



## WHEATON CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

MAYOR PHILIP J. SUESS

COUNCILWOMAN ERICA BRAY-PARKER | COUNCILWOMAN LEAH BRICE | COUNCILMAN SCOTT BROWN  
COUNCILMAN BRADLEY CLOUSING | COUNCILWOMAN LYNN ROBBINS | COUNCILMAN SCOTT WELLER

WHEATON CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 303 W WESLEY STREET, WHEATON, ILLINOIS 60187

Monday, December 8, 2025

### I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The public hearing of the Wheaton City Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Suess. The public hearing was held in the Council Chambers, Wheaton City Hall, 303 W. Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois. Upon roll call, the following were:

Physically Present: Mayor Suess  
Councilwoman Bray-Parker  
Councilwoman Brice  
Councilman Brown  
Councilman Clousing  
Councilwoman Robbins  
Councilman Weller

Absent: None

City Staff Present: Michael G. Dzugan, City Manager  
William Kolschowsky, Assistant City Manager  
Robert Lehnhardt, Director of Finance  
Erik Berg, Management Analyst  
Halie Cardinal, Public Relations Coordinator

### II. Public Hearing – Calendar Year 2026 Annual Budget

#### a. Staff Comment

Director of Finance Lehnhardt stated that the draft 2026 annual budget was made available to the public November 3<sup>rd</sup> and the Council held a budget workshop November 10<sup>th</sup>.

Director of Finance Lehnhardt stated that the draft 2026 budget upholds the City's goal of providing high-quality essential services. He highlighted the \$45 million in capital investment, \$21.2 million of which funds the police station remodel and the replacement of Fire Station #39. The revenue to cover these projects comes from a General Obligation (G.O.) Bond, which has an annual debt service of \$1.9 million. To provide revenue for the debt service, there will be a 3% increase in the property tax levy, a .25% increase to the local sales tax, and an increase in the natural gas use utility tax to \$0.05 per therm. Overall, the revenue increases results in the General Fund meeting its goal of having 40% in fund balance.

Besides the facilities projects, 2026 capital investments also include \$5.6 million for roadway improvements, \$4.9 million for sanitary sewer improvements, \$2.8 million for water improvements, and \$2.3 million for sidewalks.

For the 2026 budget, General Fund revenues equal General Fund expenditures; both revenues and expenditures are projected to \$58.2 million. The General Fund's revenues come from taxes, including sales tax, and charges for services. The General Fund's expenditures pay for, among other items, personal services, benefits, and contracts related to the functions of public safety, general government, and public works. In total, for all funds, there is \$160.8 million projected for revenues and \$153.1 million projected for expenditures.

**b. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**c. Council Comment**

In response to a Council question, Director of Finance Lehnhardt stated that the 2026 budget eliminates two full-time positions from the Wheaton Public Library and one police services representative from the Wheaton Police Department.

**III. Adjournment**

Councilwoman Bray-Parker moved and Councilwoman Robbins seconded a motion to close the public hearing at 7:08 p.m.

Ayes:

**Roll Call Vote:**

Councilwoman Bray-Parker  
Councilwoman Brice  
Councilman Brown  
Mayor Suess  
Councilman Clousing  
Councilwoman Robbins  
Councilman Weller

Nays:

None

Absent:

None

Motion Carried Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Erik Berg