AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2015

THE AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL **AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE** CONVENED IN A REGULAR MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2015 AT 9:00 AM, AUSTIN CITY HALL, 301 W. 2nd STREET, AUSTIN, TEXAS.

Council Member Ellen Troxclair called meeting to order at 9:10 AM. In attendance were Council Member Sabino Renteria and Council Member Leslie Pool. Mayor Pro Tem Kathie Tovo arrived at approximately 9:20AM.

Agenda Item #1: Approve the minutes of the Audit and Finance Committee meeting of May 27, 2015

The minutes of the Audit and Finance Committee meetings of May 27, 2015 meeting were approved on Council Member Pool's motion, Council Member Renteria's second, on a 3-0 vote. Mayor Pro Tem Tovo off the dais.

Agenda Item #2: Speakers signed up prior to the meeting being called to order will each be allowed three minutes to address their concerns regarding items not posted on the agenda. Speakers may also sign up for specific items that the committee may take action on.

Citizen David King spoke in favor of providing the tax relief to seniors.

Agenda Item #5: Options for providing tax relief to seniors and people with disabilities including tax limitations pursuant to Texas Tax Code Section 11.261 (b), level of property tax exemption for the over 65 and disabled, and other strategies

Mayor Pro Tem Tovo joined the dais. Deputy Chief Financial Officer Ed Van Eenoo presented options for providing tax relief to seniors and answered questions from Committee members. Council Member Pool moved to amend the resolution to state "direct the City Manager to provide information on the effects of increasing the current exemption that is available to seniors and individuals with disabilities (AFC 6_24_15 Transcript)." Council Member Renteria seconded. Council Member Troxclair offered a friendly amendment to include "for Council consideration and possible action in FY 2016 budget deliberations" at the end of the motion. Council Members Pool and Renteria accepted the friendly amendment. The motion passed 4-0.
Council Member Troxclair moved to include providing information on increasing the current exemption and tax limitation to the full Council. Council Member Renteria seconded. The motion passes 4-0. Mayor Pro Tem Tovo passed the chair to Troxclair to make a motion. Mayor Pro Tem Tovo moved that Council consider increasing the exemption for seniors during this budget cycle, but recommends against the fixed-value exemption option. Council Member Pool seconded. Council Member Renteria was off the dais. The motion passes 2-1 with Tovo and Pool voting for the motion and Troxclair against.

THE CITY OF AUSTIN IS COMMITTED TO COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. REASONABLE MODIFICATIONS AND EQUAL ACCESS TO COMMUNICATIONS WILL BE PROVIDED UPON REQUEST. FOR ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CALL (512) 974-2805 OR RELAY TEXAS #711.

Agenda Item #4: The Sewer Overflow Prevention and Response Audit, which evaluated the Austin Water Utility's efforts to prevent and respond to sewer overflows from pipes and lift stations (City Auditor)

Assistant City Auditor Katie Houston presented the results of the Sewer Overflow Prevention and Response Audit. The audit was accepted unanimously, 4-0, with a motion from Council Member Pool, seconded by Council Member Troxclair.

Agenda Item #7: The Office of the City Auditor's External Peer Review Report covering from May 2012 to April 2015 (City Auditor)

City Auditor Corrie Stokes presented the External Peer Review Report's result of "pass." Council Member Pool moved to accept the report and Council Member Renteria seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

Agenda Item #8: Status of health care coverage for persons working for all entities of the City (Human Resources Department)

Council Member Ann Kitchen joined the Committee. Assistant Director of Human Resources Joya Hayes, Assistant Director of Human Resources Tommy Tucker, and Employee Services Division Program Manager Karen Haywood presented information regarding health care coverage for person working for all entities of the City. Council Member Kitchen and Committee members asked questions. Human Resources Director Mark Washington and Deputy Chief Financial Officer Greg Canally answered some of the questions. Council Member Pool moved to forward the information to Council with strong consideration of including health insurance coverage for part-time and temporary employees. Council Member Renteria seconded. The motion passes 3-0-1 with Council Member Troxclair abstaining. Council Member Kitchen left the dais.

Agenda Item #3: Briefing on the Major Event Trust Fund and the Regular Event Trust Fund, including the role of the City and the Circuit Events Local Organizing Committee [referred to Audit and Finance Committee at the April 2, 2015 Council Meeting]

Committee members decided to view the presentation online instead of in Committee. David King spoke regarding his concerns about the item.

Agenda Item #9: Council Audit and Finance Committee nominations for the Economic & Capital Budget Joint Committee.

Item postponed to August without objection.

Agenda Item #10: Consider and develop recommendations on a resolution to create, for purposes of public access, an online system consisting of a downloadable and searchable database, capable of standard querying, for campaign finance filings.

City Clerk Jannette Goodall, Internet Services & IT Apps Manager Matthew Esquibel, and Records Manager Bob Guz presented on the item. The resolution was updated prior to the meeting to test and complete the e-Filing system by February 1, 2016. Council Member Pool moved to approve and amend the resolution to direct the City Manager to develop an e-Filing ordinance for Council consideration by the first Council meeting in August. Council Member Troxclair seconded. The motion passes unanimously, 4-0.

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Agenda Item #6: Petition for creation of a Public Improvement District (PID) by WildHorse Ranch (Financial Services)

Pete Dwyer of WildHorse Ranch presented information regarding the petition for creation of a Public Improvement District (PID) at WildHorse Ranch. David Armbrust of Armbrust and Brown also presented and answered questions. Deputy Chief Financial Officer Greg Canally answered questions. Council Member Renteria moved to recommend the creation of the PID at WildHorse Ranch to the full Council. Council Member Pool seconded. The motions failed 2-2 with Council Member Renteria and Pool voting for the motion and Council Member Tovo and Troxclair voting against the motion.

Agenda Item #11: Discussion of future agenda items.

No discussion.

Adjourn – Mayor Pro Tem Tovo adjourned the meeting without objections at 12:25 PM.

The minutes were approved on this the 26 day of August 2015 on Council Member Pool's motion, Council Member Renteria's second on a 3-0 vote with Council Member Troxclair off the dias.

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