



Legislation Details (With Text)

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Title: Resolution making appropriations to pay the expenses of conducting the public business of the City of Pittsburgh and for meeting the debt charges thereof for the Fiscal Year beginning January 1, 2026.
(Public Hearing held 12/20/25)

Sponsors:

Indexes: BUDGET

Code sections:

Attachments: 1. 2025-2454 Cover Letter -Operating Budget 2026 Appropriations - Letter_JP_Signed, 2. Summary 2025-2454, 3. 2025-2454 VERSION 2 Amendments to Res. 2025-2454_Operating

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
12/31/2025	3	Mayor	Returned Unsigned	
12/21/2025	3	City Council	Passed Finally, As Amended	Pass
12/21/2025	2	Standing Committees	Affirmatively Recommended as Amended	Pass
12/21/2025	2	Standing Committees	AMENDED	Pass
12/21/2025	3	City Council	AMENDED	Pass
12/20/2025	1	Committee on Hearings and Policy	Public Hearing Held	
11/19/2025	1	Standing Committees	Held for Cablecast Public Hearing	Pass
11/10/2025	1	City Council	Read and referred	

Resolution making appropriations to pay the expenses of conducting the public business of the City of Pittsburgh and for meeting the debt charges thereof for the Fiscal Year beginning January 1, 2026.
(Public Hearing held 12/20/25)

Be it resolved by the Council of the City of Pittsburgh as follows:

Section 1. The revenues of the City of Pittsburgh derived from taxes and other sources for the Fiscal Year beginning January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2026, as well as the unassigned and unrestricted general fund balance on hand at the close of business on December 31, 2025, are hereby appropriated in the general fund the sum of ~~Six Hundred Seventy-Eight Million Thirty-Three Thousand Six Hundred Thirty-Five Dollars (\$678,033,635)~~ Six Hundred Ninety Three Million Two Hundred Thirty Five Thousand Six Hundred Seventy One Dollars (\$693,235,671) to pay the expenses of conducting the public business of the City of Pittsburgh during the period beginning January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2026.

Section 2. The City Controller, the City Treasurer, and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget are authorized to transfer a total of ~~Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000)~~ Twenty-One Million Dollars

(\$21,000,000) from the general fund to a PAYGO fund for use in the 2026 Capital Budget.

Section 3. All encumbrances and obligations incurred prior to January 1, 2026 for which services have been rendered or supplies, materials or equipment actually delivered on or prior to December 31, 2025 and so reported to the City Controller shall be charged to the proper 2025 appropriation accounts against which encumbrances have been originally charged. Said encumbrances shall either be paid or cleared by the City Controller per the City's encumbrance policy.

Section 4. No liability shall be incurred against any appropriation line item in excess of the budgeted amount, with the exception of payroll and benefits as required by collective bargaining agreements and applicable laws.

Section 5. No obligation shall be incurred by any Department, Office, or Bureau of the City Government other than for salaries or wages, except through the issue of an invoice, stating the service to be rendered, work performed, or supplies, materials or equipment to be furnished together with the estimated cost of the same. The Director of the Office of Management and Budget is hereby authorized to provide upon requisition by the head of any department all necessary supplies, materials, equipment and machinery for such department; provided, however, that no requisition of any department shall be filled by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget in excess of the appropriation budgeted to the department.

Section 6. Council may, by resolution, restrict expenditures from the appropriations made herein, both as to amounts of expenditures, reasons for expenditures and the periods within which expenditures may be made.

Section 7. Pursuant to Article V, Section 507 of the Home Rule Charter, Council may amend by resolution the operating budget within five weeks of the beginning of the 2026 fiscal year, but not thereafter except with the approval of the Mayor. Council at all times may transfer funds from one account to another if the total budget amount is not exceeded. This operating budget shall, in any event, remain balanced at all times.

Section 8. Pursuant to Title Two, Article I, Chapter 219, Section 219.02 "Five-Year Plan," this appropriation budget also includes a five-year plan which consists of the budgetary years 2026-2030 and a projection for revenues, expenditures, operating results, and fund balances.

Section 9. For purposes of administration and account control, the account numbers indicated herein shall be considered as part of the appropriation titles.

Section 10. The appropriations related to grants, trust funds, and special revenue funds contained in this budget document shall be used as a guide. The revenues and expenditures of City accounts other than the general operating budget are authorized by their enabling legislation.

Section 11. The City Council Budget Director is authorized to make minor technical and formatting changes to the budget document as needed. No changes shall change the funding of any department or bureau, or otherwise be substantive in nature.

Section 12. It is Council's determination that the present financial circumstances of the City necessitate changes to the November proposed budget in excess of two (2) percent, thus justifying a waiver of the "general rule" discouraging amendments of this scale in Code Section 219.03 "Collaborative Budgeting Process." The Council asserts the following conditions as evidence that changes larger than two (2) percent are appropriate:

- Strenuous, well-documented concerns about the November proposal voiced by a myriad of officials and actors, including but not limited to:
 - Dec. 9 Will of Council 2025-2637, which called on the Mayor's Administration to fix and/or work collaboratively with Council to seriously amend the November budget;
 - Changes to Council budget approval schedule, including Dec. 9 Agency Conference and Executive Session on Personnel Implications, delayed Line-Item Vote, and Special Standing Committees and Regular Meeting sessions on Sunday, December 21;
 - Controller Heisler's official statements following Council Post-Agenda on options for raising revenue (Nov. 7) and release of preliminary September budget (Oct. 1), which is nearly identical to the November budget;
 - Council Budget Office's Nov. 12 response to Mayor Gainey's Budget Address, outlining major areas of concern;
 - Council Finance Chair Strassburger's Nov. 14 letter, re-iterating Controller and Budget Office's concerns and asserting (among other things) that "we are in a budget crisis right now";
 - Widespread media coverage and scrutiny of September and November budget proposals.
- The introduction of Council Bill 2025-2632, which proposes the first Real Estate millage increase in more than a decade; additional revenues generated by the adoption of Bill 2025-2632 are intended to cover the costs of higher expenditures, including those that exceed the two (2) percent threshold;
- The disposition of *National Hockey League Players Association v. City of Pittsburgh* (2025), which struck down Pittsburgh's Facility Usage Fee as unconstitutional; this decision not only deprived the City of future revenues, but also created the need to prepare for potential refunds to members of the plaintiff class that could quickly reach into the millions of dollars;
- The significant likelihood that the City will end 2025 with an operating deficit, which if repeated in 2026 and 2027 would trigger Act 47 oversight;
- Drastic reductions in the City property tax base since early-2024 and unpredictability in the timing of a County reassessment;
- Ongoing turmoil and uncertainty resulting from chaotic national tariff policies, exacerbating construction supply-chain issues that have driven up costs of infrastructure and facilities maintenance projects more than 40% over the past five years (well outpacing overall inflation).