

CITIZEN BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 22nd, 2025 - 5:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present Absent Attending Guests & City Personnel:

Committee Members	Present	Absent
Barry Eastman	X	
Tyler Mowery		X
Anthony McCune	X	
John Shull		X
Merrie Foreman	X	
Lori Williams	X	
Khalil N Bhanji		X
Laura Gurney	X	

Nathan Mosley: Budget & Policy Director
Laura Delp: Finance Assistant

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order by Barry Eastman at 5:00pm

ATTENDANCE & ANNOUNCEMENTS -

APPROVE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 24th, 2025 - The minutes from September 24, 2025, were approved, with Merrie Foreman moving to approve, and Lori Williams seconding. Two members, Laura Gurney, and Tony McCune abstained as they were not present for the meeting in September.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2026 Budget Adoption – Nathan Mosley

Nathan Mosley reported that the City Council held second reading and adopted the 2026 budget on a 5–2 vote after staff recapped the year-round budget process that began publicly with the July Council retreat and previewed priorities ahead of the February strategic session for the 2027 cycle (with four Council seats turning over in roughly two weeks). He emphasized that a \$21 million structural gap in 2026 was closed with onetime 2024 carryover of \$11 million, \$3 million in departmental realignments (cost savings), and a \$7 million transfer from capital, cautioning that the underlying imbalance remains and must be solved in the 2027 process; he plans to bring forward a staff defined solution rather than rely on zero based budgeting, which often validates existing operations without delivering corrective action.

The 2026 budget includes 54 onetime funded positions distributed across the organization (three in Fire), reflecting targeted service extensions while longer term funding strategies are developed, particularly for homelessness response. Capital highlights span multiple funds (quality of life, food tax, transportation, enterprise, and parks), including the \$2 million Island Grove Regional Park chiller replacement, a cost shared with Weld County.

Council's October 7 requests drove most of the discussion and staff follow up.

First, Councilmember Melissa McDonald asked to add three firefighter positions in 2026; Mosley recommended adopting the budget as proposed, prioritizing conversion of the three existing term limited firefighter positions to fulltime continuous before adding new ones. No motion was made, so no change occurred.

Second, for a Drone as First Responder program raised by Councilmember Hall, staff is coordinating with Police and Fire to launch using already appropriated RTIC dollars, reprogrammed by transfer and reported administratively rather than by amending the budget.

Third, Council questions about the year-round homeless shelter focused on “low barrier” operations; United Way, the operator, allows intoxicated or high individuals to enter if they are not belligerent or unsafe and prohibits onsite use, prioritizing life safety in winter conditions. Staff addressed rumors about an influx from neighboring cities; internal reporting shared at the meeting indicated only a few known arrivals from Loveland, countering the “sanctuary city”

narrative. The adopted budget retains approximately \$1.1 million to United Way to keep the shelter open year-round.

Two capital items drew scrutiny but were left unchanged at adoption. For the Poudre River Restoration Initiative, Phase 3 (budgeted at \$500,000), several Council comments reflected concern about associating flood mitigation work with the broader, high-cost restoration effort; similarly, Lincoln Park redevelopment has \$4 million programmed across 2025–2026 but is effectively on hold due to the emerging Downtown Civic Campus plan, prompting interest in repurposing those dollars to deferred projects. Although Mosley provided amendment amounts that would have removed the two projects, no motions were introduced. To respond to concerns about project dollars being shifted without clear visibility, Mosley committed to quarterly CIP status reports to both the committee and Council and, operationally, to “park” the questioned allocations outside their project lines so departments cannot access them while Council discusses reappropriation in January. Staff has identified five to six near ready projects that could use roughly \$4.5 million of quality-of-life funds, but members also discussed holding those funds in reserve given uncertainty; Mosley noted quality of life revenues are restricted to capital, may be eligible for buildings such as the Civic Campus, and he will confirm whether they can be applied to debt service.

Looking ahead, nothing additional from the Civic Campus or Cascadia is expected to hit the 2026 budget because \$10.7 million for Civic Campus was appropriated in 2025 and COP financing for West Greeley is already in place; debt service on the COPs is currently expected to start in 2028 (Nathan to confirm with the CFO). Council is awaiting an independent review of the contractor’s final cost estimate (PCL), which is running about a month behind but expected by the end of the month, alongside market absorption and fee impact studies that will influence housing affordability in the General Improvement District (GID) area. The Council recently approved a GID inclusion mechanism requiring participating parcels to join the GID, and a developer with roughly 1,100 acres south of US34 indicated willingness to participate; staff also noted active interest from a major employer shortlisting a West Greeley site.

Mosley closed by acknowledging outgoing Mayor Gates’ steadying presence, reiterating his intent to surface contentious issues earlier so second readings are “clean,” and committing to bring a structured approach to the 2027 budget that directly addresses the structural gap rather than relying on lastminute onetime fixes.

2025 Amendment #3

Nathan Mosley opened by framing 2025 Amendment No. 3 as the City’s third and final budget amendment for calendar year 2025 and emphasized that it was used as the foundation for developing—and is fully aligned with—the 2026 budget that Council considered immediately afterward. He noted that the amendment appears in the packet as the second slide deck under “supplemental appropriation” and totals \$3,464,654. According to Mosley, the adjustment primarily trues up revenues and expenditures tied to grants awarded during 2025, incorporates revenue received under an intergovernmental agreement with Weld County for construction work on the Poudre River Trail, and completes several internal “cleanup” items where spending authority had been approved earlier in the year but the associated interfund transfers had not yet been executed. He characterized these as standard yearend housekeeping actions to ensure that both the City’s revenue recognition and spending authority reflect actual activity before year close, and he reiterated that nothing in the package was out of the ordinary and that the content had already been contemplated in the 2026 budget planning.

A significant element of the amendment is an approximately \$1 million allocation to resolve workers’ compensation claims anticipated to be settled before yearend. This prompted a brief discussion on the City’s risk financing approach: Mosley affirmed that Greeley self-funds workers’ compensation through its dedicated “501” workers’ compensation fund, and Barry Eastman recalled that the City budgets roughly \$3 million annually for that fund. Eastman flagged concerns about the long-term sustainability of the fund and asked whether the City should revisit purchasing external insurance instead of fully self-funding. Tony McCune cautioned that securing such coverage is both expensive and difficult, especially for municipalities with sworn police operations—insurers are wary of catastrophic liability exposure, including officer involved incidents—and further complicated when an entity’s bond rating is below A+. Mosley acknowledged these constraints and committed to consult with HR Director Martha for additional perspective on options and market feasibility. Beyond workers’ compensation, Mosley highlighted that the amendment encompasses several police related grants, funding tied to housing and homelessness initiatives, a Generation Wild planning grant, and targeted improvements at City golf courses made possible by available golf fund balance. He concluded that Council had little discussion on this amendment itself precisely because its components were already built into the subsequently presented 2026 budget, allowing the amendment to proceed quickly while the more substantive policy debates were reserved for the 2026 budget deliberations

OTHER BUSINESS

Members Term Limits - The group clarified board membership terms and reappointment logistics. Laura Delp noted that both Barry Eastman's and John's current terms end December 2025 and advised that anyone wishing to continue must submit a reapplication before the November 18 deadline; Barry confirmed he already reapplied three to four weeks earlier for a new term beginning January 1.

Nathan Mosley explained that appointments are for three-year terms, after which members must reapply, but the City Charter imposes no limit on the number of terms a member may serve. This corrected prior confusion stemming from other City boards' bylaws; per the City Clerk's Office, the Charter prevails over any bylaws that suggest term limits. Laura reiterated that Boards and Commissions staff likewise confirmed there are no term limits. Barry indicated he is reapplying but does not expect to serve beyond the next three years due to potential interest in City Council or the Planning Commission. For timing, Laura confirmed that terms run through calendar year-end (not the anniversary month), so members like Merrie Foreman—whose initial appointment occurred midyear—must still reapply before mid-November of their expiration year. Staff will issue reminders, and automated emails are expected, though the group acknowledged that missed or incorrect email addresses (possibly John's) can cause lapses; Laura offered to follow up directly with John to ensure he is notified well ahead of the November 18 cutoff.

Bylaws Review/Finalization - The committee conducted a structured, rapid review of its draft bylaws, agreeing on a process in which members provide feedback now, staff returns with a redlined version at the next meeting, and—if acceptable— Laura will submit to the City Attorney's Office (CAO) to perform a legal review prior to formal adoption.

On membership, the group favored explicitly requiring Greeley residency and stating a preference for geographic balance—ideally two members per ward—with “if possible” language so vacancies are not prolonged when applicants from a particular ward are unavailable; they also asked to reframe the current checklist of qualifications as “preferred experience/qualities.” Several members noted a recent member's case that exposed gaps around residency and vacancies; staff will verify citywide requirements because the current application materials suggest residency may be preferred but are not required.

For appointments and terms, the bylaws will continue to reflect three-year terms with reapplication at expiration; after discussing pros and cons of term limits (institutional knowledge versus broader access), the group's consensus was no term limits, consistent with Charter, though some members urged parallel outreach (open houses, broader recruitment) to diversify participation over time.

Under vacancies and removal, the committee asked to add (1) automatic disqualification if a seated member moves outside city limits (processed as a resignation via motion) and (2) an attendance standard: three absences within a rolling 12-month period would allow, but not require, removal by majority vote, with excused absences recorded by staff; the goal is to preserve quorum and avoid prolonged inactive seats.

They confirmed meeting structure (at least six regular meetings annually, plus special meetings as needed), and clarified quorum as a majority of available/authorized seats rather than the number of members present. On compensation and expenses, members serve without pay but may have City-approved expenses reimbursed, mirroring Municipal Code Section 2-551; staff noted potential low-cost training opportunities (e.g., the Colorado Government Finance Association conference in Loveland).

The committee briefly scanned officer roles, elections, voting, and open meetings provisions without major changes. In the advisory role section, members questioned whether their duties should explicitly include annual votes on the food tax, the budget, and the revenue stabilization mechanism; Nathan will confirm the legal basis (Charter/ordinance or prior practice) with Finance leadership (Robert/Caleb) and propose where such requirements should live (likely in the purpose/advisory section rather than voting mechanics).

Finally, they agreed to remove language suggesting the committee “provides oversight on auditing processes,” since external audit is managed by Finance (under the CFO) and overseen by Council, not this body; staff will align the bylaws to that governance reality before returning with a tracked-changes draft.

Next Meeting - The committee finalized near-term scheduling around the holidays and aligned on how to handle a heavy year-end workload. Members reconfirmed shifting the November meeting to Wednesday, November 19, 2025, noting that the agenda is already crowded because items deferred from December were added.

A December meeting remains optional for Wednesday, December 17, 2025: Merrie Foreman will be out, Laura Gurney

and Lori Williams can attend, and Barry Eastman indicated that if the group chooses to meet, someone else would chair. Given limited availability and the desire for broad participation when setting 2026 priorities, Nathan Mosley recommended skipping December and instead using January for a more robust planning session tied to the incoming Council's preferences; if November runs long, members were advised to expect a possible 7:00 p.m. finish. To manage time, the group agreed to "timebox" presentations at the November meeting—roughly 15 minutes per item plus 5–10 minutes of Q&A—with Laura Gurney volunteering to serve as timekeeper.

For bylaws, the plan is to complete edits in November, circulate a finalized draft by email for member review/consent, and, if there is consensus, transmit it directly to the City Attorney's Office for legal review and formal adoption would shift to January. This approach preserves quorum, keeps the November agenda on track, and avoids convening a lightly attended December session while still advancing bylaws and 2026 work planning.

PUBLIC INPUT - No members of the public were present.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 6:31pm

Next Regular Meeting:
November 19, 2025
5:00-6:30 p.m.

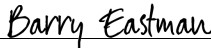
City Center South - 1001 11th Ave, Greeley, CO 80631
2nd Floor Colorado Conference Room 227
Zoom(<https://greeleygov.zoom.us/j/82522074466>)

Signed by:



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Nathan Mosley
Budget & Policy Director

Signed by:



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Barry Eastman
Chairperson