

## MEASURE H OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MINUTES

August 12, 2009

Chairperson Mantarro Moore called the August 12, 2009 meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. with the following in attendance:

**ROLL CALL** Committee Members Cerny, Chapman, Foster, Meyer, Chairperson Mantarro Moore

**APPROVE THE MINUTES** of the Regular Meeting of April 21, 2009.

**MOTION:** Approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 21, 2009.

**MOVED:** Moved by Meyer/Seconded by Chapman

**VOTE:** Motion Passed Unanimously (5/0)

**CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS** – None.

### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AS POSTED (OR AMENDED) AND CERTIFICATION OF POSTING.**

**MOTION:** Approve the agenda as posted and certification of posting

**MOVED:** Moved by Meyer/Seconded by Chapman

**VOTE:** Motion Passed Unanimously (5/0)

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **1. STATUS OF MEASURE H REVENUES**

Betina McCoy, Acting Assistant Finance and Human Resources Director, presented an update of the most current Measure H revenues and expenditures. Ms. McCoy reported that Fiscal Year 2008/09 has not been completely closed and we will not have the final numbers until September.

Ms. McCoy further stated that the sales tax revenue reported is only January – March, 2009. We will not receive the April – June, 2009 numbers until September, 2009.

Vice Chair Chapman asked if Measure H personnel works overtime for another agency, does that reimbursement get paid back into the Measure H Fund.

Ms. McCoy responded that if a Measure H employee has a special assignment that is being funded by a grant, the overtime and reimbursement is run through a special fund set up for that grant and is never reflected in the Measure H account. Ms. McCoy further responded that she was not sure how the reimbursement was made if the employee was assigned to a multi-agency task force.

**ACTION:** The Committee directed staff to investigate how task force dollars are tracked.

#### **2. "FROZEN" POLICE OFFICER POSITIONS**

Art de Werk, Director of Public Safety, explained that two Police Officer positions became vacant, one due to retirement and the other due to a termination. Given the current state of the budget, there are no funds available to fund these two General Fund positions. If the positions were filled, the City

would run the risk of having to lay-off these employees in 6 – 9 months. Given all the circumstances, Chief de Werk felt it prudent not to fill these positions at this time.

**ACTION:** The Committee thanked Chief de Werk for the update and accepted the report.

### **3. DISCUSSION REGARDING DEPLOYMENT OF MEASURE H-FUNDED FIREFIGHTERS**

The Department of Emergency Services recently had four (4) firefighters off work and not able to perform their duties. Recently, two have returned to work but the other two appear to be off work for an extended period of time. The impact in overtime has been approximately \$38,000/month to cover these vacant positions.

The FY 2009/10 Budget allocates \$608,194.00 Fire Services overtime. Of the \$608,194.00, \$55,935.00 is allocated for Measure H overtime and \$144,463 is allocated to FLSA mandatory overtime. That leaves only \$392,707 allocated for overtime to cover the two firefighter already off as well as the normal illnesses, vacations, FLMA and other absences. There are not sufficient funds budgeted to cover overtime expenses through the end of the Fiscal Year. Staff has three options: 1) ask Council for an additional allocation, which we feel we would not get, 2) remove the third person from Fire Station #1 or 3) close a Fire Station.

Although Staff realizes the intent of Measure H is to make Fire Station #1 a three-person Fire Station, due to our extreme economic deficit, Staff chose to temporarily use the Fire Station #1 third person as a backfill for the outlying stations to make up for vacancies.

Last year, we paid whatever overtime was necessary to maintain the three-person status at Fire Station #1 but that was done at great expense. Currently, we cannot afford to continue to do that.

The Committee recognized that it is a difficult situation and very challenging when we are dealing with illnesses and injuries. While they supported staff's decision, they felt the community should be informed. The Committee recommended that Staff draft a letter to be signed by both Council and Measure H Oversight Committee to be included in the monthly utility bills to inform the citizens of this temporary situation. The Measure H Committee will also discuss it with their respective Service Clubs.

**ACTION:** Chief de Werk will draft a letter for review and approval by the Council and the Measure H Oversight Committee. After approval, the letter will be included as a utility bill insert.

### **4. STATUS/ACTION ON THE MEASURE H SPENDING PLAN**

Chief de Werk commented that the current Measure H Spending Plan calls for the hiring of one police officer. Staff will hold off until the September revenue report comes in and possibly longer depending on the results of that report. Staff feels it is critical to maintain a reserve of \$250,000 in the Measure H Fund.

**ACTION:** The Committee thanked Chief de Werk for the update and accepted the report.

**REQUESTS FOR UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS:**

1. Multi-Agency Task Force overtime Reimbursement
2. Workers Compensation Reimbursement
3. Audit
4. Setting of Next Meeting Date

6:28 p.m. There being no further business, Chairperson Mantarro Moore adjourned the meeting.

APPROVED:

/s/ Chairperson Mantarro Moore

ATTEST:

/s/ Cindy Heidorn, Secretary