



ROLLA CITY COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP
MONDAY, AUGUST 24TH, 2026; 5:30 P.M.
ROLLA CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS
901 NORTH ELM STREET

Presiding: Mayor Lister B. Florence Jr.

Council Members in Physical Attendance: Melissa Ganz, Andrew Behrendt, Nathan Chirban, Aaron Pace, Steve Jackson, Sue Brown, Michael Dickens, Tom McNeven and Amelia Markwell.

Council Members Absent: Ward 1 Vacancy, Elizabeth Sperry and David Shelby

Department Directors and Other City Officials in Physical Attendance: Community Development Director Dawn Bell, Public Works Director Darin Pryor, Finance Director Steffanie Rogers, Environmental Services Roger Pankey, Parks Director Floyd Jernigan, Fire Chief Breen, Police Chief Loughridge and City Administrator Keith Riesberg

At 5:30 pm, Mayor Florence called the meeting to order.

- I. Public Hearing and Bill 2026-15 to approve the 2026 Tax Rates. (Finance Director Steffanie Rogers) Public Hearing and Final Reading
Finance Director Steffanie Rogers reviewed the proposed tax rates and reminded Council that nothing was changing from last year. At 5:31 pm the public hearing was officially closed. A motion was made by Pace, seconded by Jackson, to approve the ordinance. A roll call vote showed: Ayes: Behrendt, Jackson, Dickens, Ganz, Brown, Pace, Chirban, Markwell and McNeven. Nays: none
- II. Review and discussion of the proposed FY 2027 budget.
 - A. City Administrator Keith Riesberg explained that the intent of the meeting was to provide Council with a high-level overview, rather than a line-item operational detail, and for Council to provide direction for the final preparation of the budget ordinance which would adopt the proposed FY 2027 budget of \$48 million.

The formal adoption schedule was reviewed:

- August 18: Finance & Audit Committee overview presentation
- August 24: Budget workshop and public hearing on property tax rates
- September 8: First reading of the FY 2027 budget ordinance.
- September 21: Final reading of the budget ordinance.
- October 1: Beginning of the new fiscal year.
- Additional notes included the expectation for a timelier FY 25 audit and the start date of the new Assistant Finance Director on August 31.

B. Budget Overview

Topics reviewed included revenues, personnel costs (\$17 million), economic development initiatives, and the City's focus on building stronger forecasting, capital planning, and multiyear compensation strategies. Personnel costs remain the largest component of the General Fund. Mr. Riesberg highlighted efforts to grow revenues through economic development projects, retail expansion, and residential growth, along with potential Chapter 100 projects and increased PILOT revenue from RMU (currently estimated at \$2 million).

C. Revenue & Personnel Highlights

Mr. Riesberg presented a projected \$5.2 million revenue increase, driven by grants and sales/use tax growth.

Proposed personnel adjustments included:

- A 5% wage increase and adjustments to wage scale.
- Increasing retirement contribution requirements (LAGERS) increases personnel costs.
- Continued health insurance cost pressures, as the plan that began last October has failed to provide the anticipated savings.
- Staffing additions: Assistant Finance Director and IT Coordinator (FY 26), plus Shelter Manager, Facilities Manager, and an additional mechanic (FY 27).
- Capital expenditure deficits of \$4.7 million (FY 26) and \$3.4 million (FY 27) were noted.

D. Department & Fund Summaries

Departmental budget summaries were reviewed across General Fund operations, Library, Animal Control, Economic Development, and multiple special and enterprise funds. Key highlights included:

- Police & Fire: Approximately \$11 million of General Fund expenditure.
- Building Services: Projects totaling \$200,000 for security upgrades and direly needed cooling tower/roof repairs.
- Library: Will make the transition to a new fiscal agent.
- Animal Control: Addition of a Shelter Manager; future nonprofit operational revenue not yet budgeted.
- Economic Development: \$60k for compensation study to validate where employee compensation should be and a plan to move forward over a period;
- \$40k for Chapter 353 formation.

Enterprise fund reviews included Sewer, Environmental Services, Airport, Cemetery, Streets, Centre, Parks, and Parks Land Reserve, with details on revenue and expense projections, rate changes, and major capital projects.

E. Reserve Policy

Staff reviewed the City's 25% reserve requirement and compared it to the GFOA, 2 months standard (16.6%) recommended.

Calculated benchmarks were presented:

- \$3,486,625 for the 25% requirement.
- \$2,324,417 for the GFOA recommended minimum.

Use of reserve flexibility was described as temporary and intended to support

compensation planning, facility management needs, and continued economic development initiatives.

F. Adjournment

Mayor Florence adjourned the workshop at 7:35 pm, after Council provided feedback and general direction for finalizing the FY 2027 budget. The proposed budget will move forward for first reading on September 8

Minutes provided by City Clerk, Lorri Powell