



# Chester County Council Budget Workshop

R. Carlisle Roddey Government Building  
1476 J A Cochran Bypass | Chester, SC 29706  
Tuesday, April 30, 2024 | 3:00 PM

## MINUTES

Present: Chairman Joe Branham, Vice Chairman Pete Wilson, Councilwoman Erin Mosley, Councilman Mike Vaughn, Councilman John Agee, Councilman Corey Guy (3:50 arrival), County Administrator Brian Hester, Treasurer Tommy Darby, Clerk to Council Kristie Donaldson

Absent: Councilman William Killian

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

*Chairman Branham called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.*

### 2. BUDGET OVERVIEW

Brian Hester, County Administrator

*County Administrator Hester began the meeting by stating that Treasurer Darby and himself would be going over the current year budget status and the Fiscal Year 2025 general fund and revenues. Mr. Hester stated that this proposed budget would not increase the tax millage for the upcoming fiscal year. Mr. Darby explained the following information regarding our current year budget status (expenditures/revenues):*

	<u>FY24 Budget</u>	<u>FY24 Projected</u>	<u>Variance</u>
GF Expenditures	\$31,505,411*	\$30,933,618	\$571,793
GF Revenues	\$31,505,411*	\$32,199,455	\$694,044
		<i>Favorable Variance of Exp. &amp; Revenue</i>	\$1,265,837
		<i>Fund Balance (FB), Beginning of FY24</i>	<u>\$15,476,476</u>
		<b>Projected FB, End of Year FY24</b>	<b>\$16,742,313</b>

*\* Excludes Capital Reserve*

- *Current YTD Revenue is \$27,447,886*
- *Projected Interest Income: \$1.4MM, Building Permit: \$1.25MM, Property Tax Revenues and Local Option Sales Tax together are projecting 400k higher than budgeted.*
- *Anticipated revenues from the budget were \$30,706,952. Projected currently at \$32,199,455 due to increased interest earnings, building permit revenue, and strong tax collections.*

Treasurer Darby explained the following regarding the Current Year Budget Status for Capital Reserve:

	<u>FY24 Budget</u>	<u>FY24 Projected</u>	<u>Variance</u>
CRF Expenditures	\$2,118,086	\$936,206	\$1,181,879
CRF Revenues	<u>\$2,118,086</u>	<u>\$3,807,918</u>	<u>\$1,689,832</u>
		Favorable Variance of Exp. & Revenue	\$2,871,711
		Capital Reserve Fund Beginning of FY24	\$ <u>0</u>
		<b>Projected CRF, End of Year FY24</b>	<b>\$2,871,711</b>

Administrator Hester spoke about the Fiscal Year 2025 other revenues for General Fund that include expected increases as follows: FILOT \$266k increase, Interest Income: \$435k increase, Permit Revenue: \$335k increase, Great Falls Fire \$175k. Mr. Hester then addressed the FY25 General Fund Expenditures: FY24 Salary Increases -\$1.5MM, FY25 4% Cost of Living Adjustment (Mid-Year) \$388k, FY25 New Positions/Reclassification \$1.04MM. Mr. Hester went over some of the new positions and increases that would potentially be added with the new budget including a Planner (paid from Economic Development fund), Part Time Tourism Associate, increase of \$15k for Treasurer salary, Heavy Equipment Operator, Network Administrator, and \$10,656 plus benefits increase for the Sheriff. Mr. Hester explained about the move of two 911 employees over to the Sheriff's Office for restructuring, adding Fire Fighters, EMTs and Paramedics to cover West Chester Fire Station, and an Administrative Assistant for Rural Fire. Mr. Hester discussed Solid Waste Disposal Fee adjustments, Solid Waste Collection fees, Gateway salary and benefits costs, and Local A-Tax projected expenditures. Administrator Hester then discussed the total Capital Requests in the amount of \$4,826,890. Council was asked by Mr. Hester to provide any questions regarding the upcoming budget to Mr. Darby or himself throughout the week and so that they could be answered before or at the next Budget Workshop.

### 3. ADJOURN

Councilwoman Mosley made the motion to adjourn, second by Councilman Vaughn. Unanimous vote to adjourn.

5:10 PM

Kristie Donaldson  
Clerk to Council