

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

10:30 AM

**Metro Regional Center, Council chamber,
<https://zoom.us/j/615079992> (Webinar ID: 615079992) or
888-475-4499 (toll free)**

Council work session

This meeting will be held electronically and in person at the Metro Regional Center Council Chamber.

You can join the meeting on your computer or other device by using this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/615079992> Webinar ID: 615 079 992 or 888-475-4499 (toll free)

10:30 Call to Order and Roll Call

Council President Peterson called the Work Session to order at 10:32 a.m.

Present: 7 - Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal, Councilor Mary Nolan, Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Duncan Hwang, Ashton Simpson, Christine Lewis, and Lynn Peterson

10:30 Work Session Topics:

10:30 FY 2025-26 Council Budget Development Workshop

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Attachment 1](#)
[Attachment 2](#)

Council President Peterson introduced Brian Kennedy, Chief Financial Officer, and Marissa Madrigal, Chief Operating Officer, Metro, to present on the topic of the Financial Year 2025-26 Council Budget Development.

Staff pulled up the “Metro Council Budget Development Workshop” slides to present to Council.

Staff Presentation

CFO Brian Kennedy reviewed growth trends, spending observations, and major themes informing the current economic outlook and five-year forecasts for Metro’s departments and visitor venues. COO Marissa Madrigal outlined recommendations for providing budget direction to the departments and the Metro Council’s process.

Council Discussion

Councilor Rosenthal remarked on the uncertainty of the forecasts and requested further information to address the budget.

Councilor Hwang inquired about specific target areas for revitalizing the regional economy.

Presenters responded that it is difficult to determine growth opportunities before they arise.

Councilor Gonzalez raised concerns about the discrepancy in the balanced budget for Parks operations and inquired about whether the current levy was sufficient.

Presenters shared that the previous renewal of the levy at the same rate was deemed the safest path forward and the rate would likely be increased in a future renewal. Presenters conveyed an objective to make Parks fiscally sustainable.

Councilor Gonzalez asked about the authority involved in these financial assessments.

Presenters explained that the PERS board appointed by the governor has responsibility over the system and the investments are managed by the Oregon Investment Council.

Councilor Nolan wondered if departments are requested to submit budgets balanced with known revenues rather than general funds.

Presenters confirmed that departments are not allowed to make assumptions when developing budgets.

Councilor Nolan advised adjusting the graphical representations of the data to better illustrate budgeting gaps.

Councilor Lewis highlighted the need to think critically about enterprise funds in the context of the current fiscal and sociopolitical environment.

Presenters remarked that most of Metro's budget is siloed and not fungible and Metro's main enterprise funds receive tax support and have elements of both public service and business function.

Councilor Rosenthal recommended that Parks be specifically addressed in the upcoming budget development cycle and inquired about the general approach to investments and spending.

Presenters noted that investment priorities for the incoming federal administration may not align with regional values, and suggested a likely decrease in funds for certain areas such as climate work.

Council President Peterson encouraged the Council to contextualize and be conscious of budget interactions going forward.

Presenters provided a timeline and materials preview of the budget process leading into April 2025. Staff distributed print copies of the "Department Proposed Budget Overview" and "Councilor Direction & Idea Form" to each councilor.

Councilor Simpson left the meeting at 11:58 a.m.

Councilor Lewis expressed appreciation for the budget materials as useful tools and recommended having further conversations to solidify expectations and priorities.

Councilor Gonzalez concurred with Councilor Lewis and requested implementing an institutional memory practice, as well as agency-wide metrics on goal advancement.

There being no further discussion, Council President Peterson thanked the presenters and moved on to the next agenda item.

12:10 Chief Operating Officer Communication

Marissa Madrigal provided an update on the following events or items:

- There were none.

12:15 Councilor Communication

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings and events:

- Council President Peterson wrote a letter supporting the Oregon Zoo's proposal to purchase a neighboring property
- Councilor Lewis reported on the SHS committee meeting, including requests for more clarity on the timeline of SHS reforms, concern over counties and region not being in alignment, and questions about public opinion
- Councilor Gonzalez reminded everyone that it is "Giving Tuesday" for local non-profit organizations

12:30 Adjourn

There being no further business, Council President Peterson adjourned the Metro Work Session at 12:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Emma McIntosh

Emma McIntosh, Legislative Assistant