PHILADELPHIA CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

SPECIAL CAPITAL BUDGET MEETING VIA WEBEX

MINUTES APRIL 30, 2020

PRESENT: Anne Fadullon, Commission Chair

Maria Gonzalez

Garlen Capita

Patrick Eiding

Cheryl L. Gaston

Nancy Rogo Trainer

Duane Bumb

Peilin Chen

Christopher Rupe

Ariel Vazquez

Eleanor Sharpe

NOT PRESENT: Joseph Syrnick, Vice Chair - recused himself

SUMMARY

1. Executive Director’s Update.

1. Recommended FY2021 Capital Budget and FY2021-2026 Capital Program. (Presented by Eleanor Sharpe)

**APPROVED**

*Commission Chair, Anne Fadullon convened the Philadelphia City Planning Commission meeting on Thursday, April 30, 2020 at 1:02 p.m.*

Re: Special City Planning Commission Meeting for Capital Budget Program and

Capital Budget

1. **Executive Director’s Update**

I want to thank you for participating in our first public Board and Commission

Meeting of the Department of Planning and Zoning.

As an agency it is our goal to gain capacity while working remotely and much of

our Work the past month is putting new systems in place.

With that in mind, we will be able to bring back public meetings for the Art and

Historical Commissions, along with you, our Planning Commission.

Our staff is able to continue plan reviews within eCLIPSE, which launched two days before the City's Closure.  Our staff is also able to meet with developer's remotely for review of Civic Design Applications, so when we are able to bring their meetings online, we will be ready with a full agenda.

For Registered Community Organizations, we are creating a survey to assess their remote capabilities and will be able to work with them to help bring them online.  Additionally, as we approach with the registration process, we will be putting new systems in place to be able to review all applications.

The next meeting of the Philadelphia City Planning Commission on May 19, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.  At this point we plan on having a remote meeting that will be available on the WebEx platform.

Our work has been to find a sense of normal in our current situation and continue to be adaptable to whatever the new normal will be.  We thank the Commissioner Members for their continue dedication along with our sister agencies and our citizens.

This concludes the Executive Director report.

1. **Recommended FY2021 Capital Budget and FY2021-2026 Capital Program. (Presented by Eleanor Sharpe)**

The Capital Program is the City of Philadelphia’s six-year plan for investing in its physical and technology infrastructure, community facilities, and public buildings. The Capital Program aligns with the Mayor’s priorities and reflects the City’s and partners’ long-term commitments and plans, through efforts such as the *Philadelphia2035* comprehensive plan, to maintain and improve public facilities throughout Philadelphia. The first year of this plan is known as the Capital Budget.

As mandated by the City Charter, a Recommended Capital Program and Budget must be submitted to the Mayor by the City Planning Commission. The Recommended Capital Program and Budget are then presented by the Administration to City Council. City Council subsequently conducts public hearings. Once finalized and enacted by City Council, and signed into law by the Mayor, the Capital Budget serves as the legal authority to spend City funds to implement capital projects during the budget year.

The financial impacts to the City of the COVID-19 pandemic require prudent changes to the Recommended Capital Program for FY21-26 and Capital Budget for FY21 approved by the City Planning Commission on February 25th.

These changes are required to help manage debt service costs in the Operating Budget. Changes are to be submitted as new Capital Program and Capital Budget ordinances rather than as amendments to the previously introduced ordinances.

The revised Recommended FY2021-2026 Capital Program proposes investing $11.3 billion from all sources over the six-year period to advance City goals and address needed public improvements. Included in the revised Recommended FY2021 Capital Budget are new and carryforward projects totaling $3.4 billion. Excluding ‘off-budget’ amounts that are not appropriated by City Council, the Recommended FY2021 Capital Budget ordinance total is $3.2 billion.

Of the FY2021 total, $128.3 million CN is now recommended to be funded by new general-obligation bonds issued by the City of Philadelphia. This is lower than the $170.8 million in CN funds in the previously introduced ordinances. As this type of bond funding is repaid from the City’s general tax revenues over multiple years, a reduction is prudent to help the City manage fiscal challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Other administrative revisions include:

* CA-Pre-financed Loans – increased by $165,000 to correctly identify funds available in this category
* PT-Carried Forward Private – decreased by $18,760,000 to reflect private contributions budgeted in previous years but no longer anticipated

There are no other changes between the original and revised Capital Programs and Budgets.

Despite the recommended reduction in CN funding, the City Administration is committed to investing in the City’s infrastructure to the greatest extent possible.

Staff recommendation is for approval.

**Commission Comments:**

Commissioner **Capita** asked if the revised capital budget would have an impact on staffing levels. Commission Chair **Fadullon** replied that the Mayor’s operating budget pays for staffing and that a revised operating budget was being presented to Council on May 1, 2020.

Commissioner **Trainer** asked to clarify what “ITEF” meant. Commissioner **Chen** replied that it was an acronym for “Improvements to Existing Facilities”

**Public Comments:**

David Fecteau of the City Planning Commission monitored the Planning Commission’s email account and the Webex Q&A section throughout the meeting and confirmed that there were no public comments or questions.

*Upon the Motion made by Commissioner Bumb and seconded by Commissioner Eiding to Accept Staff Recommendation of Approval, the Philadelphia City Planning Commission approved the recommendation with no nays. Approved.*

*Upon the motion made by Commissioner Gaston and seconded by Commissioner Trainer, the Philadelphia Planning Commission Meeting was adjourned by the Commission Chair at 1:20 p.m.*

The next City Planning Commission Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 19th at 2:00 p.m.** via the Webex platform.