



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 17, 2024

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**Willows City Council Affirms Commitment to Financial Transparency and Monitoring:
Approves Establishing the Finance and Measure i Oversight Committee (FMiOC)**

(Willows, CA) - In a bold and pre-emptive move, the Willows City Council formally established a finance Committee that provides policy review and monitoring of city finances and, if approved by the voters, incorporates oversight of Measure i, the 1.5% sales tax measure on the November 5, 2024, ballot.

“It’s imperative that the Council formalize and memorialize its commitment to oversight of the City’s finances and, if approved by the voters, the use and expenditure of Measure i revenues. We owe it to ourselves, each other, and future generations to safeguard and nurture our city services and assets. This Committee assures sunshine on all City Finances, both revenue and expenditures; all while allowing public comment and feedback on how our tax dollars are spent,” commented Councilmember Rick Thomas and current Council Finance Committee Member.

On Tuesday, October 15, the Willows City Council approved establishing the Finance and Measure i Oversight Committee (FMiOC) – a two Councilmember Standing Committee appointed by the full Council. FMiOC will focus on review of city finances including but not limited to, the City’s annual independent audit, City fees, City service charges, and budgets, accounts payable, investments, General Fund Reserve and pension funding policies. It will also focus on reviewing and tracking consistency between actual expenditures and the approved budget over the course of the fiscal year, quarterly review of Measure i revenue progress and expenditures, and as necessary, revisiting the city’s debt and debt policy.

Vice-Mayor Evan Hutson and current Council Finance Committee Member added, “I appreciate and understand the public’s frustration and lack of trust in city government. And we’re trying to improve that. FMiOC will go a long way to bringing overall clarity to our city’s finances, as well as the use of Measure i funds, demonstrating that the Council is managing our taxpayer dollars with integrity, consistency, and the community’s best interests at heart.”

Committee activities may include the review, discussion, and input in the following areas: Measure i revenue and expenditures, annual audits and compliance reporting, annual and quarterly budget updates, augmentations, and forecasts, and long-term fiscal planning (e.g., city revenues and expenses, fee and tax studies, deferred maintenance and capital planning, long-term liabilities, debt). All Committee meetings will include posted agendas and minutes. Meetings will be recorded, posted on the City’s website and open to the public.

“I appreciate the Committee’s dual purpose to both monitor current finances and, hopefully, Measure i revenues, as well as the opportunity for the public to voice concerns, ask questions, provide feedback and make revenue and expenditure recommendations in a more informal, back and forth format with Councilmembers. The establishment of FMiOC will increase public involvement and input on the use of Measure I revenues, as well as improve everyone’s understanding of our city’s financial circumstances,” stated Mayor Gary Hansen.

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