



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Finance & Administration Council Committee

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

4:00 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL (ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE) CONFIRMED BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

Present 6 - Joe Hafner; Charles Coleman; Ann Williams; John Street; David McClain and Brian Emison

Absent 1 - Anthony Coleman

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[MIN-24:108](#)

Minutes for the Finance Committee meeting on Tuesday, November 26, 2024

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 5 - Charles Coleman; Ann Williams; John Street; David McClain and Brian Emison

Absent: 1 - Anthony Coleman

4. NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-24:165](#)

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE FY2025 REBUILDING AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE WITH SUSTAINABILITY AND EQUITY (RAISE) GRANT

Sponsors: Community Development, Grants and Mayor's Office

Attachments: [FY2025 RAISE Grant MOU.pdf](#)

Chairman Joe Hafner said, before I open up the floor to the committee for questions, I'll just make a statement and Brian you can add to it if I get this wrong. One thought that I had when I looked at this was, why is the amount so much lower than it's been in the past? The reason for that is, this \$5,000,000 is just to get a complete full set of plans for the grant. And in talking to the federal people, Jeremy and Brian and them,

what they were told is basically the people that got the highly recommended, or whatever the correct term is, last time, they're in line for the construction funds. So basically, all we're in line for is the planning fund. So hopefully the plan would be to get this \$5,000,000, get a complete set of plans, and then that would help us get future funding for construction down the road. Did I cover that pretty much? Ya'll can add to it.

Grants Department Director Jeremy Biggs approached the podium and said, Mr. Hafner has it right. So, the NOFO came out, when it came out it said they were going to award projects of merit from last round of application. First priority for funding and those decisions will be made January 13th, and then everybody else is welcome to apply before the end of January of 2025. We were also told in our debrief from D.O.T that if we would have applied for the planning side, more than likely, we would have been funded, because this project is just not ready. It's 5-10% designed as it stands. So, we do need a lot more design work, a lot more planning, more traffic studies, more storm water mitigation studies, all that fun stuff, NEPA environmental. But we're going after the planning grant for the same project. We did bring in our friends just north to the city of Brookland. If we're going to plan, we thought we might as well plan a regional connection through the Red Wolf Ridgeway. And Allen, with MPO, suggested that to come up with the regional plan for active transportation, so why not let the federal government pay for that full design. So, that's our approach to this application.

Councilmember David McClain said, Mr. Chairman I had a question. So how long do you think we're talking as far as to planning? How long would that take? How long do ya'll think that would take? Director Jeremy Biggs said, once awarded? Councilmember David McClain said, yes. Director Jeremy Biggs said, probably 18 months. That would be a good guess. Councilmember David McClain said, and then, how long do we think this RAISE Grant section of money will be available? Is that going to be something that is going to exhaust in the next three, five? Director Jeremy Biggs said, oh I don't know. That would be a question for a congressman or a senator. But I do not foresee a lot of money being put into programs like this for the next four years. Councilmember David McClain said, that's why I was kind of curious of. If we're planning, then have to figure out the next step. Director Jeremy Biggs said, there's one more round of RAISE funding, 2026 fiscal year, that's already funded through the BIL. But I don't expect to see any large investments in infrastructure moving forward after that. Just what we've heard back.

Chairman Joe Hafner said, we had a Connectivity meeting at lunch and one thing that was mentioned there, if we have a good set of plans, that also helps us when we approach other grants or other funding sources. Director Jeremy Biggs said, sure. We'd have a plan sitting on the shelf fully designed with right-of-way acquisition plans, utility relocation plans, all the environmental done, all the cultural resource studies done in any city. Jonesboro, Brookland, Paragould would have a plan to build that infrastructure out in their cities. No matter, like Mr. Hafner said, if it's grant funded, tax money, or whatever that may be, the project would be ready to go to construction after this is completed. Chairman Joe Hafner said, then we can also continue to do what we're doing right now. You know, putting trails in as we can. Director Jeremy Biggs said, yeah, the corridors within the city of Jonesboro have not changed from this year's application. We didn't change anything, because the application scored so high, and D.O.T understood the project and understood the need for the regional connectivity, and it made sense to them. So, we didn't think we needed to go back to the drawing board and start all over if we had a project that's good. Chairman Joe Hafner said, we're really close to being a project of marital, or whatever the term is. Director Jeremy Biggs said, yes. So, we scored seven out of eight on the marital criteria. We were

ranked high, so we moved on to the funding round and we were 1 of 60, us and 63 other cities were removed by political appointees, whatever you want to call them, through that process. In the funding round. So, we were denied funding.

Councilmember Ann Williams said, I have brought this up in the past with MPO, whether or not there's been talk of it in the past, of Jonesboro combining with Paragould just like they did in Northeast Jonesboro. John remembers it, at one of the Municipal League meetings, there was a big presentation from Fayetteville and Springdale, Bentonville, Rogers. They have done this. They have joined hands to get money, and it has really helped them doing that. At that time, I think there had been discussion with, at that time, the mayor of Paragould, about the benefit that would be from us doing that. You know, having more leverage. Has this, and I don't know if this has been pursued or what the thoughts are on that. Doing that. Chief Administrative Officer Brian Richardson approached the podium and said, yeah. I mean, obviously there's both resident and political advantages to combining two really large cities, and actually, just a region together on a shared approach. I think you've seen that line of thought from the mayor, as far as, Northeast Arkansas Mayor's Coalition and several other things that... It's a proven fact that a rising tide lifts all ships and by working together it gives you more political push on the national level. And also, what's good for Brookland is good for Jonesboro and vice versa, and working together is just a, seems like, a commonsense approach. One thing to point out, on the RAISE Grant last year, that even if that would have been awarded, you still have to have actual design construction ready plans and that's an expensive process anyways. So, \$3,000,000 to \$4,000,000 to \$5,000,000 to actually do the planning work you're going to have to do anyway, and by getting that done and paid for by this grant, what you essentially have is when you do apply for another Raise Grant, maybe it's next year, and it's a \$25,000,000 limit... Well, if we would have got it this year, we would have effectively been able to build \$20,000,000's worth of infrastructure. Well, now a construction grant, granted, the plans would already be done, so that's \$5,000,000 that you're saving right there, so you can put all of that towards infrastructure. Because you already know where your shovels are going to hit the ground at and how much right-of-way you're going to have to purchase, because we do have the one Jonesboro plan. We've got a lot of plans, but they're not construction ready plans. They're conceptual, they're 5 and 10% overview plans, but it doesn't tell you how much grade each trail is going to have to have, and exactly the intricacies that go into building anything. So, this would be a very in-depth set of plans that whenever a Reconnecting Cities Grant comes up, we've got a set of plans that we can pull off the shelf and write the narrative for.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I guess my question is, always been, when the west side of Arkansas does something it's always different than what we do regardless. Some people try to play the game that they don't look at it, but I look at it because it does happen. So, our legislative people in Little Rock, how important is it for them to get involved with helping us with this? Or are they being brought to the table or are they at the table? Brian Richardson said, of course we have regular meetings with our legislative representation, and now with fall recess coming up we'll have some additional meetings with our Congressional leadership, Congressman Crawford. He's been in our lives through this process along with Senator Boozman and Senator Cotton. And I think we're certainly grateful for what we've received, and we're going to keep putting pressure on them to do even more. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I understand that but let me dress this a little bit different. Senator Boozman and Senator Crawford, to me, has always tried to do literally do everything they could across Arkansas. What are the people in Little Rock, our people in Little Rock, what are they doing to help us go toward this? Because, once again, I've been repeating this for 10 years, Western Arkansas, when those people are involved, it

seems like, I use the word seems so nobody will quote me and be stupid, that they get part of what they're applying for. Because I think what Jeremy's applying for, what he's trying to do, I totally agree with. But, if we just rely on Senator Boozman, Senator Crawford, and we're not including the people in Little Rock, you know, in state, in house, our persons, including the chamber. Of all these people sitting at the same table together so we can push this thing. I'm not sure that has happened unless somebody tells me, and all I can go by is what you said or with what somebody else says. That's really irritable to me, that we do all this fighting, and I think we probably have one of the best CDBG persons that we've had in a long time pushing this. But are all these people sitting in bed together to help us push this thing along. Or is it the same thing, we throw the dishwater out and nothing comes about. I think that's the thing I want to hear. I guess that's the basic thing. I never hear that as long as I've been on the council. You know, we go to the AML meeting, we sit down with these people. Ya'll sit down with them, I don't want to be bothered with them. Because number one, if they're not doing something for the eastern part of Arkansas. It's the same thing, giving money to an employees and stuff like that. We need those people involved and we need to hear from them now. We don't need for them to wait until election time to run us down and say they're going to do this and say they're going to do that, and nothing happens. And again, giving koodo's again to Senator Boozman and Senator Crawford, they've done, to me personally regards to their political parties, a great job. But what I'm seeing out of Little Rock, it's just a bunch of crap. We're not sitting at the same table together. Brian Richardson said, well I think that it's an important note that, we all have to do what we can to make sure that we keep our legislators informed of what our needs are. You can't assume that a state senator, a state representative, knows exactly what our priorities are in the city of Jonesboro. And we do keep them updated with that, and I would imagine that once we get this passed through, what we'll do is have an informative meeting, and invite our legislative litigation to come and learn about the process and how they can help. Because even though it's a federal grant, obviously we need their support to get this thing across the finish line. We're certainly open table, let's sit down and let's talk about it. I mean, we need to take advantage of the resources we've got. There's not a whole lot of cities that have this many state representatives that touch its borders, and so that's a good thing to have. It's more advocacy that you have in Little Rock. I'm proud of what we've been able to accomplish together, and certainly going to continue to do that. But it takes help from you to Dr. Coleman, help push what we need. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I'm glad you're proud. I just need to be a fly on the wall some where to find out what's going on, because I've been on this council for almost 14 years, and we very seldom hear of things they do except when they come to get an award. But other than that, what do we hear about? What do we talk about? When you're fighting to get these things we need on the eastern part of Arkansas, I mean, that's kind of irritable to me. Maybe nobody else lives on this side of town. I do, and it just bothers me a little bit, that we rely on the same people in Washington D.C., but where's the outspokenness from our legislators in Little Rock. About what we need here. You can read Arkansas Gazette; you can read other papers about what they all spoken about what they're doing in Western Arkansas. Our people that we vote on. Don't hear nothing about what's happening over here. Brian Richardson said, I think I share the same sentiment, that I want more than our fair share from both the Little Rock and the federal government, so let's work together to make sure we get what we can. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I'm glad ya'll like eating lunch together, so have me a different plate when we go to Little Rock.

Councilmember John Street said, I would like to add one thing with regard to this. I think it's very wise step, because it will get us in a, the plans on the shelf like he said. And Anne can tell you this, if you're looking for federal grants, they're looking for

shovel ready projects. That's the terminology you hear, shovel ready, and if it's shovel ready, you're going to be pushed forward a little longer. You're more likely to get a grant if you're ready. And I agree with him, we'll use all the help we can get. But this will get us shovel ready, and I think it'll be a big push for us. Brian Richardson said, I agree. And we talk a lot about plans on the shelf and plans for this and plans for that, but again, there's a difference between plans and advance concepts. And these will be build ready construction plans, if we're so lucky to get awarded. And I can't say enough thanks and give enough credit to the Grants Department. To put together a RAISE Grant application that received seven out of eight merit criteria high scores. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, that's great. Brian Richardson said, it was a really impressive, and I know each of you read it. It was a really impressive application and sometimes you play a really good game, and you don't win but you don't quiet.

A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain and Brian Emison

Absent: 1 - Anthony Coleman

[RES-24:166](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO GRANT A UTILITY EASEMENT TO CITY WATER AND LIGHT OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

Sponsors: Engineering

Attachments: [Exhibit B.pdf](#)
[Utility Easement.pdf](#)

Councilmember John Street asked to be recused from RES-24:166 due to his position on the CWL Board.

A motion was made by Brian Emison, seconded by Charles Coleman, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 4 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;David McClain and Brian Emison

Absent: 1 - Anthony Coleman

Recused: 1 - John Street

[RES-24:167](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ADOPT A REVISED EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK FOR ALL EMPLOYEES FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO

Sponsors: Human Resources

Attachments: [2024 Handbook Final Draft 12092024.docx](#)

Chairman Joe Hafner said, before we get started is there someone that can give us kind of a overview of the changes? Please. Human Resource Department Director Dewayne Douglas approached the podium and said, yeah. The copy that was submitted with the resolution has everything highlighted in red, and basically, it's just updating the language. It's been 10 years. If you looked at the drug testing policy, and I can go step by step if you'd like, everything in red is what we've added. The version that I thought I submitted had notes as the reason why we were changing. I can get

you that copy. I've got a copy with me if you'd like that, where I put comments over to the side. Like the comments there, we're just updating the language to be all inclusive regarding Title VII. That changes from time to time, so per our attorney, we just went in there and updated the language to where we wouldn't have to change it every time the law changed. You go to the drug test policy. That's, you know, medical marijuana, has happened over the last few years. What's described as safety sensitive and that's policy is basically a carbon copy of the Arkansas Municipal League and what they recommend.

Same with the next section. The asset use, you know, we have smartphones now. Back 10 years ago we had different language regarding how we use our computers and things like that. So, we updated per the Arkansas Municipal League on what they recommended for our asset and use policy for smartphones and such things. In that big section.

That's the only major change. The rest of it's mainly for clarity. Like, for example, right there. The travel policy. It was \$40 a day for meals. Well times have changed; you can't hardly get a meal for \$40, so we upped it to \$60 for now. The daily per diem and stuff like that, we also changed that. The tip amount we changed from 15% to 20%. I apologize ya'll didn't get the copy showing my comments, and like I said I've got a copy with me if ya'll like to see that. Or I can get that to you.

On the compensation right there, that piece is just saying basically, anything outside of what's been approved by council, no one should be coming up with their own ways to pay employees. You know, set overtime rates, more than 40 hours in a work week. You know, manager couldn't come in and say hey we're going to pay you overtime for anything over eight hours a day. Our policy, until that's changed, our policy is 40 hours in a work week. Police and fire work different work weeks. Fire will be on a 27-day schedule. Police are on a 28-day schedule. So, I just put some language in there to basically explain that. According to FLSA. We don't have an on-call policy, so I added that to the handbook. And that basically says, you revert back to your departmental guidelines and rules on that because every department does it a little differently. And right there, everywhere I could I added the state codes that would apply, so we would know where that came from. And basically, if it's either a federal regulation or a state code, I put that code in there so you can go right to it and know why it's in there and where it came from.

I converted everything on the sick time and vacation time into hours. Departments now, Police Department works a 11-hour sift, some departments work a 12-hour sift, fire they work a 24-hour sift. So, instead of having everything in the language of days I put in the hours. So, the hours, regardless of what shift you work, that's how many hours you'll get on any annual basis. And again, some of that for police and fire are state mandated, you have a state code, and I put that information, where to find that code and stuff, and how that applies to.

Personal leave unpaid, we don't really have a policy in the handbook, but there are times and occasions where somebody may be out of accruals or needs to take some time off for some kind of emergency. With the mayor's approval and things like that we can allow that. That way they're not penalized or disciplined for absences. Councilmember David McClain said, the mayor has to approve that, or could the department head doesn't do that? Dewayne Douglas said, no I think it's director and my office would go in together. That way we're consistent across the city on how we handle those.

So really other than just trying to clarify things, there's not any major changes into the

handbook. There's always a little confusion around catastrophic leave and stuff like that. So basically, we tried to, I've replaced that serious health condition, is really how the FMLA language reads, so I updated that piece right there to try and make it more clear. That what you know what qualifies for catastrophic sick bank.

Military leave. If you go to it, actually state code changed this year for police and fire. And so, we added that language in there too, and got the code to how much time they get and where that comes from.

And we hope to do this more on an annual basis rather than waiting so long. Just to basically keep things updated. And that's where the work hours, I explained. Most employees are on a 40-hour work week, police and fire are a little unique and a little bit different. So, I put that in there for a little more clarification too. On what their work week or work period would be.

There was a change in the law on firearms, so we updated our handbook to basically kind of comply with the law, and that was per our attorney and AML. They recommended that change as well. Any questions? Like I said, if you need the copy with comments on the edge, I would be happy to get that to you. Chairman Joe Hafner said, I think I do have the copy with the comments I just don't have it with me. I wanted you to talk about the changes anyways.

A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain and Brian Emison

Absent: 1 - Anthony Coleman

[RES-24:168](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO ACQUIRE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1700 DISCIPLE DRIVE FROM THE PROPERTY OWNER, JOURNEY CHURCH

Sponsors: Parks & Recreation and Finance

Attachments: [Journey Church Real Estate Contract.pdf](#)
[MOU with Journey Church_revA.pdf](#)

Councilmember David McClain said, do we use a realtor on all our transactions? Or does this one... It's pretty simple it seems. I didn't know if we had a... Grants Department Director Jeremy Biggs approached the podium and said, I have a realtor hat that I keep in my closet, so I've been putting it on a lot now days. Councilmember David McClain said, a lot of people wear multiple hats now days. Director Jeremy Biggs said, no. We've been handling this directly with Journey and with Cornerstone, and then we'll turn it over. Cornerstone property is set to close any day now, and then we'll turn this over to a title company to help us with all that closing.

A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain and Brian Emison

Absent: 1 - Anthony Coleman

[RES-24:169](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND AUTHORIZE A CONTRACT WITH PARETO CAPTIVE OF TENNESSEE, LLC AND BLUE ADVANTAGE ADMINISTRATORS OF

ARKANSAS TO PROVIDE MEDICAL INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR CITY
EMPLOYEES FOR 2025

Sponsors: Human Resources and Finance

Attachments: [Legend Implementation Package.pdf](#)

Councilmember David McClain said, is there a reason in particular it changed? When it did because I thought we just went through open enrollment? Chief Operating Officer Tony Thomas approached the podium and said, actually there is no change, this is just the approval process of what we moved forward in the open enrollment process. Normally we always rushed that right before City Council, straight to council. But there's no change in what was offered but there is a change in the package overall. We're moving away from a fully funded package, after a significant increase that failed to give us any flexibility upon negotiation, over to more of a self-funded type arrangement.

City Clerk April Leggett said, I had a question about who actually is handling the claims, is this company handling the claims or is the city handling the claims? Tony Thomas said, well the city is paying the claims, but Blue Cross Blue Shield is going to be our claims processor. So, they'll be handling the claims, we'll get a bill from Blue Cross Blue Shield and then the city pays that bill. City Clerk April Leggett said, and what happens if, with a self-funded plan, if we go over the amount that's in the plan? Where does that money come from? Tony Thomas said, the plan is... pay all the claims... all of the claims are paid by the city. We do have what we call reinsurance which covers our high expense claims. So, there is some additional insurance for those significant expenses. But in the event that there is some overage in the year, we're covering that. At this point we've looked at three, four different models and actually this model is one we've looked at for a number of years, about six years as well. Again, when it was fully funded package and we could get down to three, six percent, it was costing advantageous to stick with the fully funded side but in this case that's not an option. We do have what we call... we're not anticipating a problem in year one, I could say, you know, when you make that initial shift there is a carryover period from the fully funded plan. So, we're only anticipating about nine months of claims worth of claims in year one versus a twelve-month period of claims. Then we're also looking internally at some funding mechanisms that we can put in place that will assist us in managing cost, as well as providing a buffer for those periods where our claims may be a little higher than we're anticipating. But in year one we're not anticipating that those claims would be higher than what that 25-48% increase Blue Cross Blue Shield was charging us would cost.

Councilmember Ann Williams said, but ASU does or in the past? Tony Thomas said, ASU has gone to it, or they have in the past. I know they've gone back and forth a couple years. We've watched the county, the county moved over two or three years ago, and so we've watched their plan. Our goal has been to be as least disruptive to employees as possible. Therefore, we did stick with Blue Cross Blue Shield as our claim's provider and plan processor. We've dealt with the Pareto Captive from a couple of brokers, as well as Springdale and Northwest Arkansas. We've watched them for the last two years as well. So, this is not something that just drop out of the sky over the last few months. It's something we've been watching for about three years, and it something we've watched other individuals implement and we've learned from some of their mistakes. As well as we recognize that we cannot sustain the current model that we're currently operating under.

Chairman Joe Hafner said, I know the move to self-insured is not too uncommon

nowadays. I mean, even outside of health insurance, I've seen companies I'm involved with moving to it for auto, umbrella, and workers comp, you know, all lines of insurance. Tony Thomas said, and it's similar to what we do with like auto, and you know, we're part of a consortium with workers comp, we're part of a consortium with our automobile insurance. Pareto Captive is similar, we're part of a consortium that spreads that risk over a number of brokers. Can I add before I step away? Chairman Joe Hafner said, sure. Tony Thomas said, you know, we've had a number of calls, even over, since this has come out for employees and even the council if you walk away today and there some question that you have, we're more than willing to sit down... I've been on the phone, at least two hours today, talking with employees about the changes and we mimicked our previous plan. So, the benefits are exactly the same as they were on the fully funded side, so employees are not going to see any significant changes. One of the areas that we are trying to control cost, is not on the health side at this particular point and time, but it's on the prescription cost side. Because we've seen a significant increase in not only the use, but the value of those prescription drugs. Again, this is not a situation where we're telling employees no you can't have that particular drug, but we're trying to education and help them look at all options available so that it cost effective to them, it's cost effective to us and we're able to continue to provide an excellent product to them in the coming years.

City Clerk April Leggett said, I think that what has happened is, that there has been some misinformation put out and there were some employees that we're concerned. And so, I was voicing those concerns. Tony Thomas said, yes ma'am. I appreciate that. You know, all my years at the City of Jonesboro, I recognize that misinformation is something that will occur. And so that's why I say, anybody that has any questions, hey Dewayne is available, our office is available and we're more than willing to sit down and dialogue so that we can correct the record, in regard to what's transpiring or what's not transpiring. Thank you Mrs. April.

A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain and Brian Emison

Absent: 1 - Anthony Coleman

5. PENDING ITEMS

6. OTHER BUSINESS

[COM-24:061](#)

FY2025 City of Jonesboro Budget Discussion

Sponsors: Finance and Mayor's Office

Attachments: [2025 Budget Update & Timeline.pdf](#)

Chairman Joe Hafner said, Steve you want to come up and cover budget discussion? And this is just... today is not a question and answer really, it's setting up the time for the question and answer and when we're going to be getting the final budget and things like that so. Finance Department Director Steve Purtee said, yes thanks Mr. Chairman we just wanted to provide a update relative to the budgeting process. What I distributed to you is just simply an update narrative along with the timeline relative to what we're anticipating over the coming weeks. The mayor did submit, on December 1,

2024, the minimum liability or commitments that we're anticipating for this next calendar year and those were included, that summary is attached here. As far as the next thing on the timeline, this week we are conducting meetings, have for the previous two days, relative to visiting with the directors to talk specifically about some of their budget items, some of their request, that type of thing. So that's moving along very well. We accomplished what I would consider to be quite a bit in the last sixteen hours or so. We appreciate the directors and their work in that regard. I lay out just simply the rest of the schedule, next week we should be finalizing that budget. We'll get that in its binder form as normal and get that to each of the Finance Committee members and the City Council. We'll also be scheduling a working session to go over that budget with the mayor as well. And following that, we are hopeful that it will be available and ready for submission to the Finance Committee on December 31, 2024, if my look at the calendar was right. We skipped that third Tuesday, go to the fourth Tuesday, I believe. So, we've got that in line there, and then, obviously, after that we're hopeful that this committee will see clear to forward that on to council. That resolution as well as any salary administration plan amendments that will be necessary. And that, that will be reviewed by the City Council on January 7th of next year, which is just a month away.

Chairman Joe Hafner said, Steve, I've got just a couple of questions. Number one, the working session, when or do you have a date in mind? Director Steve Purtee said, we do not at this point. So, we're leaving that open, obviously, we're coming up on our Christmas holiday and we will either reach right before or immediately after that meeting for our working session. Chairman Joe Hafner said, ok. Number two, I know there's a note in this thing about the revenue bond proposal, but, you know, I'm going to emphasize again, I would like to see that come back in front of the Finance Committee as soon as possible. I know there's talk about presenting the budget without it being in there, but I don't want us to not have it in there and then wait a few months until it comes in front... I would like to have that back in front of us as soon as possible. Director Steve Purtee said, Mr. Chairman you're exactly on the mark and that exactly in keeping with the mayor and administration's comments that were made to me earlier today. So, while the budget may not include that, as we footnoted in the summary, we would certainly except and immediate request to amend the budget relative to that issuance.

Councilmember David McClain said, the only thing I had, if I may Mr. Chairman. Do we have... do you mind Steve... I know you and I exchanged a couple emails... maybe just about the Capital Improvement. Can we have like an excel sheet of projects? I'm sure there's a running list like here are the projects we're looking at funding this year. I would like to see that so we can... so I know what projects we are... Director Steve Purtee said, that's a great comment. I appreciate your emails in that regard, Mr. McClain, and we do have that list in it working format and we are finalizing that. You know, the monthly financial report on page 24 includes the Capital Improvement schedule, so we'll be adding to that relative to other projects that have been appropriated through the course of this year. And then anything that we're anticipating in the 25 budget, but we will also bring that detail into our presentation as well. Councilmember David McClain said, ok thank you. Finance Director Steve Purtee said, you bet.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, you said that the department heads, you haven't met those guys yet at all? Director Steve Purtee said, say that one more time. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, department heads. Director Steve Purtee said, we are meeting with the department heads, yes sir. We've met with them yesterday, today, and we'll have more meetings through the course of this week.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, the reason why I asked that, I sent a request, not so much a request. I haven't got an answer back yet, about thinking about I.T. and maybe Sanitation getting more money. And so, I guess maybe that's the reason why I haven't got an answer back yet from you guys. Director Steve Purtee said, we are in the middle of those conversation, yes sir.

Filed

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

8. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this meeting be Adjourned. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 5 - Charles Coleman; Ann Williams; John Street; David McClain and Brian Emison

Absent: 1 - Anthony Coleman