



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

BIANCA L. TIRADO, CITY CLERK

PERSONNEL & FINANCE

SEPTEMBER 22, 2025, 3:20 P.M.

Committee Members Present:

Sheila Niezgodski, Karen L. White, Rachel Tomas Morgan

Committee Members Absent:

Dr. Oliver Davis

Councilmembers Present:

None

Others Present:

Bianca Tirado, Lari'onna Green, Veronica Pitt-Payne, Bob Palmer

Presenters:

Kyle Willis

Agenda:

Bill No. 54-25 - Q3 2025 Additional Appropriations Ordinance

Bill No. 55-25 - Q3 2025 Budget Transfer Ordinance

Bill No. 56-25 - 2026 Annual Budget Appropriation and Property Tax Levy

Bill No. 57-25 - 2026 TRANSP0 Budget Appropriation and Property Tax Levy

Members marked with an asterisk (*) are in virtual attendance.

Please note the attached link for the meeting recording:

<https://docs.southbendin.gov/WebLink/browse.aspx?dbid=0&mediaid=399807>

Committee Chair Sheila Niezgodski called to order the Personnel and Finance Committee meeting at 3:20 P.M.

Bill No. 54-25 - Q3 2025 Additional Appropriations Ordinance

Kyle Willis, City Controller, with offices on the fourteenth (14th) floor of the County-City Building, South Bend, IN 46601, explained key appropriations in the bill, including the appropriation from fund number one-hundred-one (#101) to cover emergency medical services

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(EMS) drug costs, building repair and maintenance costs, auto repair and maintenance costs, and equipment replacement costs for the South Bend Fire Department (SBFD).

Committee Chair Niezgodski asked for clarification regarding the dollar amounts.

Kyle Willis clarified that the ordinance shows total appropriation amounts by fund, and he had shared the dollar amounts for specific line items.

Committee Chair Niezgodski asked Kyle Willis to repeat the breakdown of the appropriations from fund number one-hundred-one (#101).

Committee Vice Chair Karen L. White asked about the reason for the appropriations to SBFD.

Kyle Willis said the additional funds were needed because the 2025 SBFD budget was approved before salary negotiations were finalized.

Committee Chair Niezgodski asked if this would be the same case for 2026.

Kyle Willis said they will try to avoid this.

Committee Member Rachel Tomas Morgan asked about the additional appropriations for the parking garage.

Kyle Willis said more funds were needed for maintenance and repair and confirmed that garage renovation costs were underestimated.

Committee Chair Niezgodski held the public hearing, and nobody spoke.

Committee Member Tomas Morgan moved to send Bill No. 54-25 to the Committee of the Whole with a favorable recommendation, which was seconded by Committee Vice Chair White and carried by a vote of three (3) ayes with one (1) Committee Member absent.

Committee Chair Sheila Niezgodski – <i>Aye</i>	Committee Vice Chair Karen L. White – <i>Aye</i>
Committee Member Dr. Oliver Davis – <i>Absent</i>	Committee Member Rachel Tomas-Morgan – <i>Aye</i>

Bill No. 55-25 - Q3 2025 Budget Transfer Ordinance

Kyle Willis stated that the budget transfers will fund professional services for the Human Rights Commission and Controller's Office.

Committee Member Tomas Morgan asked why funds are being transferred from employee benefits to cover professional services.

Kyle Willis replied that employee benefits were overbudgeted, citing the fact that most departments have reduced this line item in their 2026 budget proposals.

Committee Chair Sheila Niezgodski held the public hearing, and nobody spoke.

Committee Vice Chair White moved to send Bill No. 55-25 to the Committee of the Whole with a favorable recommendation, which was seconded by Committee Member Tomas Morgan and carried by a vote of three (3) ayes with one (1) Committee Member absent.



Committee Chair Sheila Niezgodski – <i>Aye</i>	Committee Vice Chair Karen L. White – <i>Aye</i>
Committee Member Dr. Oliver Davis – <i>Absent</i>	Committee Member Rachel Tomas-Morgan – <i>Aye</i>

Bill No. 56-25 - 2026 Annual Budget Appropriation and Property Tax Levy

Kyle Willis said the bill will be presented to the full Council this evening, and further information regarding the tax levy will be shared before the vote.

Committee Chair Niezgodski stated that the bill will be read tonight for public hearing only, and Council will vote on the bill after its third (3rd) reading on October 13, 2025.

Committee Member Tomas Morgan asked about the procedure for moving the bill forward.

Kyle Willis replied that in previous years, the process has been to move the annual budget appropriation bill out of Committee with no recommendation. Detailed financial information is shared before the vote.

Committee Vice Chair White asked Attorney Bob Palmer, with offices on the fourth (4th) floor of the County-City Building, South Bend, IN 46601, for more information.

Attorney Palmer said the state requires a minimum of ten (10) days between public hearing and the passage of a tax ordinance.

Committee Member Tomas Morgan noted that the public hearing will occur before detailed financial information is available. She said this merits future Council discussion.

Committee Chair Niezgodski opened the public hearing.

Murray Miller, 23698 West Western Avenue, South Bend, IN 46619, asked if taxes are increasing. He asked when residents will be informed of any changes to property tax rates.

Kyle Willis clarified that the budget proposal does not authorize a tax increase, since property taxes are capped by the state. He said the state certifies the City budget, and if the proposed budget exceeds expected revenue, the state will decrease the budget.

Sue Kesim, 4022 Kennedy Drive, South Bend, IN 46614, spoke against the bill, stating that the amount of financial data shared with the public before the hearing was insufficient.

Kyle Willis stated that a detailed budget breakdown will be presented later. He said this process is the same as in previous years. He clarified that the tax levy is based on a limited number of funds that receive property tax revenue, and not the overall City budget.

Committee Chair Niezgodski closed the public hearing.

Committee Vice Chair White asked about the TRANSPRO bill.

Kyle Willis confirmed the process for the TRANSPRO bill is the same as the current bill, with a public hearing ten (10) days before the third (3rd) reading and vote. He noted that the TRANSPRO bill has been tabled for tonight.



Committee Member Tomas Morgan moved to send Bill No. 56-25 to the Committee of the Whole with no recommendation, which was seconded by Committee Vice Chair White and carried by a vote of three (3) ayes with one (1) Committee Member absent.

Committee Chair Sheila Niezgodski – <i>Aye</i>	Committee Vice Chair Karen L. White – <i>Aye</i>
Committee Member Dr. Oliver Davis – <i>Absent</i>	Committee Member Rachel Tomas-Morgan – <i>Aye</i>

Bill No. 57-25 - 2026 TRANSPO Budget Appropriation and Property Tax Levy

Committee Chair Niezgodski stated that the petitioner has requested to table the bill until October 13, 2025, and entertained a motion to table Bill No. 57-25.

Committee Vice Chair White moved to table Bill No. 57-25 until October 13, 2025, which was seconded by Committee Member Tomas Morgan and carried by a vote of three (3) ayes with one (1) Committee Member absent.

Committee Chair Sheila Niezgodski – <i>Aye</i>	Committee Vice Chair Karen L. White – <i>Aye</i>
Committee Member Dr. Oliver Davis – <i>Absent</i>	Committee Member Rachel Tomas-Morgan – <i>Aye</i>

With no further business, Committee Chair Niezgodski adjourned the Personnel and Finance Committee meeting at 3:50 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheila Niezgodski, Committee Chair

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