



Lowell City Council

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Finance SC Minutes

April 28, 2026

City Council Chamber / Zoom (Hybrid)

5:30 PM

PRESENT:

Present on Roll Call were C. Juran, C. McDonough and C. Scott. Also present Conor Baldwin (CFO); Austin Ball (Asst. CFO); Manager Golden, Jr.; Kelly Oakes (Auditor); C. Nuon; C. Robinson; and M. Gitschier.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

C. Juran called the meeting to order noting those in attendance and agenda items.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Manager Golden, Jr. commented on the public budget sessions and the challenges that are present. Mr. Baldwin provided presentation entitled "FY 2026 – FY 2027 Budget Update". (See attached) Mr. Baldwin introduced members of the finance team and outlined the presentation. Mr. Baldwin outlined the budget schedule which included time of presentment to the Council as well as a public hearing. Mr. Baldwin commented on the listening sessions with the public noted there was not much in the way of attendance, but they were productive. Mr. Baldwin commented on Free Cash that was certified by the State noting that it was not a reoccurring asset. Mr. Baldwin noted the ARPA sunset indicating that there would no funding from account in 2027 and that information can be found on the ARPA dashboard on the City website. Mr. Baldwin outlined the revenue sources in the City which included the tax levy; State aid; local receipts; and miscellaneous revenue. Mr. Baldwin noted that all projections done by the City are conservative and that State aid is still not a hard number. C. Juran noted that the vast amount of State aid is provided to the schools and federal grants are usually distributed to



City partners. Manager Golden, Jr. stated that federal money flow effects State money flow. Mr. Baldwin reviewed the structural challenges with the budget which usually increase with each budget. Those items included pensions, debt service, State assessments, health insurance and energy costs. In conclusion Mr. Baldwin outlined the next steps for passing of the budget which included more public sessions and public hearing. C. Scott noted that costs to the City rise just like all other costs in the community and that there needs to be adjustments. C. Scott questioned if health costs were shopped around for a more favorable rate. Mr. Baldwin noted all the options concerning health costs. C. Scott questioned charter school reimbursement. Mr. Baldwin noted costs to the City grow when those schools expand. C. McDonough noted concern with the short fall regarding charter school reimbursement. C. Juran noted that the charter school system was set up by legislature with little public oversight.

C. Juran opened meeting to the public; Ryan Faria addressed the body regarding ARPA surplus, salary grid comparisons and health insurance costs. Mr. Baldwin responded to remarks noting the use of surplus funds from ARPA, that a salary grid will be part of the budget, and health coverage is a product of the GIC.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to Adjourn by C. McDonough, seconded by C. Scott. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 6:29 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk
