

CITY OF WILLIAMS
City Council Minutes

810 E Street/P.O. Box 310, Williams, California
95987

SPECIAL MEETING - STUDY SESSION

March 7, 2012
9:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:	Patricia Ash, Don Barker, Angela Plachek-Fulcher, Alfred Sellers, John Troughton
COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:	None
STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:	Charles Bergson, City Administrator Rex Greenbaum, Finance Officer James Saso, Police Chief Sally Barker, City Treasurer Jeff Gilbert, Fire Chief Sue Vannucci, Deputy City Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

At 9:00 a.m., Mayor Troughton called the special study session of the Council to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Troughton invited all in attendance to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT

On a motion by Council Member Plachek-Fulcher, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Barker, and carried unanimously, Council adopted the following Consent Calendar items with correction to the minutes of the October 6th meeting in that the documents for the Theater Road Property Acquisition Project 11-27 will be recorded by the City, not the City Engineer.



MINUTES

Council adopted the minutes of the special meeting of the City Council of October 6, 2011 as corrected and the regular meeting of October 19, 2011 as presented.

PROJECT 11-20, 2011 SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT/REPAIR PROGRAM

Council accepted as complete Project 11-20, 2011 Sidewalk Replacement/Repair Program effective December 5, 2011 and authorized the City Clerk to file a Notice of Completion.

OLD BUSINESS

TEN YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN

Finance Officer Greenbaum indicated there is only a minor change from the last presentation to Council in that allowances have been included for possible unforeseen costs such as workers' compensation.

Mayor Pro Tem Barker stated the City should not wait until December to make cuts. He directed that the City Administrator should have Department Heads provide scenarios for 5%, 10%, 15% cuts in their budgets. City Administrator Bergson said in the attachments to the Staff Report, Chart C4 does indicate some areas of possible reduction as a starting point. Mayor Pro Tem Barker asked that the Council direct Staff to provide scenarios of specific reduction and what each of the percentage cuts proposed would do to the level of service for the City.

Council Member Ash wants the Fire Department to be involved in this process and City Administrator Bergson said the impacts for the Fire Authority should be included. Finance Officer Greenbaum said should the Fire Authority not be included I reductions, the cuts would need to be absorbed elsewhere. Council Member Plachek-Fulcher said if the sales tax is not extended the City should show us what the effects are and what can be accomplished with the available reduced funds. Mayor Troughton said that number of reduced income without the sales tax is 14% and Council Member Plachek-Fulcher said that is the percentage the City should be using to reduce expenditures. Mayor Pro Tem Barker said the Departments need to show what they will lose with these reduced revenues. If all three percentages are computed, there will be indicators on the effect to the Department. There are other possibilities such as contracting out or consolidation and which if in place may not necessitate the need to do 15%. Mayor Troughton said Council could set priorities that equate



to the number needed. However, some Departments could be affected more than others. Council Member Plachek-Fulcher said the City needs to give the public the worst case scenario and not discuss what other things can be done, such as selling property. Mayor Troughton said the City will lose 14% of our revenue should the Measure fail. Presenting options with the percentages would give the City a means to determine what could be cut or eliminated from the budget to balance. Chief Gilbert said the chart (C4) shows a 10% reduction for each Department but the Fire Authority would be at 50-60 percent. The percentage is misleading. Fire receives \$247,000 from the City. Finance Officer Greenbaum said their dollar amount is directly from the sales tax portion. If the sales tax revenue is reduced there is no other fund to provide revenue to Fire. Chief Gilbert said three years ago the Department was not receiving any sales tax revenue but the money was coming from the General Fund. Some citizens did not know the sales tax was in existence for the past three years. If the Department loses \$135,000 paid staff will be lost. Council Member Plachek-Fulcher said it needs to be clear that the Fire Department is going to have a direct loss. Mayor Pro Tem Barker said the public will be asking questions on what other options there are. They will feel that we are not providing accurate information if we do not provide possible scenarios where cuts can be made. If Council has questions, we need to indicate what options have been explored.

City Administrator Bergson said the figure we need to address is the \$400,000 and Staff will provide multiple sources where cuts could be made. Staff will provide options to address the structural loss of the \$400,000, to include staffing and how reductions would or could be made. Chief Saso asked if this was to include Administration or Fire and Police only. He asked if possible furloughs would affect Administration and Finance Officer Greenbaum said it would be City-wide. Chief Gilbert said citizens need to be shown the source of the funds and the distribution. The potential loss to Fire, Police and Public Works should be clear. Mayor Troughton asked for a breakdown indicating what amounts go to each Department. Finance Officer Greenbaum said that would show the reductions to each department.

Chief Saso said if Police were to be furloughed others would be called in to cover at overtime. Mayor Troughton said the \$135,000 proposed from safety is not going to happen. It is troublesome that there is discussion that these funds would come from Fire when it is well known that Fire will be kept at full force. Chief Gilbert said the City needs to show the public exactly where the money is going. His Department will present ideas, but a 10% furlough proposal other money will need to be moved around. Council Member Plachek-Fulcher once Council receives the numbers, citizens need to realize what services they are receiving for that money. It is not known by the citizens how small our budget really is. City Administrator Bergson said the steps would be to show what the numbers actually are and present to Council what will happen if that revenue is lost.



City Administrator Bergson said meetings will be held with each Department and it will take some time to gather the information. Chief Saso said numbers are needed for each Department are needed. Even though it was a General tax, it had been earmarked for Police, Fire and Public Works. The accounting process prior to our current Finance Officer was not accurate or clear. Finance Officer Greenbaum said restructuring has been done. There are many scenarios that were painful that were not brought out. Until November, the City does not know if we will be looking at cuts.

Chief Gilbert said cutting staff I Fire will cost more in overtime. ICS would change our rate so individual homeowner insurance rates would go up substantially as our response time change. Council Member Plachek-Fulcher this information that needs to be out there for the citizens. Mayor Pro Tem Barker said there is need to show the citizenry that the City has investigated all options.

Mayor Troughton reminded Council that the City cannot campaign for the passage of the Measure. A Political Action Committee (PAC) can actively campaign and are given more latitude. Deputy City Clerk Vannucci indicated that Council could only respond to questions and provide general information on the budget with and without the revenue from sales tax.

Council Member Sellers asked for figures on the cost to operate the pool. Council Member Ash said a previous City Administrator had proposed to close the pool for three years to save money and should that happen it would never open again. Volunteers stepped in to run the pool and programs and it is anticipated that would be the case again. This pool is needed for the kids and several thousands of dollars were put into in. Council Member Ash utilization of the charts as presented to Council as the method to present information to the public will confuse the citizens. A simple format would be the best way to get information across so they can understand.

Council concurred to direct staff to provide the figures as requested, where the revenues from the sales tax are currently allotted and that the information will be provided to the Finance Committee for determination on the next steps.

Chief Saso would like Council to consider all areas that could be cut. Mayor Troughton said those options should be prioritized. Chief Saso would like to discuss consolidation. Council Member Ash reminded Council that the City Attorney had indicated that staffing issues should be discussed in closed session. Mayor Troughton suggested each Department Director meet with the Finance Committee to consider various scenarios.



ADJOURNMENT

At 9:57 a.m., Mayor Troughton adjourned the special meeting of the Council.

APPROVED:

Ss: John J. Troughton, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

Ss: Susan L. Vannucci, CMC, Deputy City Clerk

Approved by Council: September 19, 2012