance Director Youmara)

Finance Director Youmara provided an update regarding the unaudited budget status report for the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2021-22 Public Safety Transactions and Use Tax Fund and addressed concerns along with City Manager Waterman of the Committee Members regarding professional services expenditures and contract evaluations, police field services, the CAL FIRE contract, budgeted positions and overtime for the Police Department, and risk management expenditures.

CAL FIRE Battalion Chief Ayuso and Police Lieutenant Novetzke addressed concerns of the Committee Members regarding the total amount of reserves in the Fire and Police Department.

One person spoke regarding Measure H and the professional services expenditures.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Notice to the public was read.

One person spoke regarding the mid-year budget review, the expenditure of measure funds, and the need for a public safety tax and town hall meetings.

One person thanked and commended the Committee for their contributions and efforts on the Citizens' Oversight Committee for Public Safety Transactions and Use Tax and spoke regarding measure funds.

No one else came forward to speak.

COMMITTEE MATTERS:

Committee Member comments

Committee Member Brantley had nothing to report.

Committee Member Brice spoke regarding the need for the Public Safety Transactions and Use Tax, the importance and current staffing levels of the Police and Fire Department, and his appreciation for the Citizens' Oversight Committee for Public Safety Transactions and Use Tax.

Committee Member Castro had nothing to report.

Committee Member Dash spoke regarding the lack of ambulance service and of the importance of this emergency service.

Committee Member Garner spoke regarding his appreciation for the Citizens' Oversight Committee for Public Safety Transactions and Use Tax. He also encouraged the Committee Members to review the ordinance establishing the Committee and spoke regarding the advisory role of the Committee to the City Manager.

Committee Member Pirtle had nothing to report.

Chairperson Hyler thanked the members of the public for attending the meeting and sharing their comments and City staff for their efforts. He also spoke regarding his appreciation for the Citizens' Oversight Committee for Public Safety Transactions and Use Tax and reminded the community of the next Committee meeting on June 7, 2022 at 5:30 PM.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Hyler adjourned the meeting at 7:31 PM.

APPROVED:


Don Hyler III, Chairperson

BY: Leslie Thuang
Oversight Recording Secretary