

Lafayette Consolidated Government

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Large Council Briefing Room, 705 W. University Ave., Lafayette, LA 70506

Attendees: Budget Committee members Ken Stansbury, John Guilbeau, Kenneth Boudreaux, Thomas Hooks, Clerk of the Council Veronica Arceneaux, Assistant Clerk of Council Joseph Gordon-Wiltz, Mayor-President Monique Boulet, CAO Rachel Godeaux, Chief of Staff Christina Dayries, Chief Financial Officer Karen Fontenot, Budget Manager Denise Deville, Chief Budget Analyst Deosha Matthews, Senior Budget Analyst Jason Gilbert & Financial Analyst Laura Grettner

Absent: None

1. Call to Order

The meeting began at 3:04pm.

2. Update on the FY 2024-25 Proposed Budget

A handout containing the agenda, 2025 Proposed Ad Valorem Tax Increase, and FY24/25 Proposed Pay Plan Synopsis were distributed.

Brief discussion on the Proposed Ad Valorem Tax revenue. Proposing a 4.7% increase in revenue for the City and a 5.6% revenue increase for the Parish based on advice from the Assessor.

Discussion on the difference between 2% pay adjustment and the pay plan being proposed in the FY 2024-25 budget.

Godeaux explained that the proposed pay plan would increase the hourly rate to a minimum of \$12/hour to increase the employee retention and LCG's ability to provide basic services.

Some vacant positions were eliminated at the advice of departmental directors creating some savings.

Discussion of vacancies and new positions included in the FY 2024-25 Proposed Budget.

Stansbury asked how the proposed pay plan will effect the higher paid employees. Godeaux responded that the pay plan is percentage based; therefore, the higher paid eligible employees will receive a 2% increase. Godeaux also stated that a full market adjustment would cost about \$14 million and hasn't been done for 15 years.

Guilbeau questioned the employee retention. Godeaux stated that 75% of employees who have left LCG stated they were leaving for better pay.

General discussion on who was eligible for raises.

Hooks requested analysis of personnel costs as it relates to revenues. Hooks also asked if the 2% COLA will be included in future years based on the proposed pay plan. Fontenot stated that the 2% COLA ordinance will be reviewed for future periods to consider expenditures as well as revenues in the calculation.

Fontenot gave update on MERS liability. The budgeted line item for the MERS liability has not been decreased in the proposed budget due to unpaid batches and un-invoiced batches.

Fontenot advised that there will be no proposed changes to the group insurance premium for FY 2024-25.

Fontenot also advised that the proposed budget will include two newly created capital funds for each sales tax dedication. Projects and account balances that were previously budgeted in Fund 401 Sales Tax Cap Improv-City have been transferred to Fund 461 – 1961 Sales Tax Cap Improv-City and Fund 485- 1985 Sales Tax Cap Improv-City.

Mayor-President Boulet addressed ways that the administration is planning to reduce costs. Implementation of vehicle leasing freeing up \$3.75 million for other capital items. The proceeds from sale of old vehicles will be applied to the lease. Having a safety consultant evaluate each department and mitigate reduction in preventable accidents.

Fontenot explained new section under the Coroner's Office – SANE.

Discussion of the administration's Fund Balance policies. This administration has included a new Fund Balance policy for the Parish General Fund.

Guilbeau requested that the policy be introduced and adopted via an ordinance.

3. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 4:12pm.