

The FINANCE COMMITTEE held a meeting on Monday, February 23rd, 2026 beginning at 6:37 P.M.

FINANCE PRESENT: Chair Tollett, Cerra, Schneider, Van Wormer, Davis
COM DEV PRESENT: Chair Schneider, Mitchell, Rothgery, Doehne
OTHERS PRESENT: Armstrong
EXCUSED ABSENCE: Oswald, Lipian

OTHERS PRESENT: Law Dir Deery, Safety Svc Dir Pyanowski, Mayor Brubaker, Finance Dir Pileski, Assistant Dir Farrell, Engineer Schneider, CD Director A. Scott, CD Manager Almobayyed

1. The matter of approval of meeting minutes from the Finance Committee Meeting, which took place on February 9th, 2026, as circulated on February 11th, 2026.

Motion made by Mr. Cerra and seconded by Mr. Van Wormer to approve the 'said' Meeting Minutes.

MOTION CARRIES

2. The matter of a Contract for the Middle Avenue Sidewalk Replacement Project.

Referred By: Engineer Schneider

Engineer Schneider said they need to go out for bid for this sidewalk replacement project, on Middle Avenue, from 2nd St. to Broad St., mainly on the east side of the road in front of the businesses. The cost to complete all this work is approximately \$140,000. There will also be some work on the side along the park. Over the years they have replaced the pavers that have had a lot of issues where they settle and create trip hazards. Those pavers were installed throughout the city many years ago.

Mr. Van Wormer said that the sidewalks on the other side which were replaced look good and there have been less issues with tripping.

Mr. Schneider asked if the signage and other improvements are still part of the plan?

Engineer Schneider said he there is signage that will be added, but, he wasn't aware of any other improvements.

Finance Dir Pileski asked if this is in the Engineering Dept's Budget request?

Engineer Schneider said it's in the 2016 ½ percent income tax, capital needs fund.

There were no further questions and Chair Tollett read the committee report and asked for a motion.

Motion made by Mr. Cerra, seconded by Mr. Van Wormer to authorize an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids and award a contract for the 'said' project.

MOTION CARRIES

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

3. The matter of the 2026 Permanent Appropriations, (2026 Budget).

Referred By: Finance Directors Pileski and Farrell *[Standing Referral]*.

Chair Tollett said this is for discussion this evening and will not be voting tonight. The vote will take place at the next Finance meeting on March 9th. In the meantime, everyone should digest this, ask questions, meet with Finance Dir's Pileski and Farrell, the Mayor. Chair Tollett also wanted to acknowledge and thank Finance Dir's Pileski and Farrell and the Mayor and his team and all of the department heads.

Finance Director Pileski said everyone has the print-outs which were distributed last week and there is a lot to digest. The document everyone should focus on is the one being the schedule beginning of cash balances, which is the two-page document with the colorful columns, which show funds, beginning cash, estimated revenue for 2026, amount available to appropriate, yellow columns are the departments requests and the amount over / under available to appropriate. Columns in red are numbers that they went through and made changes and the purple column is City Council numbers and those numbers will change as they enter in what is eventually passed by Council.

Beginning with the General Fund, we are starting the year with 12.4 million. We started 2025 with 15.3 million, we're down about 3 million, but will recoup about a million of that when the FBI reimburses us for what we've spent on the Firing Range so far. We have received \$42,000 and are owed \$940,000.

Last year's revenues totaled 38.8 million, which included income tax revenues that were up 6.3% in the General Fund. Last year was a good year for tax revenue, but we spent more than what we brought in because the cash dropped by 3 million.

The amount available to appropriate in the General Fund this year is 50.9 million and department requests were 47 million. We have 27 pays this year, which we have every 11 years and he had to make sure everyone appropriated for that extra pay. The department requests were bumped up to 50.1 million. Worst case scenario, if revenues come in as estimated and we spend everything that was appropriated, we would finish the year with just under 1 million dollars in the General Fund. He thinks we will dip into the cash balance by about 4 to 5 million in the General Fund this year and that will bring it down to around 7 million to start next year, 2027.

Everyone will continue to be updated every month with revenue reports. At some point in time we have to stop, we can't continue to spend more than what we're bringing in.

There is a total of 51 funds that are appropriated, special revenue funds, muni court special funds, enterprise funds which are water, sanitation, waste water, storm water.

Besides the extra pay period, health insurance has gone considerably higher over last few years. Claim costs were up 14% last year. We had to adjust the funding for that fund by increasing the employee share for this year and the City's share went up also, because the fund was getting dangerously low.

There is also a capital list which everyone received which includes all the major water and sewer projects that are slated for this year. Dir Pileski suggests that everyone go through the list and reach out if you have questions.

The sanitation fund is in better shape since we raised the rates. He'll be able to pay off the note that is still outstanding on one of the trucks this year.

The other big project is the Central Maintenance Garage that should starting soon.

Mayor Brubaker said the contract has been awarded and the ground breaking is scheduled for March 19th at one o'clock and everyone will receive an invite to that.

Dir Pileski said the originally issued 21 million dollars in one-year notes for that project were retired long-term bonds totaling 16 million dollars and he retired 16 million of the notes and now we have long-term liability. He left 5 million in notes just in case the project came in lower or we scale back on the project. There is still 5 million in short-term notes that are outstanding. The remaining 16 million is now in long-term debt and we will start paying principal and interest starting next year on the long-term bonds.

Dir Pileski said that there is a lot that goes into this budget process, and a lot for everyone to digest, and please reach out with any questions.

Mr. Schneider asked if there was any negative impact from the Homestead expansion?

Finance Dir Pileski said we will lose revenue for sure, but he doesn't know how much yet. That money goes into four different funds; General Fund, General Bond Retirement, Police Pension and Fire Pension.

Mr. Schneider asked where the Medical Marijuana money goes?

Dir Pileski said it goes into the General Fund. He said there is no specific purpose for it so, it's best fit is in the General Fund.

Dir Pileski said there is money still available to appropriate in the 2016 ½ percent income tax fund for street resurfacing and he can bargain on those funds. He thinks the amount is around 3 million, but, we need to hang on to some of that money.

Chair Tollett said they will continue this discussion in two weeks and he encouraged the committee to get all of their questions answered.

Finance Dir Pileski reminded the committee that this has to be passed by Full Council by the end of March.

4. The matter of Amendments to the 2026 Temporary Appropriations.

Referred By: Finance Directors Pileski and Farrell [*Standing Referral*].

There are no amendments this evening. They won't be making any amendments now that the permanent budget is on the table.

Chair Tollett said they are blessed to have Dir's Pileski and Farrell and for them being conservative leaders for the City and again he thanked them.

Chair Tollett said that is all the business of this evening's Finance Meeting and he asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion made by Mr. Cerra and second by Mr. Schneider to adjourn the Finance Committee Meeting at 6:50 P.M.

MOTION CARRIES

That concluded this evening's meetings.

The Next Finance Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 9th, 2026.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Colleen Rosado, Secretary/Administrative Assistant