

MINUTES

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE

CITY OF BRANSON, MISSOURI

October 2, 2009

1) Call to Order

The Budget & Finance Committee met in the Fishbowl Conference Room of City Hall, Friday, October 2, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

2) Roll Call

Committee Members present: Mayor Raeanne Presley, Stephen Marshall, Bob Simmons, and Brian Blankenship.

Committee Member absent: Sandy Bruns

Also present: Dean Kruithof, Lori Helle, Jamie Rouch, David Miller, Bill Derbins, Bill Tirone, Yessenia Cruz, Carl Garrett, Nancy Haskin, Jerry Adams, Amy Page, Mindy Honey, and Jann Carl.

3) Discussion of Convention Center July 2009 financials.

Bill Derbins reported that the July 2009 numbers were good, but that August is down. The Tracker Boat convention that had been booked in September is going to Big Cedar. Bill told the committee that the Convention Center budget for the last quarter of 2009 has been adjusted. They are still booking for December, but with budgets tight, holiday parties are not a priority for consumers.

Bill stated that the St. Charles Convention Center has been open for more than two years, and operations broke even this year for the first time. An item for discussion was the fact the Branson Project Graduation is interested in using the Convention Center for their annual event; the normal rental fee would be \$4,000, but they only want to pay \$1,000. Branson High School has been told that the convention center cannot discount a function \$3,000. A discussion was held as to whether we can discount "civic" events, and do we want to. The Branson Convention Center is just that, a convention center, and not a "civic center". Bill asked if the City would like to consider a "civic rate" and the consensus was negative.

Dean Kruithof stated that the committee needs to approve the Convention Center budget for 2009 and 2010, but to leave the agreement as is.

The parking garage and south lot were again discussed, and Bill Derbins said that during the Pyrotechnics convention, a staff member was stationed at the gate and that seemed to help considerably. Parking revenues are up, and Bill feels moving some signage has helped. David Miller volunteered to take care of "Lease Only" writing on the pavement in the Awberry lot.

MINUTES

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE

CITY OF BRANSON, MISSOURI

October 2, 2009

4) Regular Reports:

A. Minutes

B. Monthly Tax Reports

Carl Garrett gave a brief overview of the sales and tourism tax reports. Sales tax is down 6.6% while tourism tax is down 15%. Carl also reported that the business license for the Kirby Van Burch Theatre has been revoked. Carl was asked to take a close look at the trend of businesses at Branson Landing, food vs. retail, and report back to the committee.

Carl will present this at the 10/27/09 meeting.

5) Review of Disbursements:

(August 27, 2009; September 3, 2009; September 10, 2009; September 17, 2009)

6) Approval of Disbursements \$50,000 and over

Disbursements were approved. David Miller was asked to make a short list of projects going on that show on the disbursements in order to help clarify the expenditures. Also, Lori will check into adding more detail to the check description. (This is being added)

7) Presentation & Discussion of Monthly Financial Reports (August 2009)

Lori Helle reported she would present the end of the fiscal year numbers at the October 27, 2009 Board of Aldermen meeting.

8) Discussion of CID budgets.

Lori stated that all CID's have been changed to a calendar year. Mayor Presley questioned the \$70,000 for advertising and marketing for the Historic Downtown Branson CID budget. She stated the City of Branson agreement does not allow for more marketing dollars. More discussion of the CID budgets will be held at a future meeting.

9) Finance Director's Report.

Lori introduced David Miller, City Engineer, to discuss the Five Year Capital Plan. The planning for ongoing capital improvements is critical in looking at the big picture and to be able to plan for the future. All department capital needs and desired projects are listed by year from 2010 through 2014, and then ranked in the order of A – E with A being the most critical projects that have to be done down through E which represents the desired projects if funds are available. New projects will need to be added to the lists yearly as specific needs arise. Lori explained that maintenance items cannot be taken out of Capital. A lot of work has gone into this planning tool compiled by Lori and David, and it continues to be a work in progress. Dean thanked them for their hard work in preparing the information.

10) Adjourn.

The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 27, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.