

**Budget & Finance Committee**  
**Tuesday, October 26, 2021**

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

Committee members present: Councilmember Wynne (Chair), Councilmember Burns, Councilmember Kelly, Councilmember Nieuwsma, Councilmember Reid (via phone), Leslie MacMillan, Shari Reiches, David Livingston

Staff members present: Hitesh Desai (Chief Financial Officer), Kate Lewis-Lakin (Budget Manager)

- 1) Introduction of Committee members and staff
- 2) Roundtable Discussion
  - a) Committee Chair Wynne opened the discussion related to the work and priorities of the Budget & Finance Committee
  - b) Discussion was held between all members of the committee
  - c) Items to move forward:
    - i) 3 year projection - present at City Council
    - ii) Budget Overview before next meeting as provided to new Council members
    - iii) Prior year excel sheets to share with the committee
  - d) Other items for the Committee to work on in the future:
    - i) Police & Fire pension funding
    - ii) Debt issuance planning
    - iii) Fund balance reserve policies
    - iv) Infrastructure needs, funding for equipment/vehicle purchases
    - v) Personnel costs, benchmarking on staffing and compensation
    - vi) Analysis of prior year budget data
    - vii) Projection of costs and tax impacts into future years
- 3) Public Comment
  - a) Mike Vasilko - committee discussions did not meet expectations. Committee should be involved in the 2022 budget and be a forum where residents can get their questions on the budget answered. Committee should examine every department and their needs to operate.
  - b) Mary Rosinski - staff should be looking to other communities for benchmarking and guidance. Areas where we can streamline operations, creative areas for change. What services do we really need? Cannot continue regressive taxes.
  - c) Ray Friedman - The City uses too many studies and consultants. Questioned why we are in a budget crisis every year. Also discussed our debt service costs, and suggests that these be examined going forward.
  - d) Doreen Price - City needs to focus more on social priorities. More support for social services and vulnerable residents.
- 4) Next meeting: Tuesday, December 14, 6 pm in the Civic Center