

**SCOTTSDALE**

# **JOINT MEETING BETWEEN THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE BUDGET REVIEW COMMISSION**

## **WORK STUDY SESSION NOTICE AND AGENDA**

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### **CITY COUNCIL**

Lisa Borowsky, Mayor  
Jan Dubauskas  
Barry Graham  
Adam Kwasman

Kathleen S. Littlefield  
Maryann McAllen  
Solange Whitehead

**Monday, November 17, 2025**

### **BUDGET REVIEW COMMISSION**

Daniel Schweiker, Vice Chair  
Skyler Badenoch  
Carla

Bob Lettieri  
Brad Newman  
Mark Stephens

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*City Council meetings are also televised on Cox Cable Channel 11 and streamed online at [ScottsdaleAZ.gov](http://ScottsdaleAZ.gov) (search "live stream") to listen/view the meeting in progress.*

**4:00 P.M.**

**MARKED AGENDA**

### **JOINT WORK STUDY SESSION WITH THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE BUDGET REVIEW COMMISSION**

City Hall Kiva Forum, 3939 N. Drinkwater Boulevard

**Joint Work Study Sessions:** Joint Work Study Sessions provide a less formal setting for the City Council and the Budget Review Commission to discuss specific topics, at length, with each other and City staff. Joint Work Study Sessions provide an opportunity for the Budget Review Commission and staff to receive direction from the City Council and for the public to observe these discussions.

**Call to Order – 6:37 P.M.**

**Roll Call – Commissioner Badenoch absent.**

*One or more members of the City Council and/or the Budget Review Commission may be attending the Work Study Session by telephone, video, or Internet conferencing, pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431(4).*



PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY MAY REQUEST A REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION BY CONTACTING THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE AT (480-312-2412). REQUESTS SHOULD BE MADE 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE, OR AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE TO ALLOW TIME TO ARRANGE ACCOMMODATION. FOR TTY USERS, THE ARIZONA RELAY SERVICE (1-800-367-8939) MAY CONTACT THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE (480-312-2412).

## Mayor's Report

– Mayor Borowsky made a point of privilege and provided her Mayor's Report. She proclaimed November 2025 as DECA month and presented a proclamation to Chaparral High School's DECA program.

**Public Comment:** To provide an opportunity for public input yet continue to maximize the amount of time available for the City Council and Budget Review Commission to have focused discussions, spoken comment (maximum of five speakers) is being accepted on the item(s) on tonight's Joint Work Study Session agenda. To sign up to speak, please click [here](#). **Request to speak forms must be submitted no later than 90 minutes before the start of the meeting.**

Written public comment for the Joint Work Study Session item may be submitted in-person by completing a yellow written public comment card or electronically by completing a written public comment form. Written public comment received during the meeting will be shared with the City Council and the Budget Review Commission. Written comments that are submitted electronically at least 90 minutes before the meeting will be emailed to the City Council and the Budget Review Commission and posted online prior to the meeting. A written public comment may be submitted electronically by clicking [here](#).

– Steve Sutton, Scottsdale resident, discussed civic courage and the 2019 Bond funding for the Corral parking garage.

### 1. Budget Review Commission Discussion

**Request:** Discussion and possible direction to the Budget Review Commission and city staff regarding the work of the Commission, policies, and the Fiscal Year 2026/27 budget.

– Budget Review Commission (BRC) Vice Chair Daniel Schweiker and Commissioners Carla, Bob Lettieri, Brad Newman, and Mark Stephens introduced themselves and discussed their backgrounds.

There were at least four Councilmembers in support of the following items:

- Appreciate the work of the BRC and city staff.
- Look at overall trends related to the budget.
- Look at possible ways to reduce costs and increase efficiencies.

– Councilmembers made the following observations and suggestions:

- City staff should look for five percent (5%) reductions in next year's budget.
- The BRC should look at trend and ratios related to overtime costs as a percentage of total wages; personnel costs as a percentage of total operating expenditures; operating expenditures per capita; fund balance as a percentage of annual operating expenses; debt service as a percentage of operating expenditures; capital project change order expenses as a percentage of the original budget; and preserve sales tax revenue as a percentage of actual preserve expenditures as compared against peer cities to understand trend lines.
- Look for possible areas of waste or inefficiency.
- The BRC should look at the overall budget and allow staff to focus on day-to-day operations as they are professional staff.
- Report back to Council with possible cost savings.
- Need to look at the cost of not doing something when a program is cut.
- Want Commissioners to be productive and supported.
- The BRC, at its November 18, 2025 meeting, should identify areas to explore further for next year's budget.
- The City Manager has addressed capital expenditure concerns based on feedback from the City Council and BRC.

- Have the BRC review variances over a million dollars or ten percent before the item is presented to the City Council.
  - Have the BRC review any project over ten million dollars.
  - The BRC should be able to ask staff to provide reports and make presentations on items.
  - The BRC should look at capital projects that went over budget and note any lessons learned.
  - The City Manager already is looking at possible ways to reduce costs.
- Budget Review Commission members made the following observations and suggestions:
- Want to add value to the City and look for ways to save money for the City.
  - How do we obtain feedback from the Council on how the Commission should proceed.
  - Either individually or in groups of two commission members, look into certain areas and report back to the full Commission.
  - Analyze budget variances.
  - City staff are very helpful.
  - Capital expenditure overruns are being addressed.
  - Need to look at the cost of not doing something when a program is cut.
  - Should not be replicating work of the Audit Committee.
  - Analyze budget variances above a certain amount.
  - Need to understand what the BRC should be focusing on.
  - Have the BRC review variances over a million dollars or ten percent before the item is presented to the City Council.
  - Have the BRC review any project over ten million dollars.
  - Have artificial intelligence look at trends and ratios to benchmark against peer cities.
  - Possibly look at enterprise funds, pension funding, and large department costs and look for efficiencies.
  - The BRC should focus on three items per year.

**Adjournment – 7:37 P.M.**

– Mayor Borowsky made a motion to adjourn the Joint Meeting between the City Council and the Budget Review Commission. Councilwoman McAllen seconded the motion, which carried 7/0, by voice vote, with Mayor Borowsky; Vice Mayor Kwasman; and Councilmembers Dubauskas, Graham, Littlefield, McAllen, and Whitehead voting in the affirmative.