

**MEASURE H OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

June 12, 2012

Chairperson Lisa Mantarro-Moore called the Measure H Oversight Committee Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with the following in attendance:

ROLL CALL Committee Members Cerny, Chapman, Foster, Silveria, Chairperson Mantarro Moore

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS – None.

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

ACTION: It was moved by Chapman/Seconded by Foster for approve the agenda as posted (or amended) and certification of posting. Motion Passed Unanimously (5/0)

CONSENT CALENDAR - none

NEW BUSINESS

1. ~~Brown Act Training (M. Lyons)~~ *Item-removed from agenda prior to meeting do to time constraints.*
2. Spending Plan update and recommended changes for 2012/13. (A. de Werk)

Art de Werk, City Manager/Police Chief/Director of Public Safety outline the City's dire financial situation. Mr. de Werk stated that the City has a deficit as follows:

Deficit Figure	\$1,177,000
Freeze one police officer position	\$ 122,000
Police Overtime Reduction	\$ 75,000
GF Reserves Supplement	<u>\$ 101,525</u>
Subtotal Remaining Deficit	\$ 878,475

The solution we are seeking to in part reduce the above deficit involves the use of Measure H funds, and a deviation from the spending plan. We do not favor such an approach, since it seems to place fire and police in retrograde motion, but the financial circumstances are so dire at this time, that we believe we have to do what had been previously thought as being unthinkable. I have obtained the verifiable legal opinion that Measure H funds may be legally used for the purposes being proposed. I acknowledge that while legally defensible, there remains the matter of public opinion and the expectation of voters, stakeholder and other persons having interest in this matter. Using the Measure H funds in the manner prescribed is legal, but many stakeholders will strongly oppose the move. The circumstances however make this an absolute necessity.

We are proposing the following:

Deficit Figure \$ 878,475

Subtract the following:

Maintain Fire Staffing and Mandatory FLSA \$ 409,000

Police Division Overtime Offset \$ 75,000

Fund One Existing GF Police Officer with Measure H \$ 122,000

Total Remaining Deficit \$ 272,475

Subtract Ad Hoc Committee recommendations \$ 258,000

Final Remaining Deficit \$ 14,475

(To be contended with through other cuts or funding supplements eliminations)

The Measure H revenue stream is healthy and actually shows signs of increasing beyond recent expectations. Furthermore there is a Measure H fund balance (also referred to as reserves) of approximately \$1,212,412 which creates a buffer for any interruptions of the Measure H Revenue stream and to allow for other authorized contingencies.

Chief de Werk also discussed a potential crisis facing the Fire Division. The Fire Division is faced with having to replace the self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) that are used for fighting fires and other emergencies where safe air is needed for firefighters. The amount needed for replacing the entire complement of SCBAs will range from 245K to \$300K depending on manufacturer and unit specifications. We are currently exploring the funding options, and if all else fails (and to the extent that any Measure H funds are available) we may need to cover a portion of the SCBAs purchased with Measure H funds.

The police service is also in need of replacement computers. We are losing both efficiency and effectiveness as a result of this problem. The expenditure need amounts to \$172,250, but we plan to explore more options before formally requesting to use Measure H funds for this purpose.

The proposed use of Measure H funds (for ongoing personnel costs) as requested herein will likely continue for several years with the hope that the economy improves and that we can get back on schedule with the hiring plans as originally intended. We do not see this as a permanent solution to the City's budget difficulties. If the economy continues to falter and with the states' financial aggression towards local governments, we see the possible necessity of layoffs, both in the police and fire divisions. To "right size" the organization to fit into this new financial paradigm. Hopefully, the use of Measure H funds will minimize the potential reductions the Ceres Public Safety Department faces during the next several years.

Q & A Discussion Summary

SAFER Grant – Six Fire Fighter personnel. No matching funds are required. The grant is for two years with one possible extension for a total of four years.

SCBAs – The City will apply for grants. The SCBAs take about one year to implement after we purchase them.

If we do not get some relief of Measure H Funding we will be looking to lay-off between 8 – 11 public safety personnel.

Status of CSO's – Funding was provided by a Federal Grant. The Grant has now expired. We were going to use Measure H Funds but now we cannot. Unless Council dips into General Fund Reserves, the CSO will have to be laid off.

COMMITTEE DIRECTION

The Committee gave “generalized support” with extreme reluctance and trepidation.

The SCBA equipment replacement needs to be acted upon as soon as possible. It is imperative that this be done before a firefighter is injured or put in further danger.

Mr. de Werk commented that our biggest fear is losing credibility and as soon as we are able to, we will extricate ourselves out of this position. Measure H needs to be redirected to its original intent as soon as the financial climate permits it. As soon as the budget permits, the fire service will be restored.

ACTION: Moved by Chapman/Seconded by Foster to adjourn the Measure H Committee Meeting.

6:39 p.m. There being no further business, Chairperson Mantarro-Moore adjourned the meeting.

Lisa Mantarro-Moore, Chairperson

Cindy Heidorn, City Clerk