

From: jhirsch@chorus.net
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Item #3 Budget General Property Tax
Date: Tuesday, November 12, 2024 10:47:00 AM

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Alders:

Item #3... When you adopt the 2025 budget and authorize the property tax levy, I ask you to **remove the inclusion of the Five-Year Budget Plan**

The Five-Year Budget Plan takes away any meaningful discussion of future budgets.

In the next 5 years, the Plan allows the Common Council to take the easy route and add New Special Charges which increase up to \$25 million in 2030. Whether it comes from property taxes or special fees, it does nothing to improve affordability in Madison or to deal with an ongoing deficit.

Madison constituents expect fiscal responsibility from the Common Council. The mayor and alders have done little to earn the trust of the Madison population. There have been no meaningful attempts to review existing expenses, prioritize projects or hold contractors accountable. It is much easier to ask for more money and then, spend every penny of it.

Please remove the Five-Year Budget Plan.

Janet Hirsch
Madison Resident

From: [Bonnie Roe](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Item #3 Concerns
Date: Tuesday, November 12, 2024 3:58:30 PM

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Dear Alders,

I am writing with concerns about Item #3 on tonight's agenda, Legistar #85776.

You are potentially voting on this tonight, yet as of this writing, at 3:30pm, the Fiscal Note is still pending. How can you vote on something when you don't know the fiscal impact to our City?

I also don't understand why the 5-Year Operating Budget Plan is being included in this resolution. Does passing this commit the Council to follow this plan over the next 5 years? Personally, I am not happy with the decision to impose on Madison residents a \$10 million Infrastructure Special Charge which will grow \$5 million each year. It's basically a tax under the guise of a service fee. You can't charge everyone who uses our streets equally for these fees. Likely there will be legal challenges to this special charge (as there have been elsewhere) and it likely will not stand up to scrutiny by the State Supreme Court.

I also don't like the idea of voting to impose a 5-year plan on a Council and Mayor that likely won't even be in office in 5 years. Typically at this time of year, you vote to pass one year's budget.

If we are to do what many of us heard the Mayor ask us to do, in a crowded room, to "hold her feet to the fire to work with the State Legislature" for more sustainable revenue options after passing the referendum, I would rather see a 5-Year Plan for the Mayor's Efforts to Lobby the State than be roped into having a special charge imposed that the City can't likely can't count on and that many residents likely can't afford to pay.

Regarding Paragraph 8 of MGO sec. 4.17, are you really going to do that again this year? I remember it was quite a fiasco at last year's budget meeting. It is not a wise government accounting principle to use general debt reserves to reduce general fund debt service without appropriating an equal amount for capital projects. It is unwise to override Madison's own protective General Ordinance and the City will end up issuing more debt than it would have had to if this goes through. I hope enough of you will vote no on this, as a matter of stewardship and accountability, so that the $\frac{2}{3}$ vote required does not pass.

Thank you for your consideration,

Bonnie Roe
District 11

From: [Joseph Keyes](#)
To: [Mayor](#); [All Alders](#)
Subject: Opposition to Item #3 - 2025 Budget Deliberations - Nov. 12, 2024 City Council
Date: Tuesday, November 12, 2024 5:06:52 PM

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Mayor of Madison and Madison Alders,

I am opposed to Agenda Item #3 in tonight's budget deliberations. It intends to override MGO 4.17 which requires, "In any year when general debt reserves are applied to reduce general fund debt service, an amount at least equal to the general debt reserves applied must be directly appropriated from the general fund for capital projects". This ordinance is in place to assure the proper matching of funds to long term projects and not be applied to current expenditures. The mis-match of one time funds to ongoing expenses (i.e. ARPA funds to continuing expenses) has gotten Madison into its current deficit position. This override will only exacerbate the situation. I urge you to use good fiscal stewardship and vote against this agenda item.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Keyes
District 11