Minutes
St. Louis Budget & Public Employees Committee Meeting
Wednesday, May 28, 2025
9:30 AM
Kennedy Room
Minutes are preliminary and may change until finally approved

I. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

II. Roll Call

The Chair directed the Associate Clerk to call the roll and the following members answered their names: Ms. Sonnier, Ms. Velazquez, Mr. Browning, Mr. Devoti, and Chair Aldridge. **5 members were present. A quorum was established.**

III. Approval of Minutes

None

IV. Board Bills for Review

(The committee will discuss the following. No public comments will be taken)

Board Bill Number 1
Introduced by President Megan Green
Cosponsors: Alderman Rasheen Aldridge
An ordinance making appropriation for payment of Interest, Expenses and Principal of the City's Bonded Indebtedness, establishing City tax rates, and making appropriation for current year expenses of the City Government, Water Division, St. Louis Airport Commission, Affordable Housing Trust Fund, Health Care Trust Fund, Use Tax Excess Trust Fund, Building Demolition Fund, Assessor, Police Contracts Fund, Communications Division, City Employee Pension Trust Fund, Forest Park Fund, Child Support Unit (Circuit Attorney's Office), Circuit Attorney Training and Collection Fee Funds, Public Administrators Fund, Port Administration Fund,

Fire Department EMS GEMT Fund, Peace Officer Training Fund, Capital Improvement Projects Fund, Capital Improvements Sales Tax Trust Fund, Metro Parks Sales Tax Fund, Centralized Mailroom and Equipment Services Fuel Internal Service Funds, Tourism Fund, Lateral Sewer Fund, Public Safety Trust Fund, Public Safety Sales Tax Trust Fund, Economic Development Tax Trust Fund, Local Parks Fund, Public Safety Sales and Use Tax Fund (Prop P), Neighborhood Parks Fund, BJC/City Trust Fund, Miscellaneous Special Funds, Trustee Lease Fund, Riverfront Gaming Fund, Various Grant Funds, Tax Increment District Special Allocation Fund, City Convention and Sports Facility Trust Fund, Judgment Fund, and Employee Benefits Fund (Department of Personnel) for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, amounting in the aggregate to the sum of One Billion, Four Hundred Eight Million, Eight Hundred Thirty-Nine Thousand, Four Hundred Thirty-Two Dollars ($1,408,839,432) which sum is hereby appropriated from Revenue and Special Funds named for the purposes hereinafter enumerated and containing an emergency clause.

Board Bill Number 21
Introduced by Alderman Rasheen Aldridge

The Board Bill, recommended by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment authorizes the St. Louis Treasurer’s Office to accept a Financial Empowerment Center (FEC) program grant of up to an initial amount of $20,000.00, plus a subsequent anticipated award up to $300,000.00 for project implementation, by entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund; authorizing the expenditure of such funds, to the extent received; authorizing contracts and other documents to expend such funds, to the extent received; and containing an emergency clause.

Ms. Sonnier recognized Mr. Aldridge for introducing Board Bill Number 21.

Mr. Aldridge asked the Associate Clerk to read the summary of Board Bill Number 21 before giving a brief description of the bill. He stated that the board bill is a grant from the Treasurer's office that they received from the cities' financial empowerment to continue to expand the work that they are doing. He stated that the $20, 000 would go towards assessment site visits, system building coaching, meeting events and supplies. The other $150,000 will go towards financial coaching, financial programming, event curriculum development training & development, and additional financial resources.

After no further discussion, Ms. Sonnier opened the discussion up to members of the committee for questions and comments.

Hearing no questions or comments from members of the committee, Ms. Sonnier entertained a motion to pass Board Bill Nuber 21 out of committee with a **Do Pass Recommendation**.

Ms. Velazquez moved to pass Board Bill Number 21 out of committee with a **Do Pass Recommendation.**

Seconded by Ms. Sonnier.

The Chair directed the Associate Clerk to call the roll.

The Associate Clerk called the roll and the following votes were recorded. The following voted Aye: Ms. Sonnier, Ms. Velazquez, Mr. Devoti, and Chair Aldridge. **4 Aye votes were cast.**

The following voted No:
None

The following voted Present:
None

The following Abstained:
None

A total of 4 Aye votes were cast. The motion carried.

V. Resolutions for Review

None

VI. Committee Discussions

(The committee will discuss the following. No public comments will be taken)

<u>Item Number 1</u>
Airport - 9:30am

Committee members will discuss the FY2026 Budget of the Airport with representatives from this office.

The Chair recognized Rhonda Hamm-Niebruegge, St. Louis Airport Director to present her department's FY2026 budget.

Ms. Hamm-Niebruegge gave a brief overview of her department's FY2026 budget. She stated that they are in the design phase and put the budget together with the newly potential consolidated terminal for which they are fiscally responsible for. After that, she recognized Antonio Strong, Deputy Director of Finance and Administration, to present the PowerPoint presentation.

Mr. Strong presented a PowerPoint presentation outlining the airline's Airport Affairs Committee Preliminary budget. He spoke on overtime rates, vacancies, car allowance, employee retirement plan, salary saving reduction, health materials & supplies, education&training, fleet rental leasing decreases, computer equipment, facility & ground equipment, environmental equipment and equipment capital assets. He also spoke about computer contractual services, communication contractual services, fleet contractual services, environmental contractual services, professional services. He finally spoke about principal payments, interest payment, administrative fees, and budgeting positions, debt services, airport revenue bond outstanding debt since 2012, and the consolidated terminal projects.

After no further discussion, the Chair stated that, due to a special Full Board of Aldermen meeting scheduled for 10:00 a.m. in the Chambers that we would recess and resume the meeting with questions and comments from members of the committee.

The Chair entertained a motion to go into recess until 10:30 a.m.

Ms. Sonnier moved to go into recess until 10:30 a.m.

Seconded by Mr. Devoti

The motion was carried by unanimous consent.

The Chair opened the discussion to members of the committee for questions and comments.

Members of the committee asked questions and made comments.

After no further questions and comments, the Chair continued on to item number two.

Item Number 2

Planning and Urban Design Agency - 10:30am

Committee members will discuss the FY2026 Budget of the Planning and Urban Design Agency with representatives from this office.

The Chair recognized Don Roe, Executive Director of Planning and Urban Design Agency, to present his FY2026.

Mr. Roe presented a PowerPoint presentation on the history of his agency and how it came about and the five divisions that it comprises. Afterwards, he gave an overview of his FY26 budget, outlining expenditures and staffing.

After no further discussion, Mr. Roe recognized Miriam Keller, City Planning Executive for General Planning & Design presented the completed FY25 strategic land use plan and the upcoming FY26 zoning upgrades.

After no further discussion, Ms. Keller recognized Scott Ogilvie, Program Manager for Complete Streets Plan, who presented the completed streets plan. He spoke about the citywide transportation and mobility plan which is in progress, the annual complete street report and ongoing project planning and design support.

After no further discussion, Mr. Ogilvie recognized Ms. Keller, who presented the sustainability office. She covered what's in progress in the 2025 sustainability and climate plan and greenhouse gas inventory (2023), cross-departmental collaboration and support.

After no further discussion, Ms. Keller recognized Jonathan Roper, City Planning Executive for Neighborhood Planning, who presented the neighborhood planning which covered planned areas and the adoption of those areas.

After no further discussion, Mr. Roper recognized Bob Bettis, Director of Cultural Resources, who presented cultural resources office areas of review, and covered those areas building and demolition permit reviews.

After no further discussion, Mr. Roper recognized Ibrahim Gumel, GIS Manager, who presented mapping and graphics. He stated that they support informed decision-making across the city agencies and departments, and they ensure centralized and standardized data management.

After no further discussion, the Chair opened the discussion up to members of the committee for questions and comments.

Members of the committee asked questions and made comments.

Hearing no further questions or comments from members of the committee, the Chair continued on to item number three of the committee discussion.

Item Number 3

Community Development Agency - 11:00am

Committee members will discuss the FY2026 Budget of the Community Development Administration with representatives from this office.

The Chair recognized Nahuel Fefer, Executive Director, Community Development Administration to present his Fy26 Budget.

Mr. Fefer presented a thorough PowerPoint presentation outlining the department overview, operational teams, CDA-funded agencies and programs, municipal partnerships, FY25 performance metric, funds under CDA stewardship, 2025 affordable housing development pipeline, neighborhood transformation investments map, CDA budget overview, formula funds, neighborhood transportation grants, 2025-2029 consolidated plan, 2022 flood recovery & resilience and the timeline, choice neighborhood, funds 1110 &1111, 1120 neighborhood plan implementation, vacancy strategy initiative, STL mural project which is funded by ARPA, community Wi-Fi and healthy home repair program.

After no further discussion, the Chair opened the discussion up to members of the committee for questions and comments.

Members asked questions and made comments.

Hearing no further questions or comments from members of the committee the Chair turned the meeting over to Ms. Sonnier to introduce Board Bill Number 21.

Break

The Chair entertained a motion at 12:39 p.m. to go into recess until 1:00 p.m.

Ms. Sonnier moved to go into recess until 1:00 p.m.

Seconded by Ms. Velazquez.

The vote was carried by unanimous consent.

Item Number 4
St. Louis Development Corporation, Port Authority, Land Reutilization Authority and Land Clearance for Reutilization Authority - 1:00pm
Committee members will discuss the FY2026 Budget of the above mentioned City agencies with representatives from these offices.

The Chair recognized Otis Williams, Interim CEO and President of the St. Louis Development Corporation to present its FY26 Budget.

Mr. Williams introduced himself as the new interim CEO, Director of SLDC. He stated that they receive indirect funds from the City of St. Louis.

Mr. Williams recognized Charlie Hahn, Vice President of Finance, to present the PowerPoint presentation on the department's FY26 budget.

Mr. Williams gave an overview of the budget, outlining their budget.

After no further discussion, the Chair opened the discussion up to members of the committee for questions and comments.

Members of the committee asked questions and made comments.

Hearing no further questions or comments from members of the committee, the Chair adjourned the meeting.

VII. Acknowledgment of Any Written Testimony

None

VIII. Announcements

On Saturday, May 31, 2025, a Budget and Public Employee meeting - Webinar-10am (Public Testimony) and Monday, June 2, 2025 -Kennedy Room at 9:30am.

IX. Excused Members

All members were present except for Ms. Tyus, whom the Chair did not excuse.

X. Adjournment

Having no other business to discuss, the Chair entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Devoti moved to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by Ms. Velazquez.

The motion was carried by unanimous consent.

The meeting adjourned at 1:34p.m.

Minutes approved Monday, June 2, 2025
Minutes prepared by Associate Clerk Ora Heggs