



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

Finance Advisory and Audit Committee

Monday, September 16, 2024
1:00 PM

Conference Rooms
1A & 1B
Columbia City Hall
701 E. Broadway

I. CALL TO ORDER

Randy Minchew and Brian Toohey were sworn in.

Oropallo called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00p.

Attending from City of Columbia's Finance Department was Matthew Lue, James McDonald, Deep Debnath, Shane Edwards, and Clarissa English

Community Attendees included Jim Windsor and Mike Murphy

Present: 4 - Maria Oropallo, Thomas Richards, Randy Minchew and Brian Toohey

Absent: 3 - Kristian Bloom, Karilee Gruenberg and Chris Prestigiacomo

II. INTRODUCTIONS

No introductions were made.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Richards motioned to approve the agenda, Minchew seconded; motion carries unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minchew motioned to approve the minutes, Richards seconded; motion carries unanimously.

V. OLD BUSINESS

No discussion.

No discussion.

Lue explained the FY25 Budget will be voted on by Council at that night's meeting. He reviewed high dollar amendments, including:

1. Vehicles \$4 million dollars with \$1.4 million for new police cars,
2. Overall, the new budget total of \$563M is a 3% from last year
3. Personnel costs, which were raised by 3.5% to bring City employees on par with the CPI This also included 30 new positions, more than one third going to public safety.

Minchew commented that the City was at 300 vacancies at the beginning of the year, but currently the City is at 100 vacancies.

Richards spoke of comparing the proposed FY25 budget to last year's budget, and asked if the City has reconciled back to actual. He also asked if the 30 new positions were in addition to former vacancy numbers. Lue responded they were new positions, bringing the 100 vacancies to 130.

Richards asked if positions were eliminated. He also commented that these discussions go back to clarifying the committee's purpose to advise the Council without this information. Richards added that a clear presentation of the numbers was needed or it would impact trust.

Lue responded that the Police had combined positions, dropped a position, and added a different one. He added that Human Resources publishes a reconciliation report on how many positions the City actually has, vs. how many are new/filled.

Oropallo asked when this report will be available. Lue responded end of October, possibly. Oropallo responded the timing was a problem, as the report is issued after the new budget is approved.

Minchew mentioned that he has heard the public wants to see and understand critical information, and people say the City is not being transparent. Debnath explained how staff provides information, accessible on the City's website.

Richards asked what percentage of the budget was salaries and benefits, Lue responded 60% of budget, adding that personnel costs and how it affects the budget is often discussed.

Not presented due to lack of quorum during time of presentation.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Not Presented due to lack of quorum during time of presentation.

Oropallo offered an explanation of why the meetings were held on the second Council Monday that allowed for greater access to the Council Agenda and ability to advise Council on fiscal matters.

Minchew made a motion for the current Finance Advisory and Audit Committee meeting schedule to remain unchanged, Richards seconded; motion carries unanimously.

VII. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF

None.

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

October 21, 2024

IX. ADJOURNMENT

At 1:50 pm, Toohey left the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 1:50pm due to loss of quorum.