



In-Depth Budget Meeting
Friday, June 27, 2025, at 8:00 AM
Council Chambers, City Hall (10 3rd Ave SW)

Any person needing special accommodation for the meeting is requested to notify the City Clerk's office at 857-4752.

A quorum of the City Council was present at the In-Depth Budget meeting. In attendance was Alderman Fuller, Acting Mayor Jantzer, Alderman Pitner (via Teams), Alderwoman Olson, Alderman Blessum, and Alderman Samuelson. Acting Mayor Jantzer began the meeting at 8:01 am.

Lance Meyer, City Engineer, began the meeting discussing his two departments, which are the Traffic and Engineering Departments. Lance provided the council with information on the two departments' core/non-core services, along with a breakdown in what type of work each position works on for the City of Minot. He was able to discuss the budget reductions to meet the flat budget scenario, along with the +3% and -3% scenarios. Lance also provided an executive summary to include the street improvement/maintenance funds set aside in future budgets.

The Engineering and Traffic budget presentation is located at: [In-Depth Budget Discussion • Agendas & Minutes • CivicClerk](#). The City Council asked questions about the Safe Route to School program, along with the citizen survey results on other items within the departments.

There was a break from 8:39 am – 8:45 am.

Jason Sorenson, the Public Works Utilities Department Director, presented to the City Council on his departments, which include the following: Water Treatment Plant, Water Distribution, Sewer Collection, Landfill, and Sanitation. He spoke individually about each department's core/non-core services, budget reductions to reach the three scenarios, the service impacts to each reduction, and provided a workforce analysis. The Public Works Utilities budget presentation is located at: [In-Depth Budget Discussion • Agendas & Minutes • CivicClerk](#).

There was a break from 9:59 am – 10:22 am.

Jennifer Eckman, Minot International Airport Director, presented to the City Council the three budget scenarios, the staff positions and justification, and the budget impacts to any reductions made to meet the scenario criteria. Jennifer also discussed the upcoming 2026 Capital Projects for the airport, along with an in-depth executive summary on process improvements.

The Minot International Airport budget presentation is located at: [In-Depth Budget Discussion • Agendas & Minutes • CivicClerk](#).

City Manager, Harold Stewart, discussed with the City Council numerous external pressures such as inflation, the new State Legislature imposed 3% cap, public demand for tax relief, economic development, and dependence on sales tax. There are also internal considerations such as employee positions, wages, benefits, morale vs fiscal sustainability. Also, considering the budget process would be sustaining services, police vacancies, VERF, decreasing dependency on use of reserves to balance budgets and improvements/change. Harold also highlighted city facilities and major projects. This presentation can be found at the following link: [In-Depth Budget Discussion • Agendas & Minutes • CivicClerk](#).

BUDGET PRIORITIES

The City Manager's budget will not likely take all the recommended budget cuts presented, but the plan is to look over all scenarios and present a budget to the City Council at an upcoming council meeting.

Alderwoman Olson priorities include:

- PD facility decisions
- Fair compensation of employees
- Maintenance of Infrastructure
- Some funding of the Vehicle and Equipment Reserve Fund
- Support some funding with reserves if necessary
- Consider the funding to outside organizations

Alderman Blessum priorities include:

- Reconfiguration of the current sales tax dollars over adding new sales tax for public safety
- Removal of the emergency snow removal funds
- Close to a flat budget under the 3% cap (at or below the levy of the 2025 budget)
- Continue to pay back the overages
- Policy for on going training, whether online or in-person, for credentialing for whole organization
- Performance based pay structure
- Admin pool idea

Alderman Samuelson priorities include:

- Top priority is public safety – reconfiguration of the current structure of our sales tax
- Does not want to remove some of the positions proposed in the presentations
- Services for the residents
- City of Minot Employees

Alderman Fuller thanked the staff for the budget exercise and appreciated the information on the upcoming 2026 budget.

Acting Mayor Jantzer priorities include:

- Public safety
- City of Minot Employees
- Thoughts on where to accept additional risk in budgeting
- Consider necessary training of staff and software to support the staff work

Alderman Pitner priorities include:

- Employees pay and benefits (would like to see more information on the idea of a merit-based pay system)
- Training for staff and opportunities to advance
- Public safety sales tax discussion
- Advocate for Economic Development in discussions of reconfiguration of sales tax pennies

The In-Depth Budget meeting ended at 1:48 pm. There was no official business conducted at the meeting.