



12650 DETROIT AVENUE 44107 216-529-6055

www.lakewoodoh.gov

Lakewood City Council

SARAH KEPPLER, PRESIDENT
KYLE BAKER, VICE PRESIDENT

Council at Large
THOMAS R. BULLOCK III
TRISTAN RADER
SARAH KEPPLER

Ward Council
KYLE BAKER, WARD 1
BRYAN EVANS, WARD 2
CINDY STREBIG, WARD 3
CINDY MARX, WARD 4

Noticed 10/23/24

PUBLIC NOTICE – FINANCE COMMITTEE

Finance Committee will meet Monday October 28, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Auditorium of Lakewood City Hall at 12650 Detroit Avenue. The meeting is open to the public.

The meeting will be livestreamed on the City's website at the following link:

www.lakewoodoh.gov/councilvideos

PUBLIC COMMENT PROTOCOL (Updated 6/21)

The public is invited to comment on agenda items in person or by submitting a written comment in advance of the meeting using the eComment platform available [HERE](#). New users must create an eComment account.

The agenda is as follows:

Approval of the minutes of the July 1, 2024 Finance Committee

Communication from President Kepple and Councilmember Bullock regarding the 2025 Budget Process (*referred to Finance 10/21/24*)

Tom Bullock, Chair
Kyle Baker, Cindy Streb; Members
FINANCE COMMITTEE

Individuals with disabilities who require accommodations for participation in meetings must request accommodations at least 3 business days ahead of the scheduled meeting. Contact Michelle Nochta at (216) 529-5906 michelle.nochta@lakewoodoh.net.



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October 21, 2024

Lakewood City Council
Lakewood, Ohio

Re: Budget Process 2025

Dear Colleagues, Mayor George, and members of the Administration,

As we head into budget season, it is a good time to review the priority setting process we began earlier this year.

Our approach this year is a little different from Council's traditional practice of meeting in early fall to set priorities for the Administration to attempt to weave into their proposed budget to come to us shortly after. Rather, this year, to accommodate and incorporate the allocation deadline of ARPA funds, we held a retreat in early February. At the retreat, we reviewed the large-scale guiding documents that the City has already adopted or were about to adopt, including, but not limited to the Climate Action Plan, Active Transportation Plan, ADA Transition Plan, Integrated Wet Weather Improvement Plan (IWWIP), Community Vision, and many more. We discussed how we could best align our time, talents and treasure toward those goals, and we identified individual budget priorities in advancement of those big picture ideas. A table of the priorities and the associated Councilmembers is attached (Exhibit A).

At the February 20th meeting of Council, Council Leadership and the Mayor presented the attached letter noting the shift in Federal guidance around the use of ARPA funds and how some Administrative and Council priorities that we had previously sought to fund through these ARPA dollars would no longer have an identified funding source; and that, over the next two years (2024 & 2025), Council Leadership and the Administration would share a commitment to work together in good faith toward the desired outcomes of prioritized projects listed in the letter (Exhibit B).

As we approach the end of year one of this commitment, and as we begin budget hearings for the upcoming year, we propose the following process:

- That this communication be referred to committee for Council to review our individual priorities and assess if the same priority order still makes sense heading into 2025; and
- That as Departments present to Council during the budget process that they include and highlight the ways in which their teams have been working on any or all of these shared priorities and if and how their proposed budgets will continue work on these priorities in 2025.

We look forward to a productive and efficient budget process and to hearing about all of the significant accomplishments achieved by our excellent City staff.

Sincerely,



Sarah Kepple
President of Council



Tom Bullock
Chair, Finance Committee

Exhibit A

Priority	Budget	#Budget Priority	ARPA Allocation	Spoon	#Spoons
Public Education & Community Connection	Kepple, Shachner, Baker, Marx, Strebig, Baker, Bullock	7		Bullock, Kepple	2
Active Transportation Plan/Safe Streets/ Complete Streets	Kepple, Shachner, Baker, Marx, Streig, Bullock Rader	6	Shachner crosswalk	Kepple, Baker, Shachner	3
Smart Cities (Fiber Expansion, Park Wifi, Smart Locks Bathrooms, Security Cameras)	Kepple, Shachner, Baker, Bullock, Marx, Rader	6		Kepple, Shachner	2
IWWIP 3,000,000 Interceptor 4,700,000 Lewis, 4,800,000 Water, +remaining ARPA	Kepple, Shachner, Baker	3		Baker	1
Affordable Housing Strategy	Marx, Bullock, Rader	3		Bullock	1
Climate Action Plan	Bullock, Raderx2	2	Kepple, Bullock, Rader (Cove Resiliency Hub) 300,000	Bullock, Rader	2
Block Clubs Community Building	Bullock, Strebig	2		Marx, Strebig	2
Downtown Development	Baker, Bullock	2		Baker	1
ADA Transition Plan	Kepple, Baker (High Priority Projects)	2		Kepple	1
Police Women's Locker Room	Kepple, Strebig	2	200,000		0
Sustainable Zoning & Building Code	Large Tree Preservation Policy (Baker)	1		Rader(TAEB), Baker, Shachner	3
Community Health Action Plan/Team	(Farmer's Market) Kepple	1		Kepple, Marx (CHAT)	2
CREC	Strebig	1		Strebig	1
Youth Council	Strebig	1		Strebig	1
Community Vision	Rader	1			0
Racial Equity Plan (DEIAB- LCRAC, ARTF, ADA)		0		Kepple, Marx	2
Madison Park Master Plan		0	Bullock (Storage)	Marx	1
Board of Building Standards/ABR		0		Baker/Staff	1
Charter Review Commission		0		Kepple/Staff	1
LASWAB		0		Marx	1
Shoreline Improvement		0		Baker	1
Lakewood Alive		0	Strebig	Baker	1
Planning Commission		0			0



MEGHAN F. GEORGE
MAYOR

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Dear Members of City Council:

The U.S. Department of Treasury regulations governing the use of American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”) funds by municipalities have grown more prescriptive since its passage in March 2021. Moreover, the President formally declared an end to the Public Health Emergency in May 2023, directly impacting the legal assessment of the permitted use of ARPA funds.

As a result of these material developments, certain of the City’s previous allocations of ARPA funds may no longer fit within the eligible uses of the funds under the evolving Treasury regulations. Use of the funds for those original purposes therefore creates the risk that federal authorities may seek a return of the funds from the City at some future time. Our goal in proposing this Resolution is to eliminate the risk to the City’s taxpayers of losing these federal funds.

We were informed that the use of ARPA funds for major water and sewer projects would be fully compliant with ARPA and would eliminate the risk of claw-back by the federal government. Accordingly, the Resolution would authorize that all unspent ARPA funds and funds not yet encumbered or contracted for expenditure be allocated to the City’s water and sewer projects. In compliance with ARPA, these water and sewer projects will be under contract in 2024 and completed by the end of 2026.

We also recognize that this shift requires Council and the Administration to think differently and creatively about how we may achieve the goals of projects previously considered for ARPA funding, which will not have ARPA funds encumbered toward them after passage of this Resolution. Over the next two years of the current Council Leadership terms, our shared commitment with the Administration is to work together in good faith toward the desired outcomes of prioritized projects such as:

- Expanded technological capabilities at City Parks allows for improved public restroom access, reliable public wi-fi, and security cameras (Smart Cities);
- Sustainable and reliable backup power increases Cove Community Center’s capacity to serve residents in an emergency (Cove Resilience Hub, Climate Action Plan);
- Public right-of-ways and city properties become more accessible for all and safer for multimodal and sustainable transportation (ADA Transition Plan High Priority, Active



MEGHAN F. GEORGE
MAYOR

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Transportation, Safe Paths to School, Climate Action Plan, Municipal Buildings-City Hall Elevators);

- Ensuring that female members of our safety forces have sufficient and appropriate locker room spaces (Municipal Building-Police Women's Locker Room);
- Ensuring that participants at Winterhurst have sufficient and appropriate locker room spaces (Municipal Buildings-Not Allocated);
- Maintain and improve Municipal Buildings, including City Hall, Police Headquarters expansion and Winterhurst improvements) to facilitate efficient, effective, and accessible operations (Municipal Buildings-Not Allocated, ADA Transition Plan); and
- Improve Lake Erie public access by enhancing pedestrian and bicycle access along the lakefront through completion of the Lake-Clifton Connector Project (Lake-Clifton Connector, Active Transportation Plan).

We are committed to working collaboratively through policy, practice, and funding to make progress toward our shared goals.

The Resolution is prudent, grounded in sound legal principles, and protects the interests of our taxpayers. We recommend its adoption.

Sincerely,

Meghan F. George
Mayor

Sarah Kepple
President of Council