

FINANCE COUNCIL COMMITTEE
MAY 7, 2025
DRAFT MINUTES

Council present:

Dan McClendon
Larry Scott
Adam Russell, Chair

Council Absent:

Staff present

Tommy Ludwig City Manager
Harlan Jefferson, Deputy City Manager
Amanda Campos, City Secretary
Monica Solko, Deputy City Secretary
Matt Ribitzki, Senior Deputy City Attorney

1. CALL TO ORDER – Time: 9:00 am.

Chair Adam Russell called the meeting to order. **Time: 9:03 a.m.**

2. CITIZEN APPEARANCES

- None.

3. GENERAL

A. Minutes from the April 21, 2025 Finance Committee meeting. (Staff Contact: Lisandra Leal, Assistant City Secretary)

Motion made by Dan McClendon and seconded by Larry Scott to approve.

Motion passed 3-0.

4. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Receive a report, hold a discussion, and provide staff direction on the City Manager's recommendation for vehicle and equipment purchases using the Equipment Replacement Fund for FY 2026. (Staff Contact: *Lauren Seay, Deputy Director of Administrative Services*)

Lauren Seay, Deputy Director of Administrative Services, reported on vehicle and equipment purchases using the Equipment Replacement Fund for FY 2026 to the committee.

The presentation included an overview of the policy, replacement eligibility criteria, a recommendation table and a funding overview. Larry Scott asked staff to inquire

with the Police Department whether the standard vehicle would suffice their need or if an upgrade is necessary.

After brief discussion and questions, the committee requested an item be brought forward to the full council for consideration.

B. Receive a report and provide possible recommendations regarding the Texas Municipal Retirement System (TMRS) and New Non-Retroactive Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) after receiving feedback from employees and retirees. (Staff Contact: Cheryl Marthiljohni, Director of Human Resources)

Cheryl Marthiljohni, Director of Human Resources, reported on the feedback from employees and retirees regarding the TMRS COLA to the committee. Staff met with representatives from the Police and Fire Employee Associations, Employee Benefits Committee, and City of Burleson Retirees.

- The current calculation was perceived by employees as providing the most value to retirees. Employees acknowledged that the new calculation would result in a uniform percentage increase in the monthly benefit to retirees, regardless of the year of retirement; however, employees did not consider this to be equitable. Employees recommended not making the change unless there was a compelling reason to do so.
- Retiree's feedback was to maintain the current calculation and not make any changes.

There were no questions from the committee. Staff will bring an item be brought forward to the full council for consideration.

C. Receive a report, hold a discussion, and provide staff direction regarding the proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP). (Staff Contact: Harlan Jefferson, Deputy City Manager)

D. Receive a report, hold a discussion, and provide possible recommendations regarding tax rate strategies. (Staff Contact: Gloria Platt, Director of Finance)

Chair Adam Russell called items 4C and 4D as both items are related.

Tommy Ludwig, City Manager, stated that the numbers were preliminary but wanted to give the committee a forecast. Harlan Jefferson, Deputy City Manager, and Eric Oscarson, Deputy City Manager, presented the proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to the committee. Discussion included impact of flat appraisals, redlined CIP, 4A and 4B CIP, TIF projects including project funds.

Mr. Ludwig suggested that the committee may consider CO's for some of the projects due to possible legislative changes. Keeping CO debit now and using GO's in the future (election driven). Staff would have to discuss with bond council. The CO's would need to be purchased by September 1st.

RECESS AND BACK TO ORDER

Chair Adam Russell recessed for a short break at 10:13 a.m. and called the meeting back to order at 10:25 a.m. with all members present.

Gloria Platt, Finance Director, presented tax rate strategies to the committee. Discussion included if values increase will push the no new revenue rate will decrease. If values decrease the no new revenue will increase. Debit rate, items for consideration budget cuts in response to the re-appraisal plan. Homestead exemption council can keep as is or change.

After a brief discussion and some questions, the committee requested that an item be brought forward to the full council for consideration. The desire would be to see 3.5% increase and to proceed with the 5% homestead exemption. Staff will prepare funding at 3.5% but would also show funding levels at 1%, 2% and 3.5% so the council can itemize and prioritize.

E. Receive a report and provide possible recommendations regarding the March 2025 monthly financial and investment reports. (*Staff Contact: Gloria Platt, Director of Finance*)

Gloria Platt, Finance Director, presented the March 2025 monthly financial and investment reports to the committee.

There were no questions from council.

5. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND REPORTS

- None.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION

In accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, the Committee may convene in Executive Session in the City Council Workroom at City Hall to conduct a closed meeting to discuss any item listed on this agenda.

- Pending or Contemplated Litigation or to Seek the Advice of the City Attorney Pursuant to Section 551.071

No executive session needed.

7. ADJOURN

There being no further business Chair Adam Russell adjourned the meeting.

Time: 11:07 a.m.

Monica Solko
Deputy City Secretary