

BUDGET BRIEFING – JOINT

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2024; 9:00 A.M.

705 West University Avenue, Council Auditorium, Lafayette, Louisiana

Community Development & Planning, Innovation & Technology, Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, Municipal Civil Service

Councilmembers in attendance: Kenneth Boudreaux (City District 5 – Finance Chair), Ken Stansbury (Parish District 3 – Finance Chair), Bryan Tabor (Parish District 1), Donald Richard (Parish District 2), John Guilbeau (Parish District 4), AB Rubin (Parish District 5), Elroy Broussard (City District 1), Andy Naquin (City District 2), Liz Hebert (City District 3), and Thomas Hooks (City District 4)

Absent: N/A

Administration staff members in attendance: Mayor-President Monique Boulet, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Rachel Godeaux, City-Parish Attorney Pat Ottinger, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Karen Fontenot, Chief of Staff Christina Dayries, Policy Advisor Yancy LeGrande, Budget Manager Denise Deville, Chief Budget Analyst Deosha Matthews, Senior Budget Analyst Jason Gilbert, Financial Analyst Laura Grettner, Community Development & Planning Director Tammy Luke, Chief Information Officer (CIO) Matthew Duhon, Municipal Civil Service Director Adam Marcantel, and staff members representing these and other departments/agencies

Council staff members in attendance: Veronica L. Arceneaux (Clerk of the Council) and Joseph Gordon-Wiltz (Assistant Clerk)

(Time 9:04) City Finance Chair Kenneth Boudreaux called the budget briefing to order. He then asked Ken Stansbury to offer the invocation and Thomas Hooks to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Boudreaux welcomed everyone to this budget briefing on the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 budget. Citizens were instructed that a speaker form should be filled out in order to address the Council and be submitted to Council Clerk Veronica L. Arceneaux. He stated that the proposed budget document has been posted to the LCG website on the Finance page and that public comment would be held immediately following each department's budget review. Chair Boudreaux identified the three (3) possible actions that could be taken during the briefings. A Council member may propose changing the budget by: (1) a general amendment, when the entire Council agrees on a recommendation/proposed amendment; (2) a separate amendment, when a Council member objects to a recommended budget change; or (3) a Council member may choose to mark an item for wrap-up discussion to allow time to receive additional information.

Chair Boudreaux provided further guidance on the budget process, especially for the benefit of new Councilmembers. He recognized Mayor-President Monique Boulet and CAO Rachel Godeaux, who offered brief opening remarks on behalf of the administration, particularly noting investments within this proposed budget for infrastructure and public safety. Mayor-President Boulet expressed her appreciation to Councilmembers for their partnership through the budget process.

BUDGET PRESENTATION – FINANCE:

CFO Karen Fontenot introduced Finance & Management Department staff in attendance and offered the FY 2024-2025 Proposed Operating & Five-Year Capital Improvement Budget presentation, which highlighted American Rescue Plan Act Funds (ARPA), group insurance premiums (no change), and uninsured losses, splitting of Sales Tax Capital Improvement Fund (Fund 401), and the implementation of a pay plan for classified employees. She

also provided overviews of the Parish-wide Revenues & Expenditures, the City-wide Revenues & Expenditures, and the LCG Entity-wide Revenues & Expenditures.

Hooks asked that Finance be prepared to provide guidance on what's driving the need for fund reserves throughout the budget and he asked for an ongoing understanding of the MERS liability taking into account the pay plan. He also asked that Finance consider and offer information throughout the budget process on the impact of the pay plan on the various funds, an inquiry to which Finance staff responded by providing a handout with information outlining related details.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING:

Operating Expenses

Page 251 – Chair Boudreaux requested the actual for line item 1018100 76012-0 EXT APP-LATIN MUSIC FESTIVAL, to which CFO Fontenot responded with \$2,791.

Page 253 – Chair Boudreaux requested the actual for line item 1268158 76620-0 EXT APP-SMILE, to which CFO Fontenot responded with approximately \$50,000.

Page 258 – AB Rubin questioned RESERVE-DIRECTOR'S line items, to which CFO Fontenot responded that these are reserve line items budgeted for each department director for incidental capital or unforeseen emergencies within the department.

John Guilbeau expressed concern about the origin of funding for demolitions that are contracted as a result of condemnations, particularly regarding if/how LCG gets reimbursed.

****REQUEST FOR INFORMATION BY GUILBEAU – CDP to provide report on Fund 299 as the upfront funding source for demolitions as a result of condemnations, as well as additional information as it relates to renewal of property liens****

5-Year Capital

Page 365 – Andy Naquin questioned line item 485C005 RPL DESK-1 in the amount of \$5,000 and the necessity for that full amount. Anne Famoso responded that the entire amount that is budgeted may not be needed.

****GENERAL AMENDMENT BY NAQUIN – Reduce amount appropriated to line item 485CP005 RPL DESK-1 on page 365 from \$5,000 to \$2,500****

****WRAP-UP REQUEST BY NAQUIN – CDP to determine whether the full original \$5,000 appropriation to line item 485CP005 RPL DESK-1 on page 365 is needed so that a decision can be made as to whether reduction needs to be restored****

2025 Capital

- *No action was taken in this section.*

Manning Table

- *No action was taken in this section.*

► Comments from the Public

- *No citizens signed in to address the Council.*

INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY:

Operating Expenses

Liz Hebert questioned whether IT has considered expanding e-mail and storage capacity for Councilmembers, as well as whether such a consideration is included in the proposed budget. CIO Matthew Duhon gave guidance on the existing Outlook plug-in that allows for easy access to archived e-mails.

Page 167 – Hooks requested detail on non-personnel costs and capital items within Fund 485 on page 167.

****REQUEST FOR INFORMATION BY HOOKS – IT to provide details on line items 4852910 71022-0 CONT SERV-SAAS COSTS, 4852910 71030-0 CONT SERV-SAAS IMPLEMENTATION, and 4852910 89000-0 CAPITAL OUTLAY on page 167, as well as information on the rate structure for the ERP system****

2025 Capital

- *No action was taken in this section.*

Manning Table

- *No action was taken in this section.*

► Comments from the Public

- *No citizens signed in to address the Council.*

OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS:

Operating Expenses

- *No action was taken in this section.*

► Comments from the Public

- *No citizens signed in to address the Council.*

MUNICIPAL CIVIL SERVICE:

Operating Expenses

- *No action was taken in this section.*

Manning Table

- *No action was taken in this section.*

► Comments from the Public

- *No citizens signed in to address the Council.*

Chair Boudreaux invited citizens to attend the Public Hearing for Citizen Input to address any matter related to the proposed budget, which will be held on Tuesday, August 20, 2023 at 5:15 p.m. He declared the conclusion of this morning's briefing and stated that the next budget briefing will be held on this afternoon at 1:00 p.m. on Joint funds for Drainage, Traffic, Roads & Bridges, Public Works & Public Works Capital Projects, Legal/Prosecutor, Finance, President's Office, CAO, and Council Office. There being no further business, the briefing was recessed at 11:14 a.m.