

Savannah Georgia Convention Center Authority

Minutes of the Budget Workshop of the Board of Directors
Wednesday, April 19, 2023, 8:30am

Via onsite Jasper Boardroom and teleconference ~ Savannah Convention Center

Members present: Bert Brantley (via Zoom), Joe Marinelli, Martin Miller (via Zoom), Ruth Quattlebaum Edwards, Pat Farrell, Ben Polote Jr., Mark Smith and Ansley Williams **Members absent:** Anne Scheer, Pritpal Singh, Trip Tollison **Also present:** SCC staff: Sherrie Spinks, Ronnie Hickman, Stephen Hall, Angela Daniels, Jamie Parks, Holly Jenkins, Gail Terrell

Chairman Smith convened the budget workshop meeting at 8:36am.

Chairman Smith started the meeting with a discussion on future capital projects with regards to the city/county road access to the new convention center hotel. 1-million-dollar place holder added to 2025 capital budget as goodwill due to the local government's support of the SCC expansion. Discussion ensued regarding the repair of Riverwalk Slip 3 in 2024 with an estimated cost of 3.5 million.

Mr. Hall then reviewed the Financial Performance for FY24 in the Preliminary Operating and Capital Budgets packet. Discussion ensued regarding the 1st Quarter 2024 events utilizing expansion space. Mr. Hall continued with a review of the Authority's FY24 Operating budget. Discussion ensued regarding any additional potential expenses due to the new convention center hotel and expansion. Vice-Chairman Marinelli commented on the continued marketing support needed for Visit Savannah from the Authority. It was agreed to add \$250k to the Authority budget for Visit Savannah support. Mr. Williams discussed the creation of the Community Improvement District (CID) and its future positive impact on River Street renovations and other resources. Suggestion made to match JW Marriott's Savannah Waterfront Association contribution with \$150k/year for 3 years. Discussion and recommendation made to extend current YC Consulting contract through June 2024. Discussion ensued on Water Ferry funding and the life expectancy of the current ferry boats.

Review of the FY24 capital project lists conducted. Discussion and recommendation made to defer funding Public Art and the creation of additional seating in the Auditorium Balcony. SCC Staff to generate a 'capital priority' list and present it at the May board meeting. Discussion ensued regarding Mr. John Cay's request to consider contributing 50% (\$1.25 million) towards the cost associated with building a Savannah Harbor Tower on the new development site at Slip 1. Suggestion made to fund \$250k/year over the next 5 years. It was also suggested to defer the capital project Marquee Sign and also defer discussions on the Deferred FF&E until the May board meeting.

Mr. Hall stated that a revised budget reflecting the recommended changes would be emailed to the Authority prior to the May Board meeting.

Chairman Smith asked for any other business; hearing none, then adjourned the meeting 10:04am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bert Brantley, Secretary/Treasurer