

BUDGET BRIEFING – JOINT

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2025; 1:00 P.M.

705 West University Avenue, Council Auditorium, Lafayette, Louisiana

Drainage, Traffic, Roads & Bridges, Public Works & Public Works Capital Projects, Legal/Prosecutor, Finance, Mayor-President's Office, CAO, Council Office

Councilmembers in attendance: Kenneth Boudreaux (City District 5 – Finance Chair), Abraham “AB” Rubin, Jr. (Parish District 5 – Finance Chair), Bryan Tabor (Parish District 1), Donald Richard (Parish District 2), Ken Stansbury (Parish District 3), John Guilbeau (Parish District 4), 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, Drainage Director Brian Smith, Public Works Director/Interim Traffic, Roads & Bridges Director Warren Abadie, Human Resources Manager Rick Zeno, and staff members representing these and other departments/agencies

Council staff members in attendance: Joseph Gordon-Wiltz (Clerk of the Council) and Jeremy “Rich” Richardson (Associate Clerk for Operations & Citizen Advocacy)

(13:00) COMMENCEMENT:

City Finance Chair Kenneth Boudreaux called the budget briefing to order. He then asked Parish Finance Chair AB Rubin to offer the invocation and Elroy Broussard to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Boudreaux welcomed attendees to the departmental budget review, noting procedures for public comment, seating arrangements, and decorum (no food/drink; devices silenced). Public comments limited to departmental budgets; other matters should be directed to the Administration. Budget posted online at www.LafayetteLA.gov. Council may take one of three actions: general amendment, separate amendment, or mark for wrap-up discussion. Amendments tied to specific districts will generally be offered by that district's Councilmember; general amendments by the Chair.

Chair Boudreaux asked for the administrative costs associated with multiple accounts throughout the budget, to which CFO Fontenot responded that these costs account for the allocation of central services that all departments utilize and are specific to each department based on activities, with costs paid from the general fund, applied to the department, then returned to the general fund.

DRAINAGE:

Drainage Director Brian Smith offered brief opening remarks on his department's proposed budget.

Operating Expenses

Page 265 – **JOINT **WRAP UP REQUEST BY STANSBURY– Drainage** to provide justification for elimination of appropriation to **DRAINAGE MAINT PROJ SUMMARY** line item on page 265, and whether the previous funding may have been appropriated to other line item(s)**

JOINT **WRAP-UP REQUEST BY HOOKS – Finance to provide a consolidated packet of the administrative costs identified throughout the budget and a summary of the impact to each department**

5-Year Capital

- *No action was taken in this section.*

2026 Capital

- *No action was taken in this section.*

Manning Table

► Comments from the Public

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

TRAFFIC, ROADS & BRIDGES:

Interim Traffic, Roads & Bridges Director/Public Works Director Warren Abadie offered brief opening remarks on the Traffic, Roads & Bridges and the Public Works Departments' proposed budgets.

Operating Expenses

CITY **WRAP-UP REQUEST BY HEBERT – TRB to provide more detailed information on microtransit program**

JOINT **WRAP-UP REQUEST BY HEBERT – TRB to provide a list of streets in LCG inventory to be determined for improvement (asphalt overlay and conversion of unimproved roads to asphalt) in the proposed budget, ideally sorted by Council District**

JOINT **WRAP-UP REQUEST BY HEBERT – TRB to provide list of bridges planned for repair, ideally sorted by Council District**

5-Year Capital

- *No action was taken in this section.*

2026 Capital

Page 430 – **JOINT **WRAP-UP REQUEST BY NAQUIN** – All Departments to provide the number of vehicles in all LEASE VEHICLE(S) capital line items with cost averages**

CITY **WRAP-UP REQUEST BY HEBERT – Budget to prepare amendment to add 15 bus shelters**

JOINT **WRAP-UP REQUEST BY GUILBEAU – TRB to provide a 2-year history of the cost savings associated with Geaux Mow implementation**

Manning Table

- *No action was taken in this section.*

► Comments from the Public

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

PUBLIC WORKS & PUBLIC WORKS CAPITAL PROJECTS:

Chair Boudreaux offered remarks on capital proposals within the budget document, particularly as it relates to City Hall renovations and the determination that the additional time may be warranted to assess the bond reserve funds that would be dedicated for this purpose.

Operating Expenses

Page 242 – **CITY **GENERAL AMENDMENT BY BOUDREAUX** – To transfer vehicle subsidy lease amount from Fund 4850 to Fund 4610 to align with salary and benefit accounts; 08-07-2025 Amendment #5, as provided by Finance**

Page 251 – **JOINT **GENERAL AMENDMENT BY RUBIN** – To adjust the salaries and benefits of (1) Fleet Superintendent and (1) Fleet Mechanic Supervisor to add promotional dollars for proposed restructuring of the Vehicle Maintenance Division, 08-07-2025 Amendment (unnumbered), as provided by Finance**

Page 255 – **JOINT **GENERAL AMENDMENT BY RUBIN** – To adjust the salaries and benefits of (1) Environmental Quality Manager and add promotional dollars for Proposed Public Works Reorganization; 08-07-2025 Amendment #4, as provided by Finance**

5-Year Capital

Page 394 – **PARISH **WRAP-UP REQUEST BY STANSBURY** – Stansbury will revisit line item 22 LARRIVIERE RD IMPROVEMENTS on page 394 following consultation with City of Broussard on capital needs, which could result in this appropriation being allocated toward a different purpose**

Page 405 – **CITY **GENERAL AMENDMENT BY BOUDREAUX** – Zero out line item 163 CITY HALL IMPROVEMENTS on page 405 and restore its funding to the original source**

2026 Capital

Page 426 – **PARISH **WRAP-UP REQUEST BY STANSBURY** – PW to provide list of projects to be covered by BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS-PARISH and PARISH DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS line items on page 426**

Manning Table

- *No action was taken in this section.*

► Comments from the Public

Council Clerk Gordon-Wiltz announced that two (2) citizens signed in to support improvements/renovations to City-Parish Hall, but did not wish to speak.

- **Thomasina Oliver** addressed the Councils in support of improvements/renovations to City-Parish Hall from the employee perspective, noting that the building was never intended to be a municipal complex.
- **John Ricaud** addressed the Councils in support of improvements/renovations to City-Parish Hall from the employee perspective, citing examples of poor restroom facilities and workspace deficiencies.

LEGAL/CITY PROSECUTOR:

City-Parish Attorney Pat Ottinger offered brief opening remarks on his department's proposed budget.

Operating Expenses

Page 188 – **CITY **GENERAL AMENDMENT BY BOUDREAUX** – To increase Temporary Employees appropriation for City Prosecutor's Office 08-07-2025 Amendment #6, as provided by Finance**

Manning Table

- *No action was taken in this section.*

► **Comments from the Public**

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

MAYOR-PRESIDENT’S OFFICE:

Mayor-President Monique Boulet offered brief opening remarks on her office’s proposed budget.

Operating Expenses

- *No action was taken in this section.*

2026 Capital

- *No action was taken in this section.*

Manning Table

Page 442 – PARISH ****GENERAL AMENDMENT BY RUBIN** – To change the name of Position #1400-1 from “Ombudsman” to “Criminal Justice Liaison”; 08-07-2025 Amendment #12, as provided by Finance**

► **Comments from the Public**

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

FINANCE:

CFO Karen Fontenot offered brief opening remarks on her department’s proposed budget.

Operating Expenses

Page 196 – JOINT ****GENERAL AMENDMENT BY RUBIN** – To adjust the printing & binding expense for color budget book produced in conjunction with Tyler ERP system; 08-07-2025 Amendment #7, as provided by Finance**

Page 197 – CITY ****GENERAL AMENDMENT BY BOUDREAUX** – To adjust the FY26 Police Retiree COLA estimate; 08-07-2025 Amendment #8, as provided by Finance**

CITY ****GENERAL AMENDMENT BY BOUDREAUX** – To adjust the FY26 Fire Retiree COLA estimate; 08-07-2025 Amendment #9, as provided by Finance**

Page 199 – PARISH ****WRAP-UP REQUEST BY STANSBURY** – Finance to provide information on proposed amount vs. projected amount vs. actual amount for line item 1050-0170-740000-FD2790 INT APP-PARISHWIDE FIRE PROTECT on page 199**

Page 200 – CITY ****GENERAL AMENDMENT BY BOUDREAUX** – To correct reserve amounts for Fund 2110 Golf Cart Fund for FY25 & FY 26 (Housekeeping amendment); 08-07-2025 Amendment #10, as provided by Finance**

Page 201 – PARISH ****GENERAL AMENDMENT BY RUBIN** – To adjust the Election Expense accounts based on updated estimated election costs (Housekeeping amendment); 08-07-2025 Amendment #11, as provided by Finance**

Page 205 – CITY ****WRAP-UP REQUEST BY BOUDREAUX** – Zero out line item 4850-0170-74000-FD2620 INT APP-CORRECTIONAL CENTER FD in the amount of \$1,000,000 on page 205 and create new line items CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 1 CAPITAL in the amount of \$100,000, CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 2 in the amount of \$100,000, CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 3 CAPITAL in the amount of \$100,000, CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT CAPITAL in the amount of \$100,000, CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 5 CAPITAL in the amount of \$100,000, and DOWNTOWN CAPITAL in the amount of \$500,000**

PARISH ****WRAP-UP REQUEST BY RUBIN** – Budget to prepare an amendment to add funding in the amount of \$60,000 for summer camp program**

2026 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.*

CAO:

CAO Rachel Godeaux offered brief opening remarks on her office's proposed budget.

Operating Expenses

- *No action was taken in this section.*

2026 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.*

COUNCIL OFFICE:

Clerk of the Council Joseph Gordon-Wiltz offered brief opening remarks on his office's proposed budget.

Operating Expenses

Page 156 – **JOINT **GENERAL AMENDMENT BY BOUDREAUX – To decrease Printing & Binding expense and increase Dues & Licenses appropriation; 08-07-2025 Amendment #13, as provided by Finance****

JOINT **GENERAL AMENDMENT BY BOUDREAUX – To remove Uniforms appropriation, reduce Printing & Binding expense, and increase Travel& Meeting-Registration appropriation; 08-07-2025 Amendment #14, as provided by Finance**

JOINT **GENERAL AMENDMENT BY BOUDREAUX – To decrease Printing and Binding expense and increase Travel & Meetings appropriation; 08-07-2025 Amendment #15, as provided by Finance**

JOINT **GENERAL AMENDMENT BY BOUDREAUX – To decrease Publication & Recordation expense and increase Travel & Meetings appropriation; 08-07-2025 Amendment #16, as provided by Finance**

PARISH **WRAP-UP REQUEST BY RUBIN – Budget to prepare an amendment for replacement laptop computer for Parish Council District 5 in the amount of \$1,500**

PARISH **WRAP-UP REQUEST BY RUBIN – Budget to prepare an amendment to create a line item under Parish Council section in the Council Office and appropriate \$8,000 to it from Parish General Fund to cover costs associated with hosting the 2026 Police Jury Association of Louisiana Region 3 Meeting**

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 19, 2025 at 5:15 p.m. He declared the conclusion of this afternoon's briefing and stated that the next budget briefing will be held on Tuesday, August 12, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. for Fire and Police Civil Service, Cajundome, City Marshal, City Court, Fire, Police, and Parks, Arts, Recreation & Culture (PARC), then at 1:00 p.m. for LUS, LPPA, and Communications System (LFT Fiber). There being no further business, the briefing was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.