

BUDGET BRIEFING – JOINT

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2025; 9:00 A.M.

705 West University Avenue, Council Auditorium, Lafayette, Louisiana

Community Development & Planning, Innovation & Technology, Radio Communications System Manager (911/ Lafayette Parish Communications District), Municipal Civil Service

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), and Thomas Hooks (City District 4)

Absent: Liz Hebert (City District 3)

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

(09:00) COMMENCEMENT:

City Finance Chair Kenneth Boudreaux called the budget briefing to order. He then asked Andy Naquin to offer the invocation and Donald Richard 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. He announced that City Councilwoman Liz Hebert would be unable to attend this morning’s briefing, but plans to attend today’s afternoon briefing, and that Parish Finance Chair AB Rubin and City Councilman Elroy Broussard are running late.

BUDGET PRESENTATION – FINANCE:

CFO Karen Fontenot offered a high-level presentation on the proposed FY 2025-2026 budget, to include budget highlights of the new budget book, the balanced budget, compliance with fund balance policies, the 2% cost of living adjustment, group health insurance premiums reduction by 7.5%, property insurance premiums reduction by 3%, City-Parish allocation changes, and the employer contribution rates to the respective retirement systems. Her presentation provided an overview of Parish-wide revenues and expenditures, City-wide revenues and expenditures, and LCG entity-wide revenues and expenditures.

JOINT **WRAP-UP REQUEST BY BOUDREAUX – Finance to provide a breakdown of the total budget of \$803.3 million; also, incorporate same into next year’s budget presentation**

JOINT **WRAP-UP REQUEST BY GUILBEAU – Finance to provide a graph of all unfunded mandates**

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING:

Community Development & Planning Director Tammy Luke offered brief opening remarks on her department's proposed budget.

Operating Expenses

Page 306 – Chair Boudreaux wanted it on record that the EXT APP-NEIGHBORHOOD COTERIES in the amount of \$30,000 is still in place for the purpose of equal distribution to the neighborhood coteries, to which Director Luke responded in the affirmative. He also questioned whether the LEGAL FEES-ADJUDICATED PROP line item in the amount of \$100,000 is for the purpose of title clearing for adjudicated properties, to which Director Luke responded in the affirmative.

Page 312 – Chair Boudreaux noted the proposed reduction to the Acadiana Center for the Arts and Lafayette Mardi Gras Association, then proposed restorative allocations.

JOINT **GENERAL AMENDMENT BY BOUDREAUX – To increase line item ACADIANA CENTER FOR THE ARTS by \$50,000 on page 312**

JOINT **GENERAL AMENDMENT BY BOUDREAUX – To increase line item LAFAYETTE MARDI GRAS ASSOCIATION by \$5,000* on page 312**

Page 318 – **PARISH **GENERAL AMENDMENT BY STANSBURY – To remove external appropriation which was only needed for one-time Opioid funding contract; 08-07-2025 Amendment #1, as provided by Finance****

Chair Rubin questioned the balance of the opioid settlement fund, to which Chief of Staff Christina Dayries responded that we have received a total of \$4,142,064.32, with \$2,277,927 allocated, and a balance of 1,864,137.32.

5-Year Capital

Page 404 – Chair Boudreaux noted the 20-year age of Acadiana Center for the Arts, which is owned by the City of Lafayette, and emphasized the importance of supporting a degree of its capital needs.

CITY **WRAP-UP REQUEST BY BOUDREAUX – Create a line item (with funding source to be identified) for ACADIANA CENTER FOR THE ARTS capital**

2026 Capital

Page 433 – **JOINT **WRAP-UP REQUEST BY NAQUIN – CDP to provide status update on RAILS-TO-TRAILS LEGAL WORK****

Manning Table

- *No action was taken in this section.*

► Comments from the Public

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

INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY:

Chief Information Officer Matthew Duhon offered brief opening remarks on the Innovation & Technology Department's proposed budget.

Operating Expenses

Page 215 – **JOINT **GENERAL AMENDMENT BY BOUDREAUX – To adjust the salary and benefits for (1) Director's Executive Secretary due to Equity Pay Adjustment; 08-07-2025 Amendment #3, as provided by Finance****

Page 157/216 – **JOINT **GENERAL AMENDMENT BY BOUDREAUX – To adjust the SaaS cost for Debt book and Contract Works software (housekeeping amendment); 08-07-2025 Amendment #2, as provided by Finance****

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.*

RADIO COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM MANAGER (911/LAFAYETTE PARISH COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT):

Operating Expenses

- *No action was taken in this section.*

► Comments from the Public

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

MUNICIPAL CIVIL SERVICE:

Civil Service Director Adam Marcantel offered brief opening remarks on his department's proposed budget.

Operating Expenses

- *No action was taken in this section.*

Manning Table

Page 459 – Chair Boudreaux requested that Civil Service Department work with the Council Office to determine whether there may be additional personnel needs, in light of there not having been an increase in staffing levels over many years, to which Director Marcantel agreed.

► 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 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, Mayor-President's Office, CAO, and Council Office. There being no further business, the briefing was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.