

Captioning Transcript of Appropriations Committee Meeting - November 16, 2022

Vice Chair Reed

30 seconds.

Good afternoon. This is the regular appropriations meeting for November 16th and I am councilman Scott Reed. I'm the vice chair. Our chair Rick BLACKWELL has an excused absence.

It looks as though, uh, virtually we have councilwoman Bowens we have councilman Triplett and councilwoman Purvis and in chambers, we have councilman Peden and councilman Fox.

Um, a couple of items are not going to be heard today. That's item number 2.

And item number 10, so to start off and there was going to be a special discussion at the end of end of our business.

Item number 1 is 101 at 602. C.

404 appropriating 3548.

From district for neighborhood development funds to the office of management and budget to the California neighborhood leadership council Inc for the 1st ad, annual historical neighborhood storytelling forum

[Moved and seconded.]

Vice Chair Reed

Do we have anyone from councilman arteries office to discuss this to talk about it? And.

I don't see any 1 so I think, does anybody have any questions.

Um, seeing none, uh, this is calling for a voice vote, all those in favor say, aye aye.

Opposition, ayes have it, this will go to consent calendar.

Got it next is item number 3.

Well, because we're skipping out in number 2, and that's an ordinance appropriating 4,000 dollars from neighborhood development funds and the following manner 4,000 dollars from district 5 to the office of management and budget to 1,

West Corporation for costs associated with the winter wonderland event at shawny. Part do I have a motion

[Moved and seconded.]

Vice Chair Reed

This is a councilman.

Purvis's ordinance, which you like to talk to it.

Council Member Purvis

Yes, sir, thank you. Mr. chair. I'm supporting, um, this.

1st time hope to be annual Christmas event in shiny park title, winter, winter wonderland and, uh.

I would like for my colleagues to support this, and I would also request that it, uh, go to old business to solicit more financial support. Thank you.

Vice Chair Reed

Any questions.
This would take a local vote.
This will go to vote, please votes.

[Roll call vote taken.]

Sonya Harward

Vice Chair Reed you have 6 yes votes.

Vice Chair Reed

Thank you and this will go to old business. Where are we supposed to read the disclaimer?

Sonya Harward

We can if we want at this point. This meeting is being held pursuant to KRS 61.826 and council 5A.

Vice Chair Reed

Yeah, thanks trying to do things by the book. Um.
Moving on item number 4. ndf 1,010,602 P. R. A. 108. this is appropriating 5,000 dollars from district 18 neighborhood development funds to the office of management and budget to plain view residents association ink to replace trees that have died as a result of emerald. ink to replace trees that have died as a result of emerald And add to the quality of life in the surrounding area. Do I have a motion.

[Moved and seconded.]

Vice Chair Reed

I have been in contact with councilwoman Parkers office, and she asked for your support and.
Uh, to replace the trees that had died in are in a really nice area. So.

Committee Member Peden

With no questions I actually have a I have a tree question that yes, sir. Maybe nobody can answer at this point, but.
Has I know the is a big deal I mean, we're losing trees left and right it's really affecting, for instance, like a.
And the bat industry, because I used to make them out of ash.
And now they're going to look for alternatives, but my question is.
Have we made any inroads in.
Stopping this thing, I just anybody out there who knows, or listens or knows some environmental information. I mean, are there resistant strains of ash that are being created that are still just as good? I mean, I'm just really curious because.
I run this dates back to my beginnings on the council when our parks department was talking about it, just wiping out entire sections of. Of forested in our trees.

Vice Chair Reed

That's a very good question. I can't answer that, but perhaps somebody on the committee can, or could speak to it.

Nobody?

Committee Member Peden

all right. I'll just I'll try to find an arborist at some point it was just 1 of those things when I read what the purpose was. I'm like, man, that's been going on my entire time on his council.

Vice Chair Reed

Yeah.

Any other questions.

Seeing Don, this is recording media voice, vote all those in favor say, aye.

Uh, uh, an opposition, Ayes have it and, uh, we will move on.

Next is item number 5, which is see.

I F1 10,602 P W2 1, appropriating 5,756 dollars and 68 cents from district 21 capital infrastructure funds to public works for sidewalk repairs at 31,340 and 341 Trinity park drive

[Moved and seconded.]

Vice Chair Reed

uh, we have speaker MS.

From councilman George's office.

Rachel Roarx

Rachel legislative a, for district 21.

Vice Chair Reed

I think we need to see you.

Okay, there we go.

Rachel Roarx

There we go. Okay.

Remind me which item is before us?

Vice Chair Reed

I'm sorry this is item number 5.

I'm sorry I yes, yes I have number 5.

Committee Member Peden

And sidewalk repairs on Trinity port drive.

Vice Chair Reed

Yes,

Rachel Roarx

thank you. Okay, so sidewalk repairs on Trinity park drive, um, with the appropriation today.

Um, it infill's some leftover monies that we had, um, rolled over into this year and wanted to be able to do a collective group of sidewalk repairs with the budget that we have left over.

Um, so we need to just a few extra dollars, um, to make.

Um, all 3 happened in 11 area, which is in the, um, crestone, uh, neighborhood, um, called Trinity park. So that is what the allocation is for and I would appreciate the support, but I can take any questions.

Vice Chair Reed

Any questions.

Seeing none this requires a voice vote, all those in favor say, aye.

An opposition, ayes have it Thank you.

And we will now move on to item number 6.

Which is an ordinance amending ordinance? Number? 0? I'm sorry it's 0 dash 306 Dash, 22 and ordinance amending ordinance. 083 series 2022 in ordinance.

And ordinance, 084 series 2022, relating to the fiscal year, 2022, 2023 operating and capital budgets respectively by transferring 50,000 dollars from the district neighborhood. 20 neighborhood district, 22 neighborhood development fund to the district. 22 capital infrastructure fund.

Do have a motion for approval

[Moved and seconded.]

Vice Chair Reed

Are you here to speak?

mr towns are you here to speak

Jared Townes

Jared Townes legislative, assistant, councilman Robin angle.

Uh, we're transferring 50,000 here and it will help address the next item.

Vice Chair Reed

Okay, any questions.

Seeing now, this is an ordinance, requiring a roll call vote.

[Roll call vote taken.]

Sonya Harward

Vice Chair Reed you have 6 yes votes.

Vice Chair Reed

Thank you and this will go to consent. Yes. Moving on to item number 7, which is 1,010,600, appropriating 22,447 dollars from district 22 capital infrastructure funds to public works for the repair of 7, sidewalk panels and glimmering reserves. Subdivision. Do I have a motion?

for the repair of seven sidewalk panels and glimmering reserves subdivision do i have a motion

[Moved and seconded.]

Vice Chair Reed

Jared towns you're up.

Jared Townes

Uh, Jared town's again district 22. um, this is why we're transferring the money. We're just building on some sidewalks and the Glen, Mary reserves neighborhood.

Committee Member Peden

I have a question. How big is this?

A sidewalk panel what is I mean.

22 thousands a lot for what I picture 7 squares of sidewalk.

Jared Townes

Uh, the price is doubled on us, unfortunately, due to the rising costs

Committee Member Peden

and so it's literally 7, 4 by 4.

Sections a sidewalk Yep. 3000 dollars a piece.

Jared Townes

Just about yes.

Committee Member Peden

Wow.

Vice Chair Reed

Expensive.

What's that? That's right uh, any other questions.

Committee Member Triplett

Well, 1, but but the item before, but the other 50 that is that dedicated to these particular, this particular project as well.

Jared Townes

No, this would just be 22,000.

Um, we had transfer 50,000 that may go to some future projects.

Committee Member Triplett

Very well,

Vice Chair Reed

any other questions.

See, now, this is a voice vote. This is a voice vote all in favor say, aye.

All right in opposition, uh, the ayes have it.

Thank you moving on item number 81162pw,

25 appropriating 8,520 dollars from district 25 capital infrastructure funds to public works for the installation of speed homes and speed home signs on glimmer way between flicker road and the base of hill on glimmer way. Do I have a motion

[Moved and seconded.]

Vice Chair Reed

Uh, Brian Powell. Are you here?

Brian Powell

I am Brian pal councilman, Amy Holt, Stewart's, legislative assistant, speaking for this appropriation.

Um, any work diligently with the neighbors on this road to ensure that we have some speed controls.

This is on a hilly road. We've actually had a home hit twice.

5 speakers coming down the hill unaware that there is an intersecting road and no additional road. Straightforward.

So, we are trying to find 2 speed humps to try and slow down.

Motorists specifically at night we've requested guardrail that was obviously the didn't have a public works and we've got some additional signage.

But these speed bumps are going to be the real key to actually slowing down monitors on that right away when we ask for your approval.

Vice Chair Reed

A question how many speed bumps are you putting in?

Brian Powell

There's actually only 2, and I will verify for Jared that we've seen the cost exponentially increase because I just wanted to speed bumps about 3 months ago. And it was about 4,000 dollars. It's double now.

So,

Vice Chair Reed

and once the, and the reason I'm asking is I've got something similar going on in my district potentially.

Uh, so once you place the order, what's the lead time on getting these.

Brian Powell

It just fluctuates and depends. Greg is the engineer right now. We had some humps that were funded about. Like I said, 2 or 3 months ago still don't have them installed. Public works is installed the signs, but we're just waiting on the contractors.

So, um, we hope to have it done before the end of the year, but no guarantees.

Vice Chair Reed

Got it Thank you.

Brian Powell

Thank you. Uh, any questions.

Vice Chair Reed

Seeing 9, this will require a voice vote all those in favor say, aye aye, an opposition.

The ayes have it, and we will move on and thank you.

Next item is number 9, which is 10,162. P w0 1 appropriating 30,000.

468 dollars and 25 cents from district 1 capital infrastructure funds to public works for the repaving and repair of young Avenue from 32nd street. To Lewis Coleman, junior drive.

[Moved and seconded.]

Vice Chair Reed

Councilman Bowens I think you're.
Here to speak to this

Committee Member Bowens

yes, I requested these files for the screen is full of potholes.
And, uh, sidewalks are deteriorating, so I requested.
To get this payment done and the power space Thank you.

Vice Chair Reed

Any questions saying done, this requires a voice vote, all those in favor
say, aye, aye and opposition.
No opposition, the ayaes have it and we will move to the next item.
We're skipping dial in number 10, and we're on to item number 11, which
is 0333 Dash, 22 an ordinance appropriating 12,000 dollars from
neighborhood development funds and the following manner.
12,000 from district, 23 through the office of management and budget to
hire you.
Or it's ink for costs associated with operating the high view arts center
to have motion for approval

[Moved and seconded.]

Vice Chair Reed

Councilman Peden to talk to this.

Committee Member Peden

Yes, this is the theater that we have funded a couple of times. Now.
Um, and I suppose the, the monkey wrench in the in the works has been the
money that we appropriated back in March.
The center was told has to be spent by the end of the year.
As opposed to what I thought was 12 months from the day, we.
Passed it that's that's not apparently true. I was unaware of that.
That's procedural or I don't know if it's something specific to that.
ndf. So nonetheless, the 12,000 dollars is enough.
Rent to get them through till the end of this 1st of the 1st, half of
2023.
6 more months of rent, starting at the 1st of the year is the basic plan.
And so I'm just moving that forward

Vice Chair Reed

any questions or concerns.

Committee Member Peden

Um, they can.
And they were very generous when we did this.
At the 1st of the year again, this was just meant to be a supplement
because there is a slight chance.
They may have to give some of that back if they haven't spent it all by
the end of the year. Because again, it was meant for I was paying for the
overhead they were paying for the operational costs.
To end and there's no, I'm not. I'm not saying it's going to happen.
But some of these folks may end up getting some check back, including my
replacement.

Especially if they have to write a refund at some point, anybody wants to chip in. I'm more than willing to say, thank you and give you a big hug on my way out the door.

But this was more mostly just a supplement and make sure they get through to the end of June 30th. th

So, we can hold this open for old business at the next meeting.

That's yes, that's fine. If we somebody can vote. No. And make sure it goes to business. I don't care. So but yeah. Or some people can chip in now, if this committee I would, that would be more than willing to accept it. And I'm sure the center would as well.

They've already done just to kind of.

Sell the place a little bit. They've had a very successful 6 run show of William Shakespeare bridged, which was very funny. He went to see that.

They've had several magic. They've had a gentleman coming for 4 magic.

They've had comedy.

They've had to day time, I will call them theater camps.

1, specific for young ladies, they've had an art contest up, and then they had, um.

A, uh, I will call it a spoof.

Of of White House activity a day in the way day in the life of the White House.

An upcoming is yes, Virginia. There's a Santa Claus, which begins December second, third and 4th.

So that's, I mean, it, it is up and running and very successful and very popular. And as has some notoriety regionally, not just in my neighborhood or in Louisville.

Vice Chair Reed

Councilman Fox,

Committee Member Fox

thank you. Mr. vice chair. I'll start the amendment by. I was actually going to put in.

499 dollars, but I'll make it 500. if you don't give me the hug from district 13 and I'll put that in the form of an amendment.

Vice Chair Reed

Councilman Fox would like to add 500 dollars in the format of amendment. Do we have to vote on that

Committee Member Triplett

I'll second that amendment

Vice Chair Reed

Would anybody else like to add anything?

I, I will add, uh, 500 dollars from district 16 anyone else.
councilman Mulvihill

Committee Member Mulvihill

\$500 from district 10.

Vice Chair Reed

\$500 from district 10

Committee Member Bowens

\$500 from district 1.

Vice Chair Reed

I'm sorry councilwoman. I didn't hear you.

Committee Member Bowens

\$500 from district 1.

Vice Chair Reed

I have \$500 from district 1. Thank you.

Anyone else okay.

Well, this is an ordinance requiring a recall, though, with the clerk please open the voting.

Oh, I'm sorry, we need to take a voice vote on the amendment. All of us in favor say, aye aye in opposition.

None the ayes have it. Now, we'll do the voice or the arrow code.

[Roll call vote taken.]

Sonya Harward

Vice Chair Reed, you a 6 yes votes

Vice Chair Reed

6 yes votes, this will go to old business.

Last item on the agenda before we get to the special discussion is item number 12, which 0.

Or oh, Dash 33422 an ordinance amending ordinance number 115 series, 2017 relating to the fiscal years, 2017 and 2018 capital budget ordinance number 088 series 2021 relating to fiscal years 2021 in 2022 capital budget ordinance, number 08 for series, 2022 and ordinance number 03 series, 2022 relating to fiscal years, 2022 in 2023 capital and operating budgets respectively by transferring 100.

two capital budget ordinance number zero eight for series two thousand and twenty two and ordinance number zero three series two thousand and twenty two relating to fiscal years two thousand and twenty two in two thousand and twenty three capital and operating budgets respectively by transferring one hundred

85,000 dollars from the district 23 neighborhood capital infrastructure fund to the district 23 neighborhood development fund. Do I have a motion?

[Moved and seconded.]

Vice Chair Reed

Councilman Peden, you're up

Committee Member Peden

Thank you we have lots of saved up money. Some of it much of it. Pre covid and everything.

Basically, my replacement will be left with.

Um, even with us spending some of this, my replacement will be left with a full.

Complement of cash for both.
I think this leaves 100,000 dollars in his account.
And I'm not swearing to the exact numbers.
And then we'll still have his 75,000.
And and is and the purpose of moving, this large amount of money is.
Coming to the next appropriations meeting will be.
About a 1000 streetlights I actually don't know the exact number. That's probably an exaggeration, but, um, it is close to 100,000 dollars worth 5 year contracts.
So that over the course of the next few years.
They'll just start installing them, especially we have so many state roads.
And narrow 35Million our corridors where kids walk out of subdivisions to catch buses.
None of them are lit and again, it's only been in the last my last term in office that the county Attorney's office and L. E. I've reached an agreement where we could actually pay for street lights. So I got a lot of catching up to do.

Vice Chair Reed

Thank you that's commendable. I'm doing the same thing in the James Taylor neighborhood, which has never had street lights and happy to happy to help them.

Committee Member Peden

You may be getting yours 1st, though so we'll see.

Vice Chair Reed

Um, any, any questions or concerns.
I'm seeing now, this is an ordinance requiring a roll call vote.

[Roll call vote taken.]

Sonya Harward

Vice Chair Reed, you a 6 yes votes

Vice Chair Reed

thank you. And this will go to the consent calendar.
Next up is our special discussion and this is, I remember 13, which is ID 22 dash 106, 48 an update regarding delay in payments of appropriated and budgeted funds or budget funds.
And before we get started with Monica Harmon, um.
Is online.
We can start and then if they come in, then let's go. Yeah. Let's go ahead and start. Yes. Let's go and start. My dad would not like it if I said. Yeah but I just said, yeah.
Councilman Peden

Committee Member Peden

so I've only recently as of, and I would say recently, this past weekend. Learned what a problem we have going on right now we have apparently changed.
Software systems to 2 to 3 months ago.
And essentially, at that moment checks stopped going out.

We have not been paying vendors. We have not been paying these groups that we support within. We haven't.

Kept president James says it even goes as far as actual employees, and I can't confirm or deny any of that. He was on the line earlier and may want to add to the scope.

I just wanted because appropriations was coming up and was willing to come in and talk about it. I just kind of wanted to know what was going on.

And they were going to kind of it all started because I had a group like the 1 that councilman purpose just funded that was putting on a Christmas pageant.

Light up high view at hive you park and they were going to have to cancel.

Because they hadn't gotten the check, and since probably the 22 and a half months, since we approved it.

And that got me looking and making calls and tarski kind of knew what was going on, at least probably a week, more information than I had. And.

I then called President James who then goes yeah, we're kind of aware.

And again he may go through the list of people who are, or are not getting paid.

And then, once I made misspell aware, she did some research, and probably has a lot more information on what's going on. But ultimately, what it comes down to is.

As much like, councilman Fox was joking around when we had when we bought a seller.

And tried to convert over all of our.

Inspections permits and licensing, and it didn't work.

Well, apparently, that's what we've done with finance. We bought a software package that we thought we'd take a little bit of time obviously for people to learn it. Nope, it just flat out. It doesn't work or work the way we want it to.

So that's kind of where we are. And again, I'm not the expert I really wanted to ask some of these questions about who is getting money who's not how how long has it been going on? I will tell you that the 1 group that that.

Regularly depends, which is the United ministries. They haven't gotten a check in a while.

And we checked with Franklin covey, United ministries just today, and I believe even the media gave them a call if anybody wants them to testify sitting in the back of the room. So, but I would probably address president James at this point.

Um, just to, he was very knowledgeable when I spoke to him on the phone the other day.

Vice Chair Reed

President James

Council President James

um, hello Mr. chair.

Was was anybody there from the administration.

In chambers

Vice Chair Reed

no, we're waiting on them.

Council President James

I see, I got you. So, um, I know that there have been some. Massive problems, uh, related to. The city's ability to pay vendors and contractors. I'm not exactly sure about direct employees, but. Um, nonprofits that do work on behalf of. The city, uh, how many of those vendors there are that. Are not receiving pad do not know that was some of the questions I wanted to ask today. And also, I would be very interested to know what the timeline is. To being able to get us back on board and I don't know that it's the particular software program that we have that. Is the problem from my understanding it's just the. The transition from the old program, which was PeopleSoft to Workday, which is a new program is not gone as smoothly as. As the Metro, like, as the administration and like, and so. Being able to know the details of where we are with all of that. So that we can know what we need to do or not do in order to address. It would be.

Vice Chair Reed

Important, uh, I agree. And, you know, 1 of the things that I be interested in knowing is. By these delayed payments to key suppliers, um, are a, we are running a risk of. The key suppliers stopping the services. That's the 1st thing and 2 is the city suffering financially, because in a lot of situations, when, you know, with late payment, they, they're charging extra money. If we have contracts with some of these suppliers they may have written in the contract. That if you pay X amount of time over your negotiated payment terms. We're going to charge you X amount more, so yeah, this is pretty alarming. I think.

Council President James

Yeah, I don't know that the degree of the problem, but I know it's pretty significant. I've spoken to, um, misspell and, uh, Mr Ernst about some of their difficulties with it also. Um, and so it's causing a problem for the counsel and for the events that. And activities that the council has, it's also affecting the way the metro does some things also. So. Just we need to know how bad the problem is so we need to know what we need to do to help fix the problem.

Vice Chair Reed

Agreed anybody else, um, have a comment.
Councilman Peden

Committee Member Peden

recognize LaTonya Bell

Vice Chair Reed

Yes, LaTonya

LaTonya Bell

Hello my name is latonya beyond the council financial analysts for metro council and several of the things councilman president, and also president James just mentioned it's the same information that I have to share from my knowledge.

There's an issue with processing payments.

The navigation of financial reports in the system, compared to the legacy system, it's much longer more hands on where you're having to reformat it and actually kind of reinvent the report before you can truly review it or even print it out.

There's a, I think there's some type of time delay as far as getting setting, setting up account numbers in the new system, whether it's a capital operational accounts. And then there's also a delay in getting budget amendments. Um.

Prepared because you have to get the account number set up. 1st, the budget amendments is what's used to transfer funds from the council districts to.

And also to the other metro departments, in order for them to fund projects or programs, or do you have to pay vendors, or excuse me, pay India grantees? So there's a delay in that process.

I haven't got a general update from 1 of the steps that I work with at today and she shared with me that it is a system limitation issue that they are working through.

So, look like this is Monica coming in. So I'm going to give her the opportunity to take the 11 question quickly. So, do you see this as less of a programming problem or more of a staffing problem?

It appears to be both as far as a programming, and probably a user issue as far as making sure there's a flow process of who needs to be doing what with the system and understanding how it works but also a system issue together.

A mixture

Vice Chair Reed

Thank you Oh, I'm sorry. Council member Bowens. I see. You're in the queue.

Committee Member Bowens

Uh, yes, I've worked with Workday before and the same issues that you are having, as the same issues that.

Presenting when we 1st started it, it does not connect to the finances the finance.

And the AP system cannot connect together and you manually have to do everything. So.

I understand the issues that you are dealing with, because it's not the 1st time that.

Been working in work day these issues have come up. So I understand everything that you're going through right now.

Vice Chair Reed

Thank you

Committee Member Peden

which leads to the question why would we buy a software package like that?

Vice Chair Reed

That's a question for OMB Councilman Fox.

Committee Member Fox

Thank you. Mr vice chair MS bell a 2 part question. Actually what what was the previous system? We used before work day to pay external vendors that's number 1 and number 2. could this have a negative impact on our bond rating? Or is this a minor bump in the road? Because it sounds pretty major when some of these large scale projects are not getting paid it could affect our bond rating.

LaTonya Bell

For your 1st, I'm at the time you build the council financial analysts for metro Council for your 1st question the system that was being used at 1st, was the Oracle Oracle system financial system is what we was using. And then, as far as for your 2nd question, it's a possibility, but with any new system, there's usually bugs in the system and there's usually a period of time. A short period of time with those things are usually identified and worked out. Um, in this situation here. It's been since October 3rd, I think it's when work they went live, and we're sitting here in the middle of November so. Um, I would prefer to refer to Monica to see what they can do to kind of work out some of these situations.

Committee Member Fox

Do you think that that learning curve is reasonable? I'm not a financial

LaTonya Bell

there is a learning curve in any new system that you bring into place. But you also have to be proactive about whatever system you're bringing into place to make sure that all the key people know. What, and how the system function.

Committee Member Fox

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Mr. vice chair.

Vice Chair Reed

Thank you. Uh, we have 1 be here to discuss this, uh, Monica Harmon and Richard champion. So, Mr champion.

Richard Champion

Yes, uh, Richard champion office management, budget, finance director. Uh, we do going into this that there was going to be a break in period where we were going to need to stabilize the new system. We did go live on October 3rd with the new system, but it was, it was never thought that on October 3rd, everything was going to work perfectly and we would be at the volume of processing invoices that we were previously. In fact, uh, a large part of the slow down right now, and I just want to correct. We.

Are paying vendors, it's not that vendors aren't getting paid. It's just they're not getting paid as quickly as they were in the previous system. And the reason for that is, as we went into that last month of conversion, we had to stop paying invoices out of the old system and manually extract those out.

And then re, put them in the new system, we had to come to a point in time where we cut the system off, converted all the data that was there from a financial aspect, and then start again. And so we have a backlog right now. So.

The, the, I think it was accurate when you said, is it a staffing problem? Or is it a financial system problem?

Really what it is, is it's a learning curve and a learning curve when we have a very large backlog that we're working through. But our volume is being an increasing every week that 1st, week that we are on the new system.

We processed about 140 invoices for payment that week. The last 2 weeks in the system we processed 4,400. we processed four thousand four hundred Invoices for payment, and I expect that volume to stay in that range for a while and then start to increase as we start getting things through.

Another thing that is added to the slowness is that.

Because it's been slow, some vendors have assume that their payment or their invoice didn't get in. And so they've re, inject the invoice into the system.

When that happens, we have to go in, we have to index that invoice. It doesn't come in with the information automatically. And so we index that invoice.

Then we realize it's a duplicate payment, then we have to get it out of the system. So that takes time to process, even though that invoice is a duplicate invoice.

And so the system is kind of compounding on itself right now, but we don't expect that to last as we get more familiar with the system, as we go through the backlog as we pay vendors faster, There'll be less duplicates in the system.

Vice Chair Reed

Thank you. So, do we accept invoices by paper or are they all electronically?

Richard Champion

Most invoices come in electronically through an email system we do accept them in paper and then scan them in.

Vice Chair Reed

Okay. And how many invoices do we typically process a week when things are going? Well.

Richard Champion

So, we process about a 140,000 invoices a year.

Um, week to week, uh, it's pretty consistent. I would say this time of the year typically, the Thanksgiving Christmas is a slower time from an invoice volume. Uh.

Perspective, but it's pretty consistent throughout the year.

Vice Chair Reed

So, um, I don't want to preempt any other questions, but, um, are we prioritizing any of these that are going out? I mean, to what I would consider more critical suppliers.

Richard Champion

We, we have prioritized when we have received complaints, or when we've received information that something needs to be paid. Immediately. We've moved that to the top of the list. You know, I.

I want to put a pause on that as much as we can know because every time we prioritize something up to the top of the list, everything else starts.

Falling behind, and then and then you re, prioritize the next thing, and it becomes sort of a waterfall effect to try to get those through.

We process things we intend to process thing on a 1st, in 1st out basis. But, like I said, those 1st in are really the ones that are kind of a problem right now because of the conversion.

Once we get through that the invoices that are starting in work day, and finishing in work day, should move through it a faster clip than the ones that were converted into work day from Oracle.

Vice Chair Reed

Okay, president James,

Council President James

thank you. Mr. chair. Uh, Richard Mr champion. Thank you for being here. Um, I just had a few questions, and I appreciate.

The update that you just gave us, could you tell us how far behind? We are actually.

Here to average that out on paying our vendors and contractors.

Richard Champions

Do you mean in number of invoices that are currently in the system or do you mean number of days to process.

Council President James

Number of invoices that still need to be processed and number of days in the system.

Richard Champion

Okay, so, for the number of invoices, within the process, we see about 5,000 in the system right now, but of those 5,000 not all 5,000 will need to be paid based on that.

Previous discussion we had about some of those being duplicate invoices cause they've been injected in.

2, possibly 3 times.

Council President James

Okay. And how long will you do you think.

How far behind how many days are we behind.

Richard Champion

So, we're processing about 4,400 invoices a week so that would put us about 3 weeks behind.

Uh, if all of those 5,000 need to be paid. Okay.
And is this affecting contractors and vendors.
Um, how could you define what you mean when you say contractors.

Council President James

Uh, let's just say public works contracts with paving companies that do, does.

Savings for Metro is that affecting those types of payments?

Yes, um, vendors as in, uh, the hope bus does the safe outdoor space for the homeless of their are college street.

Um, I consider them to be a vendor that's doing contract work for Metro. We asked them to do that work. Are they affected by this?

Richard Champion

Yes, they would be effective. Um, yes.

Council President James

Okay, thank you. Thank you. Mr. chair.

Vice Chair Reed

Thank you. Councilman Fox

Committee Member Fox

Thank you. Mr vice chair if we and thank you for being here, sir uh, if we put anything on the website saying.

Hey, we've got to do a new system. Things are a little slow. Is it possible? Just notify these folks might keep some of those duplicates down.

Richard Champion

I think that's a great point. We have not put anything on the website about, uh, duplicate payments. We have reached out when we've noticed duplicate payments directly with vendors that are doing it to try to, to cut that down.

We are in the process of spinning up an internal, um.

Web site for lack of a better word, a SharePoint page for us to log when vendors send in. Um.

A notice, hey, I'm waiting on this invoice. So that we can make sure that we're not duplicating effort. We don't want 1 person to be looking into that. Invoice. And then a 2nd person get a call from somebody else in that company start looking in that.

Invoice as well, so we're taking steps to proactively internally try to prioritize those and reach back out to those vendors to let them know that we're working those through the process. I think the idea of putting it out on. The website is a great idea.

Committee Member Fox

So, most of these come in via email, and maybe I'm oversimplifying this because I know you've.

Got a pretty busy shop over there, but.

You can put it out of office reply on your E mail. Can you already have that ID to put some sort of message that hey, just bear with us?

Working through a new system, you'll get your money.

Richard Champion

Yes, there's already a, there's already a outgoing message when you submit an invoice that says we've received this nobody's monitoring this inbox. Please don't submit this same invoice twice. That's a standard messaging that we have.

Um, but I'd say a lot of times that's not going to an individual. A lot of companies are automatically invoicing to a system and so they're not seeing that bounce back either.

Gotcha. And thanks again.

Vice Chair Reed

Councilman Peden

Committee Member Peden

So, safe to assume, then this is not affecting employees.

Getting anything

Richard Champion

this is not affecting employees.

Committee Member Peden

I, it's not employee in paychecks, but we'll like, say reimbursement or mileage or any of the other

Richard Champion

that goes through a different that goes through a different module. It does not go through the accounts payable system. Okay.

Committee Member Peden

Which so then my other question would be.

I understand the learning curve, um.

And as an old guy, I understand being resistant to the learning, because, I mean, school systems converting over to Google.

From Microsoft and I'm I'm still an Excel Microsoft Word kind of guy. I mean, I just I get this so but my question is 1 of the things I'm hearing from some folks is work day.

To process an invoice, we've doubled or tripled the amount of touch points or keystrokes needed things that you have to actually enter.

So, even even when it's up and running, and even once everyone's learned how to use it.

It's still going to take twice as much time. Is there any, can you describe that situation to where they, they need like, there's more input more manual input.

To process and invoice then with the old system.

Richard Champion

So I don't think there's more manual input. I think people are slower at getting that information in because they're not used to the system. And I think that's part of the learning curve in addition to that.

I think there's probably maybe a shift.

Where people that weren't previously doing.

The type of work to receive an invoice cause it's 1 of the things that we do in work day. Now, is you have to say yes, I received this invoice. Um, I think that work was probably being handled by a different person.

So, for some individuals, it feels like more work. The works the same, though. We, we do work, um, we pay vendors. We received the invoices, we cut the checks. The flow is really the same as it was before. It just probably feels different to people right now.

Committee Member Peden

What was the advantage to switch from? 1 vendor? 1. Software to another

Richard Champion

so our Oracle financials was brought on in 2000. 3, just before city county merger, it was completely out of support and, uh, was a security risk in addition to that. We could not integrate that system with any other new system because of the security risk, because of its limited functionality. Because we couldn't update it because we couldn't get support from the vendor. Um. Very simple things that seem like they would make sense to be able to do. You couldn't do an Oracle financials. Oracle financials would book the financials, but it really wouldn't handle anything statistical. So, if you said, hey, how many sidewalks did we pay in my district? I couldn't tell you in Oracle. Financials I could download into Excel. I could try to piece through the accounting. I could maybe give you an educated, guess after a lot of time, but I couldn't just pull information out and give you that near real time information that you were asking for in work day. We can do that. We can add work tags that say, here's sidewalk, paving by Council district. And so we're not there yet, because we're still trying to stabilize and we're trying to get caught up. But there is a lot larger upside to work day financials than there was with Oracle just in the way that it's structured and just in the reporting capabilities.

Committee Member Peden

Okay,

Vice Chair Reed

thank you. Councilman James.

Council President James

thank you. Um. Richard, I've got a follow up question. Is there anything that we on the council can do to assist you all with this? Uh, and getting it moving is there any extra funding you need to bring in some temporary help, or anything like that? That would help you.

Richard Champion

So, we have used some of the project funds to do some staff augmentation, and then brought in temporary hill. I will never turn down more people and more funds. If that's what you want to do. Yes. By all means, that will help.

Council President James

So, how many more people do you need to get to where you need to be?

And how long would you need them for more people? Get this there? Faster less people get us they're slower. I guess it's a sliding curve there.

Council President James

I guess what you're saying is you need to talk to him about that later right

Richard Champion

there we go.

Council President James

All right, thank you.

Vice Chair Reed

Um, any other questions from Mr champion.

Well, thank you for coming in. You know, I worked for private, small business and we've been through this before, but we just changed our phone systems for the 1st time, and probably 20 years because of security and it's not an easy thing to do.

So, I understand that, I mean, my questions were really more tailored toward are we not paying all suppliers are key.

But suppliers that are key to the functioning of the city.

Are we getting them paid? Are we prioritizing it that way? And it sounds to me, like, you guys are doing the best you can so.

Any other questions? No, thank you. Very much for coming.

Committee Member Peden

Yeah, I'm sorry, I do have 1 more question assuming going what you said things are leveling out.

When when is our anticipated date of being caught up?

Richard Champion

So, we worked with an implementation vendor, and we asked the same thing when you've implemented for other governments, how long does it take to stabilize?

And their answer to us was, you really need 3 to 4 months to feel like you're fully stable and up and going. That doesn't mean that invoicing will take 3 to 4 months. It just means that I think we're going to get better week to week.

But we really won't feel like we're off the ground running, being able to do all that until probably.

You know, mid February.

Committee Member Peden

Okay,

LaTonya Bell

And I also have a question latonya bill, the council financial analyst as far as what the reporting of the financial reporting piece of it I've spoken with Tim from about the reporting process. When would that be fixed or looked into?

Because right now it's felt like we're going backwards and we having to reinvent the reports before we can even use them.

Richard Champion

So, we are in a process, we have a list of things that we need to address and fix. Um.

It's all being logged through, through the portal, we are going through that list, and we're prioritizing, um, all of the work, the things that roll to the top are things 1st, of all that would affect an employee's pay.

And then after that, everything's prioritized based on security level, to try to get people to access that they need to do what they need to do in the system. And then it.

From their rolls down to functional areas and functional areas that may be causing a blocker to another area. If we need to fix something in grants because that affects general counting or accounts payable we go in and fix that.

On the bottom of that is reporting it's a lower priority level. However, I will say there are some reports that are sort of making their way to the top, because they are now affecting those other areas. They're affecting. They're being a blocker to another functional area.

We, if we can't send out information to a grant tier or a component unit, to be able to draw down funds, that becomes a blocker. And so those reports start to move up. We had a whole list of reports before we started and we got as many of them live.

As we could, um, so if there's something that seems like it's a higher priority reporting wise, it's causing a blocker, please log a ticket. Please list that as a high priority. We'll move that up, uh, as much as practical.

LaTonya Bell

And thank you, I go ahead and log it, it's setting up the account numbers during the budget amendments to transfer the money from the council districts over to the departments into finance. So, we can pay the ndf guarantees on time and stored the capital projects for the districts. So thank you.

Vice Chair Reed

Are you getting adequate support from your your vendor on this?

Richard Champion

Yes, we have, um, we have, um.

Our implementation vendor with us through December 9th we're also currently in an RFP process for post, go, live support, uh, all paid through the project funds and.

We're getting close on getting that awarded.

Vice Chair Reed

As much information as you could provide us during the process, we would appreciate it maybe posting more things on line in terms of where we are with paying suppliers. I think it'd be a great idea.

Richard Champion

Okay.

Vice Chair Reed

Any other questions? No, thank you. Very much for coming.

Council President James

Mr. Chair

Vice Chair Reed

Oh, I'm sorry President James.

Richard Champion

I'm sorry, Richard. I just sent you an email with my cell number on it. If you could call me tonight. That'd be great.

richard

Okay,

Council President James

thank you.

Vice Chair Reed

No further questions, I think we are adjourned. Thank you.