

Introduced by: Councilmember Fulcher

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION 2024-33

**ESTABLISHING POLICY OBJECTIVES
ASSOCIATED WITH THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET**

WHEREAS, the City Council has adopted Ordinance 2024-9, approving and adopting a Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Budget for July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the City is recovering from the fiscal and other impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has received reports and presentations on a 10-year financial forecast and the City’s fiscal health; and

WHEREAS, the City Council and City management team desire to work closely throughout the months before the next budget season, to develop and consider policy options and additional revenue sources related to long- term fiscal health of the City; and

WHEREAS, establishing a long-term fiscal sustainability strategy for the City is a priority goal in the 2023-4 City Council priorities; and

WHEREAS, as part of the City Council’s review of the proposed FY 2024 budget, the Council identified various budget-related policy and revenue options for investigation, and created a short-term working group to begin that work; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to follow up on the findings of this short-term working group which reported to the City Council on March 6, 2024 and on July 17, 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT as part of the FY 2026 budget process, the City Manager or designated staff advise the Council on the following areas of the City’s fiscal policy:

- Review the criteria for replacing vehicles, and recommended funding levels to fund continued fleet electrification; and
- Reevaluate the road maintenance policy as well as the adequacy of proposed annual appropriations for street maintenance; and
- Develop a plan for funding additional projects identified by the LIDC study, including potential adjustments to stormwater fees to support this expansion; and
- Explore increasing railroad and utility taxes; including scenarios on their impact on City residents; and

- To promote maintenance or development of vacant property, identify options to increase vacant property registration fees and/or create a vacant property tax; and
- Identify indicators of commercial market health and an approach to considering a commercial property tax rate for the City; and
- Suggest possible new sources of revenue for the City.

Adopted by the Council of the City of Takoma Park this 31st day of July, 2024.

Attest:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jessie Carpenter". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Jessie Carpenter, CMC
City Clerk