

Budget Education Session #2

BUDGET AND FINANCE

COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 14, 2024

Call to Order

Councilwoman Carol Berz, committee chair, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. in the J.B. Collins Conference Room of the John P. Franklin, Sr. City Council Building. Council Chairman Chip Henderson, Council Vice Chair Jenny Hill, and Councilman Darrin Ledford were also present at the call to order. Councilman Isiah Hester arrived at 10:32 a.m. for a quorum of five. Councilwoman Marvene Noel joined the quorum at 10:47 a.m. Councilpersons Ken Smith, Raquetta Dotley, and Demetrus Coonrod were not present at this meeting.

Others present at the call to order: Phil Noblett, City Attorney, and Melissa Bardoner, Council Support Specialist.

[Editor's Note: This meeting was live streamed on YouTube in two parts. Part 1 of this meeting (prior to the recess) is available [here](#). Part 2 of this meeting (after the recess) is available [here](#).]

Main Presenters and Departmental Speakers

Finance: Javaid Majid, Chief Finance Officer, and Vickie Haley, Deputy Administrator

Mayor's Office: Ryan Ewalt, Chief Operating Officer; Julia Bursch, Deputy Chief Operating Officer; Kevin Roig, Senior Advisor for Public Affairs; and Chris Anderson, Senior Advisor for Legislative Initiatives

Internal Audit: Stan Sewell, City Auditor

Parks & Outdoors: Scott Martin, Administrator

Early Learning: Karitsa Jones, Administrator

Economic Development: Richard Beeland, Administrator

Homeless & Supportive Housing: Casey Tinker, Director of Homeless Initiatives

Innovation Delivery & Performance: Tim Moreland, Administrator

Wastewater: Mark Heinzer, Administrator

Departments / Divisions Presentations – Part One

INTERNAL AUDIT

Mr. Sewell was the main presenter for this portion of the session. The presentation & the ensuing discussion may be viewed [here](#) and touched on the following:

- The City's most recent internal audit report & financial analysis
- Explanation of 'Benchmark cities' & how Chattanooga compares
- Future Education Session [to discuss fund balance and reserve policy]

[Councilman Hester and Councilwoman Noel joined during this portion of the meeting.]

PARKS & OUTDOORS (continued from last session)

Mr. Martin joined for this portion. The presentation & the ensuing discussion may be viewed [here](#) and touched on the following:

- Municipal golf courses
- Recreation Plan

At this point in the meeting, Mr. Ewalt took over as the main presenter and responder to Council questions. He presented the summary of the proposed FY25 Revenues and Expenditures for the following departments:

EARLY LEARNING

Ms. Jones joined for this portion. The presentation & the ensuing discussion may be viewed [here](#).

CITY PLANNING

This portion of the presentation & the ensuing discussion may be viewed [here](#).

EQUITY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This portion of the presentation & the ensuing discussion may be viewed [here](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Beeland and Mr. Tinker joined for this portion. The presentation & the ensuing discussion may be viewed [here](#) and touched on the following:

- Clarification on the three new positions authorized for this department

INNOVATION, DELIVERY & PERFORMANCE

Mr. Moreland joined for this portion. The presentation & the ensuing discussion may be viewed [here](#) and touched on the following:

- Impact report(s) for ARP Fund recipients
- Impact report(s) for RFP recipients
- Impact of [previously issued] PILOTs and TIFs on the City's budget
- Community survey results & if / how that data is used when it comes to city policy
- Current 'innovation projects'
- Status of traffic light timing project

OTHER FUNDS

Mr. Roig and Mr. Heinzer joined for this portion. The presentation & the ensuing discussion may be viewed [here](#) and touched on the following:

- [Economic Development](#)
- [Hotel / Motel tax](#)
- [Wastewater](#)

Meeting Recess

Councilwoman Berz recessed the meeting at 12:03 p.m., allotting a 40-minute break.

Meeting Reconvened

Councilwoman Berz reconvened the meeting at 12:45 p.m. A quorum was present that also included Chairman Henderson, Vice Chair Hill, and Councilpersons Smith, Ledford, Hester, and Noel. Councilwoman Dotley joined the meeting after the call to order. Councilwoman Coonrod was not present. Ms. Gwyn was present. Attorney Noblett joined the meeting after the call to order.

Departments / Divisions Presentations – Part Two

Mr. Ewalt was the main presenter for the second half of the budget education session.

CAPITAL BUDGET

Discussion ensued; view [here](#). Councilwoman Noel requested to know which centers in her district would get new HVAC. Mr. Ewalt agreed to follow up with her with that information.

Council Plan of Work

Councilwoman Berz opened a discussion about the need to update the Council's Plan of Work. [View the full discussion [here](#).] She asked the councilpersons to meet with departments in alignment with their committees. She asked councilpersons present to report on the updates they need to Plan of Work.

Parks and Public Works - Councilman Hester, Committee Chair, requested the paving list to help with his committee's objectives. Mr. Ewalt agreed to provide it.

- Chairman Henderson discussed the need for guard rails in District 1, especially on Brown's Ferry Road.
- Vice Chair Hill asked Councilman Hester to (1) look into better defining the purpose of the Parks & Public Works Committee, (2) consider how to explain alleys to communities, and (3) implement the Parks and Outdoors Plan into Section B of the committee topics.

Education and Innovation - Councilwoman Noel, Committee Chair, intends to change the objectives and mission for this committee, and intends to add two things to the objectives: 311 call customer service and alleys that communities want.

Planning and Zoning – Councilman Ledford, Committee Chair, will present substantial changes to this portion of the Plan of Work, specifically adding information about the following: Plan Chattanooga, new zoning codes, new land use plans, and ADU's.

- At the request of the Council, Chairman Henderson will schedule a discussion in July about ADU changes.

Budget & Finance Committee - Councilwoman Berz, Committee Chair, asked Mr. Ewalt to work with the committee on #6 on the list of objectives: *"In cooperation with Mayor's office, present quarterly: (1) performance reviews; (2) capital budget projects status, and (3) impact of dollars spent - and monthly summarizations of general fund operations."* Mr. Ewalt agreed.

Legislative Committee - Councilman Smith, Committee Chair, informed the Council that he just had emailed his committee's updated information. He asked Ms. Gwyn to update the Plan of Work with the updated information.

Affordable Housing Committee – Councilwoman Hill, Committee Chair, informed the Council about some of the objectives that she would like for her committee to tackle in the next fiscal year: she will add to her committee's objectives: clear and transparent process related to our back tax sale, clarity on the Community Land Trust, and completing a lot of data work. She is open to combining this committee with Economic Development, where the Affordable Housing Division is located; however, she did not wish to do so because the work and needs of the committee are different from the work and needs of the division.

Public Safety Committee – Councilwoman Dotley, Chair (Not present)

In Councilwoman Dotley's absence, Chairman Henderson advised that everything was on target for Public Safety's administrative goals. He also requested quarterly activity reports from the Chief of Police. The Council concurred.

Human Resources Committee – Councilwoman Coonrod, Committee Chair (Not present)
(Not present)

Economic Development Committee – Councilwoman Coonrod, Committee Chair (Not present)

Equity and Community Development Committee - Councilwoman Coonrod, Committee Chair (Not present)

Discussion ensued about why the name of this committee didn't match the name of the department. Ms. Bursch provided an explanation for this to the Council. Vice Chair Hill reminded the Council that committees are based on priorities, not department names and/or budget allocations.

Follow-up Discussions:

- Chairman Henderson will look at aligning committees with current departments. Mr. Ewalt agreed to send him a list of city departments.

Next Week's Topics – May 21, 2024

She added the following for next week's session:

1. The Warner Park Field
2. Impact of THRIVE
3. Uses Of Econ. Dev. Contingency Funds

Councilwoman Berz advised that she revise the schedule accordingly. Chairman Henderson agreed to work on times when the Council could discuss the following topics:

1. Reserves
2. Policy Meetings
3. Budget impact of PILOTs/TIFs
4. THRIVE
5. Economic Development contingency funds
6. Wastewater project (1-pager)

Adjournment

There being no further business, Councilwoman Berz adjourned this meeting at 1:44 p.m.