



CITY OF FULLERTON
INFRASTRUCTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

January 23, 2020
Council Chamber, City Hall
303 W. Commonwealth Avenue
Fullerton, CA 92832

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Thad Sandford
Ryan Alcantara
Sonia Carvalho
Arnel Dino
Damion Lloyd
Patrick McNelly
Gregory Sebourn
Mark Shapiro
Patricia Tutor

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF PRESENT:

Meg McWade, Public Works Director
Antonia Castro-Graham, Deputy City Manager
Yelena Voronel, City Engineer/ Assistant Director of Public Works
David Grantham, Senior Civil Engineer
Julia Lewis, Engineering Intern

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

STUDY SESSION

Chair Sandford provided a presentation that included an introduction to the Committee and its purpose, details on the Infrastructure Asset Review approach and findings, potential funding options for infrastructure needs, and recommendations from the Committee.

A member of the public noted that raising taxes will be objectionable to residents and asked why some of Fullerton's streets, Puente in particular, are not built to current code.

Staff Member Grantham advised that Fullerton has a lot of older streets that were built according to the standards at the time of construction, but because standards have changed over time, they may not be as thick as streets constructed today.

Jose Trinidad Castaneda recommended that City Council consider Community Choice Energy/Aggregation. He also noted that his grandmother recently fell due to an uneven City sidewalk in front of her home and asked if pedestrian infrastructure improvements are included in any of the Committee's recommendations.

Member Sebourn referred Mr. Castaneda to the presentation, noting that the recommendation for infrastructure improvement includes curb, gutter and sidewalk repairs, as well as ADA requirements.

Maureen Milton asked if there is a bed tax for hotels in Fullerton and if Staff researched, or plans on researching, the road material she mentioned at the August 8, 2019 meeting. She also commented on the lack of lighting on Harbor Boulevard between Chapman and Commonwealth and the dangerous curbs on Wilshire Avenue from Harbor to Pomona.

Member Shapiro stated that Fullerton's transient occupancy tax is ten percent.

Chris Gaarder asked the Committee if they studied the sales tax trends over the past 10-20 years and made the following recommendations:

- Provide quarterly updates for the City Council on the status of revenues and expenditures.
- Request an analysis of the City's capacity to spend additional funds.
- Factor City Council's policy on one-time revenue into any recommendations.
- Look at tax exempt properties in Fullerton and possible ways to capture some of the value they're creating in the community.
- Request analysis from Urban3 to review the tax production and cost structure in terms of City services.
- Focus on improving street safety before spending money on new projects.

Member Carvalho noted that, according to the City's adopted budgets, sales tax revenue has increased since 2016.

Tanya McCrory recommended the City look for additional revenue through attracting new businesses and collecting taxes from Airbnb properties and cannabis sales. She stated her support for a dedicated sales tax for infrastructure needs, and suggested that, if City Council opts for a general sales tax, initially 25% of the City's General Fund revenue should be allocated to infrastructure.

Carol Lamkins noted that she brought in a petition to Public Works to fix potholes on her street and they were fixed the next day. She asked if petitions would be helpful for City staff to prioritize street rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Chair Sandford briefly explained the way the City currently prioritizes street repairs and indicated his support for that process.

Patrick Hartnett thanked the Committee Members for their time and dedication and shared that he's had success reporting several different issues in the MyFullerton app. He noted that, at \$1 million per mile and 294 miles in the City, there is not enough money to repair our roads. He recommended the City declare bankruptcy and restructure its debt.

Staff Member Grantham noted that road repair costs vary substantially based on a number of factors and can range from \$130,000 to \$1,000,000 per mile.

Leonard Hoffman expressed his opposition to raising taxes and suggested that the City ask the federal government for financial assistance.

Maureen Milton asked if there are likely to be any grants available for streets in the future.

Committee Members responded with a discussion on grants and potential opportunities for funding from the County and State.

A member of the public asked about the status of a loan from the City to California State University, Fullerton.

Member Sebourn responded with some background information and a brief update on the situation.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m. The next meeting of the Infrastructure and Natural Resources Advisory Committee will be held on February 12, 2020 at 7:30 a.m. in the Council Conference Room, City Hall.