

1 **Finance Commission**
2 **Meeting Minutes**
3 **October 14, 2025**
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5

6 **Roll Call/Announcements**
7

8 The Finance Commission (FC) meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Chair Bester called the
9 roll.
10

11 **Commissioners Present:** Siafa Barclay, Bruce Bester, Kevin Davy, Raye Kanzenbach, and
12 Anna Vervoort
13

14 **Youth Commissioners Present:** Aldo Bergquist
15

16 **Commissioners Absent:** Sadiq Dahir
17

18 **Staff Present:** Finance Director Michelle Pietrick
19
20

21 **Approval of Agenda**
22

23 Commissioner Davy moved, seconded by Commissioner Kanzenbach, to approve the agenda as
24 presented. The motion carried unanimously.
25

26 **Receive Public Comments**
27

28 Mr. John Kysylyczyn addressed the Finance Commission, pointing out the lack of data and the
29 financial implications for certain city programs. He focused on the Pathways Program,
30 questioning how much taxpayer money is spent and how many people use it.
31

32 Chair Bester and Mr. Kysylyczyn discuss the city's expenditure on pathway maintenance and
33 depreciation.
34

35 Chair Bester stated that the Commission has seen the budget for the Pathway Fund which has a
36 budget of \$299,300 for maintenance.
37

38 Mr. Kysylyczyn argued that the city does not know how much money has been spent on the
39 Pathways Program over the years. He questioned the city's policy of taking ownership of assets
40 built by other levels of government, which he saw as problematic. He proposed a detailed review
41 of the Pathways Program to understand its costs and benefits.
42

43 **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
44

45 Commissioner Barclay moved, seconded by Commissioner Vervoort, to approve the September
46 9, 2025, meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

47
48 **Receive Finance Commission Recommendations Tracking Report**
49

50 Chair Bester reviewed the Finance Commission Tracking Report. He noted that two new items
51 were added—franchise fees and levy increases—which were documented.
52

53 **Updated on 2026 Preliminary Tax Levy & Budget**
54

55 Finance Director Pietrick reported on the preliminary tax levy set by the city council and the
56 impact of receiving the Safer and COPS grants. The council is considering franchise fees as part
57 of balancing the budget. The city council is also examining whether to start the fire positions
58 earlier than planned due to the grants. She noted that the Budget and Levy public hearing is
59 scheduled for December 1, 2025, with formal council action on December 8, 2025.
60

61 **Debt Policy Revision**
62

63 Finance Director Pietrick presented the updated debt policy, emphasizing the change in the
64 statutory debt limit from 2% to 3%.
65

66 Commissioner Kanzenbach suggested adjusting the policy to focus on maintaining a strong
67 credit rating instead of striving for a triple-A rating.
68

69 Commissioner Kanzenbach made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Davy, to approve the
70 revised debt policy. The motion was approved unanimously.
71

72 **Review and Adopt Recommendation on the 2026 Utility Rates**
73

74 Finance Director Pietrick provided an update on the 2026 utility rates and staff recommendation.
75

76 The utility rate analysis was discussed, including proposed increases for water, storm drainage,
77 and sanitary sewer funds. The recycling fund rate increase was also proposed to cover rising
78 costs.
79

80 Commissioner Vervoort made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Barclay, to approve the
81 recommendations on the 2026 Utility Rates. The motion passed unanimously.
82

83 **Maintenance Operations Center Update/Discussion**
84

85 Finance Director Pietrick provided an update on the selection of an architect and construction
86 manager for the maintenance operations center.
87

88 Ms. Pietrick explained that a committee has been formed to review the design and provide input
89 on these designs for the maintenance operations center, the passport/license center, and the dance
90 studio. She noted that both Commissioner Barclay and Davy volunteered, and she would submit
91 both names to City Manager Trudgeon.

92

93

94

95 **Commission Direction on Member-Initiated Agenda Items**

96

97 Chair Bester announced the passing of Commissioner Joe Tupy and attended his memorial
98 service. The commission expressed its condolences.

99

100 **Other Business**

101

102 Chair Bester and Finance Director Pietrick reviewed upcoming agenda items, including the
103 finance commission work plan, maintenance operations center update, and the selection of the
104 representative for that work group. They also discussed whether to add Mr. Kysylyczyn
105 suggestion to explore the Pathways Program further.

106

107 **Adjourn**

108

109 Commissioner Davy made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Vervoort, to adjourn. The
110 motion passed unanimously.

111

112 Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.