

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

**Thursday, May 15, 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.

Use this URL <https://cityofberkeley-info.zoomgov.com/j/1606748374> to access the meeting remotely. 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: 160 674 8374**. 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](mailto: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.

# AGENDA

**Roll Call:** 10:04 a.m.

**Present:** Tregub (for Kesarwani), Blackaby, Ishii

## Minutes for Approval

*Draft minutes for the Committee's consideration and approval.*

### 1. Minutes - April 24, 2025

**Action:** M/S/C (Blackaby/Tregub) to approve the minutes of 4/24/2025.

**Vote:** All Ayes.

Councilmember Blackaby exited the meeting for the consideration of Item 2 at 10:06 a.m. due to Brown Act participation rules.

## 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. Fire Facility Revenue Measures *(Item contains supplemental material)*

**From:** Councilmember Terry Taplin (Author), Councilmember Blackaby (Co-sponsor), Councilmember Humbert (Co-sponsor), Mayor Ishii (Co-sponsor)

**Referred:** April 14, 2024

**Due:** September 22, 2025

**Recommendation:** Refer to the City Manager the assessment of potential 2026 revenue ballot measures to support capital improvements to fire department facilities and return recommendations for council adoption.

**Financial Implications:** See report

Contact: Terry Taplin, Councilmember, District 2, (510) 981-7120

**Action:** 1 speaker. M/S/C (Ishii/Kesarwani) to forward the item to Council with a positive recommendation.

**Vote:** All Ayes.

Councilmember Blackaby joined the meeting after the consideration of Item 2 at 10:21 a.m. due to Brown Act participation rules.

Councilmember Tregub exited the meeting at 10:58 a.m.

Councilmember Kesarwani joined the meeting at 10:59 a.m.

## Committee Action Items

3. **Fiscal Year 2026 Mid-Biennial Budget Update** *(Item contains supplemental material)*  
**From: City Manager**  
**Recommendation:** Receive a presentation on the preliminary FY 2026 Mid-Biennial Budget Update, including proposed balancing strategies, and provide recommendations.  
**Financial Implications:** See report  
Contact: Sharon Friedrichsen, City Manager's Office, (510) 981-7000, Henry Oyekanmi, Finance, (510) 981-7300  
**Action:** 12 speakers. Presentation made and discussion held. Item continued to the next meeting.
  
4. **Presentation: Marina Fund FY26 Updated Budget and Five-Year Forecast**  
**From: City Manager**  
**Recommendation:** Receive an update on the FY25 Marina Fund.  
**Financial Implications:** See report  
Contact: Scott Ferris, Parks, Recreation and Waterfront, (510) 981-6700  
**Action:** Item continued to the next meeting.

## 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.*

5. **Remove pre-transfer eligibility restriction of the transfer tax rebate for wildfire hardening**  
**From: Disaster and Fire Safety Commission**  
**Referred: May 5, 2025**  
**Due: October 12, 2025**  
**Recommendation:** Adopt first reading of an ordinance removing the 1-year pre-transfer eligibility restriction of the transfer tax rebate for wildfire hardening from BMC 7.52.060, to encourage early mitigation efforts.  
**Financial Implications:** See report  
Contact: Keith May, Commission Secretary, (510) 981-3473

## Items for Future Agendas

- None

## Adjournment

**Action:** M/S/C (Ishii/Kesarwani) to adjourn the meeting.  
**Vote:** All Ayes.

Adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct record of the Budget & Finance Committee meeting held on May 15, 2025.

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Neetu Salwan, Assistant City Clerk

## **Communications**

*Communications submitted to City Council Policy Committees are on file in the City Clerk Department at 2180 Milvia Street, 1st Floor, Berkeley, CA, and are available upon request by contacting the City Clerk Department at (510) 981-6908 or [policycommittee@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:policycommittee@berkeleyca.gov).*