



Louisville Metro Government

601 W. Jefferson Street
Louisville, KY 40202

Action Summary - Tentative Budget Committee

Chair Bill Hollander (D-9)
Vice Chair Kevin Kramer (R-11)
Committee Member Jecorey Arthur (D-4)
Committee Member Paula McCraney (D-7)
Committee Member Cassie Chambers Armstrong (D-8)
Committee Member Cindi Fowler (D-14)
Committee Member Markus Winkler (D-17)
Committee Member Anthony Piagentini (R-19)
Committee Member Nicole George (D-21)
Committee Member Robin Engel (R-22)
Committee Member Brent Ackerson (D-26)

Thursday, March 18, 2021

5:00 PM

Council Chambers/Virtually

Call to Order

Chair Hollander called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Roll Call

Chair Hollander introduced the committee members present. A quorum was established.

***NOTE: All committee members present attended virtually.**

Present: 11 - Committee Member Jecorey Arthur (D-4), Committee Member Paula McCraney (D-7), Committee Member Cassie Chambers Armstrong (D-8), Chair Bill Hollander (D-9), Vice Chair Kevin Kramer (R-11), Committee Member Cindi Fowler (D-14), Committee Member Markus Winkler (D-17), Committee Member Anthony Piagentini (R-19), Committee Member Nicole George (D-21), Committee Member Robin Engel (R-22), and Committee Member Brent Ackerson (D-26)

Support Staff

LaTonya Bell, Council Financial Analyst
Beth Stenberg, Council Financial Analyst
Hollie Hopkins, Jefferson County Attorney's Office

Clerk(s)

Sonya Harward, Clerk

Special Discussion

1. [ID 21-0298](#)

Quality of Life Budget Issues:

Lee Burchfield, Louisville Free Public Library

Robert Kirchdorfer, Codes and Regulations

Krista Snider, Belle of Louisville Riverboats

Deborah Bilitski, Waterfront Development Corporation

Attachments: [Presentation - Belle of Louisville - 3-18-21.pdf](#)

Lee Burchfield, Louisville Free Public Library ("LFPL"), gave an overview of the library system, which included the following:

- Provided numbers regarding use of the libraries
- LFPL addresses critical issues in the community by supporting people in their 'cradle to career' lifelong learning pursuit
- Biggest challenge is the need for more funding - this year LFPL had its largest budget, \$22.3M, which is still low compared to other similar library systems
- Capital and private funds used to build new spectacular libraries, but other libraries have not had needed improvements
- Reference to 2008 Master Plan and the cost to operate the libraries included within

The following also spoke to this item:

- Chair Hollander
- Committee Member Piagentini
- Committee Member Winkler

The following was also discussed:

- Hope for a bold plan for LFPL from the Administration in the proposed budget
- Timely reopening of libraries as schools are also reopening
- Significant budget surplus predicted a year ago before the pandemic
- Support for investment in LFPL
- Not allowing a global pandemic to be the reason for making significant changes to how local government is structured
- Ways in which LFPL can use additional community resources to expand access, and reduce costs, and co-locate at sites like Neighborhood Places

Robert Kirchdorfer, Codes and Regulations, gave an overview of Codes and Regulations, which included the following:

- Four separate divisions: Property Maintenance, Vacant Lots Crew, Construction Review, Specialty License Group
- Extra funding provided recently by the Council
- Grass cutting begins around April 15th and plans for cutting of vacant and Landbank lots
- Expanding graffiti routes
- Currently hiring the crews

The following also spoke to this item:

- Committee Member Fowler

- Committee Member George
- Committee Member Arthur
- Chair Hollander

The following was discussed:

- Hiring of two inspectors for positions recently funded by the Council
 - Request to address abatement issue at flood wall in Kosmosdale
 - Cases received every year that are the result of community misunderstanding of expectations
 - Being intentional in communications with the public regarding expectations
 - Yardening, or gardening in a yard, and whether there are any laws allowing this and what happens if done without certain permissions
 - Important to show people what is being done with their tax dollars
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Deborah Bilitski, Waterfront Development Corporation, gave a brief history of how the Waterfront Development Corporation came to operate and oversee the management of the Belle of Louisville.

Krista Snider, Belle of Louisville Riverboats, gave a presentation (see attached hereto).

The following also spoke to this item:

- Chair Hollander
- Committee Member Engel
- Committee Member Arthur
- Committee Member Winkler
- Vice Chair Kramer

The following was discussed:

- Ordinance to be introduced the following week regarding funding for the Belle of Louisville
- Revenue the Belle of Louisville took in during 2018 and 2019
- The Belle of Louisville being some peoples' first (and only) experience of being on the water
- Plans to make sure the Belle of Louisville is accessible to everyone
- Appreciation for the multi-year plan and transparency
- Membership and the membership drive
- Request for Krista Snider and Deborah Bilitski to attend the April 15th meeting

Pending Legislation

2. [O-077-21](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 072, SERIES 2020 RELATING TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 CAPITAL BUDGET OF THE LOUISVILLE/JEFFERSON COUNTY METRO GOVERNMENT BY APPROPRIATING \$30,700,000 FROM THE GENERAL FUND FOR MID-YEAR CAPITAL NEEDS TO PUBLIC WORKS & ASSETS, PARKS & RECREATION, LIBRARY, AND FACILITIES & FLEET DEFERRED MAINTENANCE, AND AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 073, SERIES 2020 RELATING TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 OPERATING BUDGET OF THE LOUISVILLE/JEFFERSON COUNTY METRO GOVERNMENT TO ADJUST GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS/AUTHORIZATIONS AS A RESULT OF MID-YEAR FORECAST.

Sponsors: Primary Kevin Kramer (R-11) and Primary Mark H. Fox (D-13)

Attachments: [O-077-21 V.1 022521 Budget Transfers RE PW, Parks, Library, and Facilities.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Committee Member Piagentini, seconded by Committee Member Engel, that this Ordinance be recommended for approval.

The following spoke to this item:

- Chair Hollander
- Committee Member Winkler
- Committee Member Piagentini
- Committee Member Ackerson
- Vice Chair Kramer

The following was discussed:

- Having public comment regarding the funds and then appropriate it as part of the regular Budget process
- The funds not being appropriated for anything else at this time and cannot be used right now so nothing is being delayed by not appropriating it
- Significantly reduces flexibility and latitude regarding the federal funds coming to Louisville, and the need to wait on guidance on how the federal funds can be used
- Appropriating the funds now will allow the departments to begin planning
- Clarification of what Kentucky Senator Stivers stated regarding the use of the American Rescue Plan money
- Concerns about Administration making decisions on a proposed budget before the actual budget is passed
- The Belle of Louisville needing these funds to operate, which will be addressed by an Ordinance that is to be filed soon
- The need to fix Hikes Lane, which is a concrete road that crosses 7 Council Districts -- repairs currently estimated at over \$4M, with \$3.4M in matching funds from the state being available
- The current and past information provided by Jeff Brown from Public Works
- No anticipation that the funds being allocated in this Ordinance would be spent between now and July
- The Ordinance being about priorities, and the Council taking action to determine how excess funds are to be spent

- Funds needed for deferred maintenance
- Ratings system for sidewalks in need of repair, and the repairs to those on the list since 2018 have still not been completed because Public Works has not been given the necessary funds
- Funds provided to Public Works to catch up on street paving projects
- Using the excess funds rather than borrowing funds
- First figuring out what the federal money can be spent on since there will be restrictions on how it can be used, then determining how to spend the general budget funds since there are no restrictions on those

A motion was made by Committee Member Winkler, seconded by Committee Member Arthur, that this Ordinance be tabled.

The motion to table carried by the following vote:

- Yes:** 8 - Arthur, McCraney, Chambers Armstrong, Hollander, Fowler, Winkler, George, and Ackerson
- No:** 3 - Kramer, Piagentini, and Engel

Adjournment

Chair Hollander stated that he had sent the proposed Budget Hearing Calendar to the Council Members, and suggested they put the dates on their calendars, though there may be some slight changes made.

Without objection, Chair Hollander adjourned the meeting at 6:47 p.m.