

**City of Gresham Finance Committee
Wednesday, February 19, 2025, 7:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting Minutes**

Finance Committee Members Present:

Mike Schultze, Vice-Chair
Nick McWilliams
Theresa Tschirky, Chair
Rusty Allen
Jan Baker

Finance Committee Members Absent:

Council Liaison in Attendance:

Janine Gladfelter

Staff Members in Attendance:

Elizabeth McCann, Director of Budget & Finance

Christina Ott (Recording Secretary)

1. Convene Meeting and Roll Call

The meeting was convened at 7pm by Chair Tschirky.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Meeting Minutes – January 15, 2025

There was a motion made by Mr. McWilliams and seconded by Mr. Schultze to:

“Approve the Meeting Minutes for January 15, 2025 as presented.”

Motion passes unanimously.

4. General Fund Forecast Update

Ms. McCann began with her presentation.

“Presentation can be seen as a part of Attachment A.”

Chair Tschirky inquired where the Police, Fire, and Parks fee was located.

Ms. McCann replied that it was part of the General Fund revenues, the dark green slice labelled “PFP”, equaling about 8% of the revenue.

Ms. McCann continued with her presentation.

She then opened it up to the committee for other questions.

Mr. McWilliams questioned why the budget wasn’t balanced.

Ms. McCann explained there is a difference between a legally balanced budget and a structurally balanced budget. Gresham’s budget would be balanced legally budget not structurally. A structurally imbalanced budget could be in balance by the end of a fiscal year due to overperforming revenues and budgetary savings from departments such as vacancies.

Mr. McWilliams asked a stated that structural imbalances lead to unsustainable finances and the problem should be resolved to address the issue.

Ms. McCann explained that if the forecast were to hold true, the City would expect to spend more than the amount of revenue that came in. The forecast already assumed a certain level of underspending. The outstanding question would be if the city spent less than that assumption or does any revenue come in higher that would change the outcome of the forecast.

Mr. McWilliams highlighted general inflationary and population trends over the last 15 years and hypothesized that Gresham’s budget grew faster than those benchmarks.

Ms. McCann agreed with Mr. McWilliam’s hypothesis and continued that revenue typically grew at 3-4% per year with variability between different revenue sources. For expenditures there are some that grew faster than those benchmarks.

5. Project Updates

Ms. McCann began sharing some updates with the committee:

- Two Requests For Proposals were issued by Accounting for Investment Advisor Services and Audit Services. Staff requested committee members to indicate if they were interested in serving on the review panel.

Mr. McWilliams volunteered to serve for both review panels.

- Levy Advisory Committee: The Finance Committee was asked to nominate three committee members to serve on the new committee.

Mr. McWilliams, Mr. Schultze, and Ms. Tschirky volunteered to serve on the Levy Advisory Committee.

- Recruitment for Finance Committee: A notice was being placed in the Outlook, community outreach continued.

6. Mayor & Council Compensation for FY 2025/26

Ms. McCann presented information to the committee about the background of Mayor and Council compensation and information regarding compensation work that other local jurisdictions have undertaken.

Chair Tschirky asked if there was any Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) assumption regarding the employees not covered by collective bargaining.

Ms. McCann responded there are budgetary assumptions as a starting point but compensation for employees not covered by collective bargaining is typically addressed in June of each year. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is often considered when making those salary adjustments.

Chair Tschirky shared some of the research she gathered among the other jurisdictions' compensation.

"Information can be seen as part of agenda packet."

There was discussion between the committee members about either keeping compensation the same as last year or adjusting for COLA increases.

Ms. McCann noted last year the approved COLA was in alignment with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) that was available at the time.

Chair Tschirky asked the committee to indicate support for one of three options: No increases, a 1.4% increase, or a 2.8% increase based on discussion.

Committee discussion continued regarding compensation levels and CPI indices.

There was a motion made by Ms. Baker and seconded by Chair Tschirky to:

"Modify the compensation schedule to reflect a Cost-of-Living Adjustment of 1.4% for all Mayor and Council compensation effective July 1, 2025 and rounded to the nearest dollar applied to the monthly salaries."

Motion passes unanimously.

7. Committee Business

Chair Tschirky let the committee know that Councilor Hinton would be meeting with her and Ms. McCann on March 5. If there is anything needed to be conveyed in the meeting, please send an email to Chair Tschirky.

8. Good of the order

None

9. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Tschirky at 8:09pm. The next finance committee meeting will be held on March 19, 2025 at 7pm.


Theresa Tschirky, Chair


Christina Ott, Recording Secretary