

O-3-17

Annual City Budget Submission Dates

Staff Report

This legislation proposes to amend the date for submission of the proposed annual operating budget and proposed capital budget, and to amend the date for submission of collective bargaining agreements.

Currently, Section 3.32.060 of the City Code pertaining to union negotiations states, in pertinent part, that “D . . . negotiations shall begin not later than October prior to the beginning of the effective fiscal year. When the parties reach agreement, they shall prepare a written memorandum of such agreement and submit it to the City Council for its ratification or rejection . . . that agreement must conform to the City's fiscal year or years and be submitted to the Mayor by the first Monday in February.” [Emphasis added]

The February submission date causes budget reconciliation issues due to a lack of specificity at that time as to the amount of anticipated property tax revenues for the upcoming fiscal year that the City will receive. O-3-17 will provide that the union agreement may be submitted by the later of the first Monday in April or one week after the date that the Comptroller of Maryland provides the City with anticipated property tax revenues for the upcoming City fiscal year. This will allow for additional time during which the City may evaluate the financial impact of any negotiations to be included in the Mayor's annual budget submission under Section 6.16.010.

For corresponding reasons, O-3-17 will amend Sections 6.16.010 and 6.16.030 of the City Code to permit the Mayor to submit the proposed annual operating budget, including the impact of any labor negotiations that are ready for City Council review under Section 3.32.060, and the proposed capital budget to the City Council “upon the later of the date the Comptroller of Maryland provides the City with anticipated property tax revenues for the upcoming City fiscal year or the second Monday in April (as opposed to March) of each year.”

Prepared by Jacqueline Lee, Legislative & Policy Analyst, Office of Law.