

Billings City Council

Budget Committee Rules

Adopted January 14, 2026

- 1. PURPOSE AND JURISDICTION.** This Committee is formed for the purpose of advising City Council on matters within this Committee's jurisdiction and to explore policy issues in depth. The jurisdiction of this Committee includes development of the City Budget and Capital Improvement Plan; budget amendment process; debt issuance; and contracts relating to budget and finance items like cost allocation, fee studies, audits, and other professional services. In addition, this Committee may work on matters referred to it by the full Council. The work of the Committee is limited to making reports and recommendations to the full Council.
- 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING.** The first meeting of the Committee during the biennium shall be an organizational meeting. The meeting agenda shall focus on electing a Chair, a vice Chair and Secretary, setting meeting dates and times, and debating, amending, and adopting rules. Once adopted by a majority vote of the Committee, rules shall be reported to the full Council for review. Such report may also include a request for staff support, which must be approved by the full Council.
- 3. MEETINGS.**
 - a. Date and time.** Meetings shall be held at 9 a.m. on the Wednesday following the first Council meeting of every month. Public notice shall be given at least two weeks in advance, indicating the date and time, location, and agenda of the meeting. A sample legal ad is attached as Exhibit A. The legal ad and agenda shall be emailed to the City Clerk using the same format and font in the template no later than noon on the Tuesday of the week it is to be published.
 - b. Location.** Regular Committee meetings shall generally be held in the Rimrock Conference Room on the fifth floor of City Hall. Committee members may choose to hold a meeting in a different location, so long as the public will have access and notice is provided in advance of the meeting.
 - c. Open Meetings.** All meetings of the Committee shall be open to the public in accordance with Sec. 2-3-203, MCA, and public comment shall be received during the time designated on the agenda. Any materials made available to Committee members shall also be available to the public. The Chair of the Committee may reasonably limit the time available for public comment and set the length of time in advance that an individual may speak.
 - d. Special Meetings.** The Committee may, by a majority vote, schedule special meetings in addition to the standing monthly meeting.
 - e. Procedure.** All meetings of this Committee shall be conducted in accordance with these rules and Robert's Rules of Order.

f. Officers of the Committee.

i) Chairman: The Chair of the Committee, as selected by a majority vote of the Committee, shall preside over all Committee meetings. In the event the Chair is unavailable, the Vice-Chair shall preside over the meetings. If the Vice-Chair is unavailable the Chair may designate a Presiding Officer.

The Chair is to prepare the agenda and distribute the agenda to committee members and staff one week before the meeting. The Chair is to update or report to Council at the next Business meeting regarding any action or recommendations of the Budget Committee.

ii) Vice Chair: The Vice-Chair is to fulfill the role of the chair when the chair is unavailable.

iii) Secretary: The secretary is to record the meetings with the city provided recorder and take general written minutes with written time stamps on the agenda when new topics are started.

g. Quorum. A majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum. A quorum is necessary for the conduct of Committee business.

h. Remote Attendance. The Committee will comply with any City Council resolutions governing remote participation of Committee members at Committee meetings.

4. AGENDAS. Agendas shall be provided to the Clerk for publication as set forth in section 3 above and shall contain, at a minimum, the following information:

Date, Place and Time of the meeting
Call to Order by Chair
Roll Call of Committee members and staff present
Topics of Discussion
Public Comment Periods
Adjournment

a. New business. Items shall be placed on this Committee's agenda by Council referral or at the discretion of the Chair. Committee members may, by a majority vote, place an item on a future Committee meeting agenda.

b. Referrals from Council. Council may, by a majority vote, refer an item to this Committee for consideration and recommendations. When an item is referred to Committee by Council, the item shall be placed on the next reasonably available Committee agenda. No matter that has been referred to this committee by the Council shall be placed on the agenda for a Council Business Meeting without having first been considered by this Committee.

c. Public Comment. All Committee agendas shall include a designated time for public comment. Copies of the agenda shall be made available to members of the public at the meeting.

5. MINUTES. Minutes shall be kept of all Committee meetings by the secretary or committee designee. Minutes are not required to be a verbatim transcript. Video or audio recordings of meetings may be kept in lieu of written minutes. All minutes and recordings of Committee meetings shall be made

available to the public on the official website of the City of Billings. In addition to any official recording made, a written record of the meeting must also be made and must include the following:

- a. Date, time, and place of meeting;
- b. A list of members in attendance;
- c. Substance of all matters proposed, discussed, or decided; and
- d. A record of the votes by individual members.

If the minutes are recorded and designated as the official record, a log or time stamp for each main agenda item for the purpose of providing assistance to the public in accessing that portion of the meeting.

This committee designates that the official record of the minutes are the audio recording of the meeting.

6. CONDUCTING BUSINESS.

a. *Voting.* A majority vote of all Committee Members present shall be required for a report or recommendation to Council.

b. *Hearings.* This Committee is authorized to conduct hearings, hear presentations, receive reports, and otherwise explore issues within the Committee's jurisdiction.

c. *Reports.* This Committee shall present reports and recommendations to the Council for consider. Such reports may be written or oral. Members voting in the minority on any issue may provide a written or oral Minority Report to Council.

7. **AMENDING THE RULES.** These Rules shall only be amended by a majority vote of the Committee and shall take effect upon report to the full Council.

Exhibit A

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The **(Name of Committee)** will hold a public meeting on _____, _____, 2022, at _____ AM/PM, in the _____ Room, at _____ Street, Billings, Montana.

The meeting is open to any interested members of the public. Meeting agendas are prepared and available online at <https://www.billingsmt.gov/1592/Council-Ad-Hoc>

For additional information, contact **(List the chairperson for the committee here with email and phone number).**

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