

CITY OF MONTEREY

Community Town Hall Budget Forum

March 19, 2009

1. Mayor Della Sala gave a welcome
2. City Manager and Assistant City Manager provided briefings on the assumptions leading to the proposed budget reduction program and the program itself
3. Video played
4. Dr. Richard Freeman – concerned about implications of decrease in subsidy of Sports Center; many older people go for health reasons. If the ability of people to participate is decreased, community will feel impacts in other ways. Should be trying to get more people to go to the Sports Center.
5. Individual presented petition on behalf of Monterey Senior Center to have the center available to all seniors.
6. Jim Cullem – Sports Center is phenomenal facility; proposes elimination of General Fund subsidy to Sports Center. Subsidy should be provided by those who use it; look hard at raising additional funds.
7. Harold Miller – due to health problems, doctor recommended working out at the Sports Center. MSC has been a godsend; would be criminal to diminish this in any way.
8. Solomon Terry – supports subsidy at Sports Center; is NIP willing to help fund services? Use NIP sidewalk money to keep MSC going. City Manager indicated that NIP can't be used to pay for operations unless the City Council appropriates it with a 4/5 vote.
9. Mary Cruz – Recreation is one of hardest hit; expressed concern about co-workers and the services they provide. These are the first people some new citizens see. Asked why money for July 4th or ECM isn't being used to save positions? Discussed Enterprise Content Management – don't use ECM to help mitigate employee loss, use employees to help mitigate lack of ECM; discussed employee suggestion program – City responses should be updated. Find money in these recommendations before laying anyone off.
10. Luke Martin – Works at Senior Center in the evenings; programs at Senior Center are beneficial; don't close the Center at 5:00 p.m. since some people work during the day; perhaps combine classes and just close on down some nights.
11. Felicia Mayne – wanted to add a face to those employees who would be affected; may face foreclosure of the family home; there are other means to balance the budget than laying off people
12. Jim Johnson – maintain subsidy of the Sports Center; good place for families to go.
13. Debra Federico – concerned about budget reductions in Recreation and Community Services; if Youth Center hours are reduced, kids are on the streets; seniors are at home if hours are cut; go back to community for ideas to work together to keep centers open.

14. Ken Peterson – Monterey is best managed and best governed city in the County. Think as creatively as you can. Don't tear down First Night Monterey – it might not come back.
15. David Canepa – doesn't support 20% cuts in Recreation budget or large fee increases, or elimination of Sports Center subsidy; supports 1% sales tax
16. Maxine Reneker – proposed cuts in Library would not be OK. Impacts include 22% reduction in staff hours; might have to close more than one day a week; 30% reduction in book purchases; longer waits for new books; increase in fines; eliminate inter-library loans and stories for adults; California History Room outreach would be eliminated; citizens turn to their library in down times; 20% cuts destructive of library's mission; 10% cuts would be better.
17. Individual supports Sports Center saying he's never been to a facility as well run as MSC; encourages marketing of Monterey to bring more money into town.
18. Michael Cassidy – supports Sports Center saying it has helped him with his disability; supports 1% sales tax; supports CERT.
19. Michael Houston – supports First Night.
20. Janet Gray – supports Sports Center; is stimulus money a possibility? Eliminate towel service at Sports Center; link fees with need at Sports Center rather than by age bracket; if fees rise, push hardship application program at Sports Center; don't reduce physical therapy program.
21. Dr. Ellen McEwen – supports Sports Center, believes it falls under category of human health and safety; kids and older folks get off the streets; pursue secondary income streams like foundation support; fee increase will reduce attendance and therefore not generate a lot more money
22. Greg Robinson – supports Monterey County Film Commission, saying it is revenue producing for the County; not smart to eliminate funding; quick fix with long term ramifications
23. Individual supports Monterey Senior Center; continue evening dancing programs; keep Center open later than 5 p.m., even if customer pays more to keep it open; maybe hire one employee instead of two to keep it open a few more hours.
24. Marijo Giardina – does not want to see anyone laid off; employees care about the well being of their co-workers; when people are laid off, they are adding to the burden of the system; consider early retirement package for employees nearing retirement, purchase 2 – 5 years of PERS time; would require spending reserves.
25. Individual supports Recreation and Community Services Department; need to prioritize our budget reductions; take care of most vulnerable people – youth and seniors; use NIP for the next year to protect some programs; turn to grant writing and fundraising in future years.
26. Nelson Vega – look for solutions in sale of excess property; sell property to fund capital needs; counter-productive to raise taxes; instead of laying people off, cut staff costs across the board; should be a shared sacrifice; would like to know about public safety raises coming up.
27. Fred Meurer – the reason we don't have layoffs this year is because of employees' willingness to furlough to save almost \$700,000; next year, department heads, fire fighters and fire management

have postponed raise; once we define the new organization, energy will focus on defining transition plan that may have employee participation

28. Judy Karas – what about contribution to MST? (the City does not fund MST); revise City Charter to use NIP for such things as public transportation; supports Library, many go there to look for jobs on the internet; keep hours open; cutting books ok; charge 50 cents for using computers; don't combine reference desk; would be willing to pay higher fees to use community centers; keep open at least Monday and Wednesday nights.
29. Mary Delfino – supports Senior Center; don't cut services there.
30. Jeanne Sturgis – supports Sports Center; don't stop funding of MSC; ok to cut First Night Monterey
31. Shirley Jaster – doesn't want anything cut but that's impossible; look at each item carefully; maybe no fireworks but just a parade on July 4th; consider some fees in the Library, such as for inter library loans; re-program NIP money to other areas – at least for a while.
32. Mike Sovereign – if you really want to make big cuts you can't take big items off the table like public safety; don't rule out cuts in public safety – that's where the big money is; with a medical emergency, City sends a 12-ton truck and crew when an ambulance is already going there.
33. Fred Meurer reminded that we did propose reducing Police Department nearly \$1,000,000. Approximately 70% of Fire Department calls are medical calls and we usually get there first. We haven't heard any desire to date to reduce emergency response. We are trying to reduce duplicate overhead via collaborations with other agencies.
34. Carol Tefertiler – ensure services for challenged adults (like Friday Social), and baby boomers; seniors need programs to maintain mental fitness; close only two nights a week; cut out special events, such as Easter Egg Hunt and July 4th, that aren't needed.
35. Individual appreciates what Monterey does; represents seniors at the Sports Center; don't cut their programs.
36. Bill Rothschild – community needs to find the ways to fund the things that people are asking for; people don't want services cut and they don't want fees raised at the Sports Center; willing to support 1% sales tax
37. Karen Pearson – supports Recreation programs for kids and Library
38. Bob Oliver – supports reduction of Police Department costs; supports Sports Center and Library; prioritize the cuts; thinks Fred Meurer has done outstanding job
39. Leonard Hahn – supports First Night Monterey.
40. Individual supports First Night Monterey – it's not just a one-night event.
41. Paulette Lynch – supports First Night Monterey; willing to be part of a team to start endowment for Sports Center

42. Ben Shilkowsky – this isn't a Monterey issue, it's a Peninsula issue; Pacific Grove has their own turmoil, that's why they go to Monterey; Monterey should do a coordinated effort with neighboring cities to coordinate programs across all cities on the peninsula.
43. Meg Donat – supports Sports Center; keeps her fit; allows her to volunteer in the community; if sports center fees are raised, they should be reasonable for those needing physical therapy; supports CERT; combine CERT with neighboring jurisdictions
44. Lorna Moffatt – furloughs across the board; use more volunteers at Senior Center, Sports Center, in the parks and July 4th.
45. Alice Yamanishi – supports Library; believes it supports health and safety; maintain history room.
46. Individual supports Sports Center; keep it affordable for everybody.
47. Eugene Hayden – supports Sports Center, Library, Senior Center
48. Mayor Della Sala offered thanks and concluding remarks