



CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FL BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, March 09, 2026 * 3:00 PM
MINUTES

Present

John Evertson Vice Chair
Kirk Leff
Chad Rocheford
Sharon Harkey
Nate Davenport

Absent

Nash Shook-Chairman
Kevin Pierre

Also present: City Manager Rick Rudometkin, Finance Manager Tracy Richardson, Public Works Director Phil Price, and City Clerk Yolanda Quiceno.

1. **Call to Order and Confirmation of Quorum**

Vice Chairman Evertsen called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. City Clerk Quiceno confirmed quorum. Vice Chairman Evertsen called for excused absences for Board members Shook and Pierre.

Board member Leff moved to excuse.

Board member Davenport seconded the motion, which passed 5:0.

2. **Citizen Comments**

Vice Chairman Evertsen opened for public comment. There being none, he closed the public comment section.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

a. Approval of the Budget Committee Meeting Minutes - February 17, 2026

Board member Leff moved to approve the minutes as presented.

Board member Davenport seconded the motion, which passed 5:0.

4. **Agenda Items**

a. Composting Presentation - Charlie Pioli from O-Town Compost

Charlie Piolo, Founder of O-Town Compost, presented a residential and food waste diversion program for consideration. Mr. Piolo spoke about the future of solid waste disposal and potential cost savings for the City. He noted that the first 200 households who enroll get 4 months of subsidized service and a free starter kit with educational infographics & an FAQ sheet for all residents. He highlighted its potential to reduce trash disposal costs by \$3,300 per year. The program costs \$18 per month per household, a significant discount from the current \$32. Once the program is off the ground, O-Town Compost will continue to decrease service fees as routes get denser and more residents are added.

The Committee spoke on funding sources and marketing strategies, including grants and potential cost-sharing to offset the fees associated with JJ Waste. Before presenting to Council, the Board asked that the vendor/staff provide further research on similar companies, a summary of whether it will be a sole-source contract, with no open bidding for budget consideration.

b. Class and Compensation Study Update

CM Rudometkin states that the class and compensation study has been approved and will be presented to Council on the 17th, including detailed cost information. Budget Committee members were encouraged to attend. The Council decided not to send it back to the Budget Committee at this time, but it may be reviewed later. The study aligns positions with market values and considers experience, tenure, and other factors. It was noted there will be no cost savings; implementation will increase costs, with initial estimates previously over \$300,000, reflecting that the City is currently below market. A budget amendment may be required for the current fiscal year, with impacts carried into the FY 2026–2027 budget.

Board member Evertsen requested a historical comparison of prior pay adjustments made during the interim period to evaluate the gap between past adjustments, current recommendations, and job descriptions. It was noted that prior increases included approximately 15% for police and 7% for non-sworn employees, followed by an additional 5% adjustment for non-sworn staff, along with improvements to employee benefits.

The staff noted that police previously operated under a multi-year pay plan that has now expired, while non-sworn employees have not had a formal merit-based pay plan and instead rely on cost-of-living adjustments. The class and compensation study incorporates these considerations moving forward. Staffing levels were discussed generally (sworn vs. non-sworn), and it was noted that the largest compensation impact is within the police department.

c. FY 26/27 Budget

CM Rudometkin updated additional budget line items that included:

- Anticipated reimbursement of approximately \$196,000 for the Sol Avenue stormwater project
- FEMA reimbursement for Hurricane Ian remains pending with no clear timeline.
- Efforts continue to close out Hurricane Irma reimbursements (approximately \$140,000).

Moving into next year, the approved compensation study will be part of the budget process, and the committee will review for Council consideration. He noted that the budget process will proceed as in prior years, with the first draft budgets expected in June, and members encouraged to provide input.

5. Committee Comments

6. Next Meeting Schedule – April 13, 2026

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm, unanimously approved.