

**BUDGET BRIEFING – CITY**  
**THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2024; 3:00 P.M.**  
**705 W. University Avenue, Council Auditorium**  
**Wrap-Up**

**Council members in attendance:** Kenneth Boudreaux (City District 5 – Finance Chair), Thomas Hooks (City District 4 – Finance Vice-Chair), Elroy Broussard (City District 1), Andy Naquin (City District 2), and Liz Hebert (City District 3)

**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, Traffic, Roads & Bridges Director/Interim Public Works Director Warren Abadie, Lafayette Utilities System (LUS) Director Jeff Stewart, LUS Fiber Director Michael Soileau, Chief Information Officer (CIO) Matthew Duhon, Community Development and Planning Director Tammy Luke, Parks, Arts, Recreation & Culture (PARC) Director Timothy Sensley, Interim Police Chief Paul Trouard, Fire Chief Robert Benoit, Fire & Police Civil Service Board Chair Ron Clark, City Court Division A Judge Jules Edwards, 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 3:02)** City Finance Chair Kenneth Boudreaux called the budget briefing to order. He then asked Andy Naquin 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 two (2) possible actions that could be taken during the Wrap-Up briefing. A Council member may propose changing the budget by: (1) a general amendment, when the entire Council agrees on a recommendation/proposed amendment or (2) a separate amendment, when a Council member objects to a recommended budget change.

**NEW FINANCE “HOUSEKEEPING” AMENDMENTS:**

Chair Boudreaux recognized CFO Karen Fontenot for an overview of additional amendments for consideration that have been compiled by Finance, which were made as follows:

- **\*\*GENERAL AMENDMENT BY NAQUIN** – To zero out contributions/appropriation in Fund 207 TRAFFIC SAFETY FUND which will be closed in FY24, 8/29/2024 Amendment #45 (City), as provided by Finance\*\*
- **\*\*GENERAL AMENDMENT BY BROUSSARD** – To adjust vehicle capital item in LUS Communications from purchase to lease, 8/29/2024 Amendment #46 (City), as provided by Finance\*\*

- **\*\*GENERAL AMENDMENT BY HEBERT** – To increase LUS ILOT Revenue and Expense accounts, 8/29/2024 Amendment #47 (City), as provided by Finance\*\*
- **\*\*GENERAL AMENDMENT BY HOOKS** – To move projects to be in compliance with sales tax dedication, 8/29/2024 Amendment #48 (City), as provided by Finance\*\*
- **\*\*SEPARATE AMENDMENT BY NAQUIN** – 10% salary increase for City Council Members for the current term, 8/29/2024 Amendment #49 (City), as provided by Finance. Elroy Broussard originally offered this as a general amendment.\*\*
- **\*\*SEPARATE AMENDMENT BY NAQUIN** – Adjust salary and benefit accounts in PD-Administration to increase AC 8001 Chief of Police Salary to \$170,000, 8/29/2024 Amendment #50 (City), as provided by Finance. Liz Hebert originally offered this as a general amendment.\*\*
- **\*\*SEPARATE AMENDMENT BY BOUDREAUX** – To reduce capital project 485RB014 PAVEMENT MARKINGS-MPO MTC by \$100,000 in order to fund Bus Shelters, 8/29/2024 Amendment #51 (City), as provided by Finance. Liz Hebert originally offered this as a general amendment.\*\*

**\*\*WRAP-UP REQUEST BY BOUDREAUX** – Traffic, Roads & Bridges to provide summary of impact on 485RB014 PAVEMENT MARKINGS-MPO MTC projects as a result of proposed movement of funds to cover bus shelters\*\*

### **GENERAL AMENDMENTS:**

Chair Boudreaux requested that Council members review General Amendments and indicate whether they would like to make any changes, which were made as follows:

- N/A

### **SEPARATE AMENDMENTS:**

Chair Boudreaux requested that Council members review the Separate Amendments and indicate whether they would like to make any changes, which were made as follows:

- Chair Boudreaux withdrew Separate Amendment #2 – 10% salary increase for City Councilman Kenneth Boudreaux for the current term.
- Broussard withdrew Separate Amendment #3 – 10% salary increase for City Councilman Elroy Broussard for the current term.
- Hooks removed his objection to Separate Amendment #4, making it a general amendment as follows:
  - **\*\*GENERAL AMENDMENT BY NAQUIN** – To adjust Salary and Benefit accounts and Manning Tables in City Court, 8/13/2024 Amendment #15 (City), as provided by Finance\*\*
- Chair Boudreaux removed his objection to Separate Amendment #5, making it a general amendment as follows:
  - **\*\*GENERAL AMENDMENT BY NAQUIN** – Increase salary line item on page 390 for AU 1032 SECRETARY I position by \$2,760\*\*

## **WRAP-UP ITEMS:**

Chair Boudreaux announced that the following Wrap-Up items have been requested to be pulled by the respective Council members: **5, 20, 22, 23, 24 & 25**. He then provided the option to review Wrap-Up items for which Council members will need to propose new amendments or for which more discussion will be needed (or additional questions): N/A. All other City Wrap-Up items had already been addressed.

**\*\*GENERAL AMENDMENT BY BOUDREAUX – Add “EVANGELINE THRUWAY LOCAL SAFETY INITIATIVE” to title of line item 99 I49 CONNECTOR on page 330\*\***

**\*\*GENERAL AMENDMENT BY NAQUIN – Reduce line item 9 COURTYARD CIRCLE ALLEY CONSTRUCTION on page 328 from \$15,536 to \$0, reduce line item 54 KALISTE SALOOM RD WIDENING by \$62,241 on page 329, then appropriate the identified \$77,777 to a new capital line item to be created for DULLES DRIVE SIDEWALK & DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS\*\***

Reflecting on his and Broussard’s visit to the LCG warehouse where surplus furniture is stored, Naquin asked that the administration work toward clearing out the space to the greatest extent possible by attempting to meet the needs of the various departments with those items that can be used and by properly disposing of those items that have no future use, especially in the interest of generating space and eliminating costs, liabilities, and hazards. Mayor-President Monique Boulet cautioned that there is a legal archive process whereby many items, even those in disrepair, must be declared as such before being discarded.

### **► Comments from the Public**

- **Stephanie Skinner Touchet** addressed the Council to advocate for the removal of smart meters.

Chair Boudreaux declared the conclusion of today’s today’s briefing and stated that final adoption of the proposed 2024-2025 budget will be held on Thursday, September 12, 2024 at 5:15 p.m. during a special joint Council meeting, with a special LPPA meeting immediately following. There being no further business, the briefing was adjourned at 3:56 p.m.