



Council Budget Retreat

Council Chambers, City Center South
8:30am, July 17, 2024

Welcome

8:35am

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call – all Council Members were present.
Caleb Weitz gave an overview of the agenda, meeting flow, and goals.

Message from the City Manager

8:40am

City Manager Raymond Lee, III. welcomed the group, expressed the importance of the impending review of the Budget requests, and thanked all for their participation in the meeting.

Economic Overview

8:44am

Brian Lewandowski gave a wide-ranging economic overview of Greeley, complete with comparisons to counterpart cities across the state and its national standing. He also provided contrasts between current and prior economic circumstances of 2008 and 2020, including the rise in credit card debt and reduction in residential building demand.

2024 Adopted Budget Overview

9:33am

Caleb Weitz provided a comprehensive Budget overview of the revised revenue and expenditure budgets for 2024. The group was informed that sales and use taxes are down from what had been projected for 2024 to help them understand the Budget adjustments and requests for 2025.

2024 Financial Update

9:58am

Robert Miller gave a summary of the 2024 financial condition, the impacts to City Resources, including higher fund balances and interest earnings, slower sales tax growth and the decline in new construction.

2025 Budget Outlook

10:10am

Caleb Weitz presented the 2025 Budget Outlook, and the recommendations of the Budget Team for stabilizing the budget, as well as options for additional revenue growth. The outlook was constrained due to lower sales tax growth and anticipated decline in oil and gas and property tax revenues, as current base expenditures exceed recurring revenue growth.

Capital Improvement Program Overview

10:41am

Kalen Myers and Caleb Weitz presented the Capital Improvement Overview after an update by City Manager, Raymond Lee, III, who reminded the group of the 2025 Strategic Capital Priorities, and that organizational alignment on these priorities was critical.

Debt Financing Discussion

11:05am

Caleb Weitz led the group in a discussion about taking on long term debt that would allow the City to fund critical high-cost projects, while providing cash flow and spreading the repayment costs to future users. The MERGE TIFIA loan was similar to the City obtaining a 30-year mortgage at a much lower interest rate, which must be approved by voters. (Overview of TIFIA & COPS given by Tyra Litzau)

Department Budget Requests Presentations –

Budget Request presentations were given by the below departments, which the Council asked to hear from via pre-retreat survey.

11:35am **Police** – Chief Adam Turk

12:02pm **Fire** – Chief Brian Kuznik

12:51pm **Public Works** – Will Jones with Capital Budget Summary from Caleb & Kalen

1:08pm **Water & Sewer** – Sean Chambers

1:59pm **Housing** – Deb Callies

2:16:45pm **Homeless Solutions** – Mandy Shreve

2:48pm **Community Development** – Brian McBroom & Don Threewitt

3:08pm **Economic Development** – John Hall

3:36pm **City Attorney** – Stacey Aurzada

4:00pm **Municipal Court** – Judge Gonzales

Charter Review - Heidi Leatherwood

Heidi Leatherwood reminded the group of the April 2023 work session regarding types of committees and types of reviews that could be done in a charter. She had been asked to get hard costs to review the Charter at that time. Quotes received for ~\$100K for 12-18 month review, not including staff costs.

Ask – is this a priority for 2025 Budget? The last full charter review was in 2001.

- Although this review is massively overdue, it was not believed to be a priority for the 2025 flat budget year. The group decided to revisit this ask next year for the 2026 Budget.

Wrap-Up/Next Steps – All

- Thank you to all departments for participating in this retreat.
- Next week, ballot initiatives will be on the Council Work session.
- Slides from departments not heard from today are included in the deck.
- Raymond to present his budget recommendation to Council.

Meeting Adjourned**4:20pm**