

City Council Policy

CITY BUDGET COMMITTEE (STANDING COMMITTEE)

Budget Process

PURPOSE:

Once a year, the City Council approves a budget that outlines the policies and fiscal actions to be taken by the City. The Budget Committee is a standing committee that reviews the proposed operating and capital budget each fiscal year and makes a recommendation on the budget to the City Council for final enactment. The budget process is structured each year to achieve the fiscal and policy goals for the upcoming fiscal year as well as periodically review and provide policy guidance to staff related to budgetary analysis and fiscal action plans and provide reports to the City Council for review and or action.

This committee shall consider and make recommendations to the Council on matters relating to:

- Revenues
- Expenditures
- Capital Improvement projects
- Fiscal Planning and Policies;
- Taxes and Fees;
- Investment Policy;
- Debt; and
- Such related fiscal issues as may be referred to it by the Council.

COMMITTEE MAKE UP:

The Budget Committee shall consist of the following:

- Two Councilmembers appointed by the City Council through Council Committee Assignments
- City Manager
- Assistant City Manager/City Clerk
- Administrative Services Director

POSTING OF AGENDAS:

Whether or not a regular meeting schedule is adopted, an agenda shall be posted for each standing committee meeting not later than 72 hours before any meeting.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT:

Public involvement shall be encouraged in the annual budget decision-making process through Standing Committee meetings, public hearings, public outreach, and the dissemination of accessible information. Public participation efforts will allow the City to improve performance by identifying public needs, priorities and service delivery expectations. Increased public involvement will allow the City to be more responsive to community needs, thereby increasing the value that the public receives from City government.

ATTENDANCE BY COUNCILMEMBERS NOT ON THE COMMITTEE:

Members of the Council who are not members of a standing committee may attend any open and noticed meeting of a standing committee provided that they act only as observers. It is suggested that Members do not make any comments.

REQUESTS OF STAFF:

Standing Committee Councilmembers may request research from staff on new ideas to allow them to report back to the standing committee and if the standing committee supports the idea, the idea will be presented to City Council for direction or a vote.

BUDGET PROCESS:

The budgeting process has four parts. The budget is: 1) prepared, 2) approved, 3) adopted, and 4) executed.

A fiscal year begins July 1 and ends June 30. From February to June, every year, City staff, the Mayor and City Council work together to create a balanced budget by June 30, as required by law.

PROPOSED BUDGET COMMITTEE PROCESS:

1. The City administrative team will be responsible for producing an initial recommended draft Budget to submit to the Budget Committee. The administrative team will consist of the City Manager, Assistant City Manager/City Clerk, and Administrative Services Director.
2. Department Directors will submit departmental budgets each year to the Administrative Services Director upon established timelines.
3. Upon receipt of the departmental budget requests, the Administrative Services Director will prepare a draft budget document to be used for review by the City administrative team.
4. This team will meet with Department Heads as needed, consider departmental budgetary requests as appropriate, and complete any other steps needed to provide the Budget Committee with an initial recommended draft Budget. The initial recommended draft Budget will be accompanied by a written report to the Budget Committee, providing an overview of the budget, summarizing any specific challenges presented by that year's budget, summarizing changes made by the Team to Departmental budgets; and identifying any unresolved issues to be addressed by the Budget Committee. The information submitted to the Budget Committee will include any background information the City administrative team believes will be relevant to the Budget Committee's decision-making regarding unresolved issues to be addressed by the Budget Committee. This initial draft Budget submitted to the Budget Committee will include draft versions of all portions of the final Budget for the year. This step will be an internal City staff process to be completed before Budget Committee meetings begin.

The Budget Committee will receive the initial recommended draft Budget produced by the administrative team, and will meet to discuss the recommendations of the administrative team. The Budget Committee will not hold individual meetings with Department Directors unless specifically requested by the Budget Committee. The Budget Committee will rely on the internal City staff process to do the necessary research and analysis to support the recommendations in the initial recommended draft Budget, and will focus on reviewing that document as well as any other materials provided by the administrative team, and addressing any unresolved issues. The Budget Committee will review and revise the initial recommended draft Budget as needed, and will produce a final draft Budget to be presented to the City Council at a duly noticed public hearing for discussion, review, and approval.

In addition to the process above, the Administrative Services Director shall be responsible for:

1. Prepare a Budget Calendar for Fiscal Year Budget and take to City Council for approval
2. Request budget input from all Department Directors
3. Request budget input from Community Benefit Grant Applicants
4. Prepare a draft budget as listed above
5. Shall be responsible for publishing all the notices required by Government Statute.
6. Shall be responsible for monitoring budget expenditures during the budget year and notifying the Council of the need to make any budget changes required after adoption.