

**BERKELEY CITY COUNCIL BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, February 27, 2025
10:00 AM**

Cypress Room – 2180 Milvia Street, 1st Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704

Committee Members:

Mayor Adena Ishii, Councilmembers Rashi Kesarwani and Brent Blackaby
Alternate: Councilmember Igor Tregub

This meeting will be conducted in a hybrid model with both in-person attendance and virtual participation. All Committee meetings are recorded.

To access the meeting remotely use this URL - <https://cityofberkeley-info.zoomgov.com/j/1603979524> . To request to speak, use the “raise hand” function in Zoom. To join by phone: Dial **1-669-254-5252** or **1-833-568-8864 (Toll Free)** and Enter **Meeting ID: 160 397 9524**. To provide public comment, press *9 and wait to be recognized by the Chair. To submit a written communication for the Committee’s consideration and inclusion in the public record, email policycommittee@berkeleyca.gov.

This meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Brown Act, Government Code Section 54953. Any member of the public may attend this meeting, however, if you are feeling sick, please do not attend the meeting in person.

Pursuant to the City Council Rules of Procedure and State Law, the presiding officer may remove, or cause the removal of, an individual for disrupting the meeting. Prior to removing an individual, the presiding officer shall warn the individual that their behavior is disrupting the meeting and that their failure to cease their behavior may result in their removal. The presiding officer may then remove the individual if they do not promptly cease their disruptive behavior. “Disrupting” means engaging in behavior during a meeting of a legislative body that actually disrupts, disturbs, impedes, or renders infeasible the orderly conduct of the meeting and includes, but is not limited to, a failure to comply with reasonable and lawful regulations adopted by a legislative body, or engaging in behavior that constitutes use of force or a true threat of force.

California Government Code Section 84308 (Levine Act) Parties to a proceeding involving a license, permit, or other entitlement for use are required to disclose if they made contributions over \$500 within the prior 12 months to any City employee or officer. Parties and participants with a financial interest are prohibited from making more than \$500 in contributions to a decisionmaker for the 12 months after the final decision is rendered on the proceeding. The above contribution disclosures and restrictions do not apply when the proceeding is competitively bid, or involves a personnel or labor contract. For more information, see Government Code Section 84308.

MINUTES

Roll Call: 10:02 a.m.

Present: Kesarwani, Blackaby, Ishii

Absent: None

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters – 0 speakers

Minutes for Approval

Draft minutes for the Committee's consideration and approval.

1. Minutes - February 13, 2025

Action: Item continued to the next meeting.

Committee Action Items

The public may comment on each item listed on the agenda for action as the item is taken up. The Chair will determine the number of persons interested in speaking on each item. Up to ten (10) speakers may speak for two minutes. If there are more than ten persons interested in speaking, the Chair may limit the public comment for all speakers to one minute per speaker.

Following review and discussion of the items listed below, the Committee may continue an item to a future committee meeting, or refer the item to the City Council.

2. **Audit Status Reports: Fleet Replacement Fund Short Millions & Rocky Road: Berkeley Streets at Risk and Significantly Underfunded** (Item contains supplemental material)

From: City Manager

Recommendation: ***On May 23, 2023, the City Council referred to the Budget and Finance Policy Committee to prioritize funding to the vehicle replacement fund to make up the shortfall over time in order to stabilize the fund.***

Financial Implications: See report

Contact: Terrance Davis, Public Works, (510) 981-6300

Action: 0 speakers. Presentation made and discussion held. Item continued to the next meeting.

Committee Action Items

3. Study: Sabbatical Leave for City of Berkeley Employees

From: Councilmember Hahn (Author)

Referred: September 30, 2024

Due: March 4, 2025

Recommendation: Refer to the City Manager study of a potential Sabbatical Leave policy for all City of Berkeley employees, modeled after the City's existing agreements with several bargaining units.

Consult with labor partners and City employees to explore a variety of terms and options, and the costs/benefits of unpaid, partially paid, and paid Sabbatical Leaves. Report findings to Council, outlining possible options and their financial impacts as well as potential benefits to recruitment, morale, longevity of tenure, and wellbeing.

Financial Implications: See report.

Contact: Sophie Hahn, Councilmember, District 5, (510) 981-7150

Action: 0 speakers. M/S/C (Ishii/Kesarwani) to send the item to Council with a negative recommendation.

Vote: All Ayes.

Unscheduled Items

These items are not scheduled for discussion or action at this meeting. The Committee may schedule these items to the Action Calendar of a future Committee meeting.

4 "Risk-Based Analysis and Stress Test of General Fund Reserve Requirements for the City of Berkeley" and provide recommendations related to the City's General Fund Reserve Policy

From: City Manager

Recommendation: Receive a presentation on the Risk-Based Analysis and Stress Test of General Fund Reserve Requirements for the City of Berkeley" and provide recommendations related to the City's General Fund Reserve Policy

Financial Implications: See report

Contact: Sharon Friedrichsen, Budget Manager, (510) 981-7000

Items for Future Agendas

- None

Adjournment

Action: M/S/C (Ishii/Kesarwani) to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: All Ayes.

Adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct record of the Budget & Finance Committee meeting held on February 27, 2025.

Neetu Salwan, Assistant City Clerk