

Budget Education Session #1
BUDGET AND FINANCE
COMMITTEE MINUTES
August 17, 2021

Call to Order

Councilwoman Carol Berz, committee chair, called the hybrid (in-person/virtual) meeting to order at 10:37 a.m. in the Assembly Room of the John P. Franklin, Sr. City Council Building. A quorum of seven was present that included Council Chairman Chip Henderson, Vice-Chairman Ken Smith, and Councilpersons Jenny Hill, Darrin Ledford, Isiah Hester, and Anthony Byrd. Councilwoman Demetrus Coonrod was not present this meeting.

Councilwoman Raquetta Dotley joined the meeting at 10:55 a.m.; thus taking the quorum to eight at that time. Others present at the call to order were Emily O'Donnell, City Attorney, and Nicole Gwyn, Council Clerk.

Presenters & Others Responding to Questions

Presenters--Brent Goldberg, Chief of Staff, and Joda Thongnopnua, Chief Policy Officer; Regional Planning: Karen Rennich, Interim Director

Others responding to questions from the Council--Police: Eric Tucker, Interim Chief; Land Development: Dallas Rucker, Director of Development

Departments/Divisions Discussed – Part One

Mr. Goldberg was the main presenter and responder to Council questions for all departments.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

1. Essential Costs
2. City Council
3. Judges [City Court B-147] – Chairman Henderson proposed legislation to eliminate Division Two of City Court. The legislation will be scheduled for discussion in the Council's Legislative Committee.
4. City Attorney
5. Internal Audit
6. Information Technology
7. Purchasing
8. Agencies

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION

HUMAN RESOURCES

POLICE & FIRE

- Crisis Response Team (Presented by Mr. Thongnopnua)
- CPD Hiring and retention (Questions addressed by Chief Tucker)

PUBLIC WORKS

1. Transportation
2. LDO
 - STVR software needs; inspector needs; site visits (Questions addressed by Mr. Rucker)
3. Citywide Services

PARKS & OUTDOORS

4. Parks
 - Green infrastructure assets (Question addressed by Mr. Goldberg)
5. Outdoor Chattanooga
6. Open Spaces

Meeting Recessed

Councilwoman Berz recessed the meeting for a lunch break at 12:12 p.m.

Meeting Reconvened

Councilwoman Berz reconvened Part Two of the meeting at 12:53 p.m. A quorum of eight was present that included Council Chairman Chip Henderson, Vice-Chairman Ken Smith, and Councilpersons Jenny Hill, Darrin Ledford, Isiah Hester, Raquetta Dotley, and Anthony Byrd.

Departments/Divisions Discussed – Part Two

Mr. Goldberg resumed presenting and responding to Council questions for the following departments/divisions:

EQUITY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

1. Equity & Diversity
2. OMA
3. Community Engagement

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

4. Neighborhood Services
5. Community Centers
6. Code Enforcement

EARLY LEARNING

1. Early Learning
2. Head Start
3. School Partnerships – Mr. Thongnopnua spoke on the HCS Community Forward Program partnership.

INNOVATION DELIVERY AND PERFORMANCE

1. OPMOD
2. 311
3. Innovation Projects

Councilwoman Berz recommended scheduling the Strategic Capital Planning presentation on the same day as the Capital Improvement presentation. There were no objections from the Council.

Action Items/Follow-up Information

- At the next budget education session, Chairman Henderson would like to readdress staffing needs for enforcement.
- Mr. Goldberg offered to brief the Council on the costs of enforcement.
- Mr. Goldberg will be prepared next week to discuss budgets decreases at some community centers. He will also find out if the center budgets include summer camps.
- Mr. Thongnopnua will come back next week the regarding Baby University program.
- Mr. Thongnopnua will send the job description of the Community Forward School coordinators to the Council.
- Chairman Henderson will follow-up offline with Mr. Thongnopnua about the OFE navigators.

NEXT EDUCATION SESSION

Councilwoman Berz announced the session next week, August 24. She will adjust the session schedule to reflect those departments/divisions not covered today and send the updated schedule to Council and Administration.

Public Input Sessions

The Council came to a consensus on the following dates:

- Public Input Sessions - August 31, 2021
- Budget Ordinance First Reading – September 7, 2021
- Budget Ordinance Second Reading – September 14, 2021

Adjournment

There being no further business, Councilwoman Berz adjourned the meeting at 1:55 p.m.