



CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FL
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, February 09, 2026 * 3:00 PM
MINUTES

Present

Nash Shook-Chairman
Kirk Leff
Sharon Harkey
John Evertson Vice Chair
Chad Rocheford

Absent

Kevin Pierre
Nate Davenport

Also present: City Manager Rick Rudometkin, Chief of Police Travis Grim, Finance Manager Tracy Richardson, Public Works Supervisor Philip Price, and City Clerk Yolanda Quiceno.

1. Call to Order and Confirmation of Quorum

Chairman Shook called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. Chairman Shook called for excused absences for Board members Piere and Davenport. City Clerk Quiceno confirmed quorum.

2. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

**Board member Leff nominated Nash Shook for the Chairman position.
Board member Rocheford seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 5:0.**

**Chairman Shook nominated John Evertsen for the Vice Chairman position.
Board member Rocheford seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 5:0.**

3. Appointment of Alternate Committee Secretary

The Board discussed the foundation behind eliminating the Secretary position and assigning minute-taking duties to the City Clerk. However, since there is currently no assistant or backup, the issue raised was what would happen if the City Clerk were absent.

Mr. Rudometkin clarified that, 1) the Secretary position no longer exists; 2) the City Clerk is now responsible for taking minutes; 3) State law requires someone to be physically present in the City Clerk role during meetings. Recordings alone are not sufficient as permanent legal records.

Because there is no alternate City Clerk, the committee agreed that if the City Clerk is absent, they will appoint a committee member at that meeting, on a case-by-case basis, to serve as the ad hoc recorder (physically present to record the meeting). The City Clerk will then later prepare the official written minutes from the recording.

Chairman Shook moved, in the absence of the city clerk, that the Committee appoint one of its members as the ad hoc recorder of the meeting minutes, clarifying that the term "Secretary" should not be used, as the position has been eliminated. No further discussion followed.

Board member Leff seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 5:0.

4. Citizen Comments

Chairman Shook opened for public comment. There being none, he closed the public comment section.

5. Approval of Minutes

a. Approval of the January 12, 2026, meeting minutes

Vice Chairman Evertsen moved to approve the January 12, 2026, minutes as presented.

Board member Rocheford seconded the motion, which passed 5:0.

6. Agenda Items

a. Classification and Compensation Study Update

CM Rudometkin stated that he had tasked Chief Grimm and Tracey Richardson to work with the third-party vendor on the compensation study.

Chief Grimm reported that the study is nearly complete. Ms. Richardson and staff have one final meeting to address remaining items. Additional necessary components were added, and significant effort has gone into the final product. The completed, citywide study will be presented to the City Council on February 17th and included in the agenda packet. He stated that Committee members are encouraged to attend the meeting or watch it afterward. Following the Council presentation, the Budget Committee, if requested by Council, will review the study at a March meeting for discussion. Chief Grimm stated that he will also reach out to board members after the presentation to gather any comments or concerns.

b. FY 26/27 budget Insight/thoughts

The City Manager discussed starting next year's budget as a zero-based or flat budget, using the current year as the baseline, given revenue uncertainty with property taxes. CM noted that the budget is on the city website for review and can make recommendations during the process.

CM Rudometkin reminded the Board that Richard Weisner from the tree board requested funding for a composting program. He and the company representative will present a proposal at an upcoming meeting for committee consideration before it is recommended to Council.

CM Rudometkin reviewed the fire services budget and billing process and noted that the County adjustments to appraised values resulted in minor savings for this year. With future increases still anticipated based on appraised values, the Budget Committee Members discussed the possibility of potentially having fire services billed directly rather than through the county, which may simplify future budgeting. They cited previous studies, noting that Winter Park conducted a fire study before attempting a similar change, which did not pass at the referendum due to nonprofit concerns. CM Rudometkin said he can contact the company that conducted Winter Park's study to estimate the cost if a study is pursued. The Board noted it could be around \$30,000. The Committee members discussed strategies to address future tax or appraised value adjustments, including engaging the fire department or neighboring municipalities to seek reductions. The committee discussed fire service costs.

7. Committee Comments

Discussion continued regarding the possibility of having fire services billed directly rather than through the County. Members also discussed asking the fire department about rolling back increases tied to property value growth.

The Budget Committee discussion focused on the budget review and capital planning process. Vice Chairman Evertsen expressed a desire to better understand how funds are being used and to have input before items reach the committee. He addressed the five-year plan and the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). CM Rudometkin noted that items are reviewed and vetted by staff prior to presentation, and that committee members may raise questions or concerns, as was done previously. Recommendations can be made to the Council, which makes the final decision.

CM Rudometkin noted that the City has not historically had a strong CIP but has begun incorporating items as needed. Due to uncertainty surrounding property taxes, a full CIP may be deferred this year; however, necessary capital items (e.g., equipment or facility replacements) may still be included. Staff expressed no objection to using formal request forms with supporting documentation for capital items to provide transparency, create a clear paper trail, and improve the review process. Overall, the committee emphasized the need to develop a responsible budget moving forward.

8. Next Meeting Scheduled Date – March 9, 2026

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:25 pm, unanimously approved.