

RESOLUTION NO. 2166

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GOLDEN, COLORADO, ESTABLISHING A BLUE RIBBON PANEL ON GOLDEN'S ECONOMIC FUTURE

WHEREAS, the City of Golden Home Rule Charter and the statutes of the State of Colorado require the City Council to annually adopt a budget that will govern the expenditures and anticipated revenues of the City for the ensuing fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, Golden residents and businesses enjoy a high quality of life, supported by high quality services and amenities;

WHEREAS, the City of Golden has been able to invest over time in these high quality services and amenities because, in large part, the city has been well run financially for years;

WHEREAS, the city remains in strong financial condition despite having just weathered the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, but it is heavily dependent on sales and use tax to fund the level of services and amenities that Golden residents and businesses have come to expect;

WHEREAS, consumer goods, which are generally taxed, are declining as a proportion of the economy relative to services, which are generally not taxed, a trend which is likely to diminish the value of sales and use tax as a revenue source;

WHEREAS, between 2010 and 2015 the Metro region is expected to see a nearly 30% increase in the number of persons who are 60 years old or older, and by 2035, one in four residents of the Metro region are projected to be 60 years or older, amplifying the trend toward spending on services instead of consumer goods (because older populations tend to shift their spending habits in that way);

WHEREAS, we are expecting declining financial support from the state and federal governments, further limiting the city's access to the revenue;

WHEREAS, anticipated increases to the city in the cost of building materials, personnel costs (e.g., health care), and energy costs (to operate facilities and vehicles), which include a significant proportion of the costs involved in providing city services and amenities, are likely to increase at rates that outpace ordinary inflation;

WHEREAS, given all of these trends, the revenue available to the city may not be sufficient to sustain the current level of services and amenities, much less enhance them, in the coming decades; and

WHEREAS, the Golden City Council and the Golden community would benefit from a community conversation about the potential long-term gap in the ability of the city to sustain or enhance the level of services and amenities over time, and a good first step is the convening of a diverse panel of community members to explore these challenges and to identify a wide range of potential solutions.

WHEREAS, The Blue Ribbon Panel shall not be constituted a permanent "Board" or "Commission" as contemplated by Section 10.1 of the City of Golden Home Rule Charter; rather the Blue Ribbon Panel is convened as an "ad hoc" committee pursuant to City Council's plenary powers.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GOLDEN COLORADO:

Section 1. A Blue Ribbon Panel on Golden's Economic Future is hereby established.

Section 2. The purpose of this Blue Ribbon Panel is to: a) evaluate the potential gap between the level of revenues the City of Golden current expects over the next two decades and the costs of maintaining or enhancing the current level of high quality services and amenities; and b) offer the community a range of options for minimizing that gap;

Section 3. The Blue Ribbon Panel will initially convene in March 2012, and City Council anticipates that the Blue Ribbon Panel will meet six times between March and July of 2012, although the panel can decrease or increase the number of meetings and/or shorten or lengthen the timeframe if necessary.

Section 4. The Blue Ribbon Panel will submit a final report to City Council, including the following:

- a) A review of the city's status, including:
 - A discussion of current revenue structure.
 - Identification of key trends likely to impact revenues over the next twenty years.
 - A discussion of current expense structure.
 - Identification of key trends likely to impact expenses over the next twenty years.
- b) Identification of a wide range of options for minimizing the gap between the costs of providing services and amenities in Golden and the revenues required to meet those costs. These options shall include a range of alternatives for scaling back and/or spending less on services and amenities, a range of revenue-generating alternatives, and a range of other approaches (e.g., special district consolidation, public-private partnerships).

The Blue Ribbon Panel is not asked to, nor should it, evaluate, prioritize, or recommend among the options it identifies. The Blue Ribbon Panel's role is to identify a wide range of options for further discussion and evaluation by City Council and the community.

Section 5: The Blue Ribbon Panel should strive to reach a consensus on the contents of the final report. Because the Blue Ribbon Panel is not being asked to evaluate, prioritize, or recommend among the options it identifies, inclusion of an option does not imply support for that option. However, if the Blue Ribbon Panel is unable to reach consensus on the final report, it shall rely on a vote of the majority for adoption of the report.

Section 6. The Blue Ribbon Panel will consist of eleven members. Seven of these will be appointed directly by the Mayor with City Council's consent to ensure that a diverse range of community perspectives are represented on the panel. The remaining four will be at-large community members appointed by the Mayor with City Council's consent through an application and interview process.

Section 7. The application deadline will be February 15, 2012. The City will advertise the panel and this deadline through the February Informer and other means as appropriate.

Section 8. On or before February 23, 2012, the Mayor with City Council's consent will appoint the initial seven members of the panel. City Council will conduct interviews for the four at-large panel slots on or before March 1. The Mayor with City Council's consent will appoint the four at-large members on or before March 8.

Section 9. On or before March 8, the Mayor, with City Council's consent, will identify one panel member to serve as the chair and two to each serve as vice-chairs.

Section 10. Panel members must reside in, work in, or own a business in Golden, although the panel may seek suggestions and ideas from other individuals as it sees fit.

Section 11. In advance of the Blue Ribbon Panel's first meeting, the City Manager will ensure that city staff provides the panel with a thorough briefing on the city's revenue structure, expense structure, and key trends likely to impact both in the coming decades.

Section 12. The City Manager will provide appropriate staff support for this committee. The staffing will be sufficient to organize and facilitate the Blue Ribbon Panel, to provide appropriate information to panel members, to respond to questions by panel members, to provide appropriate meeting notes and other documents after panel meetings, and to prepare draft versions and the final version, for the panel's approval, of its formal report to City Council.

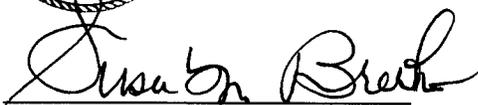
Section 13. City Council will schedule the Blue Ribbon Panel's presentation for a regular study session, and City Council schedule formal acceptance of the report at a subsequent regular business meeting.

Section 14. City Council anticipates that the Blue Ribbon Panel will complete its formal report and presentation by July 2012 but recognizes that it may finish more quickly or require more time to complete its work.

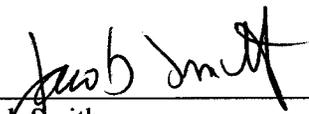
Section 15. The Blue Ribbon Panel will terminate after it formally presents its report to City Council.

Adopted the 1st day of December, 2011.



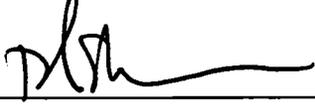


Susan M. Brooks, MMC
City Clerk



Jacob Smith
Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



David S. Williamson
City Attorney

I, Susan M. Brooks, City Clerk of the City of Golden, Colorado, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a certain Resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Golden, Colorado at a rescheduled regular business meeting thereof held on the 1st day of December, A.D., 2011.



ATTEST:



Susan M. Brooks, City Clerk of the City of
Golden, Colorado