

# BUDGET AND FINANCE WORK SESSION MINUTES

## Chattanooga City Council March 19, 2024

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### Call to Order

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Councilwoman Carol Berz, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the John P. Franklin, Sr. City Council Building. A quorum was present that also included Council Vice Chair Jenny Hill, and Councilpersons Chip Henderson, Ken Smith, Darrin Ledford, and Marvene Noel. Council Chair Dotley and Councilpersons Isiah Hester and Demetrus Coonrod joined the meeting after the call to order. Phil Noblett, City Attorney, and Nicole Gwyn, Council Clerk, were also present. Video of this meeting is available on YouTube [here](#).

### Other Participants in Attendance

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Finance: Javid Majid, Chief Finance Officer, and Vickie Haley, Deputy Finance Administrator; and Mayor's Office: Brooke Satterfield, Chief Policy Officer.

### Today's Agenda

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Councilwoman Berz advised that today's topics would include the FY25 Council budget priorities and review of City Court information previously supplied to the Council. She asked the Council if there were other topics that should be added to their budget discussions. Councilpersons asked for further discussion on the following:

- Ways to Improve Traffic Safety (Vice Chair Hill)
- Crosswalk maintenance and improvements (Vice Chair Hill)
- Implementing existing laws (Councilman Ledford)

Councilwoman Berz presented the 2023-2024 Plan of Work [view [here](#)] that had been revised with the committees established last year—Affordable Housing Committee and HR Committee—that still needed administrative objectives and advised that the Council needs to revise its plan.

Councilwoman Berz revised the topics for review to include the following:

- Safety enforcement
- Code enforcement
- City Court information

### Council Budget Proposal FY25

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Councilwoman Berz reviewed the FY25 Operations Budget and the FY24 Council District Balances [view [here](#)]. Discussion ensued on the following:

- Cost Center for Council District Funds (Henderson)
- Previous years' strategic planning (Berz & Ledford)
- Council's mission statement (Noel)

Discussion ensued with Ms. Gwyn on the Council District Funds allocation. Further discussion ensued with Ms. Haley [view [here](#)] on cost centers and the way the budget is configured. Councilwoman Berz instructed Ms. Gwyn to add the Council District Funds to the proposed budget document to show the allocations for all cost centers. Ms. Gwyn agreed.

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## **Budget FY25 Education Session & Presentations**

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Councilwoman Berz asked the Council for opinions on keeping the same budget presentation format as last year [view [here](#)]. The Council came to a consensus to keep the same format as last year. Vice Chair Hill asked to receive the slide decks for the budget sessions prior to the department presentations. Mr. Ewalt agreed and advised that the slides often will change before the scheduled presentation date. Councilman Ledford requested a meeting with the Mayor and the Chief of Staff before the budget goes to the public. Ms. Satterfield agreed to notify the Chief of Staff of his request.

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## **City Court Data**

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Ms. Haley joined the Council at the table to discuss any questions about City Court data previously provided by Mr. Ewalt to the Council. Discussion ensued [view [here](#)]. Councilman Smith asked Administration to make a recommendation regarding City Court staffing needs. Mr. Ewalt affirmed that this would be brought forth during this budget cycle.

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## **Code Enforcement**

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Councilwoman Berz opened a discussion [view [here](#)] on the need for enforcement as seen by the Council. Mr. Ewalt joined the Council at the table to discuss the needs for enforcement and whether or not a study has been done on enforcement needs (codes, law enforcement, pedestrian safety, etc.). Mr. Ewalt advised the Council to be more specific in what they wished to see regarding enforcement ahead of the budget education sessions. Discussion continued on the following:

- Repeat offenders/recurring violations (Henderson)
- Animal control issues (Dotley)
- Strengthening the AHO process (Ledford)
- McKamey resources and funding needs

Mr. Ewalt recommended a committee meeting to bullet-point some of the issues of concern prior to the budget presentations.

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## **Adjournment**

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There being no further business, Councilwoman Berz adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.