

Special Session – Adoption of the 2025 Executive Budget & Service Plan

Common Council

Wed, Nov 13, 2024 6:00PM • 15:10

Mayor Jake Woodford 03:55

All right. Good evening. I now call to order this special session for the adoption of the 2025 executive budget and service plan. Today is Wednesday, November 13, 2024. Tonight's invocation will be a moment of silent reflection. Please rise and join me.

Mayor Jake Woodford 04:29

Thank you. Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

All 04:32

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

Mayor Jake Woodford 04:51

Roll call of alders.

Clerk Kami Lynch 04:53

All are represented, with the exceptions of Alderpersons Heffernan and Schultz, we hope will be joining us shortly.

Mayor Jake Woodford 04:58

Thank you. Roll Call officers and department heads

Clerk Kami Lynch 05:03

All are represented.

Mayor Jake Woodford 05:03

All right. I have no business to present to you this evening. Move on now to public participation. Is there anyone who wishes to speak? Anyone who wishes to speak? Anyone who wishes to speak? All right, hearing none. We will close public participation.

Mayor Jake Woodford 05:26

Move on now to establishing the order of the day. First item on the list here is item 24-1468, approve the Finance Committee budget workshop minutes. Is there a motion to refer that back? We have a motion to refer that back. It's an automatic refer back. So at this time, we'll entertain a motion to suspend the rules to go into committee of the whole acting as the Finance Committee take up the Finance Committee budget workshop minutes. Need a motion to suspend the rules. We have a motion and a second to suspend the rules. This is not debatable. Requires a two thirds vote to pass. Please cast your votes. That motion passes 13 to zero. And at this time, I'm going to welcome up the Finance Committee Chair Alder Firkus to take us through it.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 06:31

All right. Good evening, everyone. To get this ball rolling, we'll need a motion on item—excuse me—item 24-1468, the minutes from the Budget Saturday workshop. We have our motion and second. All right, so now, with

the motion on the floor, this is the point where we would be voting on any amendment that had been offered. There have not been any offered in advance, correct? So, Alder Hartzheim.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 07:24

If I remember correctly, there was one amendment that was offered during Budget Saturday.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 07:28

It was but it was addressed during Budget Saturday. So that is baked in at this point. All right, so I will give one— one chance. Are there any last second amendments? I don't see any offers, so we are going to go ahead and vote. All right, that motion passes 13 to zero.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 08:03

So now I will need a motion to rise and report. Just bring up my notes here. Yep, rise and report. Looks like we have our motion and second. All right, so we will go ahead and vote on rising and reporting. And that passes 13 to zero. All right, we're out of committee of the whole then.

Mayor Jake Woodford 08:43

All right. We need a motion to approve the report of the Committee of the Whole. This is item 24-1471. We have a motion and a second to approve. Any discussion? Hearing none, please cast your votes. Motion passes 13 to zero.

Mayor Jake Woodford 09:37

All right on to 24-1472, the 2025, budget resolution. And before we have a motion on this, I'll ask for a reading of the resolution from our finance director, Director Ohman. All right, go ahead.

Director Jeri Ohman (Finance) 09:56

Thank you. Resolved, the 2025 executive budget and service plan as published in the newspaper and subsequently amended by the Common Council be adopted as amended. There be levied upon the taxable property of the several wards of the city of Appleton the sum of \$39,293,263 for general fund purposes.

Director Jeri Ohman (Finance) 10:18

Be it further resolved there be levied upon the taxable property of the several wards of the city of Appleton the sum up \$13,875,500 for debt service bonds, there be levied upon the taxable property of the several wards of the city of Appleton the sum of \$2,092,000 for special revenue funds, the Department of Finance be authorized to sell General Obligation promissory notes and or bonds in the amount of \$11,301,180 including contracting with bond counsel, financial advisors, and rating agencies as necessary. Further, an official statement may be prepared and distributed by the director of finance in support of the sale. The director of finance be authorized to sell water, sewer or storm water revenue supported bonds in the amount of \$11 million including contracting with bond counsel, financial advisors, and rating agencies as necessary. Further, an official statement be prepared and distributed by the director of finance in support of the sale.

Director Jeri Ohman (Finance) 11:22

Be it further resolved that all projects included herein are not appropriated or authorized to proceed until non-tax funding sources are committed without recourse.

Mayor Jake Woodford 11:31

And we do have a motion and a second to approve. Is there any discussion on the budget resolution? Hearing none, please cast your votes. Motion passes 12 to one. Resolution has been approved.

Mayor Jake Woodford 11:58

All right, on to reconsideration of the report of the Committee of the Whole. This is item 24-1473. We have a motion and a second to reconsider. And just to be clear, this is a procedural step, so if you, if you vote nay, then the reconsideration will be defeated, and that'll be the end of our budget process. If you'd like to reopen the budget process, an aye vote would accomplish that. So, everyone clear on the process? Any questions on what you're voting on? Okay? Hearing none, please cast your votes. All right, that motion fails unanimously, and with that, we have a budget. Thank you all.

Mayor Jake Woodford 12:57

So just before we before we wrap up here I'd, again, just like to take the opportunity to thank the Common Council for your questions, for your engagement, your scrutiny of this budget, and the service that you provide to your constituents. Deeply grateful to partner with you in this work and appreciate your efforts through this process.

Mayor Jake Woodford 13:22

Also like to again, thank our staff. In particular I want to call out our finance department team, Director Ohman and her team, and as I've mentioned before, Jeri, you've carried this off largely shorthanded through the process and you kept the process moving, and most of us would have been none the wiser. Very much appreciate your efforts and those of your team. So, thank you so much. Really appreciate it.

Mayor Jake Woodford 13:51

Finally, I'd like to thank all of our department heads for your leadership in your departments. We know how much work goes into putting these budgets together and the tough decisions that have to get made along the way. I appreciate the support that you provide to each other, the way we work together across departments to try and meet the needs of our whole community. So, I appreciate your partnership and effort in this process. So, thank you all very much.

Mayor Jake Woodford 14:17

So, with that, we'll move to other business. Do just want to note that there is a council meeting next week. Alder van Zeeland pointed out that they weren't showing up in the calendar and weren't showing up in Granicus. I believe we've since gotten that sorted out, but just want to make sure everybody's aware we do have another meeting. So, Alder van Zeeland.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 14:40

I actually want to thank Alder Croatt for bringing that to my attention.

Mayor Jake Woodford 14:43

Thank you, Alder Croatt.

Aldersperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 14:44

[...] had asked me if there's a council meeting next week.

Mayor Jake Woodford 14:53

Very good. So, we do have a meeting, and so we'll see you all next week. Is there any other business? Right here, none will entertain a motion to adjourn. All those in favor, please signify by saying aye. Any opposed? All right with none opposed. We [are adjourned].