



**Fishers Finance Committee
Minutes
8/22/2024**

BOARD/COMMISSION: Finance Committee Meeting

DATE: 8/22/2024

DIRECTIONS:

1. Meeting Called to Order

Finance Committee Chairperson John Weingardt called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Present were John Weingardt, Cecilia Coble, Bill Stuart and Selina Stoller. John DeLucia was absent. Others present were Mayor Scott Fadness, Deputy Mayor Elliott Hultgren, City Clerk Jennifer Kehl, Lisa Bradford, Ashley Elrod, Stephanie Perry, and Larry Lannan.

Mayor Scott Fadness stated there is a flat tax rate. This is the 4th year in a row even with several large projects such as the Event Center and Fishers City Call and Arts Center. The employee health care reduced by 2%. The national average is about 7% increase. Mayor Fadness said we need to do better by reviewing and updating our fees, specifically the EMS and sewer rates.

8/14 - Finance Committee Meeting – General Overview of Budget Process

8/16 - Deadline for DLGF to release 1st 2025 LIT estimates

8/22 - Finance Committee Special Budget Meeting – High level overview of recommended 2025 budget

8/26 - Finance Committee Special Budget Meeting – Departmental Budgets

9/4 - Finance Committee Meeting – Regular Monthly Meeting & additional discussion if needed

9/9 - City Council Meeting – Public Hearing & 1st Reading of 2025 Budget

10/7 - Council Meeting – Budget Adoption

2024 Recap

Notable Projects and Funding, Prioritized in 2024 Budget:

Neighborhood & Community Vibrancy:

- \$750,000 awarded to 46 neighborhoods
- \$1,000,000 allocated to sidewalk repairs

- \$2,100,000 allocated to landscaping medians and roundabouts
- \$250,000 allocated to urban forestry program
- \$500,000 allocated to Teacher Innovation Grant program

Quality of Life:

- Geist Greenway opened
- Community Center groundbreaking (Q4 FY25 opening)
- Fishers Event Center nearing completion (Opening in November 2024)

Operational Excellence:

- 3 additional Firefighters, 3 additional Police Officers, 2 additional School Resource Officers, 1 additional Police Forensic Technician, 1 additional Public Health Inspector, 1 additional Public Health Nurse, and 2 additional Public Works staff will be added to support our community.
- The City maintained its financial durability throughout 2024, maintaining a AA+ general obligation bond rating, while having the lowest municipal tax rate among the largest municipalities in Hamilton County.

2025 BUDGET OVERVIEW ALL FUNDS

TOTAL BUDGET: \$182,588,208

2025 Operating & Capital =\$143,991,221

2025 Cash Reserves (All Funds) =\$62,457,417

2025 BUDGET OVERVIEW

General Fund – Proposed

Total Revenue	\$87,526,615
Personnel	\$65,065,095
Supplies	\$ 5,454,865
Other Services & Charges	\$16,827,026
Capital	\$ 500,000
Unused Appropriation	\$ (400,000)
Total Expenses	\$87,446,986
Excess/Deficit	\$ 79,629

OPERATIONAL INVESTMENT – Non-Infrastructure Investments

INVESTING IN HEALTH & SAFETY, OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE, & QUALITY OF LIFE

Fire Department - Possession of new Ladder Truck/New Engine/Medic, Taking over Project Lifesaver from Hamilton County

Police Department - Community Services Officer/2 New SROs

Health Department - Addition of Vaccine Program/Move into Permanent Home in Community Center

Department of Public Works - Enhanced landscaping contract

Controller's Office - Employee to assist with trash billing & payments

Parks & Recreation- Agri Park Manager (for new Agri Park)/Completion of Agri Park

Restrooms/ Hiring through 2025 for 13 full-time Community Center positions/Community Center Grand Opening – 4th Quarter 2025

- 6% Salary Increase for Employees and Elected Officials
- Increase of \$1,000 to City 457 Match (total of \$2,500) for Full-Time Employees
- \$3M in Fleet Replacement, including police vehicles, DPW assets, and a medic

Non-Profit Grants

Procedurally: Eliminate the Non-Profit Committee, and charge the City Administration with allocating these funds

Allocate \$250,000 towards Non-Profits

- Conner Prairie \$75,000 - Indiana's first Smithsonian affiliate and one of the most visited outdoor museums in the country.
- YMI and YAP Combined \$90,000 - Mentoring program supporting students at Hamilton Southeastern Schools. Provides family education, summer meals program, tutoring, food, clothing, and financial assistance to students and families in Fishers
- Cherish Center \$35,000 - Provides abuse intervention and prevention services within Hamilton County
- Community Center Programming \$50,000 - Allocated to the Community Center to support the establishment of programs that support quality of life initiatives at the new facility

Infrastructure Investments

2025 Priority Road Projects

NEW PROJECTS

- 116th & Allisonville Road □ Construction: start and finish in 2025
- Nickel Plate Trail Bridge over 96th Street □ Construction: start and finish in 2025
- 136th Street Widening □ Construction Start Q4 2024
- \$4,300,000 road resurfacing package proposed for 2025

PROJECTS COMPLETE IN 2024

- 126TH & Southeastern RAB
- 96th & Allisonville RAB
- 141st & Prairie Baptist

ACTIVE PROJECTS

- SR 37 & 141st Interchange
- **2025 Budget Highlights**
- **Property Tax Rate is unchanged, marking the 4th consecutive year of a flat or reduced property tax rate**
- **6% Raise for all city staff, including elected officials**
- **Increase of \$1,000 to City's match for 457 contribution, from \$1,500 to \$2,500 per**

employee

- **Establishing and appropriating cash reserves towards the Community Center fund for pre-opening operations**

Continued City Investment in Education:

- **\$50,000 proposed for teacher innovation grants**
- **City contribution to Hamilton Southeastern Schools Experiential Learning Program (Agri Park & Makers Space)**
- **Continued Investment in the Fishers Community and Neighborhoods with \$200,000 proposed for neighborhood vibrancy grants**
- **Continued significant infrastructure investment in road improvements, trails, and resurfacing**

Cecilia Coble suggested that the council review all the fees every three years and make a recommendation to administration.

Mayor Fadness stated that there is a \$2.00 administration fee added to the monthly charges for city-wide trash removal. He stated that the fee will pay for staff and technology to provide customer service. Residents will call the city with issues, and he wants the city to own customer service.

There will be an increase in sewer fees of \$3.00. It was recommended that the fee should be increased by \$8.00.

The next meeting will be held on August 26th at 8:30 a.m. in the Nickel Plate Conference Room on the 3rd floor of Fishers City Hall.

2. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.



Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer L. Kehl
Fishers City Clerk.

a. 2025 Budget Presentation - 08-22-2024 Meeting

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer L. Kehl

Fishers City Clerk