



# City of Milwaukee

City Hall  
200 East Wells Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

## Meeting Minutes

### FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

*ALD. MARINA DIMITRIJEVIC, CHAIR*

*Ald. Scott P. Spiker, Vice-Chair*

*Ald. Peter Burgelis, 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@milwaukee.gov*

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Friday, October 4, 2024

9:00 AM

Room 301-B, City Hall

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#### 2025 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 9:20 a.m.

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

**Also present:**

*William Christianson, City Comptroller  
Charles Roedel, Deputy Comptroller  
Nik Kovac, Budget Director  
Kathy Brengosz, LRB Fiscal Planning Specialist  
Pres. Jose Perez, 12th Ald. Dist.  
Ald. JoCasta Zamarripa, 8th Ald. Dist.  
Ald. Andrea Pratt, 1st Ald. Dist.  
Ald. Russell Stamper, II, 15th Ald. Dist.  
Keith Broadnax, LRB Manager  
Joshua Benson, Capital Finance Manager  
Ald. Mark Chambers, Jr., 2nd Ald. Dist.*

1. [240001](#) Communication from the Mayor relating to the proposed 2025 budget.

**Sponsors:** THE CHAIR

*-Budget Overview*

*Director Kovac gave a Budget Overview presentation on the following:  
2025 Proposed Executive Budget (\$2.01 billion total; \$324.1 Proposed Tax Levy;  
\$480.9 million Non-Tax Levy-supported Budget), Bottom Line, Impact on Typical  
Household, 2025 Proposed Tax Levy: Distribution by Budget Section, 2025 Revenue*

*Sources: Tax Levy Supported Budget, Recent Gap History (this year over \$87 million), How to Close the 2025 Gap (reserve withdrawals, revenue increases, departmental reductions), Resolutions Necessary to Enact Budget (fees, opioid settlement funds, TSF withdrawal, assigning and transfer of funds from One Milwaukee Citizen-Led Transformational Special Purpose Account)*

*Further details of this presentation can be found within the file.*

*Ald. Coggs requested an update on on additional opioid settlement funds that can possibly be obtained.*

*Comptroller Christianson said that the TSF was at a higher level due to increased interest rates and pension catch up, the TSF balance would be more at a stable level even with the withdrawal, his preference would be to see the TSF grow, and he recognized the policy decision to withdraw from the TSF.*

*Members and participants questioned and discussed the use and nature of reassigning the One Milwaukee Citizen-Led Transformational SPA, increase in fees, and increase in employee salary adjustments.*

*Director Kovac commented. The reassigning of the CLTF funds was unique, not included in the budget, was required (assignment of the funds) to be done by the end of this year per recent City Attorney communication or risk not being able to be carried over due to being unassigned, and was being proposed to fund initiatives that were not included in the proposed budget. Proposed initiatives to be assigned the CLTF funds include police reckless driving cameras, Commercial Corridor investment program, capital local roads investments, and capital library branch improvements. The TSF withdrawal was doable for 2025 but would not be doable going forward. Inflation was a factor in increasing fees, the sales tax, and in salary adjustments.*

*Ald. Coggs requested for further information on the reassigning of CLTF funds for the Center Street Library branch.*

*Ald. Dimitrijevic requested for additional budget slides on Act 12's (shared revenue and sales tax) impact on the 2025 proposed budget, a high level depiction on where ARPA tranche monies was spent on, and further information on the police traffic cameras.*

*Ald. Coggs asked if police cameras could be purchased from asset foreclosure funds, a listing of DPW road project proprieties, and a listing of businesses (and locations) to be propriotized should these initiatives receive the CLTF funds.*

*Ald. Stamper asked for an update on the RICH grant program (DCD) and how much money the program was bringing in.*

**This Communication was NOT ACTED ON**

*-Capital Improvements*

*Appearing:  
Mason Lavey, Budget Office*

*Mr. Lavey gave a Capital Improvements presentation on the following:  
Source of Funds Comparison (\$211,614,649 total general city and \$79,548,820 enterprise funds total for 2025), Capital Budget by Department (DCD and DPW were the largest), Levy-Supported Borrowing (\$116 million) - borrowing level vs capital needs*

*and prioritizing capital needs, Infrastructure - Streets Program and Outlook (State & Federal Paving Program, Local Paving Program, Local Match Factors, Looking to the Future), Infrastructure - Street Improvements (Street Improvements, Street Lighting), Capital - Facility Improvements (Public Health & Safety Facilities \$4,547,000; Milwaukee Public Library \$2,635,000; General City Facilities \$7,100,000), Capital - Major Projects (Major Capital Projects, Additional Projects, Levy-Supported Borrowing), Capital - South Shore Cruise Dock (\$17 million), Capital - Equipment (Public Safety Vehicles \$4 million; Fleet Vehicles \$8.15 million), Capital - Raze & Revive (\$4,468,598 program total, In-House Demolition, Contracted), Capital - Forestry Capital (Concealed Irrigation, Tree Planting & Production, Stump Removal, Emerald Ash Borer), Capital - Enterprise Funds (Transportation Fund \$2.3 million, Sewer Maintenance Fund \$27 million, Water Works \$50 million), Capital - Looking Forward (Levy-Supported Borrowing, Street Infrastructure, Facilities, Major Fleet Replacements)*

*Further details of this presentation can be found within the file.*

*Members and participants questioned and discussed levy-supported borrowing being an opportunity to receive federal aide funds for infrastructure projects, stormwater fee funding forestry capital projects, roads being a priority to repair, alley reconstruction, inflation and design changes increasing construction projects, light pole replacement costs, and City Hall repair.*

*Ald. Burgelis requested information on the location of the capital-funded roads, timeframe and costs to replace 491 miles of local roads, and acquisition of electric vehicles.*

*Ald. Coggs requested information on the costs associated with replacing knocked down light poles.*

*Ald. Spiker requested for historical information for the pvaing programs.*

**This Communication was NOT ACTED ON**

*-City Revenue/City Debt*

*Appearing:*

*Mason Lavey, Budget Office*

*Nathaniel Haack, Budget Office*

*Toni Biscobing, Comptroller's Office*

*Sarah Osborn, Budget Office*

*Mr. Lavey gave a City Debt presentation on the following:*

*2025 Budget for City Debt \$276.3 million, Debt Service Levy \$103.9 million, Public Debt Amortization Fund 2025 withdrawal \$6 million, Debt Repayment, Bond Ratin (Rating Agency Concerns, Outlook)*

*Further details of this presentation can be found within the file.*

*Members and participants discussed bond rating, debt service increase, effort to not defer essential or major capital projects*

*Ald. Spiker requested for historical data on debt service increase and over time.*

*Mr. Haack gave a City Revenues presentation on the following:*

*2025 Revenues Summary, 2025 Revenues for General City Purposes (\$797,937,525*

2025 total), 2025 Proposed Major User Fees, 2025 Proposed Fees & Forfeitures (Municipal Court, DPW, Transportation, City Assessor, BOZA, DNS)

Further details of this presentation can be found within the file.

Members and participants questioned and discussed an accident recovery fee being explored possibly for next year's budget, wheel tax not being increased and being used for roads, and idea of extending parking meter time and/or rate.

Ald. Burgelis requested for information regarding assessment fee schedule, revenue generated from instituting parking meters on Sunday, and parking rates of other cities.

Ald. Spiker requested for the estimates for all fees, including for DNS, and a tracking report of outcomes from the Administrative Review Board of Appeals.

**This Communication was NOT ACTED ON**

-Grant & Aid Fund

Appearing:  
Sarah Osborn, Budget Office

Ms. Osborn gave a Grant & Aid Fund presentation on the following:  
2025 Budget Summary (\$100,132,522 total for 2025), Grants by Department (\$50,132,522 for 2025), Grant Expenditures and CDBG & HOME awards, 2023 Expenditures (over \$212 million)

Further details of this presentation can be found within the file.

**This Communication was NOT ACTED ON**

-CC Contingent Fund

Director Kovac gave a Common Council Contingent Fund presentation on the following:  
Purpose of Contingent Fund, 2025 Budget Summary (\$5 million for 2025; 2024 has \$4.48 million or 90% unallocated)

Further details of this presentation can be found within the file.

Members and participants questioned and discussed the legality of the CC Contingent Fund and explore using CC Contingent Fund for other purposes.

**This Communication was NOT ACTED ON**

-Tax Stabilization Fund

Appearing:  
Nathaniel Haack, Budget Office

Mr. Haack gave a Tax Stabilization Fund presentation on the following:  
Tax Stabilization Fund (\$32.3 million for 2025), Public Debt Amortization Fund (\$6 million for 2025)

Further details of this presentation can be found within the file.

**This Communication was NOT ACTED ON**

1 PM

-City Attorney

Appearing:

Evan Goyke, City Attorney

Naomi Sanders, Deputy City Attorney

Mary Schanning, Deputy City Attorney

Julie Wilson, Deputy City Attorney

Director Kovac and City Attorney representatives gave a City Attorney presentation on the following:

2025 Budget Summary, Positions and Salaries, Operating & Equipment Expenses, Special Purpose Accounts, Revenues, Organizational Chart, Key Performance Measures, Demographics, Racial Equity & Inclusion, Core Services, 2024 Major Highlights (Employment, Administrative & Health; Real Estate, Contracts & Education Section; Written Opinions of the City Attorney; Litigation Section; Neighborhood Revitalization, Ordinance Enforcement & Housing Section.

Further details of this presentation can be found within the file.

There was further discussion regarding foreclosure, claims against the City, and risk management.

Ald. Dimitrijevic asked for information addressing climate and equity.

Ald. Coggs asked for further information on office space that the City Attorney's Office would like to acquire for their operational needs, including costs.

Ald. Burgelis asked for information regarding savings that the City Attorney's Office have saved the City against claims.

**This Communication was NOT ACTED ON**

-Treasurer

Appearing:

Tyler Calligaro, Budget Office

Spencer Coggs, City Treasurer

Jim Klajbor, Deputy City Treasurer

Mr. Calligaro and City Treasurer representatives gave a City Treasurer presentation on the following:

2025 Budget Summary, Salaries and Positions, Operating Expenses, Special Funds, Special Purpose Accounts, Revenues, Org Chart, Core Services, Budget Breakdown by Service, 2025 Major Updates, Department Demographics, Racial Equity & Inclusion, Climate

Further details of this presentation can be found within the file.

Members and participants questioned and discussed the proposed cut in the proposed budget regarding the mailing out of property tax payment receipts (which the City Treasurer opposed), treasury bonding investment, education to the public on the discontinuation of receipts being mailed, and staffing issues should residents increase coming in-person to City Hall.

*Ald. Burgelis asked for information on how many times online property tax bill information have been clicked by users.*

*Ald. Dimitrijevic asked for information on the City Treasurer's issue regarding the proposed cut to the mailing of property tax payment receipts.*

*Ald. Spiker asked for there to be consideration of the creation of a Tyler Payments app.*

**This Communication was NOT ACTED ON**

*-City Clerk*

*Appearing:*

*Shaketa Winters, Budget Office*

*James Owczarski, City Clerk*

*Dana Zelazny, Deputy City Clerk*

*Ms. Winters and City Clerk representatives gave a Common Council-City Clerk presentation on the following:*

*2025 Budget Summary, Salaries and Positions, Operating & Equipment Expenses, Specials Funds, Special Purposes Accounts, Revenues, Capital Expenses, Budget by Service, Org Chart, Core Services, Department Demographics, Key Performance Indicators, 2025 Major Updates - Department, Racial Equity & Inclusion*

*Further details of this presentation can be found within the file.*

*City Clerk Owczarski commented on licensing improvements, reduction of record retention schedules, reduction of paper use, onboarding of BOZA into the iLegislate platform, need for a enterprise record management system, Channel 25 broadcasting of meetings and events, showcase of a variety of events, bilingual staffing and translation services, and increased historic preservation.*

*There was discussion on multilingual access funds carrying over, cable franchise fee decline, ERMS capital request to be ongoing, database customer management system alternation moving forward without additional funding, Alert Neighbor Program remaining funded, expenditure of the Milwaukee Excellence Fund, Salesforce implementation for all Council members, memberships, creation of SPA within the City Clerk office being acceptable, cell tower technology, increased salaries due to market studies, special funds and special purpose accounts, Hip Hop Week funding reduction*

*Ald. Burgelis asked for information on the database customer management system alteration from ITMD.*

*Ald. Coggs asked for confirmation of funding for the Alert Neighbor Program.*

*Ald. Chambers, Jr. asked for an accurate number of expenditure of the Milwaukee Excellence Fund.*

**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** 4 - Spiker, Burgelis, Coggs, and Moore

**No** 0

**Excused** 1 - Dimitrijevic

**Meeting adjourned at 3:56 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>.**