

# **CITY OF OAKLAND**

## **BUDGET ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Meeting of the City of Oakland Budget Advisory Commission (BAC) held  
Wednesday, December 11, 2024, at 6:00 PM.

The Budget Advisory Commission meeting was held in Hearing Room 2 in City Hall.

### **Commission Members:**

Armand Bryan, Larisa Casillas, Mike Forbes, Guadalupe Garcia, Margaret Grimsley, Reisa Jaffe, Mike Petouhoff, Caitlin Prendiville, Sarah Price, Jane Yang, Stephisha Ycoy-Walton

### **City's Representative(s):**

Nathan Bassett – Finance Department  
Jestin Johnson – City Administrator's Office

### **Meeting Minutes:**

#### **1. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

- Present: Commissioners Bliss, Bryan, Casillas, Forbes, Garcia (departed at approximately 7:00 PM), Grimsley (arrived at approximately 6:13 PM), Petouhoff, Prendiville, Yang, Ycoy-Walton and City of Oakland staff members City Administrator Johnson and Bassett
- Roll call was conducted with nine out of ten current commissioners present, establishing a quorum for the duration of the meeting. Commissioner Grimsley was noted as expected to arrive later via BART.
- Meeting called to order by Chair Yang at approximately 6:02 PM.

#### **2. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting minutes for April 10, 2024; May 23, 2024; June 6, 2024; July 10, 2024; September 11, 2024; and November 13, 2024 were postponed to the next meeting.

#### **3. COMMISSIONERS' PROTOCOL**

Staff reported one pending commissioner appointment awaiting processing, with potential delays due to the mayoral recall. Commissioner Prendiville announced their resignation from the Budget Advisory Commission after six years of service.

#### **4. FINANCE DEPARTMENT UPDATE**

Staff provided updates on:

- The December 9 City Council meeting discussing potential budget reductions
- Potential layoff of approximately 91 FTEs

- Options being considered including labor negotiations and use of emergency reserves
- Upcoming special City Council meeting on December 16 and regular meeting December 17
- Initial preparations beginning for the FY25-27 biennial budget

## **5. PUBLIC POLL OUTREACH**

The Community Engagement Ad Hoc Committee presented plans for:

- Conducting a soft launch of the survey in December to test questions
- Full survey deployment in January
- Outreach through community organizations and council member networks
- Potential translation needs for multiple languages

Commissioner Ycoy-Walton moved to authorize the Community Engagement Ad Hoc Committee to finalize and launch the survey. Commissioner Grimsley seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all commissioners present voting in favor.

## **6. BAC RESPONSE ON 2024-2025 Q1 R&E**

Discussion of the draft letter focused on:

- Progressive revenue recommendations
- Partnerships with non-profits and private entities
- Labor negotiations considerations
- Pursuit of grants and loans

Commissioner Grimsley moved to authorize the Ad Hoc Committee to finalize and submit the letter on behalf of the full commission. Commissioner Ycoy-Walton seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all commissioners present voting in favor.

## **7. DISCUSSION OF COUNCIL ACTION AT DECEMBER 9 MEETING**

Staff provided overview of options presented to Council including:

- Layoff of 91 positions
- Fire station brownouts
- Labor negotiations
- Use of emergency reserves
- Unrestricting certain special funds

No final actions were taken at the meeting.

## **8. 2025-2026 CALENDAR YEAR STRATEGY DISCUSSION**

The Commission reviewed and discussed:

- Calendar of required activities and deadlines
- Strategies for increased influence and effectiveness
- Approaches for providing specific recommendations
- Plans for engagement with new council members
- Role of ad hoc committees

## **9. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

January meeting to include:

- Ethics presentation
- Planning Department presentation

February meeting considerations:

- Housing/unhoused services presentations
- Police Department audit review if available

## **10. OPEN FORUM**

No items presented

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:04 PM

*These minutes were drafted using a large language model using a transcript of the meeting recording. They were reviewed and edited by a human for accuracy.*