



# City of Naperville

400 S. Eagle Street  
Naperville, IL 60540

## Meeting Minutes

### City Council

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Tuesday, October 24, 2023

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

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#### Budget Workshop III

#### A. CALL TO ORDER:

Wehrli called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Present:** 9 - Mayor Scott Wehrli  
Councilwoman Jennifer Bruzan Taylor  
Councilman Ian Holzhauser  
Councilman Patrick Kelly  
Councilman Paul Leong  
Councilwoman Allison Longenbaugh  
Councilman Josh McBroom  
Councilman Benjamin White  
Councilman Nathan Wilson

#### Also Present

City Manager, Doug Krieger; Deputy City Manager, Pam Gallahue; City Attorney, Mike DiSanto; City Clerk, Dawn C. Portner; Assistant to the City Manager, Marcie Schatz; Fire Chief, Mark Puknaitis; Police Chief, Jason Arres; Director of Finance, Rachel Mayer; Director of IT, Jacqueline Nguyen; Director of TED, Bill Novack; Director of Public Utilities - Electric, Brian Groth; Director of Public Utilities - Water, Darrell Blenniss, Jr.; Director of Human Resources, Blaine Wing; Director of Public Works, Dick Dublinski; Director of Communications, Linda LaCloche; Executive Director - Naperville Public Library, Dave Della Terza; President & CEO - Naper Settlement, Rena Tamayo-Calabrese

Daily Herald, Naperville Sun, NCTV-17

#### B. INTRODUCTION:

#### C. PUBLIC FORUM:

No speakers

#### D. PRESENTATIONS:

1. [Annual Budget Workshop #3: Proposed 2024 Budget Overview](#)

Krieger explained that the workshop will tie capital and operational

information together, include presentations from both the Naperville Public Library and Naper Settlement, and detail the final budget amount.

He stated that the proposed 2024 budget is recommended at \$618.65 million which represents a 2.4% increase over the previous year but less than the current consumer price index and that the City could achieve a balanced budget without creating new revenue streams while also decreasing the property tax rate. He detailed that the budget was reduced by over \$34 million dollars, that personnel expenses were reduced by \$1.5 million, all other operating expenses were reduced by nearly \$3 million, and capital requests were reduced by \$30 million.

Krieger explained that the total levy across all property tax categories is \$57.27 million and that homeowners will pay approximately \$25 less in City property taxes in 2024.

Council discussed the impact of Springbrook capital improvements on taxes and the need to prioritize the work.

Mayer stated improvements are estimated at \$180 million over the next five years and that staff will create a ten-year financial plan detailing how to support the costs.

Council inquired about the compensation study, personnel requests, reduced permit revenue, consequences of not meeting state DBE requirements, bringing a contracted service in house, the future of purchased electricity, and comparable IT communities.

Krieger explained the compensation study was delayed due to the retirement of the previous HR Director in the spring of 2023 and the hiring of his replacement in the summer.

Novack stated that the City is seeing an influx of less expensive permits, there is a processing backlog, and overtime is still being used to try and catch up.

Arres explained the request is for the Crime Prevention Specialists to go from 30 to 40-hour employees and their duties are heavily focused on leading public safety education.

Mayer responded to the DBE question and explained that new state laws require the City to document information about work conducted with a DBE, that currently the City does not collect this information, that the requested position would also help with outstanding procurement work. She continued by stating that the state could withhold funding if the City

does not meet the DBE requirements.

Dublinski explained that the DPW requests were necessary as the department is trying to replace a service that has traditionally been done by contractors but is no longer efficient and that the three employees will help with leaf collection and snow removal.

Blenniss explained the \$180 million is an accurate estimate for necessary improvements and that all the communities that discharge into the DuPage County River are facing similar requirements.

Wing detailed the HR personnel requests, noted daily responsibilities, and that the Board of Fire and Police would benefit from additional administrative support.

Mayer outlined the 2024 proposed \$618.65 million budget, the budget structure and key fund types, noted that 2.4% increase is largely attributed to new personnel and capital investments and discussed the projected \$62 million General Fund cash balance, the estimated 5% revenue increase, personnel expenses, and maintaining a triple-A bond rating. She explained that ARPA funds are being used on 2023 capital projects, that the strategy helped offset the need to borrow in 2023, and that it allowed the City to reduce the property tax levy.

Council discussed passing credit card fees to customers, the internal costs of processing paper payments, and requested a Q1 report on fee options.

Mayer explained Utility revenues and expenses, declining consumption, rate studies, bond issuance, and federal grant applications.

Council asked about the budget impact of not receiving grants and the rate study.

Mayer responded by explaining how grants are accounted for in the budget and that electric usage was assumed flat but continues to decline.

Mayer presented an overview of the Capital, Debt Service, and Water Capital funds and confirmed an estimated bond issuance of \$23.4 million is expected in 2024.

The meeting recessed from 7:37 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.

Mayer outlined the City's Special Funds, explained they are smaller than Operating and Capital, serve a specific purpose, and that the largest are Food and Beverage, Library, and Naper Settlement.

She went on to discuss the financial components of partnerships with outside groups such as the Naperville Development Partnership (NDP), Naperville Community Television (NCTV17), and the Downtown Naperville Alliance (DNA).

Della Terza outlined 2023 Library accomplishments, the proposed 2024 budget, key goals for next year, new adult programs, and grant funding for workroom improvements.

Tamayo-Calabrese presented Naper Settlement 2023 accomplishments, the proposed 2024 budget, key initiatives, capital projects, and the reallocation of Food and Beverage revenue to support operations.

Council asked for additional information regarding the fiber upgrade, use of property as an event space, the vehicle request, the Food and Beverage allocation, requested FTE's, appropriateness of having the Heritage Society fund the grant position, and removing the \$92,000 request for research and development.

Krieger asked for final Council questions.

Council discussed creating a task force and establishing budget for planning the 2031 bicentennial celebration and including money for lobbying in 2024.

Krieger explained that a task force would be created, that there is enough cash balance in the Food and Beverage Fund for event planning, that an RFP is drafted to secure a lobbyist, and that the budget for this service increased by \$60,000 for 2024.

Wehrli received a unanimous straw poll regarding support for the budget as proposed.

Krieger advised Council that staff would cancel the fourth and final budget workshop and proceed with the budget approval process.

## **E. ADJOURNMENT:**

**Budget Workshop #3 adjourned at 9:16 p.m.**