

**BERKELEY CITY COUNCIL BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, March 9, 2023
10:00 AM**

2180 Milvia Street, 6th Floor - Redwood Room

Committee Members:

Mayor Jesse Arreguín, Councilmembers Rashi Kesarwani and Kate Harrison
Alternate: Councilmember Sophie Hahn

This meeting will be conducted in a hybrid model with both in-person attendance and virtual participation. For in-person attendees, face coverings or masks that cover both the nose and the mouth are encouraged. If you are feeling sick, please do not attend the meeting in person.

Remote participation by the public is available through Zoom. To access the meeting remotely using the internet: Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone, or Android device: Use URL - <https://cityofberkeley-info.zoomgov.com/j/1601862854>. If you do not wish for your name to appear on the screen, then use the drop down menu and click on "rename" to rename yourself to be anonymous. To request to speak, use the "raise hand" icon on the screen. To join by phone: Dial **1-669-254-5252 or 1-833-568-8864 (Toll Free)** and Enter Meeting ID: **160 186 2854**. If you wish to comment during the public comment portion of the agenda, press *9 and wait to be recognized by the Chair.

To submit a written communication for the Committee's consideration and inclusion in the public record, email policycommittee@cityofberkeley.info.

Written communications submitted by mail or e-mail to the Budget & Finance Committee by 5:00 p.m. the Friday before the Committee meeting will be distributed to the members of the Committee in advance of the meeting and retained as part of the official record.

MINUTES

Roll Call: 10:04 a.m.

Present: Kesarwani, Harrison, Arreguín

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters: 3 speakers

Minutes for Approval

Draft minutes for the Committee's consideration and approval.

1. Minutes - February 23, 2023

Action: M/S/C (Harrison/Kesarwani) to approve the February 23, 2023 minutes.

Vote: All Ayes.

Committee Action Items

The public may comment on each item listed on the agenda for action as the item is taken up. The Chair will determine the number of persons interested in speaking on each item. Up to ten (10) speakers may speak for two minutes. If there are more than ten persons interested in speaking, the Chair may limit the public comment for all speakers to one minute per speaker.

Following review and discussion of the items listed below, the Committee may continue an item to a future committee meeting, or refer the item to the City Council.

2. Unfunded Liability Obligations and Unfunded Infrastructure Needs (Item contains supplemental materials)

From: City Manager

Recommendation: Receive a report on the City's Unfunded Liability Obligations and Unfunded Infrastructure Needs, including pension and other post-employment benefits; discuss strategies to address unfunded liabilities, including funding recommendations for the Section 115 Pension Trust; and provide direction to staff.

Financial Implications: See report

Contact: Sharon Friedrichsen, Budget Manager, (510) 981-7000

Action: 3 speakers. Presentation made and discussion held. Staff confirmed that following the Spring Recess, the item would be scheduled discussion by the City Council.

Councilmember Kesarwani absent at 12:04 p.m.

Committee Action Items

3. **Approval of the Public Bank East Bay Viability Study**

From: Councilmember Robinson (Author), Mayor Arreguín (Author)

Referred: February 14, 2023

Due: July 5, 2023

Recommendation: Refer to the Budget & Finance Policy Subcommittee to review and discuss the Public Bank East Bay Viability Study and consider the following recommendations for the full Council:

(1) Adopt a resolution formally adopting the viability study

(2) Adopt a resolution of intention to form the Public Bank East Bay alongside Oakland & Richmond

(3) Refer to the City Manager to coordinate with the Friends of the Public Bank of the East Bay and the staff of the cities of Oakland and Richmond on the development of a business plan for the Public Bank of the East Bay, or designate the appropriate staff to do so

(4) Refer to the City Manager to engage an independent consultant with expertise in banking operations and financing to advise city staff as they coordinate with the Friends of the Public Bank East Bay in the production of a business plan for a public bank

Financial Implications: See report

Contact: Rigel Robinson, Councilmember, District 7, (510) 981-7170

Action: 4 speakers. M/S/C (Arreguín/Harrison) to send the item to Council with a positive recommendation.

Vote: Ayes – Harrison, Arreguín; Noes – None; Abstain – None; Absent – Kesarwani.

Unscheduled Items

These items are not scheduled for discussion or action at this meeting. The Committee may schedule these items to the Action Calendar of a future Committee meeting.

4. **Investment Report Update - Investment Policies of Other Jurisdictions**

From: City Manager

Contact: Henry Oyekanmi, Finance, (510) 981-7300

Unscheduled Items

5. Accept the Risk Analysis for Long-Term Debt (Bonding Capacity) Report provided by Government Finance Officers Association

From: City Manager

Referred: April 26, 2022

Due: April 30, 2023

Recommendation: Accept the report titled 'Risk-Based Analysis and Stress Test of Long-Term Debt Affordability' as provided by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). This report is based on their research and development of a risk-modeling tool to address issuing long-term debt related to City of Berkeley Vision 2050.

On April 26, 2022, the City Council referred this item to the City Manager and Budget & Finance Committee to return to Council with recommendations or analysis on as many of the following items as possible by October 2022, if feasible. 1)

Consideration of reserves policies for operational funds other than the General Fund; 2) Potential reduction of the maximum indebtedness rate from 15% of assessed property value down to 4-8% range; 3) A new policy to not incur indebtedness when interest rates go above 5% or a different specific threshold; 4) Tools for increased transparency for taxpayers; 5) Updated report and discussion of pension and healthcare costs; 6) Refer the full Report to the Budget & Finance Committee for consideration.

Financial Implications: None

Contact: Henry Oyekanmi, Finance, (510) 981-7300

6. Additional Allocation of Measure P Funding to "Step Up Housing" Project

From: Councilmember Bartlett (Author), Councilmember Wengraf (Co-Sponsor), Councilmember Kesarwani (Co-Sponsor)

Referred: August 3, 2022

Due: May 31, 2023

Recommendation: Adopt a resolution allocating an additional \$114,660 per year for 10 years, from Measure P transfer tax receipts to support the increased costs for the lease and operation of a new permanent supportive housing project for the unhoused at the Step-Up Housing Project at 1367 University Avenue. In addition, refer to the next meeting of the Budget and Finance Policy Committee to confirm the availability of requested funding.

On August 3, 2022, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 70,491-N.S. as amended and referred to the Budget & Finance Committee to consider future General Fund needs for this project and confirm availability of funds for the operating budget.

Financial Implications: See report

Contact: Ben Bartlett, Councilmember, District 3, (510) 981-7130

Unscheduled Items

7. **Recommendation on Climate, Building Electrification, and Sustainable Transportation Budget Priorities for Fiscal Year 2023 and 2024**

From: Energy Commission

Referred: November 3, 2022

Due: April 25, 2023

Recommendation: The Energy Commission recommends that the Berkeley City Council prioritize and include in the City's budget for the Fiscal Years Ending (FYE) 2023 and 2024 several staff positions, pilot projects, investments in electric vehicles and charging infrastructure, and other measures to ensure that the City's budget is aligned with and provides adequate and needed funding to implement the City's adopted Climate Action Plan, Electric Mobility Roadmap, Building Emissions Saving Ordinance, 2019 ban on gas in new construction, and the Existing Buildings Electrification Strategy.

Financial Implications: See report

Contact: Billi Romain, Commission Secretary, (510) 981-7400

8. **Fire Department Vacancy and Overtime**

From: City Manager

Contact: David Sprague, Fire, (510) 981-3473

Items for Future Agendas

- None

Adjournment

Adjourned at 12:26 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct record of the Budget & Finance Committee meeting held on March 9, 2023.

Sarah K. Bunting, Assistant City Clerk

