



# CITY OF TOPEKA

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES

## BUDGET COMMITTEE

CITY COUNCIL  
City Hall, 215 SE 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 255  
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Date: June 23, 2015  
Time: 6:00 p.m.  
Location: Law Enforcement Center, 320 S. Kansas Ave.

Committee Members present: Deputy Mayor Karen Hiller (Chair), Councilmembers Richard Harmon, Elaine Schwartz, Sandra Clear, Jeff Coen, Jonathan Schumm, Michelle De La Isla, Brendan Jensen and Advisory Member Mayor Larry Wolgast. Councilmember Sylvia Ortiz was absent due to illness.

Staff present: Administrative & Financial Services Director Doug Gerber, Budget Manager Nickie Lee, Deputy City Attorney Mary Feighny, City Manager Jim Colson and Department Heads and/or their representatives.

1. Call to Order - Deputy Mayor Karen Hiller, Chair
2. Councilmember De La Isla moved to approve the June 17, 2015 meeting minutes; seconded by Councilmember Jensen. Minutes approved.
3. Budget Manager Nickie Lee reviewed Q & A Supplements 2 and 3 (attached).

Regarding Supplement 2, question 4, Mayor Wolgast stated that he feels it is very important to include the fact that the City will hold the property owners responsible for repayment of demolition costs.

Councilmember Schwartz would like additional information on the chart of all funds and percentages breakout; she still has questions on where the funds are coming from and what the dollar amounts are. Nickie Lee will get this information to the Committee.

Regarding Supplement 2, question 8, Mayor Wolgast stated that there is only information on the maintenance of street lights, but nothing on the installation costs. He would like more background information, including what role Westar plays. Public Works Director explained the process that Westar follows. Nickie Lee stated that Westar installs the lights and the cost is included in their tariff. The City will only be responsible for the maintenance of street lights, not the installation.

Regarding debt collection, Councilmember Schwartz would like more detail on what we pursue with debt collection agencies; 30% seems low. How do we compare with other cities?

Councilmember Schumm asked for clarification of the percentages that we pay to debt collection agencies and what percentage the City receives. Nickie Lee stated that she would get that information to the Committee.

Councilmember Jensen stated that he would like to see if Forestry might change their name to better reflect what they do.

Councilmember Schumm would like the Committee to consider taking \$30,000 from the Arts budget to fund new street lights.

Nickie Lee reviewed and discussed the Funds that had substantial budget changes.

Nickie Lee reviewed and discussed the 2016 Street Maintenance Update (attached).

Deputy Mayor Hiller stated that we are seventy-seven streets behind on the 10 year street repair/replacement plan. She feels the half cent sales tax funds should go primarily to the streets.

Councilmembers and City staff discussed what the process and timeline is for approving the budget.

Deputy Mayor Hiller asked the Committee if they were ready to vote on the budget. A majority of the Committee indicated that they were ready. Deputy Mayor Hiller asked the Committee if anyone would like another meeting to discuss the individual department budgets in more detail; Councilmember Schwartz indicated that she would. City Manager Jim Colson offered to schedule an additional budget review meeting for next week.

Councilmember Harmon suggested they schedule one more Budget Committee meeting to review budget amendments. Deputy Mayor Hiller suggested they schedule the department budget review meeting on June 30<sup>th</sup>, then schedule another budget meeting to review amendments on July 7<sup>th</sup> after the City Council Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

The videos of this meeting can be found at:

Part 1

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXchiy\\_LRqE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXchiy_LRqE)

Part 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MjJ6emMoqd8>