

 <p>Redmond WASHINGTON</p>	<p>REDMOND CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION, AND COMMUNICATIONS MEETING SUMMARY</p> <p>April 14, 2026, 4:30 p.m.</p>
	<p>Current and past meeting agendas and materials: https://redmond.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx</p>

Presiding Officer Vanessa Kritzer called the meeting to order, reviewed attendance, and overviewed the agenda¹. The meeting was held in Redmond City Hall Council Chambers.

Committee Members present and establishing a quorum:

- Vanessa Kritzer, Presiding Officer
- Jessica Forsythe
- Angie Nuevacamina
- Sayna Parsi
- Vivek Prakriya
- Menka Soni
- Melissa Stuart

Action Items

1. Introduction of the New Deputy City Attorney

Department: Executive

Action: Informational

Rebecca Mueller, City Attorney, and Anthony Soldano, Deputy City Attorney, reported to the Members of the Committee:

- The City Attorney Office staffing is complete;
- The City Attorney Office moved in house; and
- Background.

2. Approval of Contract for Purchasing Process Improvements

Department: Finance

Action: Consent, April 21st

Haritha Narra, Deputy Finance Director, reported to the Members of the Committee:

- Selection process;
- Stakeholders;
- Scope; and
- Implementation.

Discussion ensued regarding: Public Works accreditation process; budget; policy review; most qualified bidder; reducing cost; and creating challenges.

¹ An item was added to the end of the agenda at the time of the meeting.

3. **Adoption of an Ordinance for the 2025-2026 Budget Adjustment #6 to Recognize the Expenditure Transfers Needed to Redeem the Limited Tax General Obligation (LTGO) Bond Series 2015 and 2016**

Department: Finance

Action: Consent, April 21st

Haritha Narra, Deputy Finance Director, and Hailey Zurcher, Finance Manager, reported to the Members of the Committee:

- Redemption of bonds; and
- Moving money to the correct funds.

Feedback for Study Session - N/A

Informational

1. **2027-2028 Budget Process Update: Community Engagement**

Department: Finance

Action: Informational

Haritha Narra, Deputy Finance Director, reported to the Members of the Committee:

- What matters most to the community;
- Refine priorities;
- Focus groups;
- Moderator;
- Final report;
- Complements and concerns;
- Outcome phrasing clarity;
- Additional community engagement; and
- Budget questionnaires.

Discussion ensued regarding: report; focus group selection; needed partnership with the Council; more information and engagement; cost of increasing focus groups; further discussion and strategies; proportionality; diverse community representation; deliberative conversations; marginalized community; stakeholder group; community input on City planning documents; participants; session recordings; and budget focused Council Conversations.

2. **Respect, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (REDI) Program Update**

Department: Executive

Action: Informational

Lisa Maher, Assistant Chief Operating Officer, and Zach Houvener, Executive Deputy Director of Equity and Strategic Services, reported to the Members of the Committee:

- Oversight of department functions;
- Workplan and priorities;
- Onboarding;
- REDI strategic plan;
- Training;

- Goals;
- Stakeholders for Welcoming Week;
- REDI facilitator training;
- Mandatory citywide staff training;
- Posting position for the REDI program administrator and timeline;
- REDI program administrator responsibilities;
- Budgeting for equity; and
- Keeping the Council updated on progress.

Discussion ensued regarding: implementation of REDI; community engagement in major decisions; community trust; unintentional consequences; success in the role; REDI plan discussion; interest in the role; priorities; and hiring for the two budgeted positions for REDI.

3. 2025 Grants Management Overview

Department: Executive

Action: Informational

Zach Houvener, Executive Deputy Director of Equity and Strategic Services, and Lauren Thompson, Grants Supervisor, reported to the Members of the Committee:

- Baseline for grant updates;
- Grant activity;
- Format;
- Applications and awards;
- State and federal earmarks;
- Grant revenue;
- Program accomplishments; and
- Grant management software solutions.

Discussion ensued regarding: state and federal funding; formatting for comparison; measurements; and categories.

4. 2026 City Council Communications Investment Update and Engagement

Department: Executive

Action: Informational

Zach Houvener, Executive Deputy Director of Equity and Strategic Services, and Kelly Schutz, Communications Manager, reported to the Members of the Committee:

- Priority investments;
- Focus newsletter;
- Additional staffing;
- Department liaisons;
- Public information officer training;
- Graphic and web design;
- World Cup investments;
- More use of video;
- Media outreach; and

- Council community engagement opportunities.

Discussion ensued regarding: multilingual communications; Council engagement schedule; Downtown Redmond Art Walk booth; Council newsletter and other engagement opportunities; Town Hall meeting; social media; providing press releases for Council policy items; and telling Redmond's story.

Read Only - N/A

For the good of the order;

- Data Governance Policy
 - Primary goal;
 - Data privacy;
 - Use of sensitive data;
 - AI;
 - Public safety technology;
- Michael Marchand, Chief Technology Officer, spoke regarding the definition and function of the data governance policy.

Meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.