

**Finance Committee of the Salem City Council and the Urban Renewal
Agency of the City of Salem
Minutes**

DATE: May 24, 2021

CHAIRPERSON: Tom Andersen

PLACE: Zoom

STAFF LIAISON:

Robert Barron

503-588-6174

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Members Present:

Chair Andersen
Councilor Stapleton
Councilor Phillips
Councilor Gonzalez

Staff Present:

Dan Atchison, City Attorney
Robert Barron, Chief Financial Officer
Josh Eggleston, Budget Officer
Jeremy Morgan, Accounting Supervisor
Anja Hill, Treasury Supervisor
Kelli Blechschmidt, Management Analyst I
Shengnan Thomas, Administrative Analyst I
Bria Dezotell, Enterprise Business Sys Analyst

Members Absent:

Alternate-Councilor Leung

1. CALL TO ORDER: 4:01 PM / Quorum
Councilor Gonzalez joined at 4:03 PM

2. APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

- a. April 26, 2021

Motion was moved by Member Stapleton, seconded by Member Phillips and carried by the following vote:

Aye: Unanimous
Nay: None
Abstentions: None

3. MANAGEMENT UPDATE / INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. Monthly investment report for month ending April 30, 2021 presented by Chief Financial Officer Robert Barron.

- b. Analyses on Potential Revenue

- i. Gas Tax – Chief Financial Officer Robert Barron presented previously requested information about a local gas tax.

Questions or comments by: Chair Andersen, Member Stapleton, Member Phillips, and Member Gonzalez

Responses by: Robert Barron, Chief Financial Officer and Josh Eggleston, Budget Officer.

- ii. Local Marijuana Tax – Chief Financial Officer Robert Barron presented information about increasing of the local marijuana tax.

Questions or comments by: Member Stapleton, Member Phillips, and Chair Andersen

Responses by: Robert Barron, Chief Financial Officer and Josh Eggleston, Budget Officer.

4. ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

a. Maintenance Bond Recommendation

Staff requested the Committee forward staff's recommendation to conduct community outreach and to develop a ballot measure for a general obligation bond by August 2022 for the city's infrastructure to the full City Council for approval in July, 2021.

Questions or comments by: Chair Andersen

Responses by: Robert Barron, Chief Financial Officer and City Attorney Atchison.

Motion was moved by Chair Andersen, seconded by Member Stapleton and carried by the following vote:

Aye: Unanimous

Nay: None

Abstentions: None

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Chief Financial Officer Robert Barron informed the committee that the City recently learned that Salem's allocation of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) would be increasing by \$1.2 M. This increase will be reflected in the budget to be adopted by Council on June 28.

Questions or comments by: None

Responses by: None.

- b. Member Stapleton asked staff if they were familiar with a program in Oakland, CA that taxed on vacant properties after a certain time period and the money was used for housing.

Staff had not heard of this program, but informed members that the City was limited from directly assessing something that was like a property tax.

Questions or comments by: Member Stapleton, and Chair Andersen

Responses by: Robert Barron, Chief Financial Officer and Josh Eggleston, Budget Officer.

6. ADJOURNMENT: 5:01 PM

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 28, 2021 at 4:00PM.