

# MINUTES

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE

CITY OF BRANSON, MISSOURI

April 28, 2009

## 1) Call to Order

The Budget & Finance Committee met in the Fishbowl Conference Room of City Hall, Tuesday, April 28, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

## 2) Roll Call

Members present: Mayor Raeanne Presley, Stephen Marshall, Sandra Williams, Bob Simmons, and Mike Davis.

Also present: Dean Kruithof, Lori Helle, Jamie Rouch, Bill Derbins, Bill Tirone, Yessenia Cruz, Jann Clark, Jerry Adams, Dave Cochran, Mike Keenan, Carl Garrett, and Nancy Haskin.

## 3) Discussion of Convention Center February 2009 financials.

Bill Derbins gave an overview of the submitted questions and reported that March was okay; April was good; and hopefully it will continue to get better. He reported that Tracker was leaving the Convention Center and moving to Big Cedar; America Inns is coming in; and they are still cutting expenses as they can. Regarding the question on leased security labor, Bill reported that security is manned 24 hours a day in the Convention Center, and that plus the graveyard shift is split 50/50. It is leased through Watchdog Security at \$14 per hour and no benefits.

The possibility of manning the Convention Center parking garage with in-house personnel during Convention Center events was discussed again. Bill is going to get a bid on building a shelter if manning the booth is selected. Bob Simmons asked if possibly DBMA or some other organization would be interested in handling the job.

Dean clarified that the Convention Center is projecting a shortfall of \$36,000 through April. They had two groups cancel in February; one rebooked for the next two years in February; and the other one paid the cancellation fee.

## 4) Presentation of Audit report by Cochran, Head & Vick.

Dave Cochran thanked the City of Branson; Dean Kruithof and his staff; and Lori Helle and her staff for their cooperation during the audit. There were no surprises in the audit report, and many of the items that had to be listed have already been addressed.

Dave will make his presentation to the Board of Aldermen on April 28, 2009.

## 5) Regular Reports:

- A. Minutes
- B. Monthly 1% Sales Tax Trend
- C. General Sales Rolling Annual Trend
- D. Tourism Tax Revenue Rolling Annual Trend

Carl Garrett reported that sales tax was up 16% for the taxes received in April, and up 3% for the year. Tourism Tax is down 5% for the year, but February was up 2%. The rolling 12 report is relatively flat. The question was posed as to why Amusements are down.

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*Carl reports that Celebration City is now closed, and had previously sold advance tickets during the off-season. Also, museums and attractions are down from the previous year.*

**6) Review of Disbursements:** (March 26, 2009; April 2, 2009; April 9, 2009; April 16, 2009; April 23, 2009)  
No discussion.

**7) Approval of Disbursements \$50,000 and over.**  
Approved as presented.

**8) Presentation and Discussion of Monthly Financial Reports (March 2009)**  
Lori Helle presented the March 2009 financials. She also reported that it is her recommendation to change the fiscal year for the City of Branson to the calendar year. This will mean preparing the budget for 15 months to facilitate the changeover.

**9) Presentation & Discussion of Quarterly MD&A, 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2009.**  
Lori presented an overview of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter MD&A.

**10) Discussion of upcoming 2010 budget process and retreat.**

Lori announced that this committee should see the budget in August. The Mayor, Board of Aldermen, City Administrator and Directors will be meeting for a strategic planning retreat on June 13, 2009 in the Riverbend Community Room. This day is set aside to set the goals and objectives for the next fiscal year. It is hoped that the results of the Employee Survey will be back by then, so they can be reviewed and incorporated into the planning for the new year.

**11) Discussion and update of Branson Landing Model.**

This item is to be held for the next meeting. Lori will have the model for Branson Hills ready for the next meeting as well.

**12) Requests for agenda items to be placed on future agendas.**

A suggested topic to the next meeting's agenda is a more in-depth discussion of policies.

**13) Adjourn.**

This was the last meeting of a two year term for Mike Davis. Mayor Presley thanked Mike for his diligent service on the Finance Committee. It was also the final meeting for Alderwoman Sandra Williams. She too was thanked for her service. She will now serve on the Personnel Committee.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 2, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m.