

Eastlake City Council
Finance Committee Meeting
October 14, 2025
6:45 p.m.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Called to order by Chairman Kasunick. All members of Council in attendance.

Finance Director Schindel says our income tax is our biggest source of revenue. It comes in from RITA and the State of Ohio. RITA has been 5-7% down from last year until this morning. She is not panicking, she budgeted lower. Today, we are about 3.5% down. What it does tell her, October 2025 is lower than 2024 and 2023. We are still comfortable with where we are.

The reason she asked for a Finance Meeting is because of the State of Ohio income tax. Back in 2018 when they started it, we got \$17,000. We normally hover between 300,000-350,000. In 2023, we got 1,048,000. Had to refund 730,000. This year, through the financial statement, we are at \$929,000. She is uncomfortable saying that number will remain there. Traditionally we get a check in November. We would be over \$1,000,000 likely. There are estimated payments from a large corporation in there. We won't know until tax season if they give that back. She is concerned that if we keep \$700,000 and plan on using it, you might be very surprised if they ask for it back. Her recommendation is to save \$700,000 and put half in two funds. You would be easily able to return it because it wouldn't be allocated for payroll or something in the budget. \$350,000 into safety center and the same into capital. The companies are confidential and she cannot say who paid them, but can say with certainty that they are estimated payments.

Ms. Krajnyak asks the \$350,000 that goes to safety center? Is there a line item for engineering or building or just moving money out of the general fund?

Ms. Schindel says there are no line items because it must go to Council for approval first anyway. You can say whatever you desire to say, but by putting it into that fund, it is not able to be spent without coming to Council first to say "may we have the money out of this account?"

Mr. Semick asks if we put that money into the safety center fund and the request a refund, would it come from safety center fund or the general fund?

Ms. Schindel says it is up to the amount. If they ask for a smaller amount, the general fund may be able to absorb it. You can decide whether or not you take it out of safety center or capital. Those are Council specific, you decide, funds. Estimated payments are based on financial statements.

Ms. Schmidt asks if there's not another fund that it could go in?

Ms. Schindel says she does not have the ability to set it aside in any other fashion at this point in time because they haven't asked for it back. The \$2,000,000 they asked for back is now sitting in a payable. This one is going to be like July/September before it is asked for.

Mr. Klammer asks if we can create a possible payback fund?

Ms. Schindel says no, the auditor must approve and that is not one they would approve. She says again, those funds require Council permission to pull money out or put money in.

Mr. Meyers says based on what she just said, we could put it in the rainy day fund? That requires Council approval also.

Mr. Semick says what Angela might be getting at is that if we move it into the Safety Center fund and then we have to take it out, someone might feel we do not support the Safety Center.

Ms. Schmidt says she feels it could be easily manipulated.

Mr. Meyers says if you are more comfortable, put it in rainy day.

Ms. Krajnyak asks why she is asking we move it from the General Fund?

Ms. Schindel says the General Fund is for balance purposes and she is not comfortable saying that we actually have this money.

Ms. Krajnyak asks if this is due to union contract negotiations for police and fire?

Ms. Schindel says this is done based on tax collection history. It shows clearly that we average like \$300,000-\$350,000. She cannot control estimated payments. He has the right to come back and say he made a mistake and wants it back. She wants it looked at as if it was an estimated payment and not something we can operate off of because she does not feel that we can operate off this.

They agree to change it to a transfer to rainy day fund. Committee is unanimous.

This meeting has run out of time for public comment, but the regular Council meeting that is starting now will have a public portion.

ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.



JOHN MEYERS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

APPROVED: 10/28/25

ATTEST: 

ALYSSA MORAN, CLERK OF COUNCIL