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SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MAYOR'S BUDGET PRESENTATION

Meeting Minutes

**July 20, 2026
9:00 a.m.**

Location: City Council Chamber, City Hall

In attendance: Council President Howland, Council Vice President J. Carlucci; Council Members Amaro, Carlucci, Carrico, Clark-Murray, Lahnen, Miller, Boylan, Salem, White, Peluso, Gay, Gaffney Jr., Pittman and Johnson; Mayor Deegan

Excused: Council Members Diamond and Arias

Meeting Convened: 9:00 a.m.

Council President Howland convened the meeting. Council Member Amaro gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. A roll call from the members was taken, with 17 in attendance. Council President Howland introduced Mayor Donna Deegan to give her budget address.

Mayor Deegan spoke about the City's significant but fragile momentum. She presented her proposed FY26-27 budget and Capital Improvement Plan. She stated that the proposed budget is 1% greater than last year. She said that no items in the budget are drawing from Reserves, and that the employee cap is unchanged, with the exception for public safety. Mayor Deegan highlighted the City's strong financial ratings.

Mayor Deegan talked about various budget priorities. She mentioned funding for council initiatives, and investments in physical infrastructure like road resurfacing, septic tank phase outs, stormwater drainage and sidewalks. Mayor Deegan spoke of the increased funding for public safety, including for intervention and diversion programs. She talked about the return on investments from preventative healthcare, and the importance of elder meal programs, suicide hotlines and telehealth. She mentioned quality of life investments in parks, and downtown development. Mayor Deegan said that \$586,110,854 is proposed for the FY26-27 Capital Improvement Plan, with the focus on projects that are ready, necessary and valuable.

Mayor Deegan talked about attainable housing and investing in workforce infrastructure. She spoke about homelessness assistance and funding for PATH and shelters. She explained the systemic relationship between what are perceived to be core and discretionary City services, including police and fire, but also public service grants, literacy programs, support for veterans and military families, economic development, and children's services. Mayor Deegan noted that deferred maintenance is more expensive in the long run, and that fiscal responsibility does not mean no spending. CM Amaro shared his appreciation for the nominal 1% budget increase, and his view that deferred maintenance is cowardly not fiscally responsible. CM Carlucci extended his support to the Mayor for the content and delivery of her budget presentation. CM Pittman said she is pleased to see priorities like housing and septic phase outs in the budget. CM Salem asked when the budget will be available to the public. CM Peluso asked when the Mayor's budget town halls begin, and her staff said August 5th.

Meeting adjourned: 9:40 a.m.

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research
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