



City of Milwaukee

City Hall
200 East Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Meeting Minutes

FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

ALD. MARINA DIMITRIJEVIC, CHAIR

Ald. Peter Burgelis, Vice-Chair

Ald. Scott P. Spiker, Ald. Milele A. Coggs, and Ald. Sharlen P. Moore

**Staff Assistant, Chris Lee, 414-286-2232; Fax: 414-286-3456,
clee@milwaukee.gov**

**Legislative Liaison, Kathleen Brengosz, 414-286-3926,
kathleen.brengosz@milwauk**

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

9:00 AM

Room 301-B, City Hall

2026 BUDGET HEARINGS

This is also a virtual meeting. Those wishing to view the proceedings are able to do so via the City Channel - Channel 25 on Spectrum Cable - or on the Internet at <http://city.milwaukee.gov/citychannel>

Meeting convened at 9:32 a.m.

Present 5 - Dimitrijevic, Burgelis, Spiker, Coggs, Moore

Also present:

*Nik Kovac, Budget Director
Kathy Brengosz, LRB Fiscal Planning Specialist
Keith Broadnax, LRB Manager
William Christianson, City Comptroller
Joshua Benson, Capital Finance Manager*

1. [250001](#) Communication from the Mayor relating to the proposed 2026 budget.

Sponsors: THE CHAIR

-DPW – Water

*Appearing:
Shaketa Winters, Budget Office
Jerrel Kruschke, DPW Commissioner
Patrick Pauly, Water Works Superintendent
Ald. Russell Stamper, II, 15th Ald. Dist.*

*An overview presentation on DPW - Water Works was given on the following topics:
2026 Budget Summary, Salaries and Positions, Operating, Equipment, & Special Funds, Revenues, Capital, 2025 Budget by Service, Org Chart, Core Services, Department Demographics, Key Performance Indicators, 2026 Major Updates*

(Coventional Rate Case, Howard Filter Bed Remediation Project, Lead Service Line Replacement), Water Consumption & Revenue Trends, Water Main Breaks, Service Uniformity, Environmental Impact

There was discussion on water main breaks (locations), lead lateral and service line replacement (prioritization program and its success, federal funding and status, effectiveness, revenue utility share, owner initiated program, capacity, completion timeline, coordination with Health Dept. on public outreach, dedicated positions), operating expenditures increase, rate increase (rate of return, water billing impact, timing, public outreach), water disconnection (meter replacement inspection, lack of entry, monthly reports), retirement eligibility, internship opportunities (Employ Milwaukee, UW-Milwaukee, various divisions), vacancies and filling of vacancies, Superintendent confirmation authority, project completion oversight (unfinished projects, handling of contractors), water service contracts with other municipalities

Information requests were made as follows:

Mapping of water main breaks (Ald. Moore)

Department org chart with names (Ald. Dimitrijevic)

Breakdown information on lead service line replacement (Ald. Coggs)

Communication file to discuss the legality of confirmation authority for the Superintendent (Ald. Coggs)

This Communication was NOT ACTED ON

10:00 A.M.

-DPW – Infrastructure

Appearing:

Mason Lavey, Budget Office

Jerrel Kruschke, DPW Commissioner

Kevin Muhs, DPW City Engineer

An overview presentation on DPW - Infrastructure Services was given on the following topics:

2026 Budget Summary, Core Service Areas, Salaries and Positions, Reorganization & Position Changes, Operating, Equipment & Special Funds, Revenues, Core Services, Bridge Program, Streets Program, Street Improvements, Street Lighting, Facilities, Key Performance Indicators, Org Chart, Department Demographics, Environmental Efforts, Service Uniformity

There was discussion on Milwaukee Plays (staffing capacity, ability to deliver projects, project delays), protected bicycle lanes (investment in restoration and repairs), bridge projects (Cherry Street bridge project, cost estimates), federal grants, streets program (staffing capacity) street lighting (repair delays, budgeted funds, full circuit replacement backlog), multiple project on same streets (preventing multiple instances of digging up streets), street light pole knock downs (recovery of costs), alley replacement (property owner assessment share, consideration of property owners funding total costs, out of program agreement), street improvements (budgeted funds, bike infrastructure, multimodal transportation, traffic calming), use of AI technologies (traffic signal control), traffic calming measures and challenges (traffic backups, slower commutes, tradeoffs, public safety vehicles, school pickups and dropoffs), MCTS cuts (impact on the City)

Information requests were made as follows:

Information on Milwaukee Plays project delays particularly in the 11th aldermanic district (Ald. Burgelis)

Follow-up information on completing street light pole repairs in the 6th aldermanic district (Ald. Coggs)

Policy on alley replacement assessment share for property owners, including nonprofits and churches (Ald. Burgelis)

Information on out of program agreement on alley replacement (Ald. Burgelis)

Update on solar project (Ald. Dimitrijevic)

Develop coordination with schools on pickup and dropoff plans (Ald. Coggs)

This Communication was NOT ACTED ON

Meeting recessed at 12:50 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 1:16 p.m.

1:00 P.M.

-DPW – Sewer Maint. Fund

Appearing:

Nathaniel Haack, Budget Office

Jerrel Kruschke, DPW Commissioner

Kevin Muhs, DPW City Engineer

Kurt Sprangers, DPW Engineer in Charge

An overview presentation on DPW - Sewer Maintenance Fund was given on the following topics:

2026 Budget Summary, Salaries and Wages, Operating and Equipment Expenses, Special Funds, Revenues, Capital, 2026 Budget by Service, Core Services, Key Performance Indicators, Service Delivery Model, 2025 Major Updates, Community Engagement, Department Demographics, Service Uniformity, Environmental Impact

There was discussion on green infrastructure investment (bioswales, state reconstruction projects, Forest Home Ave., 11th aldermanic district, paving projects, prioritization, construction trends, alleys), assessing the public for green infrastructure projects (flood mitigation), AI technology tools and efficiencies (sewer pipe examinations), revenues (sewer feed, stormwater fee, charges for service), Digger's hotline, staffing levels (lessons learned, career advancement), City interactive map, public text notification on projects, testing truck investment, smoke testing, staffing budget decrease (fringe reporting changed), fees becoming flat (depends on cost of services),

Information requests were made as follows:

Further breakdown (data point) of department demographics relating to White ethnicity (Ald. Spiker)

Explanation on the difference between direct and indirect fringes (Ald. Burgelis)

This Communication was NOT ACTED ON

2:00 P.M.

-Municipal Court

Appearing:

*Angelique Pettigrew, Budget Office
Tea Norfolk, Chief Court Administrator
Charles Hughes, Deputy Court Administrator
Timothy Richter, Court IT Manager
Nuducha Yang, Court Business Manager*

An overview presentation on the Municipal Court was given on the following topics: Budget Summary, Budget by Service, Positions & Salaries, Operating & Equipment Expenses, Special Funds, Special Purpose Accounts (intervention, post adjudication services, social media public service announcement), Revenues, Capital Improvement, Municipal Court Overview, Service Delivery Model, Org Chart, Demographics, Service Uniformity, Types of Cases, Outcomes Based on Year of Judgement (2020-2024), Environmental Impact, 2025 Amendments, Service Cuts & Significant Changes, AI Technologies

There was discussion on court case attendance and participation (virtual, use of library), internships (Earn and Learn, local universities, peer cities), intervention program (50 percent savings, transition to in-house services from contracting with Justice Point, rationale to change services), Special Purpose Accounts (balance, carryover), traffic related offenses and municipal citations (decrease in numbers), consideration of branch reduction, unpaid tickets (collections, incarceration)

*Information requests were made on the following:
Data on court case attendance and participation by virtual access (Ald. Coggs)
Exploring internship opportunities (Ald. Coggs)
Detailed plan and metrics for the proposed intervention program (Ald. Dimitrijevic)
Percentage of caseload from cases related to repeat offenders and data on their personal information (Ald. Moore)
Data on unpaid tickets (Ald. Spiker)*

This Communication was NOT ACTED ON

A motion was made by ALD. BURGELIS that this Communication be HELD TO CALL OF THE CHAIR. This motion PREVAILED by the following vote:

Aye 5 - Dimitrijevic, Burgelis, Spiker, Coggs, and Moore

No 0

Meeting adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

**Chris Lee, Staff Assistant
Council Records Section
City Clerk's Office**

This meeting can be viewed in its entirety through the City's Legislative Research Center at <http://milwaukee.legistar.com/calendar>.