

City of Arts & Innovation

BUDGET ENGAGEMENT COMMISSION MINUTES

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026, 5 P.M.
PUBLIC COMMENT IN PERSON/TELEPHONE
ART PICK COUNCIL CHAMBER
3900 MAIN STREET, RIVERSIDE, CA 92522

PRESENT: Chair Williams, Vice Chair Vandenberg, Commissioner Ayra, Bello, Wroten, Hutchins, Ward, Benavidez, Tscherednikov and Langner

STAFF PRESENT: Julie Nemes, Peter Kakos, Sergio Aguilar, Edward Enriquez, Michelle Davis, Susan Wilson, George Khalil, Kristina Claubaugh, Mike Avila, Lee Withers, Colene Torres, Rene Goldman, Brandi Becker, Ed Lara and others.

The Budget Engagement Commission meeting was convened at 5:00 p.m.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

There was no one wishing to address the Commission.

CONSENT CALENDAR

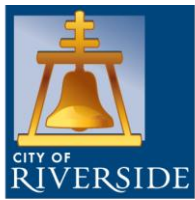
It was moved by Commissioner Hutchins and seconded by Commissioner Ward to approve the Consent Calendar as presented below affirming the actions appropriate to each item. The motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Ayra and Tscherednikov absent.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of April 9, 2026, were approved as presented.

ATTENDANCE

The absences of Commissioners Wroten from the April 9, 2026, meeting was excused as presented.



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DISCUSSION CALENDAR

PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2026-2028 BIENNIAL BUDGET

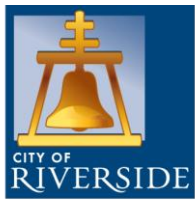
Following discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Ward and seconded by Commissioner Bello that the Budget Engagement Commission recommend that; (1) if the Water General Fund Transfer litigation results are favorable to the City, the recovered revenue that is currently escrowed be fully directed toward infrastructure investment, specially road and pavement projects across all Wards. After discussion, Vice Chair Vandenberg requested an amendment to the motion to extend support to Fire if the Measure Z ballot initiative fails in the June 2 election.

After further discussion, Commissioner Bello withdrew his second, and it was moved by Commissioner Ward and seconded by Vice Chair Vandenberg to recommend to City Council that; (1) if the Water General Fund Transfer litigation result favorably to the city the recovered revenue be directed toward infrastructure investment, specially road and pavement projects and ;(2) if the Measure Z ballot were to fail, a portion of the Water General Fund Transfer would go to dual purpose for roads, pavement projects, and Fire. Motion passed with Vice Chair Vandenberg, Commissioner Wroten, Ward, Benavidez, Tscherednokov voting aye, Chair Williams, Commissioner Bello, Hutchins, Langner voting nay and with Commissioner Ayra abstaining.

Commissioner Benavidez made a motion to recommend to City Council to fund a non-profit organization, The Arc of Riverside County. The motion failed due to lack of second.

Following discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Ayra and seconded by Commissioner Benavidez to; (a) remove the expenditure cuts from Measure Z pavement rehabilitation and pedestrian facility improvement and; (b) remove expenditure cuts from the General Fund for senior programing at the Janet Goeske Center, and recreation supplies for expanded senior center and adaptive recreation programing, and (c) that City Council find cost savings elsewhere.

Following further discussion, a substitute motion was made by Commissioner Hutchins and seconded by Commissioner Bello to recommend that City Council adopt the Proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2028 Biennial Budget. The motion passed with Commissioner Bello, Wroten, Hutchins, Tscherednikov, Langner voting aye, Vice Chair Vandenberg and Commissioner Ayra, Ward, Benavidez, voting nay, and with Chair Williams Abstaining.



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FINANCIAL HEALTH INDICATORS

Following discussion and without formal motion this item was received and filed

FISCAL YEAR 2025/26 SECOND QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT; NET REVENUE ADJUSTMENTS OF \$4,346,713, SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS/ INTERFUND TRANSFERS OF \$4,862,788; INTERDEPARTMENTAL TRANSFERS OF \$2,052,951

Following discussion and without formal motion this item was received and filed

COMMISSION MEMBER/ STAFF COMMUNICATION

FINANCE DIRECTOR UPDATE

Sergio Aguilar did not have an update for the Commission

ITEMS FOR FUTURE BUDGET ENGAGEMENT COMMISSION CONSIDERATION

Commissioner Ward requested we agendaize the results of the Measure Z ballot.

Chair Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Martinez
Executive Assistant