



City of Cincinnati

801 Plum Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Meeting Minutes 2 - Final-revised

Budget and Finance Committee

Chairperson David Mann
Vice Chair Chris Seelbach
Councilmember Steve Goodin
Councilmember Jan-Michele Kearney
Councilmember Liz Keating
Councilmember Greg Landsman
Councilmember Betsy Sundermann
Councilmember Wendell Young

Monday, March 29, 2021

1:00 PM

Council Chambers, Room 300

PUBLIC HEARING

The Budget and Finance Committee called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Rollcall

Present: 6 - Chairperson Mann
Jan-Michele Kearney
Steve Goodin
Greg Landsman
Betsy Sundermann
Liz Keating

Absent: 1 - Wendell Young

Remote: 1 - Vice Chair Chris Seelbach

Also in attendance was Assistant City Manager Chris Bigham, Director of Finance Karen Alder, Assistant City Solicitor Emily Woemer, Director of Community and Economic Development Markiea Carter, Melba Moore, Health Commissioner, Ashanti Salter, Executive Assistant Health Department, Robert Hall, Division Manager Health Department, Jeanette Shoecraft, Division Manager Cincinnati Recreation Commission, Daniel Betts, Director of Cincinnati Recreation Commission, Steve Pacella, Assistant Cincinnati Recreation Commission Director, Jarvis Graham, Executive Assistant Cincinnati Recreation Commission and Clerk to the Committee Robert Neely.

The following registered to speak remotely during the meeting: Melanie Moon, Vince Gay, Allie Graff, Bob Jenkins, Jeremy Moore, Derrick Blessingame, Kevin Shaw, Blake Robinson, Charles Gerhardt and Alana Tucker.

PRESENTATION

Cincinnati Playhouse In The Park

**PRESENTATION -- Stimulus
by City Administration**

**PROPERTY TAX RATE
City Manager Legislative Resolution**

AGENDA

Begin Public Hearing (2:50 p.m.)

1. [202101189](#)

MOTION, dated 03/18/2021, submitted by Councilmember Mann, **Budget Policy Direction to City Administration for Recommended FY 2022 General Fund Operating Budget**. WE MOVE that the City administration prepare a Fiscal Year 2022 Recommended General Fund Operating Budget which respects the following policy guidelines and priorities: 1. The Fiscal Year 2022 General Fund Operating Budget must be balanced. While continuing to strive to have a structurally balanced budget, the fiscal impacts of the pandemic may necessitate the use of one-time sources to balance in Fiscal Year 2022. 2. Given the projected \$30.0 million gap between General Fund revenues and expenditures, federal stimulus funds should be used to offset the projected FY 2022 operating budget deficit based on the eligible uses of funds for pandemic related expenditures and/or loss of revenue. (BALANCE OF MOTION ON FILE IN CLERKS OFFICE)

Sponsors: Mann

Adopt

End Public Hearing (2:54 p.m.)

2. [202101220](#) **RESOLUTION (LEGISLATIVE) (EMERGENCY)** submitted by Paula Boggs Muething, City Manager, on 3/29/2021, **AUTHORIZING** tax levies for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2022, certifying them to the Hamilton County Auditor pursuant to O.R.C. § 5705.34, and requesting the County Auditor and County Treasurer to pay monies that may be in the County Treasury and are lawfully applicable to the purpose of this calendar year to the City Treasurer pursuant to O.R.C. § 321.34.

Sponsors: City Manager

Recommend Passage Emergency

3. [202101226](#) COMMUNICATION, dated 03/24/2021, submitted by Councilmember Mann, from Blake Robinson, Artistic Director Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, regarding Update on the capital project at the Playhouse at the Park and to ask for your support.

Sponsors: Mann

Filed

4. [202101138](#) **MOTION**, submitted by Vice Mayor Smitherman and Councilmember Keating and Goodin, **WE MOVE** that a subcommittee of Economic Growth and Zoning be established to address matters related to small business in the City of Cincinnati.

Sponsors: Smitherman, Keating and Goodin

Adopt

5. [202101181](#) **MOTION**, submitted by Councilmember Goodin and Vice Mayor Smitherman, The Cincinnati Police Department (CPD) recently reported that its complement of uniformed officers stands below 1,000 for the first time in decade as a result of retirements and attrition. This reduction in force comes at a time when Cincinnati neighborhoods have been faced with a record number of murders, as well as an increase in property and quality of life offenses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the community continues to seek thoughtful engagement between the Cincinnati Police Department and mental health and addiction service providers to, when appropriate, divert potential criminal defendants into treatment. Accordingly, **WE MOVE** that a portion of Cincinnati's American Rescue Plan appropriation be committed to: 1) immediately fund a new CPD recruit class in 2021 to better facilitate community policing and criminal investigations; 2) fund additional training and police personnel for CPD's Mental Health Response Team (MHRT); 3) fund training to better integrate the MHRT with existing mental health and substance abuse providers and to create a mechanism to track those citizens who are referred to such providers; 4) to fund the local chapter of the Saving Our Kings and Queens youth intervention program headed by Mitch Morris; 5) to fund Rev. Peterson Mingo's Southern Christian Leadership Program's Rites of Passage initiative, which includes a summer camp, anti-gang and anti-drug education and numerous youth sports programs in Evanston; and 6) to once again fully fund Hope Dudley's UCanSpeakForMe homicide victim's family assistance program.

Sponsors: Goodin and Smitherman

Held

6. [202101186](#) **MOTION**, submitted by Vice Mayor Smitherman, Councilmember Goodin, Mann and Keating, **WE MOVE** that the first funds from the American Rescue Plan Act be used to meet our reserve target goal of 16.7%, or two months of our prior year's revenue. **WE FURTHER MOVE** that these funds be used to close the projected budget deficits for fiscal years 2022 and 2023. **WE FURTHER MOVE** that the City of Cincinnati make whole any other city funds that were impacted by Covid-19. (STATEMENT ATTACHED).

Sponsors: Smitherman, Goodin, Mann and Keating

Held

7. [202101187](#) **MOTION**, submitted by Vice Mayor Smitherman and Councilmember Goodin and Kearney, **WE MOVE** that funds from the American Rescue Plan Act be allocated to address staffing shortages identified by department heads and recommended by the administration. (STATEMENT ATTACHED).

Sponsors: Smitherman, Goodin and Kearney

Held

8. [202101175](#) **MOTION**, submitted by Councilmember Sundermann, **WE MOVE** that the City Administration include in the FY22 budget a sufficient portion from the anticipated funds that Cincinnati is to receive through the American Rescue Plan in order to complete any funding needs for the construction of the Western Hills Viaduct. (STATEMENT ATTACHED)
- Sponsors:** Sundermann
Held
9. [202101185](#) **MOTION**, submitted by Councilmember Sundermann, **WE MOVE** that the City Administration include in the FY22 budget \$1,400,000 for an additional class of 43 police recruits to ensure that the Cincinnati Police Department can adequately keep up with attrition. The sources of city revenue should first be a COPS Hiring grant and then any additional needed funds from the anticipated \$291,590,000 that Cincinnati is to receive from the recently passed federal law, American Rescue Plan. (STATEMENT ATTACHED).
- Sponsors:** Sundermann
Held
10. [202101166](#) **MOTION**, submitted by Councilmember Mann, Kearney, Sundermann, Goodin and Keating, **WE MOVE** that the City Administration identify resources sufficient to ensure that Bethany House can complete its new shelter for clients. (STATEMENT ATTACHED)
- Sponsors:** Goodin, Kearney, Mann, Sundermann and Keating
Held
11. [202101183](#) **ORDINANCE** submitted by Paula Boggs Muething, City Manager, on 3/24/2021, **AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to apply for, accept and appropriate a grant in the amount of \$303,230 from the Get Vaccinated OHIO Public Health Initiative, funded by the Ohio Department of Health, to support activities that will increase immunization rates in children under two years of age, school aged children and adolescents; and **AUTHORIZING** the Director of Finance to deposit the grant funds into Public Health Research Fund 350.
- Sponsors:** City Manager
Recommend Passage

12. [202101184](#) **ORDINANCE** submitted by Paula Boggs Muething, City Manager, on 3/24/2021, **AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to accept and appropriate grant resources in the amount of \$20,000 from the Delta Dental Foundation's COVID-19 Dental Equipment Fund, to provide funds for the Cincinnati Health Department's purchase of COVID-19 related dental supplies and equipment, including personal protective equipment ("PPE"), air purifiers, teledentistry equipment, and other necessary resources; and **AUTHORIZING** the Director of Finance to receive and deposit the grant funds into Public Health Research Fund 350.

Sponsors: City Manager

Recommend Passage

13. [202101188](#) **ORDINANCE (EMERGENCY)** submitted by Paula Boggs Muething, City Manager, on 3/24/2021, **AUTHORIZING** the transfer of the sum of \$60,850 within the General Fund from and to various operating budget accounts for the purpose of providing funds for the ongoing needs of City departments in accordance with the attached Schedule of Transfer; **AUTHORIZING** the transfer of the sum of \$1,744,743 within the Restricted Funds from and to various operating accounts for the purpose of providing funds for the ongoing needs of City departments in accordance with the attached Schedule of Transfer; and **AUTHORIZING** the appropriation of \$300,000 from the unappropriated surplus of 9-1-1 Cell Phone Fees Fund 364 for the purpose of realigning and providing funds for the ongoing needs of City departments in accordance with the attached Schedule of Transfer.

Sponsors: City Manager

Recommend Passage Emergency

14. [202101190](#) **ORDINANCE (EMERGENCY)** submitted by Paula Boggs Muething, City Manager, on 3/24/2021, **ESTABLISHING** new capital improvement program project no. 980x199x211921, "Riverside Boat Ramp Improvements"; and **AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to apply for, accept, and appropriate a grant in an amount of up to \$200,000 from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Waterways Safety Fund for the purpose of providing funding for the design and construction of the improved boat ramp, boat dock, and restrooms at the Riverside boat ramp.

Sponsors: City Manager

Recommend Passage Emergency

15. [202101191](#) **ORDINANCE (EMERGENCY)** submitted by Paula Boggs Muething, City Manager, on 3/24/2021, **DETERMINING** to proceed with improving Walworth Avenue in the East End neighborhood of Cincinnati by constructing an extension thereto, together with curbs, street lighting, streetscaping, sidewalks, water mains, and storm and sanitary sewer; necessary remediation of soil in the related right-of-way; installing retaining walls; acquiring land necessary to construct and install the foregoing; and acquiring, constructing, and installing other related improvements, and of assessing certain lots adjacent to Walworth Avenue, as extended, for costs of those improvements, in accordance with Chapter 727 of the Ohio Revised Code. (COUNCILMEMBER KEATING IS EXCUSED FROM VOTING ON THIS ITEM)
- Sponsors:** City Manager
Recommend Passage Emergency
16. [202101192](#) **ORDINANCE (EMERGENCY)** submitted by Paula Boggs Muething, City Manager, on 3/24/2021, **APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to execute a *Community Reinvestment Area Tax Exemption Agreement* with 64 E McMicken LLC, an affiliate of Northcrown Property LLC thereby authorizing a 15-year tax exemption for 100% of the value of improvements made to real property located at 64 E. McMicken Avenue in the Over-the-Rhine neighborhood of Cincinnati, in connection with the remodeling of the existing building into approximately 1,370 square feet of commercial space and approximately 4,003 square feet of residential space, consisting of 6 apartments, at a total construction cost of approximately \$919,178. (COUNCILMEMBER KEATING IS EXCUSED FROM VOTING ON THIS ITEM)
- Sponsors:** City Manager
Recommend Passage Emergency
17. [202101193](#) **ORDINANCE (EMERGENCY)** submitted by Paula Boggs Muething, City Manager, on 3/24/2021, **LEVYING** special assessments to pay for the costs of improving Walworth Avenue in the East End neighborhood of Cincinnati by constructing an extension thereto, together with curbs, street lighting, streetscaping, sidewalks, water mains, and storm and sanitary sewer; necessary remediation of soil in the related right-of-way; installing retaining walls; acquiring land necessary to construct and install the foregoing; and acquiring, constructing, and installing other related improvements, and any financing and administrative expenses in connection therewith. (COUNCILMEMBER KEATING IS EXCUSED FROM VOTING ON THIS ITEM)
- Sponsors:** City Manager
Recommend Passage Emergency

18. [202101194](#) **ORDINANCE (EMERGENCY)** submitted by Paula Boggs Muething, City Manager, on 3/24/2021, **APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to execute a *Community Reinvestment Area Tax Exemption Agreement* with 116 E McMicken LLC, an affiliate of Northcrown Property LLC thereby authorizing a 15-year tax exemption for 100% of the value of improvements made to real property located at 116 E. McMicken Avenue in the Over-the-Rhine neighborhood of Cincinnati, in connection with the remodeling of the existing building into approximately 549 square feet of commercial space and approximately 5,183 square feet of residential space, consisting of 10 residential rental units, at a total construction cost of approximately \$869,325. (COUNCILMEMBER KEATING IS EXCUSED FROM VOTING ON THIS ITEM)
- Sponsors:** City Manager
Recommend Passage Emergency
19. [202101195](#) **ORDINANCE (EMERGENCY)** submitted by Paula Boggs Muething, City Manager, on 3/24/2021, **APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING** the execution of a Job Creation Tax Credit Agreement with Luma Financial Technologies, LLC, pursuant to which the company agrees to create 58 new jobs at 425 Walnut Street, Suite 2410 in the Central Business District of Cincinnati and, for a period of 4 years, the City agrees to provide an income tax credit equal to 35% of City income tax revenue from such new jobs.
- Sponsors:** City Manager
Recommend Passage Emergency
20. [202101196](#) **ORDINANCE (EMERGENCY)** submitted by Paula Boggs Muething, City Manager, on 3/24/2021, **APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to execute a *Community Reinvestment Area Tax Exemption Agreement (LEED or Living Building Challenge)* with Robel 1 LLC, thereby authorizing a 15-year tax exemption for 100% of the value of improvements made to real property located at 18 W. Elder Street in the Over-the-Rhine neighborhood of Cincinnati, in connection with the remodeling of an existing building into approximately 500 square feet of commercial space and approximately 3,300 square feet of residential space, consisting of 7 residential rental units, which remodeling shall be completed in compliance with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Silver, Gold or Platinum standards or Living Building Challenge standards, at a total remodeling cost of approximately \$300,000.
- Sponsors:** City Manager
Recommend Passage Emergency

21. [202101197](#) **ORDINANCE (EMERGENCY)** submitted by Paula Boggs Muething, City Manager, on 3/24/2021, **APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to execute a *Community Reinvestment Area Tax Exemption Agreement* with Northcrown 56 McMicken LLC, an affiliate of Northcrown Property LLC thereby authorizing a 15-year tax exemption for 100% of the value of improvements made to real property located at 56 E. McMicken Avenue in the Over-the-Rhine neighborhood of Cincinnati, in connection with the remodeling of the existing building into approximately 1,081 square feet of commercial space and approximately 6,829 square feet of residential space, consisting of 13 apartments, at a total remodeling cost of approximately \$1,501,184. (COUNCILMEMBER KEATING IS EXCUSED FROM VOTING ON THIS ITEM)

Sponsors: City Manager

Recommend Passage Emergency

21. [202101235](#) PRESENTATION submitted by Paula Boggs Muething, City Manager, dated 3/29/2021, regarding the Administration's presentation regarding the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Stimulus.

Sponsors: City Manager

Filed

22. [202101246](#) PRESENTATION, dated 03/29/2021, submitted by Councilmember Mann, from Blake Robison, Artistic Director, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Directing the Future Campaign, A New Stage for Cincinnati's National Theatre, Project Update.

Sponsors: Mann

Filed

ADJOURNMENT

The Budget and Finance Committee adjourned at 2:10 p.m.