



CITY OF CHICAGO



COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
CITY COUNCIL
CITY HALL - ROOM 200
121 NORTH LASALLE STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602

ALDERMAN JASON C. ERVIN
CHAIRMAN

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COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
MONTHLY RULE 45 REPORT
MAY 2023

Pursuant to Rule 45 of the City Council Rules of Order, the Committee on the Budget and Government Operations (CBGO) submits the following Monthly Rule 45 Report for May 2023.

Date, Time & Location of Meeting: On May 30, 2023, at 3:30 P.M., the Committee on the Budget and Government Operations held a meeting in City Hall, Council Chamber, 121 N. LaSalle Street, 2nd Floor.

Attendance: The following members were present: Chairman Ervin (28), Vice-Chairman Lee (11), La Spata (1), Dowell (3), Robinson (4) (Virtual), Yancy (5), Ramirez (12), Lopez (15), Moore (17), O'Shea (19), Mosley (21), Rodriguez (22), Scott (24), Burnett (27), Taliaferro (29), Cardona (31), Conway (34), Ramirez-Rosa (35), Villegas (36), Mitts (37), Sposato (38), Nugent (39), Vasquez (40), Napolitano (41), Knudsen (43), Martin (47), and Silverstein (50).

The following members were absent: Mitchell (7), Harris (8), Quinn (13), Sigcho-Lopez (25), Rodriguez-Sanchez (33), Reilly (42), and Haddon (49).

The following internal witness were present: Annette Guzman, Budget Director, Office of Budget Management and Rey Phillips Santos, Senior Assistant Corporation Counsel, Department of Law.

The Committee on the Budget and Government Operations addressed the following item:

- 1. A communication recommending a proposed substitute ordinance to amend the 2023 Annual Appropriation Ordinance (O2023-2083)**

Chairman Ervin called the meeting to order. Chairman Ervin took a roll call and observed a quorum was present.

Chairman Ervin opened the floor for public comments and explained the procedure for public comments. The Chair recognized one public speaker:

- Switch Blade, Foundational Black American - Policy for Reparations

Chairman Ervin concluded the public comment period and moved to Item #1. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Lee to accept the substitute ordinance (SO2023-2083) into committee, which was accepted by voice vote.

The Chair introduced Annette Guzman, Budget Director, Department of Budget Management, who provided testimony on the substitute ordinance. Before going to questions, the Chairman, made a motion to allow Alderman Robinson to join virtually pursuant to the Open Meetings Act. Alderman Rodriguez so moved.

Chair recognized Alderman Lopez who asked that someone from law explain this new policy and if the notice must be in writing or if it can be a phone call. Rey Phillips Santos, Department of Law, read/explained Rule 59 of the current rules and stated that it is up to the City Council to interpret as it sees fit. Alderman Moore asked for clarity on what needs to be in writing: illness versus non-illness. Rey Phillips responded that the rules does not make a provision that states it has to be in writing and believes this tracks the open meetings act as well.

Alderman Vasquez suggests the Council reach out to the general assembly to make an adjustment for hybrid meetings, so there can be a conversation, instead of accounting or deciding who's sick or not, having a general rule makes sense.

Chairman Ervin explained that the Open Meetings Act was not designed to create hybrid meetings. Rather, it is designed to allow for participation in very limited circumstances.

Alderman Sposato asked that sufficient notice be defined. Phillips replied he is not aware of any case law directly on this point defining sufficient notice. If the Chairman believes that it is sufficiently an emergency, they may toss it to the committee to vote on. That's a procedure that can be followed.

Chairman Ervin emphasized that this is a very limited circumstance, it is not designed to open the door to hybrid meetings. If there are any further adjustments in the Rules, we need to take this up with Chairman Harris and the Committee on Rules to make any additional changes.

Alderman Dowell asked how Alderman Robinson is participating. Alderman Robinson made himself known via the overhead monitor. Alderman Lopez asked if Alderman Robinson filed notice with the Clerk's Office. Chairman Ervin replied "yes". Chairman Ervin proceeded with Alderman Rodriguez's motion, which was accepted by voice vote. Alderman Robinson was added to the roll.

The Chairman opened the floor for questions and comments by committee members and non-members on the substitute ordinance.

Alderman La Spata was recognized. He referred to the Community Micro Grants budget of \$100,000 for supplementary investments in nonprofits per ward that was passed as part of the 2021 budget. He asked where is this close to \$800,000 coming from, which wards are we drawing down from and are the Alder's aware of this draw down? Annette Guzman replied, this funding is held over from last year's budget. It was an additional amount included in the FY23 Budget. Based on the projects that came into the budget office, which is now closed. The \$800,000 is what is left over from the funding in this menu. La Spata

asks which wards are the leftover funds from? Director Guzman replied the information will be provided through the Chair.

Alderman Moore asked if the \$787,000 in the Human Infrastructure money what Alderman La Spata is referring to that left over from the wards. Director Guzman replied that it's not currently programmed in, it is what will be left over by the end of this year. Alderman Moore requested a copy of the number of personnel and job description for all committees listed (except COFA) before the next City Council Meeting.

Chairman Ervin explained: These are all new, the personnel haven't been put into place. People have changed and moved. I think after this is done you can do that. There are new people on these committees and their roles have not been defined. This is just enabling that, so after that you are definitely free to have that information once it is designated by the Chairman and the new administration.

Alderman Moore asked: how do we know how many bodies we need based on the amount? Do we just arbitrarily give them the money? As a City Council member, I know I have 3 full time positions, there's some type of description. This is a committee, not just onus of that chairman. It represents every person on that committee. For me to understand my personnel and how to utilize the personnel on that committee that's all the information I am asking for. There is an operation then you provide the dollars to that operation. I'm just asking for the information prior to city Council.

The Chair recognized Alderman Vasquez who stated: I look at it from the other side of the coin. From persons that got funding to work in our committees and must figure out how many people we are able to hire, i.e., Immigrant committee had a small budget to start out with. Working to increase tablet capacity knowing the crisis we are facing right now. It's fair to ask to show what those different positions are. My concern is we don't have enough staff for the immigrant crisis we are going through. We have to show those numbers as well. I think it makes perfect sense to show what positions we are hiring and what workers are in job descriptions for the new positions and increases for transparency. So we can make sure we are expanding our capacity and doing the work needed of us.

Alderman Lopez commented on Alderman La Spata's request for a breakdown of ward by ward of the micro grants not used, but as of late the subject of mystery surpluses has come in discussion on various topics, notably on opioid funding, funding for migrant situation, executive order of \$630 million in surpluses used for pensions, \$5 million in 2022 for micro grants. How many buckets of money have surpluses, appropriated by this body, across entire budget? Director Guzman replied, I don't have that information right now but it's something we can look into for you. Alderman Lopez voiced his concern regarding structural bloat in budgets over the years and offered to help Director Guzman and team to identify this, stating it is something that should concern us all, not just for a committee funding source. It tells me, we are over charging our taxpayers 100's of millions of dollars. Not right, unethical, this is an opportunity for the new administration to set our budgeting and financial apparatus on a straight and narrow path.

The Chair recognized Vice Chair Lee who stated that her ward was unable to spend the micro grant fund. To my understanding we had until the end of the year to spend those funds. Was there some sort of notification made? Director Guzman replied she would get the information to her, I do know the proposals were due at a certain time, my office is currently trying to close out and reconcile at this time.

Alderman Taliaferro provided a point of information he received from the previous budget director a few weeks ago, that the RFP closed out December 17, 2022, for the human infrastructure fund. If not in by this date, the funds were not able to be used.

Chairman Ervin closed the questions/comments segment. Alderman Villegas moved “do pass” Item No. 1 on the agenda by a voice vote. The following members wished to be recorded as a “no” vote, Alderman Lopez, and Alderman Moore. The remaining members voted aye and the motion passed. The item passed and was reported out for the May 31, 2023 City Council Meeting.

The Committee on the Budget and Government Operations having no further business, on motion made by Alderman Cardona for adjournment, the meeting was adjourned.

(A video recording of the full meeting with committee members, internal and external experts, as well as any/all public speaking content can be reviewed on the Chicago City Clerk website under Committee Meeting Web Stream Archive dated May 30th.)

Respectfully submitted by:



Jason C. Ervin, Chairman
Committee on the Budget and Government Operations