

A meeting of the 2016-17 East and West Urban Renewal Districts Budget Committee was held in City Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Mayor LaMear, City Councilors Warr, Herzig, Nemlowill, and Price, Richard Hurley, Loran Mathews, Shel Cantor, David McElroy, Janet Miltenberger.

Committee Members Excused: None.

Staff Present: City Manager Estes, Finance & Administrative Director Brooks, Community Development Director Cronin, Police Chief/Assistant City Manager Johnston, and Fire Chief Ames, Parks & Recreation Director Cosby and Library Director Tucker.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor LaMear.

### **Election of Officers**

Mayor LaMear called for nominations for Chairperson. Motion made Richard Hurley seconded by Councilor Warr to nominate Loren Mathews as Chair of the East and West Urban Renewal Districts Budget Committee. (Motion carried by unanimous vote.)

Mayor LaMear passed the gavel to newly elected Chair Mathews.

Chair Mathews called for nominations for Secretary. Motion made by Shel Cantor, seconded by Councilor Price to nominate Richard Hurley as Secretary of the East and West Urban Renewal Districts Budget Committee. (Motion carried by unanimous vote.)

### **Budget Committee Review Schedule**

The Budget Committee consented to use Staff's suggested meeting schedule of April 20 and 21, 2015 with the meetings being held from 7:00 pm to 9 pm. Following discussion, the Committee confirmed the date and time for an additional meeting, if needed, on April 25. The Committee would set the date and time for a fourth meeting, if needed, at the April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. Chair Mathews announced that extending passed the set two-hour meeting time would require a unanimous vote.

### **BUDGET MESSAGE**

#### **a. City Manager's Opening Comments and Budget Message**

City Manager Estes said the Astoria Development Commission's proposed budget was the smaller, separate meeting packet, and included budgets for both the Astor East and Astor West Urban Renewal Districts. He noted the good discussion at the training session that helped clarify what urban renewal is and its purpose. He described each district's boundaries and reviewed the General Fund balances, estimated tax increment, and key projects of both the East and West Urban Renewal Districts.

City Manager Estes and Finance Director Brooks responded to clarifying questions from the Budget Committee regarding Clatsop Economic Development Resources (CEDR) Dues paid from the Agency in addition to the City dues as well as responding the City does not receive a listing of whose taxes are included in the Delinquent Ad Valorem Taxes estimated for FY 16-17. Additional discussion clarified payoff of loan proposed in the Debt Service line items and professional services line item and how this covers City overhead, staff time, insurance and items which the City allocates to the efforts accomplished by the Urban Renewal District Budgets. Their responses to key questions were as follows:

- Is re-opening Bond Street a separate process. At its next meeting, the Astoria Development Commission would be reviewing a contract with an urban renewal consultant regarding the potential expansion of the Astor West Urban Renewal District to the east along Bond Street, so urban renewal monies could be used toward reopening Bond Street to two-way traffic. Money in the budget has been allocated for the consultant and the \$2 million in the Improvements Other Than Buildings line item could be used for the project if everything is completed this next fiscal year.

- The \$150,000 for Professional Services in the Astor West Urban Renewal District Budget involves consultant services for several items, including expanding the urban renewal district; reviewing the Expanding the Urban Renewal Plan, Western Gateway Master Plan, obtaining a grant for the façade improvements and potentially initiating the City's Economic Development Strategy Grant. The City Council accepted a grant about one month ago for the Economic Development Strategy to consider the types of businesses and industries are wanted in the community. Part of the match for that project will come from the Astor West Urban Renewal District due to the amount of industrial land available in that area.
- The \$2 million Capital Improvements could include Bond Street, depending on how quickly the streetscape design process went. If work started this next fiscal year to implement the new design at the roundabout or other projects in the area, the funds could be allocated by the Development Commission. Capital Improvements essentially gave the Development Commission the flexibility to take on projects throughout the year.
- Funds in Line Item 2.10, City Administrative Services under Professional Services, are used to pay for Staff's time when doing urban renewal work, including Community Development Director Kevin Cronin, himself, and other Community Development Department Staff. These funds were transferred into the General Fund.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON ASTORIA EAST AND ASTORIA WEST URBAN RENEWAL DISTRICT BUDGETS AS PROPOSED**

Chair Mathews opened the public hearing on Astoria East and Astoria West Urban Renewal District Budgets and called for public comment. Seeing none, he closed the public hearing.

**INDIVIDUAL BUDGET CONSIDERATION**

- a. Astoria East Urban Renewal District General Fund
- b. Astoria West Urban Renewal District General Fund

**Committee Action:** Motion made by Councilor Warr, seconded by Cindy Price to tentatively approve the Astoria Development Commission Budget. (Motion carried unanimously.) City Councilors Warr, Herzig, Nemlowill, and Price, Richard Hurley, Loran Mathews, Shel Cantor, David McElroy, Janet Milltenberger, and Mayor LaMear voted yes.

Chair Mathews adjourned the meeting at 7:22 pm to convene the City of Astoria Budget Committee meeting.

**ATTEST:**

  
Richard Hurley, Secretary