

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND
CITY COUNCIL BUDGET WORK SESSION**

**Monday, May 3, 2021
Minutes**

Adopted October 20, 2021

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Stewart, Councilmember Kovar, Councilmember Dyballa, Councilmember Kostiuk, Councilmember Seamens, Councilmember Smith, Councilmember Searcy

Also present: City Manager Ludlow, City Clerk Carpenter, Deputy City Manager Jessica Clarke, City Police Chief DeVaul, Public Works Director Braithwaite, Sustainability Manager Gina Mathias, Economic Development Manager Samira Cook Gaines

The City Council convened at 7:30 PM via Zoom.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

The City Manager Ludlow's comments are attached.

BUDGET WORK SESSION

1. Budget Reconciliation

Mayor Stewart began the session by explaining the purpose of budget reconciliation.

Councilmember Searcy proposed eliminating the K-9 unit. Police Chief DeVaul commented against elimination without a comprehensive review. He also discussed the safety policies around the K-9 unit. Councilmember Seamens supported maintaining the K-9 unit and explained his concern about use of K-9 units from other jurisdictions which have different standards.

Councilmember Searcy supported putting the proposed elimination of the K-9 unit on hold until receiving recommendations from Public Safety Task Force and wanted to ensure agreements were in place in the event the Department needed to call on dogs from other jurisdictions.

Councilmember Kostiuk moved that the removal of the K-9 unit remain on the reconciliation list. Mayor Stewart called a vote. The motion did not carry (VOTING FOR: Kovar, Dyballa, Kostiuk).

Mayor Stewart clarified that she does not support the City having a K-9 unit but wants to

ensure that its discontinuation is done in an appropriate way.

Councilmember Searcy proposed reallocating the additional police pension contribution amount of \$50,490 from the pension to implementation of the Public Safety Task Force recommendations. Councilmember Seamens commented in opposition to reduction of the supplemental funding for the pension. He supported adding \$50,000 for the Council to implement its priorities for reimagining public safety.

Mayor Stewart called for a vote on reduction of the supplemental police pension contribution by \$50,490. There was unanimous support for the reduction.

There were no objections to adding \$50,000 towards implementation of Council's priorities for reimagining public safety.

Public Works Director Braithwaite commented that \$150,000 for stormwater engineering on private property would be sufficient.

Mayor Stewart called vote on whether to budget \$150,000 or \$200,000 to stormwater engineering on private property. The majority supported \$150,000 and the was decreased to \$150,000.

Councilmember Kostiuik proposed \$10,000 for a plaque at Heffner Park Community Center and a sign with a new name for Jackson Boyd Park. It was supported, 6-1. Councilmember Smith voted against.

Ms. Stewart requested \$36,000 for a tree canopy pilot program. There was no objection from Council.

Councilmember Dyballa spoke in support of a building energy benchmarking study. Ms. Braithwaite noted that the Sustainability Manager was not recommending the study in the next fiscal year. The majority of Council supported funding the study at \$60,000.

Mayor Stewart proposed putting \$50,000 in the budget for a Community Ambassador/Navigator program. The majority of Council supported.

After discussion of funding racial equity coordination/community engagement work, additional economic development support, and increase to Library services, the Council supported \$125,000 for racial equity coordination/community engagement work, \$50,000 for economic development, and \$20,000 for Library services.

The Council discussed possible items to place on hold list including the police camera trailer.

Final Budget Reconciliation List (attached).

ADJOURNMENT

The Council adjourned for the evening at approximately 10:50 PM.

FISCAL YEAR 2022 RECONCILIATION ITEMS			
RECONCILIATION ITEMS BY FUNDING CATEGORY	PROPOSED BY	AMOUNT	NOTES
General Fund Revenues		\$ 27,404,881	
Revised Revenues		\$ 27,404,881	
Change in revenue		\$ -	
General Fund Expenditures		\$ 35,667,922	
Decrease: Council Priorities Set-Aside	City Manager	\$ (380,000)	
Decrease: Capital outlay - Unidentified Housing Project	City Manager	\$ (250,000)	
Decrease: Duplicate capital funding for Neighborhood Improvements	City Manager	\$ (58,000)	
Decrease: Community Legacy Loan Debt Service savings	City Manager	\$ (19,855)	
Decrease: Police Fringe	City Manager	\$ (138,000)	
Decrease: K-9 Unit	Talisha	\$ -	\$ (10,870)
Decrease: Police pension	Talisha/Kacy	\$ (50,490)	
Increase: Funds for Re-imagining Public Safety Task Force	Talisha	\$ 50,000	
Increase: Flooding and Stormwater Engineering on Private Property	Multiple	\$ 150,000	
Increase: Helfner Community Center Plaque & Jackson-Boyd Park Sign	Kacy	\$ 10,000	
Increase: Tree Canopy Pilot	Kate	\$ 36,000	
Increase: Building Benchmarking Study	Cindy	\$ 60,000	
Increase: Community Ambassadors/Navigators	Kate	\$ 90,000	
Increase: Racial Equity Coordination/Community Engagement Work	Kate	\$ 125,000	
Increase: Economic Development Support	Talisha	\$ 50,000	
Increase: Library Services	Jarrett	\$ 20,000	
Revised Expenditures		\$ 35,402,577	
Proposed General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance		\$ 2,792,736	
Revised General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance		\$ 2,792,736	
Stormwater Management Fund Revenues		\$ 704,500	
Revised Revenues		\$ 704,500	
Stormwater Management Fund Expenditures		\$ 908,126	
Revised Expenditures		\$ 908,126	
Special Revenue Funds Revenues		\$ 7,302,755	
Revised Revenues		\$ 7,302,755	
Special Revenue Funds Expenditures		\$ 1,245,510	
Revised Expenditures		\$ 1,245,510	
Speed Camera Fund Revenues		\$ 801,000	
Revised Revenues		\$ 801,000	
Speed Camera Fund Expenditures		\$ 874,762	
Revised Expenditures		\$ 874,762	

Each cent of the tax rate equals \$257,870.

Orig Proposed GF Budget Revenues	\$	27,404,881	
Orig Proposed GF Budget Expenditures	\$	35,667,922	
			<i>Difference</i>
Prop Tax Revenue assuming 55 cent rate	\$	14,182,877	<i>in Revenue</i>
Prop Tax Revenue assuming 53.97 cent rate	\$	13,917,271	\$ 265,606
Prop Tax Revenue assuming CY 52.95	\$	13,654,243	\$ 528,634
Prop Tax Revenue assuming ECI/CY 54.17	\$	13,968,845	\$ 214,032
Change in revenue from proposed budget	\$	-	
Expenditure savings listed	\$	(265,345)	-1.03
If the goal is to keep the current 53.97 tax rate, expenditure savings need to be:	\$	(265,606)	
Difference bet. expenditure savings listed & goal	\$	(261)	
If the goal is to go to the Constant Yield 52.95 tax rate expenditure savings need to be:	\$	(528,634)	
Difference bet. expenditure savings listed & goal	\$	(263,289)	
If the goal is to add ECI to the CY expenditure savings need to be:	\$	(214,032)	
Difference bet. Expenditure savings listed & goal	\$	51,313	

Notes:

\$257,870 equals a cent on the tax rate
 FY21 tax rate is \$0.5397; the Constant Yield Tax rate for FY22 is \$0.5295
 The ECI for wages and benefits combined is 2.3%
 Adding the ECI to the Constant Yield tax rate equals a rate of \$0.5417