



MINUTES OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2026 AT 5:30 PM

COUNCIL ROOM, MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 450 S. MAIN ST., RICHLAND CENTER, WI 53581

CALL TO ORDER: Roll Call was conducted, and a quorum was determined to be present. Present: Ryan Cairns, Frank Hoffman, and Melony Walters. Absent: None

Molzof confirmed the meeting was properly noticed and no amendments were made.

Others Present: Administrator Ashley Oliphant, Treasurer/Deputy Clerk Misty Molzof, Public Works Director Jasen Glasbrenner, Utility Manager Scott Gald, Alders: Brad Wegner and Chris Jarvis, and Mayor Karin Tepley.

DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

Continue Review of 2027 Budget and Cost Containment Strategies: Oliphant presented cost containment and revenue options for the 2027 budget for discussion and direction from committee, advised that the police union contract negotiations have concluded and represented employees will get a 4% wage increase and the city health insurance contribution will be reduced by 1%.

No action was taken; however, direction was given to the administrator to prepare a balanced budget using the discussion and comments on the cost containment strategies and revenue options as follows:

- Pursue in 2027 budget
 - Reduction of the Symons Annual Contribution: Reduce 2027 Maximum contribution to \$40,000 and phase out contribution over the next 5 years
 - Pursue sale of the cemetery garage for a one-time revenue and elimination of future maintenance costs
 - Pursue updating fee schedule
 - Licenses & Fees
 - Cost Recovery on existing
 - License Cats
 - Dog License increase
 - Cemetery – Increase closer to close gap on cost of operating
 - Nova Video Contract non-renewal and purchase equipment for in-house meeting recording and streaming
 - Fireworks – reduce 2027 and phase out over next 3 years
 - Reduce police overtime by half
 - Increase Room Tax collections by 1% to 8%
- Investigate further for future budgets
 - Public Safety – Reconsider outdoor warning siren replacement. Most residents receive alerts by phone, the sirens are meant for outdoor warning only and most cannot hear them inside, could be some liability if not all are working, cost to replace and repair is much more than we have set aside
 - Parks – consolidate, close, sell, or convert low-use parks to natural areas. Study further for possible future budgets
 - Utility – pursue joint purchases and ventures to save both departments annual costs
 - Combine accounting software
 - Combine annual audit

SET NEXT MEETING DATE: 2027 Budget meeting on October 27, 2026 at approximately 6:30PM, after the General Government Committee meeting, and regular meeting on November 3, 2026, at 5:30PM.

ADJOURNMENT: *Motion by Walters, second by Cairns to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:20 PM. Motion carried unanimously (3-0).*

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:20 PM.

Meeting Minutes Recorded by Deputy Clerk Misty Molzof

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