

CITY OF MONTEREY

Budget Forum February 5, 2009

1. Mayor gave introduction
2. City Manager gave process and budget overview
3. Just under \$3,000,000 problem this year and \$6,000,000 next year, hopefully we won't need to change these estimates for the worse
4. City Manager meeting with neighborhoods, employees, business interests
5. What have we done to date? Partial hiring freeze -- just under 30 positions currently frozen; reviewing Capital Improvement Projects – essential maintenance, public health, public safety – we still need to be good stewards of our infrastructure; NIP discussing challenges and how they can help; initiated meet and confer with employee groups to discuss how employees might participate; Parks and Recreation Commission has recommended suspension of fireworks; First Night Monterey told that they wouldn't receive an affirmative staff recommendation
6. Guiding Principles – public safety – core of our existence but it doesn't mean that Police and Fire won't participate; Plans and Public Works integral to public safety; certain things make us unique, not good if we spoil them; cultivation of visitor industry important
7. Policy Questions – Sports Center is an example
8. Video played
9. The public was invited to comment...
10. Services for homeless are important; turn on fire pit at Peet's coffee; how will Library budget cuts affect citizens? Will Sports Center fees increase? OK to cut back on July 4 celebration, but don't eliminate it. City Manager responded that fire pit is private property and decisions about Sports Center will be up to City Council.
11. Deme Kastros – need to deal with unfunded infrastructure, perhaps \$5 to \$7 million per year; need to long term reduction in costs, reduce employees; sales tax and TOT increases good idea to fund infrastructure; public safety needs to contribute, let managers in Fire Dept help with minimum staffing; deal with retention problem in PD, there is none in Fire Dept; look to contracting services
12. Hebard Olsen – concerned about public safety if there are large numbers of jobless and homeless in the community
13. Jim Cullem – this is an extremely well run city; NIP Committee willing to participate; take a hard look at our TOT; look at higher fees for services that don't have broad public benefit – Sports Center, other services; look more closely at nonresident fees; City Manager said that the budget proposal will live within means of existing tax base, it will be up to the community if it wants to tax itself further

14. Mike Dawson – City is well run; Seaside is looking at 36 hour week, except for public safety; info being passed along from a friend -- City needs to stick to its knitting, use zero based budgeting, people don't appreciate what they get for free, communicate cost of services, frame the discussion in terms of jobs in addition to costs, plan for worst and hope for best
15. Tom McCann – City is well run to the point of excellence; fireworks can go away; perhaps look at other July 4 activities; review of capital projects is a good idea; try not to undermine Library, don't charge for Library services; has mixed feelings about Sports Center, need to make sure we don't price it out of the market
16. City Manager asked if we really want to be a 4 day/week service organization; furloughs may be a good solution to help with the transition, probably not as good as a long term solution; when the money starts coming back the services might not – this might be used to grow our investment in infrastructure and facilities renewal
17. Chris Goelitz (?) – City well run; disappointed in some of the residents that turnout is larger; perhaps use next City Focus to help explain situation; Monterey Vista Neighborhood Association can help with volunteer projects; supports cutting back July 4 and First Night
18. Luis Osorio – have departments work for other departments; lease out community room at Stanton Center as revenue generator – coffee house, for example; eliminate July 4 events; be careful about increasing Sports Center fees; consider nominal fee for dive activity at San Carlos Beach
19. Kip Hudson – loves Monterey; people do get it; we are all in this together and people do want to be involved in the solution
20. Jay Hudson – no greater city to live in; who will look at taxes? Possibly sunset a tax after 2 years and go back to the voters if you want to continue it; raise Sports Center fees; look at July 4
21. Richard Pagnillo – asked about how much we can save this year to meet deficit; City Manager said our goal is to save it all; City Council has the responsibility of approving what NIP Committee recommends; reason there is a Sports Center deficit was by design so it could be affordable, need to be careful about how much we raise fees to make sure the original concept is honored; acknowledges that the big savings are in employee costs
22. City Manager said that it is important to build the strategic infrastructure to help get the job done better with less; discussed next steps and need for continued public participation
23. Mayor closed the meeting