

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES ELECTRONIC-CONDUCTED (VIRTUAL) MEETING

January 26, 2021

In Attendance

Chairman Chip Henderson called the Special Strategic Planning meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. via electronic means. He yielded the chair of the meeting to Councilwoman Carol Berz, Budget and Finance Committee Chair. In addition to Chairman Henderson and Councilwoman Berz, a quorum was present that included Vice-Chairman Ken Smith and Councilpersons Demetrus Coonrod, Russell Gilbert, Darrin Ledford, Jerry Mitchell, and Erskine Oglesby, Jr. Other panelists present via electronic means: Phil Noblett, City Attorney, and Nicole Gwyn, Council Clerk. Councilman Anthony Byrd was not present. Video of this electronic meeting is available for viewing [here](#).

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Gilbert, the minutes of the last meeting (January 12, 2021) were approved as published.

Today's Agenda

Councilwoman Berz recognized Councilman Mitchell, who made comments on his wishes going forward in the budget process. **Councilman Mitchell moved** to turn over the Council's budget work to Administration, the incoming Council, and the incoming Mayor. Councilman Ledford seconded.

Councilwoman Berz then made introductory remarks about the district input on the FY22 Operating and Capital Budgets. She then instructed the Clerk to share the Council's presentation regarding feedback from their districts on the budgets.

Presentation: Council District Concerns

The presentation included information from the Council in the following order:

- A. District 1 - Chairman Henderson
- B. District 2 - Councilman Mitchell
- C. District 3 - Vice-Chairman Smith
- D. District 4 - Councilman Ledford
- E. District 5 - Councilman Gilbert
- F. District 6 - Councilwoman Berz
- G. District 7 - Councilman Oglesby
- H. District 8 - Councilman Byrd
- I. District 9 - Councilwoman Coonrod

(Presentation Slides Attached)

Council Discussion

Discussion ensued about prioritizing these district concerns. Councilwoman Berz informed the Council that she would prioritize the lists of concerns.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Councilwoman Berz adjourned the meeting at 2:07 p.m.

FY22 Operating & Capital Budgets: District Concerns

CHATTANOOGA CITY COUNCIL
January 26, 2021

District 1: Chairman Henderson

District 1 is focused on the following budget concerns:

1. Road Paving
2. Employee Pay (sworn & non-sworn)
3. Workforce Development

District 2: Councilman Mitchell

Safer Streets

- Adequate funding for upkeep of streets and sidewalks. A permanent percentage of the budget ordinance should be considered for improved upkeep and additions.
- Continued speed calming efforts in neighborhoods

Growing Economy

- Increased business recruitment
- Small and minority business incentives
- Increased and more efficient public transportation
- Increased workforce training and development including an apprenticeship program for future city employees
- Create a more coordinated and better funded approach to affordable housing

Stronger Neighborhoods

- Increased transparency in planning and development
- Increased transparency and consistency in code enforcement including steep slopes
- A partnership with the community addressing homelessness
- More emphasis on standards for upkeep and improvement of parks

Smarter students and stronger families

- Update facilities and increased resources for YFD
- Increase early childhood learning as well as affordable childcare

District 3: Vice-Chairman Smith

Much of what I have been hearing from constituents mirrors those of the neighboring District 2 feedback. However, District 3 is heavily focused on the following:

Safer Streets

- Adequate (much more) funding for upkeep of streets and sidewalks.
 - A permanent percentage of the budget ordinance should be considered for improved upkeep and additions.
- Continued speed calming efforts in neighborhoods

District 4: Councilman Ledford

The District 4 participant responses included in the Executive Branch's FY22 Budget Public Input Report identified increased funding for *mental health resources and the use of ambulances* as the District's chief concerns, as acknowledged in the staff presentation, these insights are unreliable. Input was received from 15 individuals that were not selected utilizing any form of statistical random sampling. As described, the process appears very prone to misrepresentation, considering input was most likely obtained from individuals that do not represent the average District 4 resident.

Information derived from community meetings, polls, and constituent contact with the district 4 representative is much more reliable and verifiable. Community and neighborhood meetings coupled with the Office of Internal Audit's annual Community Survey provides much more reliable insights about citizens' concerns.

Based on continual community engagement by Councilman Ledford and review of the Community Survey, it appears District 4 constituents continue to be primarily concerned about street conditions, traffic congestion, and increased public safety presence. Although we have seen a much-needed increase in paving allocations over the last four years, more funding and focus are needed. An increase in infrastructure investment, a continued dedication to public safety, and public works services certainly echo the district's main concerns.

Information based on feedback and data collected over the last four-years by way of joint community city/county meetings, online poll, numerous neighborhood associations, business stakeholders, and the Office of IA Community Survey.

Safer Streets

- Traffic calming mitigation investment in infrastructure (roundabouts, widening of roads, etc.)
- Regular litter pick up scheduling
- Improved enforcement of speeding and the use of technology devices while driving
- Resurfacing of roads before meeting critical low PCI ratings
- Completion and implementation of a TAMP (Transportation Asset Management Program)
- Strengthening resources needed to address stormwater-related issues

Growing Economy

- Clearer agency expectations with no surprises at the permit level for growing businesses
- Recruitment of businesses that allow flexibility for an expanding and changing business environment
- Increase in housing options that meet a growing and diverse growing economy

Stronger Neighborhoods

- Increase in service and solutions addressing a growing homeless population
- Increase in promoting neighborhood watch programs
- Reinforcing building community relationships with CPD
- Improved enforcement of speeding and the use of technology devices while driving
- Full funding and staffing of our police and fire departments, including new recruitment and retention practices

Smarter Students & Stronger Families

- District 4 does not have a city-owned recreational or YFD facility. Still, the JB Heritage Park and Heritage House provide families and organizations with the environment to share in cultural, educational, and community activities.
- Continued improvements to JB Heritage Park and Heritage House is a must for a vital and healthy East Brainerd

District 5: Councilman Gilbert

Safer Streets

- Paving More Roads in District 5

Growing Economy

- Finish Area 10 Plan
- Provide Incentives for Business to Locate In District 5

Stronger Neighborhoods

- More Police Present
- Affordable Housing by Providing More R-1
- Keep Community Cleaner

Smarter Students & Stronger Families

- Programs Center on Trade School

District 6: Councilwoman Berz

Although the 14± District 6 participant responses included in the Executive Branch's FY22 Budget Public Input Report identified Increased Business Development and Job Creation as the District's chief concerns, the information derived from community meetings, polls and constituent contacts with Councilwoman Berz's office are much more expansive.

District 6 constituents continue to be concerned about the lack of equity in City resource allocation relative to the needs of the District. The bulk of monetary infrastructure resources attributed to the District actually go to Enterprise South which, while located in District 6, does not represent the quality of life concerns of community members. For clarity purposes, the top interests in District 6, as set out in the Mayor's BFO format, and in no particular order of importance, are as follows:

Safer Streets

- Invasion of homeless camps/nighttime property crime
- Panhandling, aggressive and passive
- Litter along the streets
- Speed calming on neighborhood streets
- Infrastructure repair, especially roads/potholes
- Lack of timely completion of Standifer Gap Bridge repairs
- Lost grant opportunities for sidewalks, connecting live/work/play interests

Growing Economy

- Government's inequitable definition of "underserved" when allocating resources for increased business development and job creation
- Public transportation and sidewalk development to connect people to education and work

Stronger Neighborhoods

- Insufficient code enforcement to protect neighborhood integrity
- Inequitable definition of "underserved" when referring to neighborhood needs
- Speed calming on neighborhood streets
- Impact of homeless camps/nighttime property crime/litter on property enjoyment and value

Smarter Students & Stronger Families

- Increased resources for YFD functions for children and their families who need additional educational and nutritional help
- Public transportation and sidewalk development to connect people to education and work

District 7: Councilman Oglesby

Safer Streets

- Security cameras linked to CPD
- More sidewalks
- Street repairs (potholes) and more street paving
- Speed calming on neighborhood streets
- Homeless camps

Growing Economy

- Small business growth and support
- Increase public transportation
- Job training programs
- Youth employment

Stronger Neighborhoods

- Blighted property & abandon houses
- Monitor/enforce code enforcement
- Litter on streets
- More bus service
- Need for affordable housing
- Cultural activities

Smarter Students & Stronger Families

- Increase sports activities in YFD Centers
- Increase educational programs in YFD Centers
- Upgrade YFD facilities

District 8: Councilman Byrd

I agree strongly with my colleagues on all levels. My most important request for District 8:

High Performing Government

- Creation of a budgeting system that better measures performance and results.

District 9: Councilwoman Coonrod

Safer Streets

1. Light areas that are conducive to crime
2. Sidewalk repair/ New sidewalks for walkability
3. Beautify intersections
4. Pedestrian crosswalks
5. Streets paved
6. Prevention programs
7. Timed traffic signals and flashing lights
8. Plant trees
9. Median strips
10. YFD safe zones
11. Strengthen relationship with police/fire and community

Growing Economy

1. Improve public services
2. Use federal funding to reduce poverty
3. Reduce digital divide
4. Infrastructure/ Improve roads
5. Address determinants of health
6. \$15 minimum wage
7. Business recruitment

Stronger Neighborhoods

1. Targeted investment
2. Green space
3. Passive parks
4. Public Art
5. New or Renovation of YFD sites
6. YFD sites as a community hub
7. Implement drafted community plans

Smart Students & Stronger Families

1. Art education in all YFD sites
2. Accessible coding classes
3. Reduce digital divide
4. Reduce poverty
5. Address determinants of health