

~~ MINUTES ~~

BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE



Councilor Judy W. Thomas- Chairperson

Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen

Councilors: Jerry “Pops” Barnes, Charmaine Crabb, Glenn Davis,
R. Walker Garrett, John M. House, Bruce Huff, Valerie A. Thompson
and Evelyn ‘Mimi’ Woodson

May 17, 2022 / 9:00 AM/
Council Chambers
C. E. “Red” McDaniel City Services Center - Second Floor
3111 Citizens Way, Columbus, Georgia 31906

I. CALL TO ORDER - Chairperson Judy W. Thomas

PRESENT: Chairperson Judy W. Thomas, Vice Chairperson Evelyn ‘Mimi’ Woodson (arrived 9:05 am) and Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen (arrived 9:41 a.m.) and Councilors Charmaine Crabb, Glenn Davis, John M. House, R. Walker Garrett (virtual / Microsoft Teams) and Toyia Tucker. Mayor B. H. “Skip” Henderson, III, City Manager Isaiah Hugley, City Attorney Clifton Fay, Assistant City Attorney Lucy Sheftall, Finance Director Angelica Alexander, Clerk of Council Sandra T. Davis and Deputy Clerk Pro Tem Tameka Colbert.

ABSENT: Councilors Jerry ‘Pops’ Barnes and Bruce Huff were absent.

A G E N D A

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Employee Retirement Plan update (Presented by Finance Director Angelica Alexander)
2. Indigent Care Discussion (Presented by City Manager Isaiah Hugley)

3. Council Travel Policy Discussion
4. Police Department (Presented by Police Chief Freddie Blackmon)
5. Add / Delete List

REVISED BUDGET SCHEDULE:

Finance Director Alexander advised the Committee that the budget schedule has been revised as it relates to the advertisement of the budget. She said the budget will advertise on June 7th along with the first Taxpayer Bill of Rights Hearing. She said the first Taxpayer Bill of Rights Hearing will be held on June 14th at 9:00 a.m., and the second will be held that evening at 6:00 p.m. The third Taxpayer Bill of Rights Hearing will be held on the 21st of June at 9:00 a.m. She said we will also have the second reading of the budget and the first reading of the millage ordinance on June 21st. She said June 28th is a meeting that was added to the calendar due to the delay in the assessment notices going out.

BUDGET REVIEW ITEM #1

EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT PLAN UPDATE:

Finance Director Angelica Alexander provided an overview of a document submitted by Mr. Chuck Carr regarding the Employee Pension Plan. **A copy is on file in the Clerk of Council's Office.*

REFERRAL(S):

- A request was made to have the Pension Board to analyze the pension plan and make recommendations to Council. *(Councilor Davis)*

NOTE: The following agenda item listed below was called up as the next order of business (Budget Review Item #4).

BUDGET REVIEW ITEM #4

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Police Chief Freddie Blackmon provided a presentation on the Columbus Police Department's new uniforms and new vehicle color scheme.

BUDGET REVIEW ITEM #2

INDIGENT CARE DISCUSSION:

City Manager Isaiah Hugley provided a review of the status of the Indigent Care Contract. He reminded that the city has been in an indigent care contract with the Medical Center Hospital Authority for thirty years as of June 30, 2022. Per the agreement based on the 1949 Act, 3 mills would go for indigent care. The Council approved a resolution requesting that our delegation introduce legislation that would redefine healthcare purposes for the healthcare levy of up to 3 mills. He then explained the legislative process to include the passage of this legislation. On April 18, 2022, the governor signed this Act which allowed us to move this process forward; therefore, the FY2023 recommended budget includes 2.5 mills of ad valorem taxes for indigent care purposes. He recommended a one-year period under the new indigent care approach to be in a better position to know if we want to keep the language the same or not with regards to funding. He advised the RFP is being developed to be released after the passage of the budget to provide contracts for indigent care and agreements will not be limited to one agency as it was in the past.

REFERRAL(S):

- A request was made to apply 1 mill to debt services and apply the other 1.5 mills to indigent care. *(Davis)*
- A request was made to receive a presentation on the pros and cons of increasing and decreasing the millage rate. *(Tucker)*

BUDGET REVIEW ITEM #3

COUNCIL TRAVEL POLICY:

A copy of the travel policy was distributed around the table *A copy is on file in the Clerk of Council's Office

Chairperson Thomas opened the discussion regarding the Council travel policy. She suggested allocating \$5,000 of Council travel funds to mandatory training, and the other \$10,000 to other Council travel requests. After several minutes of discussion regarding this matter, Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to permit a single trip per fiscal year and allow up to \$3,000 to be expended. Seconded by Councilor Crabb.

Assistant City Attorney Sheftall suggested that the members of Council authorize the City Attorney's Office to bring back a resolution to reflect the proposal presented in the motion.

Chairperson Thomas called attention to the motion on the floor, which denied the request to present an oral resolution and was carried unanimously.

With there being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Thomas entertained a motion to adjourn. Councilor House moved for the adjournment of the May 17, 2022, Budget Review Committee Meeting, seconded by Councilor Tucker; however, with there being no physical quorum with Mayor Pro Tem Allen and Councilors Davis and Woodson being absent for the vote and Councilors Barnes and Huff being absent for the meeting, it was adjourned with the time being 11:49 a.m.

Tameka Colbert
Deputy Clerk Pro Tem