

City of Bristol
Regular Board of Finance Meeting
April 17, 2024

A regular meeting of the Board of Finance was held on April 17, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in City Hall 3rd Floor Meeting Rooms and via Zoom. The following were in attendance: Chairperson Dave Maikowski, Vice Chairperson Marie O'Brien, Mayor Jeffrey Caggiano (left at 5:58 p.m.), Commissioners Ron Burns, Glenn Heiser, Jon Mace, and Mike Massarelli. Commissioner Mark Peterson and Mark Whitford were on Zoom.

Also present from the Comptroller's Office: Diane Waldron, Robin Manuele and Jessica Pilgrim.

1. Call to order

Chairperson Maikowski called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Public Participation

None

3. Discussion regarding the 2024-2025 budget.

Comptroller Diane Waldron reviewed the proposed budget for the General City totaling \$85,093,690 increasing \$3,077,635 or 3.75%. It was noted, the Condensation Tanks at PD Complex couldn't not be funded by LOCIP in the Capital Budget because the project would be temporary with proposed future renovations to the building so \$50,000 has been added to City side of the of the budget. This is the only change from the April 3 workshop.

The total General Fund proposed budget is \$229,115,085 which increases 2.82%, with the General City at 3.75%, Debt Service and Capital Transfers 7.94% and Education 1.65%.

For the Capital Budget, \$126,000 has been added for LOCIP funding various Public Building projects, which includes \$55,000 for Fire Headquarters Parking Lot Upgrades, \$15,000 for Firehouse #2 Concrete Apron Repairs, and \$56,000 for Manross Library Window Replacements.

Commissioner O'Brien, questioned Diane stating at the Joint Meeting she reported the City is projecting a \$3 million surplus, Diane clarified revenues are running \$3 million ahead, however it is unknown how expenditures, specifically for the Board of Education will come in through June 30. City expenditures are currently running with an expenditure surplus at this point in time. Commissioner O'Brien questioned if there is any new information on the legislative side of the budget, which Diane stated there is nothing new to report and that the State budget should be voted on or before May 8.

Commissioner O'Brien also questioned the BOE establishing their own federal ID number and establishing a taxing district, and if there is a solution to this. Diane explained there is one federal ID for the City and BOE. The Comptroller's Office does all federal reporting for the BOE including filing the 941, 1099s and W2's. With respect to the specific grant questioned, advice was sought from UHY and it was suggested the City or BOE apply for the grant with an outside community health agency.

Discussion was held on the BOE budget. Dr. Carbone stated she understands the BOF is trying to make economic decisions, she can only present what the BOE has adopted. She shared that the recommended budget, with contractual bargaining increases, transportation increases and special education costs the amount needed by the BOE is about a \$2.7 million increase. Chairman Maikowski stated there have been several meetings to discuss what amount is needed to maintain the same services in the previous year as there is no Grand List growth this year to help offset any increase in the mill rate. There are 13 positions added to the budget from the total, 8 of those 13 would be a revenue neutral cost to the City. He would like to see the City and BOE maintain current services, no less or no more. This is the first year the BOE is seeing an increase in Alliance District funding, which they have not seen in the past.

Shelby Pons, Chairperson BOE, discussed the BOE budget request and Alliance funding as there are other competing priorities of the Board. The Alliance District funding has increased because 100 students are either SPED, ESL, or are within poverty levels. The legislation has requirements of the money which are to increase services, and the BOE must stay in compliance for these additional funds.

Shelby stated she can go back to the Board of Education, and make \$2.4 million work, as the BOE is working to find ways to supplement the theatre program and sports programs. They are looking at other ways to bring in revenue as well.

Commissioner O'Brien requested the BOE present monthly to the Board of Finance going forward. The BOE presenting on a monthly basis will provide consistency, a clear understanding of their budget and transparency to help eliminate any confusion. Discussion was held on providing the BOE with a summary template to complete for their budget request next year, to provide the information in a format that would be helpful to the Board of Finance.

4. Any other matter to come before said meeting

None

5. Adjournment

Commissioner O'Brien made a motion seconded by Commissioner Mace

"To adjourn at 6:58 p.m."

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairperson declared the motion carried.

Attest:



Diane M. Waldron
Board of Finance Clerk