

City of St. Petersburg  
**Committee of the Whole**  
Meeting of January 18, 2018 @ 10:00 a.m.  
City Hall - Room 100

- A. Call to Order – Council Chair Lisa Wheeler-Bowman
- B. Discussion Item
  - a. FY19 Budget Priorities – Tom Greene
- C. Next Meeting – January 25, 2018 @ 2:30 p.m., City Hall - Room 100  
FY19 Utility Rates
- D. Adjournment



**Memorandum**  
**st.petersburg**  
**Budget and Management Office**

**TO:** The Honorable Lisa Wheeler-Bowman, Chair, and Members of City Council

**FROM:** Tom Greene   
Director, Budget and Management

**DATE:** January 11, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Priorities Committee of the Whole – January 18, 2018

---

On January 18, 2018, City Council will hold the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Priority Committee of the Whole meeting at 10:00 A.M. in Room 100 of City Hall.

This annual meeting is designed to seek early input from City Council Members as to priorities for the FY19 budget. The City Council priorities discussed during the workshop will be used by the mayor and administration in the development of the FY19 budget. This year we will begin the meeting with a brief presentation that we hope will provide some context for the construction of the FY19 Operating Budget. Issues that will be presented include an estimate of the impact of the third \$25,000 home exemption that will be on the ballot in November 2018 and other issues that will impact our FY19 budget.

Attached to this memorandum you will find a document containing the comments by Council Members at the FY18 Budget Priorities Committee of the Whole meeting. Please feel free to call me (7435) or Denise Labrie (7891) should you have any questions prior to the meeting.

cc: Rick Kriseman, Mayor  
Dr. Kanika Tomalin, Deputy Mayor  
Dr. Gary Cornwell, City Administrator

**City Council Budget Priorities – Comments**  
**January 26, 2017 City Council Committee of the Whole**

**Council member Charlie Gerdes**

- Fully funding of the Grow Smart Plan is top priority.
- Path to \$15 minimum wage for employees and a requirement for city contractors to have similar wage requirements. Part time city employees included.
- Concentrate on water infrastructure.
- Increase social action funding to address homelessness, specifically families and unaccompanied youth
- Wants to identify resources for south side CRA/citywide job training/skills
- Carry out south side CRA TIF plan/accelerate the plan.

**Council member Jim Kennedy**

- Follow through with the Grow Smart plan
- Quantify the return on investment in programs like MBSK (My Brother and Sister's Keeper) and Cohort for Champions programs.
- Sewage issue/rates
- Reduce Ad Valorem taxes
- Library services and pool hours, are there ways to improve?
- Concentrate on Pinellas Hope, and Safe Harbor to combat homelessness.
- Long term plan for the port. Referendum?
- Increase staffing in public works and procurement
- Supports rehab rebates and gun fire location software maybe using Weeki Wachi money

**Council member Ed Montanari**

- Major tax relief / back to FY2012 levels (5.9125 millage rate)
- Eliminate business tax. Implement a plan where we could reduce over several years.
- Put \$1 million into reserves this year
- Develop a Vision 2050 plan /broaden city vision
- Infrastructure list for federal government (i.e., seawalls, roads, sewers, etc.)
- Grow Smarter plan
- Increase the technology at the Libraries
- Airport master plan as current one is 10 years old.
- Port master plan
- Rec center improvements, Shore Acres a priority
- Move St. Pete Stat forward
- Pier operating costs a concern
- Stadium capital and future of the Rays

**Council member Amy Foster**

- Sewage issue top priority
- Measuring social action funding. Social impact bonds (Harvard)?
- Can we measure of social impact of MBSK type programs? Is the community actually benefiting from the programs?
- Homeless issue: last year over 3000 families called 311 and only 82 were provided assistance. Rapid re-housing
- Add additional resources and staff in Planning Department/issues with turnaround time

***Council member Amy Foster (cont.)***

- Staffing levels strain; across the board
- Circles poverty program is a priority. Would like to see an investment here.
- Vision 2050 plan
- Develop a plan on how to transition 34<sup>th</sup> street, possibly use ULI to develop this plan

**Council member Steve Kornell**

- Shore Acres Recreation Center is a priority. Attention on our Rec centers is needed
- Screening process for solar energy on future projects
- Pay cash for more capital projects as requested by bond rating agencies
- Follow through with the Grow Smarter plan / find a corporation that wants to put its corporate HQ in Skyway Marina District
- Continue youth employment programs
- Wants to combat homelessness, specifically families
- 34<sup>th</sup> street public transportation

**Council member Lisa Wheeler-Bowman**

- Has the same priorities are FY17
  - Complete Child's Park Project
  - Thomas Jackson Fitness Center-get grant money for this
  - Increase funding for Carter Woodson Museum
  - Protection for city security guards (tasers)
  - Expand access to the micro-loan program for small business (TBBIC investment of \$50k)
  - Create affordable housing city-wide
  - Repair pot-holes in city streets
  - Create a marketing plan-34<sup>th</sup> Street - to attract more businesses
  - Continue funding for jobs for teens, youth initiatives for teens and workforce readiness for high school grads.
  - More homeless initiatives
  - Finish and implement neighborhood plans
- Increase funding for PD cold case unit
- Fund summer youth employment programs in the CRA and South Side all year long
- Continue Meals on Wheels funding

**Council member Karl Nurse**

- \$15 minimum wage for city employees and contractors doing business with the city
- Decrease the time it takes to fix the sidewalks / add money to fund repairs
- Add funding to the Greenhouse to assist small businesses
- Implement energy efficiency audits

**Council member Karl Nurse (cont.)**

- Big priority - Shot Spotter applications to locate gun fire in the city: \$250K for the first year, \$190K every year after
- Continue the rebates for rehab program
- Concentrate on water infrastructure/sewage issues
- Implement software and cameras to help with police accidents (similar to sanitation)
- Legal chargeback - allocate the cost of the legal cases to the department responsible for the expenditures

**Council Chair Darden Rice**

- Develop a strategic infrastructure plan
- Would like to see a millage rollback this year – keep operating budget at \$225M
- Concentration on Eco Development with Grow Smarter, Skyway Marina district and South St. Pete CRA
- Complete transportation and parking projects in the downtown and edge districts
- Remove public art funding and wage theft
- Energy/sustainability and ways to engage the public in this endeavor
- City-wide affordable housing
- Continue transparency through programs like OpenGov
- Continue funding and encouraging healthy St. Pete initiative
- Utilize Weeki Wachi funds for more projects, i.e., Meadowlawn Community Garden
- \$15 minimum wage implementation
- Increase the City Council budget