



City of Powell Citizen Financial Review Task Force

MINUTES February 27, 2018

Attendees:

City Staff Members: Jessica Marquez and Debra Miller.

Task Force Members: Rich Cline, Tom Jedlinsky, Lisa Gruebel, Barb Walters, Craig Sedoris, Jeff Gardiner, John Cruise, Randall Sampson, Heather Robinson-Lindsey, Eric Prall, Ross Gillespie, Bruce Dorsey and Tom O'Brien.

Introduction:

Mr. Cline called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Subcommittee Reports:

Revenue Subcommittee: Mr. Gardiner provided a thorough review of the revenue subcommittee notes that were provided. Extensive discussion ensued on many of the topics. It was mentioned that on average it costs the City \$1,400 per household, while on average each property brings in \$1,100; based on the 2015 comprehensive review. 40% of Powell residents pay the full 0.75% income tax, while the other 60% receive a credit for taxes paid to another municipality and only pay 0.50% to Powell.

Mr. Cline explained the City's annexation history and the political relationship that exists with Liberty Township. Further group discussion followed regarding annexations and it was requested that another City staff member who is very well versed in annexation details attend a future meeting to cover this topic further. There was a brief discussion on tax abatements and Ms. Miller indicated that the City does not abate taxes in any way.

Mr. Gardiner suggested that the revenue subcommittee will need to be ambassadors for whatever decision is presented. He suggested Mr. Hoppmann and Mr. Sedoris be the lead ambassadors for the City businesses while Mr. Gardiner, Mr. Prall and Ms. Walters be the lead ambassadors for homeowners.

Mr. Gardiner also suggested that the committee should form a "business registry" of all of the businesses who pay taxes to Powell; this would serve as a resource to our residents when they are looking to hire someone to perform various services.

Capital Needs Subcommittee: Ms. Robinson-Lindsey provided a review of the capital needs subcommittee notes that were provided. Some discussion followed on the various topics.

Mr. Cline stated that historically there has been zero discretionary money for bike path connectors and that almost all of the bike paths in the City have been funded by developers.

Mr. Gardiner asked about what is the “doomsday scenario” if we do not get any additional funding.

Expenditure Subcommittee: Mr. Gillespie provided a review of the expenditure subcommittee notes that were provided. Discussion followed on how we compare to other communities. Mr. Gardiner reiterated that we need to prove that we are running lean; he also suggested that we rename the subcommittee the Cost Reduction Committee. It was decided to leave it up to the committee if they would like to rename themselves.

Task Force Discussion/Old Business:

Ms. Miller provided a map of the City showing each subdivision and their effective millage rates. She also provided a listing of the City’s outstanding debt issues with refinancing dates where applicable.

It was announced to the committee that a tour of the City’s infrastructure is being planned for April or May.

There was some discussion on possible outcomes and a combination of property and income tax is being considered.

Discussion followed about “tying the strings” to a tax issue will make it easier to sell. Mr. Cline pointed out that it is easier to tie to property tax than to income tax.

Frequency of meetings was discussed.

Mr. Gardiner asked about who is going to write this report so that it flows properly and is written in a consistent manner. Mr. Gardiner suggested that we can start writing the report now and just add more detail as we go along. Mr. Gardiner and Mr. Cline offered to write the report.

The committee decided that they should target the subcommittee work to be completed by the 5th meeting (approximately May 22) to allow time for the smaller group to draft the report.

There was a brief discussion on how this report will be disseminated to the residents and if there would be any additional communication tools available. Mr. Cline reminded the group that the City cannot spend money on “selling” any sort of ballot proposal; they can only spend money on education. A PAC would have to handle the “selling”.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 21, 2018 at 7:00pm.