

**BEACHWOOD CITY COUNCIL
FINANCE AND INSURANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2025, 6:00 PM
at BEACHWOOD CITY HALL, CONFERENCE ROOM A,
25325 Fairmount Boulevard, Beachwood, Ohio 44122**

Called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairwoman Jillian DeLong

Jillian DeLong
Danielle Shoykhet
June E. Taylor

Roll Call

Present – Ms. DeLong, Ms. Shoykhet, Ms. Taylor

Others Present – Mayor Berns, Mr. Isaacson, Ms. Stern, Mr. Smith, Police Chief Grispino, Mr. Heiser, Ms. Turick

Agenda Items

1. Mayor's Report

Mayor Berns made remarks regarding the First CALL Program and introduced Chief Grispino to discuss this item. Chief Grispino explained the program and shared his experience with it during his tenure with the City of Shaker Heights. The First CALL (Crisis Assistance and Local Linkage) Program is an alternative crisis response initiative serving Cleveland Heights, Shaker Heights, South Euclid, Richmond Heights, and University Heights. The program's team includes behavioral health clinicians and peer support staff who engage with individuals experiencing mental health crises or substance use disorders. This discussion was part of the overall review of the 2026 Budget, as funding for participation in the program is included in next year's expenditures.

2. 2026 Budget Discussion and Discussion regarding Financial Indicators

This item was combined as the discussion was relevant to both the 2026 Budget and the discussion regarding Financial Indicator

Ms. DeLong introduced both items and turned the discussion over to Finance Director Larry Heiser.

The Committee continued its discussion regarding the 2026 Budget, including topics related to property taxes and a review of several financial indicators.

In response to an inquiry from Councilwoman Stern, Mr. Heiser provided an overview of three key indicators of financial health used to evaluate the City's fiscal position. These indicators are summarized as follows:

1. Sustainability – Can the City maintain its current infrastructure (roads, water, public safety) without needing to raise taxes or assume new debt?

• Metrics:

– Financial Position: The difference between the City's financial assets (cash and receivables) and liabilities (debt and pension obligations). If past spending must be paid for with future revenue, this is considered unsustainable.

– Total Assets to Total Liabilities: Includes the value of all City assets, including infrastructure, rather than just financial assets.

– Net-to-Debt Revenue: Measures future obligations relative to the City's income.

2. Flexibility – How much capacity does the City have to adjust to financial challenges and adapt to economic shifts without significant tax increases or service reductions?

• Metrics:

– Interest-to-Total Value: Tracks the percentage of City revenue that goes toward paying interest (a higher percentage indicates less flexibility).

– Net Book Value of Capital Assets to Original Cost: Measures the City's ability to maintain its physical assets, such as roads and infrastructure.

Key Question: Is infrastructure depreciating faster than the City can afford to repair it?

3. Vulnerability – How dependent is the City on external funding?

• Metric:

– Government Transfers to Total Revenue: The percentage of the City's budget derived from state and federal sources (a higher percentage indicates greater vulnerability).

Mr. Heiser also discussed his memorandum, comments, and research regarding property tax, which are attached hereto and made part of the official record. The Committee was invited to ask questions throughout the discussion.

Following the budget discussion, Ms. DeLong asked if there were any other questions or comments regarding this item and there were none.

3. Any other matters coming before the Finance and Insurance Committee

None.

Adjournment

Adjourn to the next Regular City Council Meeting at 6:51 PM

Whitney M. Crook

Clerk

Justin Bernard

Mayor

Pursuant to Ordinance Number 2020-78 Council has determined that the Video Recording of the meetings shall stand as the official Minutes of its Body, its Committees, and those of the Planning and Zoning Commission.
A written synopsis of all agenda items and votes shall also be promptly prepared and kept.