

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, June 8, 2023
12:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT DARRELL L. CLARKE
COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS
COUNCILWOMAN KENDRA BROOKS
COUNCILMAN MICHAEL DRISCOLL
COUNCILWOMAN JAMIE GAUTHIER
COUNCILWOMAN KATHERINE GILMORE RICHARDSON
COUNCILMAN JIM HARRITY
COUNCILMAN KENYATTA JOHNSON
COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.
COUNCILWOMAN QUETCY LOZADA
COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL
COUNCILMAN ANTHONY PHILLIPS
COUNCILMAN MARK SQUILLA
COUNCILMAN ISAIAH THOMAS
COUNCILWOMAN SHARON VAUGHN

BILLS 230144, 230145, 230146, 230147, 230148,
and 230149
RESOLUTIONS 230162, 230226, 230227, 230228,
230229, and 230262

- - -

1 6/8/23 - WHOLE - BILL 230144, ETC.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

3 Thank you, and good afternoon, everyone.
4 Thank you again for your patience as we
5 continue to deliberate on the FY24
6 budget.

7 This is the reconvening of the
8 hearing/meeting of the FY24 budget that
9 was recessed last night. Unfortunately,
10 we will have to take another recess, but
11 we are getting closer to a conclusion on
12 that. So we will be recessing the FY24
13 Committee of the Whole budget on Bills
14 No. 230144, 230145, 230146, 230147,
15 230148, 230149, and Resolution No.
16 230162, 230226, 230227, 230228, 230229,
17 and 230262.

18 The Chair would like to
19 recognize Councilman Jones for a motion
20 to adjourn until 2:00 p.m. this
21 afternoon.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
23 Mr. President. The Committee of the
24 Whole will stand at recess until 2:00
25 p.m. today, at which time we will

1 6/8/23 - WHOLE - BILL 230144, ETC.
2 consider Bills No. 230144, 230145,
3 230146, 230147, 230148, 230149, and
4 Resolutions No. 230162, 230226, and
5 230227.

6 (Duly seconded.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
8 been moved and approved.

9 All in favor indicate by saying
10 aye.

11 (Aye.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
13 Those opposed?

14 (No response.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
16 ayes have it. The Committee of the Whole
17 is recessed until 2:00 p.m. this
18 afternoon.

19 Thank you all very much. We
20 will see you shortly.

21 - - -

22 (Recess from 12:02 p.m. until
23 2:31 p.m.)

24 - - -

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

1 6/8/23 - WHOLE - BILL 230144, ETC.
2 Thank you very much, and good afternoon.
3 We are prepared to resume the public
4 meeting from earlier.

5 This is the recessed public
6 meeting of the Committee of the Whole
7 regarding Bills No. 230144, 230145,
8 230146, 230147, 230148, 230149,
9 Resolution --

10 (Background noise.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
12 Please mute yourself if you're not
13 speaking now.

14 -- (continued) and Resolution
15 No. 230162, 230226, 230227, 230228,
16 230229, and 230262.

17 Mr. McDermott, will you please
18 call the roll to take attendance, and
19 members, if you are present, please
20 indicate so.

21 Mr. McDermott.

22 THE CLERK: Councilmember Bass.
23 (No response.)

24 THE CLERK: Councilmember
25 Brooks.

1 6/8/23 - WHOLE - BILL 230144, ETC.
2 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Present.
3 THE CLERK: Councilmember
4 Driscoll.
5 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL: Present.
6 THE CLERK: Councilmember
7 Gauthier.
8 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
9 Present.
10 THE CLERK: Councilmember
11 Gilmore Richardson.
12 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Good
13 afternoon, Council President and
14 colleagues. I am present.
15 THE CLERK: Councilmember
16 Harrity.
17 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: I am here
18 and present, my family.
19 THE CLERK: Councilmember
20 Johnson.
21 (No response.)
22 THE CLERK: Councilmember
23 Jones.
24 COUNCILMAN JONES: Present.
25 THE CLERK: Councilmember

1 6/8/23 - WHOLE - BILL 230144, ETC.

2 Lozada.

3 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Present.

4 THE CLERK: Councilmember

5 O'Neill.

6 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Present.

7 THE CLERK: Councilmember

8 Phillips.

9 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Good

10 afternoon, viewing public. Good

11 afternoon, Council President. I am

12 present.

13 THE CLERK: Councilmember

14 Squilla.

15 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Good

16 afternoon, Council President and

17 colleagues. Present.

18 THE CLERK: Councilmember

19 Thomas.

20 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good

21 afternoon, everybody. I'm present.

22 THE CLERK: Councilmember

23 Vaughn.

24 COUNCILWOMAN VAUGHN: Good

25 afternoon. Present.

1 6/8/23 - WHOLE - BILL 230144, ETC.

2 THE CLERK: And Council

3 President Clarke.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And
5 I am obviously here. Thank you. Thank
6 you very much.

7 We have established our quorum
8 for the Committee of the Whole.

9 At this time for our public
10 meeting, the Chair recognizes Councilman
11 Jones for a motion on the amendment to
12 Bill No. 230144.

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
14 Mr. President. I offer an amendment to
15 Bill No. 230144. A copy of that
16 amendment has been circulated to all
17 members of Council, and I move for the
18 adoption of the amendment to Bill No.
19 230144.

20 (Duly seconded.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
22 Thank you. It's been moved and properly
23 seconded that the amendment to Bill No.
24 230144 be approved.

25 All in favor indicate by saying

1 6/8/23 - WHOLE - BILL 230144, ETC.

2 aye.

3 (Aye.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

5 Those opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
8 ayes have it.

9 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Nay.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: One
11 nay for the record?

12 The ayes have it, the motion
13 carries, and the amendment to Bill No.
14 230144 has been approved.

15 The Chair again recognizes
16 Councilmember Jones for a motion on Bill
17 No. 230144, as amended.

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
19 again, Mr. President. I move that Bill
20 No. 230144, as amended, be moved from
21 this Committee with a favorable
22 recommendation and further move that the
23 rules of Council be suspended to permit
24 reading of Bill No. 230144 at our next
25 session of Council.

1 6/8/23 - WHOLE - BILL 230144, ETC.

2 (Duly seconded.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

4 Thank you. It has been moved and
5 properly seconded that Bill No. 230144,
6 as amended, be reported from this
7 Committee with a favorable recommendation
8 and further moved that the rules of
9 Council be suspended to permit first
10 reading of this bill at the next session
11 of Council.

12 All in favor indicate by saying
13 aye.

14 (Aye.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

16 Those opposed?

17 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Nay.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
19 ayes have it and the motion carries.

20 Councilman Jones, call for a
21 motion on the amendment to Bill No.
22 230145.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: Yes. Thank
24 you, Mr. President. I offer an amendment
25 to Bill No. 230145. A copy of that

1 6/8/23 - WHOLE - BILL 230144, ETC.
2 amendment has been circulated to all
3 members of Council, and I move for the
4 adoption of the amendment to Bill No.
5 230145 be approved.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Can
7 I get a second?

8 (Duly seconded.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
10 been moved and properly seconded that the
11 amendment to Bill No. 230145 be approved.

12 All in favor indicate by saying
13 aye.

14 (Aye.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
16 Those opposed?

17 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Nay.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
19 ayes have it, and the amendment to Bill
20 No. 230145 has been approved.

21 The Chair again recognizes
22 Councilman Jones for a motion on Bill No.
23 230145, as amended.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
25 again, Mr. President. I move that Bill

1 6/8/23 - WHOLE - BILL 230144, ETC.
2 No. 230145, as amended, be moved from
3 this Committee with a favorable
4 recommendation and further move that the
5 rules of Council be suspended to permit
6 reading of this bill at our next session
7 of Council.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Can
9 I get a second?

10 (Duly seconded.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
12 Thank you. It has been moved and
13 properly seconded that Bill No. 230145,
14 as amended, be reported from this
15 Committee with a favorable recommendation
16 and further moved that the rules of
17 Council be suspended as to permit first
18 reading at the next session of Council.

19 All in favor indicate by saying
20 aye.

21 (Aye.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
23 Those opposed?

24 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Nay.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The

1 6/8/23 - WHOLE - BILL 230144, ETC.

2 ayes have it. The motion carries.

3 The Chair recognizes

4 Councilmember Jones for a motion on --

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
6 Mr. President.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Hold
8 on. Councilman Jones for a motion on an
9 amendment to Bill No. 230146.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
11 again, Mr. President. I offer an
12 amendment to Bill No. 230146. A copy of
13 that amendment has been circulated to all
14 members of Council, and I move for the
15 adoption of the amendment to Bill No.
16 230146.

17 (Duly seconded.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
19 Thank you. It's been moved and properly
20 seconded that the amendment to Bill No.
21 230146 be approved.

22 All in favor of the motion
23 signify by saying aye.

24 (Aye.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

1 6/8/23 - WHOLE - BILL 230144, ETC.

2 Those opposed?

3 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Nay.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
5 ayes have it, the motion carries, and the
6 amendment to Bill No. 230146 has been
7 approved.

8 The Chair again recognizes
9 Councilmember Jones for a motion on Bill
10 No. 230146, as amended.

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
12 again, Mr. President. I move that Bill
13 No. 230146, as amended, be reported from
14 this Committee with a favorable
15 recommendation and further move that the
16 rules of Council be suspended to permit
17 reading at our next session of Council.

18 (Duly seconded.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
20 been moved and properly seconded that
21 Bill No. 230146, as amended, be reported
22 from this Committee with a favorable
23 recommendation and further moved that the
24 rules of Council be suspended to permit
25 first reading of this bill at the next

1 6/8/23 - WHOLE - BILL 230144, ETC.

2 session of Council.

3 All in favor indicate by saying
4 aye.

5 (Aye.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

7 Those opposed?

8 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Nay.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
10 ayes have it. The motion carries.

11 The Chair again recognizes
12 Councilman Jones for a motion on an
13 amendment to Bill No. 230147.

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
15 Mr. President. I offer an amendment to
16 Bill No. 230147. A copy of that
17 amendment has been circulated to all
18 members of Council, and I move for the
19 adoption of the amendment to Bill No.
20 230147.

21 (Duly seconded.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

23 Thank you. It's been moved and properly
24 seconded that the amendment to Bill No.
25 230147 be approved.

1 6/8/23 - WHOLE - BILL 230144, ETC.

2 All in favor of the motion
3 signify by saying aye.

4 (Aye.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
6 Those opposed?

7 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Nay.

8 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Nay.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
10 ayes have it and the motion carries.

11 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: CP,
12 for the record, I just want to be clear
13 that I circulated the amendment to Bill
14 No. 230147 for all members. Okay?

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
16 Okay. That's next up.

17 The Chair recognizes
18 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson for a
19 motion on Bill No. 230147.

20 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
21 you, Mr. President. I move that Bill No.
22 230147, as amended, be reported from this
23 Committee with a favorable recommendation
24 and further move that the rules of
25 Council be suspended to permit first

1 6/8/23 - WHOLE - BILL 230144, ETC.
2 reading of this bill at the next session
3 of Council.

4 (Duly seconded.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: You
6 know what, I think I made a mistake.
7 Well, never mind. We're good. I just
8 didn't call -- I was supposed to call you
9 for the earlier amendment. I'm sorry.
10 It's getting late in the day.

11 It's been moved and properly
12 seconded.

13 All in favor of Bill No.
14 230147, as amended, reported from this
15 Committee with a favorable
16 recommendation.

17 Those in support, aye.

18 (Aye.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
20 Those opposed?

21 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Nay.

22 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Nay.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
24 Thank you. The ayes have it and the
25 motion carries.

1 6/8/23 - WHOLE - BILL 230144, ETC.

2 The Chair recognizes
3 Councilmember Jones -- this is the PICA
4 tax -- for a motion on Bill No. 230148.

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
6 again, Mr. President. I move that Bill
7 No. 230148 be reported from this
8 Committee with a favorable recommendation
9 and further move that the rules of
10 Council be suspended to permit this
11 bill's reading at our next session of
12 Council.

13 (Duly seconded.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
15 Thank you. It's been moved and properly
16 seconded that Bill No. 230148 be reported
17 from this Committee with a favorable
18 recommendation and further moved that the
19 rules of Council be suspended to permit
20 first reading of this bill at the next
21 session of Council.

22 All in favor indicate by saying
23 aye.

24 (Aye.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

1 6/8/23 - WHOLE - BILL 230144, ETC.

2 Those opposed?

3 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Nay.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
5 ayes have it and the motion carries.

6 The Chair recognizes
7 Councilmember Thomas for a motion on an
8 amendment to Bill No. 230149.

9 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you,
10 Council President. I offer an amendment
11 to Bill No. 230149. A copy of the
12 amendment has been circulated to all
13 members of the Committee. I move that
14 the amendment to Bill No. 230149 be
15 approved.

16 (Duly seconded.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

18 Thank you.

19 All in favor of the amendment?

20 (Aye.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

22 Those opposed?

23 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Nay.

24 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Nay.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The

1 6/8/23 - WHOLE - BILL 230144, ETC.
2 ayes have it, the motion carries, and the
3 amendment to 230149 has been approved.

4 The Chair again recognizes
5 Councilmember Thomas for a motion on Bill
6 No. 230149, as amended.

7 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you,
8 Council President. I move that Bill No.
9 230149 be reported from this Committee
10 with a favorable recommendation and I
11 further move that the rules of Council be
12 suspended to permit first reading of this
13 bill at the next Council session.

14 (Duly seconded.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
16 Thank you. It's been moved and properly
17 seconded that Bill No. 230149, as
18 amended, be reported from this Committee
19 with a favorable recommendation and
20 further moved that the rules of Council
21 be suspended to permit first reading of
22 this bill at the next session of Council.

23 All in favor indicate by saying
24 aye.

25 (Aye.)

1 6/8/23 - WHOLE - BILL 230144, ETC.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

3 Those opposed?

4 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Nay.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
6 motion carries.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Nay.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And
9 Bill No. 230149 has been approved.

10 The Chair recognizes
11 Councilmember Jones for a motion on
12 Resolution No. 230226.

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
14 Mr. President. I move that Resolution
15 No. 230226 be reported from this
16 Committee with a favorable
17 recommendation.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Can
19 I get a second?

20 (Duly seconded.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

22 Councilwoman Gauthier, did you want to be
23 recognized before we take a vote on this
24 or can we take the vote on this and then
25 I'll recognize you? I'm just seeing your

1 6/8/23 - WHOLE - BILL 230144, ETC.

2 hand.

3 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Sure

4 thing.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6 Yeah.

7 It's been moved and properly
8 seconded that Resolution No. 230226 be
9 reported from this Committee with a
10 favorable recommendation.

11 All those in favor of the
12 motion will signify by saying aye.

13 (Aye.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

15 Those opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
18 ayes have it, the motion carries, and
19 Resolution No. 230226 has been approved.

20 The Chair recognizes
21 Councilwoman Gauthier.

22 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank
23 you, Council President. I wanted to take
24 a few minutes to explain my no votes on
25 this budget.

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2 Simply put, I think we are on
3 the verge of making a catastrophic
4 mistake. Even though 14 out of 15 of us
5 in this meeting came together to advocate
6 for a \$72 million investment in the City
7 services our residents desperately need,
8 this budget only includes a woefully
9 inadequate 4 million or 1/18th of our
10 original ask. At the same time, we are
11 putting millions back into the pockets of
12 mega corporations by slashing taxes for
13 businesses at rates higher than what the
14 Administration even proposed.

15 Simply put, this budget is a
16 slap in the face to our working-class
17 Black and brown residents, who beg City
18 Hall for the resources they need to live
19 in clean, green, and safe blocks.

20 More than six in ten residents
21 said in a recent poll that combatting
22 illegal dumping needs to be a top
23 priority, and this number balloons even
24 higher when you focus on the residents
25 living in communities that are dumped on

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2 each and every day, turning their
3 sidewalks into trash cans and their parks
4 into landfills. But instead of giving
5 each sanitation district its own dumping
6 crew, a measure that the Streets
7 Department, the community, and this body
8 identified as an urgent need, we are
9 spending a measly \$1.5 million to hire
10 one additional crew.

11 We can afford 18 million for
12 corporations, but we don't have
13 \$9 million to adequately clean up chronic
14 illegal dumping. We can afford 18
15 million for corporations, but we don't
16 have \$4 million to keep young people safe
17 from reckless drivers around their
18 schools and playgrounds.

19 Moving forward with this budget
20 would be like using a garden hose to
21 fight a forest fire, and as we all saw
22 today, there are disastrous consequences
23 when fires are allowed to burn freely.

24 So let me be clear. The
25 proposed \$72 million investment is not a

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2 cherry on top. It should not be
3 considered that. It's a surgical
4 improvement to the life-saving services
5 that are the bedrock of helping
6 neighborhoods in a healthy city.

7 The priorities included in
8 Council's JustServices proposal are
9 realistic, they're urgent, and they're
10 impactful, and we need to take them in
11 the next fiscal year to give our
12 residents the level of care and support
13 they need. And as we continue to grapple
14 with gun violence, skeptics have claimed
15 that City Council has very little ability
16 to make a difference, but we've always
17 rejected this notion because we know that
18 we can save lives if we act boldly as a
19 Council.

20 That's why I was so full of
21 hope and optimism when we united behind
22 this amendment, because we showed
23 residents that we are putting every tool
24 to work to restore peace to our streets,
25 most especially the place-based

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2 interventions that remained the lowest
3 hanging fruit that we have yet to fully
4 maximize.

5 Research conducted right here
6 in Philadelphia found that cleaning and
7 greening reduce violent crime in the
8 immediate hour -- in the immediate
9 neighborhood by almost 30 percent, and
10 cleaning and greening is the fiscally
11 responsible decision too, so much so that
12 each dollar invested saves society \$333
13 in the long run.

14 So this budget, this vote that
15 we just took today, I don't think that it
16 shows residents that we are willing to
17 invest in the services that they need to
18 thrive and to survive, and that's why I
19 cannot in good conscience vote yes to
20 such an insulting and harmful budget
21 coming out of Committee, because I am
22 driving around and walking around West
23 and Southwest Philadelphia every day
24 seeing dumping piling up on community
25 gardens, totaled cars on the side of the

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2 road next to local elementary schools,
3 blighted homes falling on the property of
4 an elderly neighbor, and I think that's
5 more important for a wealth of Comcast
6 [sic] for companies that can afford to
7 pay their taxes.

8 Thank you -- a wealth of tax
9 cuts for companies that can afford to pay
10 their taxes.

11 Thank you so much.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

13 Thank you, Councilwoman.

14 Councilman, did I call 230226?
15 We already did that, right?

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: Yes.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I
18 just lost my place.

19 COUNCILMAN JONES: Yes.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All
21 right.

22 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON:

23 Council President, this is Katherine. I
24 requested to be recognized.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I'm

1 6/8/23 - WHOLE - BILL 230144, ETC.
2 sorry. The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
3 Gilmore Richardson.

4 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
5 you. Thank you so much, Council
6 President, and thank you, colleagues, for
7 this opportunity.

8 I just wanted to ensure that I
9 also come on the record, because I
10 offered and circulated the amendment for
11 the additional reduction in the wage tax,
12 to explain that part of the process to
13 the broader audience and also to the
14 entire City of Philadelphia.

15 In the Mayor's proposal, the
16 Mayor's Administration offered a
17 reduction in the wage tax that was at
18 3.7565 percent. The amendment that I
19 offered was 3.75, an additional reduction
20 of 0.0065, and it will have an impact on
21 the budget of next year of \$2.7 million,
22 in total of the Five Year Plan
23 \$15 million.

24 But we also know, because each
25 month -- every quarter as members of

1 6/8/23 - WHOLE - BILL 230144, ETC.
2 Council we receive what we call a
3 Quarterly City Manager's Report, that
4 based on --

5 (Background noise.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

7 Excuse me. Excuse me.

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: Can we make
9 sure our devices are muted, please.

10 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
11 you. Thank you, Council President and
12 Mr. Majority Leader.

13 But we also know that our
14 projected fund balance for Fiscal Year
15 '23 will be \$614.9 million and our
16 projected revenue is up by
17 \$189.7 million.

18 I look at this opportunity to
19 further decrease our wage as an
20 opportunity for us to ensure that we can
21 continue to signal to the broader
22 Philadelphia that we are serious about
23 not doing business as usual.

24 If we want to change the
25 trajectory of this city, if we do not

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2 want to be the number one city for
3 poverty -- large city for poverty in this
4 country, if we want to provide good
5 quality jobs not only for our young
6 people but for our residents who need to
7 re-skill and up-skill, it is imperative
8 that we make important investments in our
9 community, of which we have many, but
10 also invest in ensuring that we can
11 create an environment that is
12 advantageous to business growth and
13 growing jobs in the City of Philadelphia.

14 I think it's disingenuous to
15 say that the slight cut that I have
16 offered today will have an impact on the
17 overall investments that this budget has
18 made. Each member has an opportunity to
19 submit requests, and this process is just
20 about that, seeing what you get out of
21 this process.

22 And so I just wanted to come on
23 the record, because we also know that we
24 have a Uniformity Clause in the
25 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. So we are

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2 not able in the City of Philadelphia to
3 say that we're going to do this just for
4 small business and not do this for large
5 business as well. We have to do it for
6 everybody. But we heard from not only
7 the Chamber but we heard from the diverse
8 Chamber of Commerce where they've all
9 told us that all small businesses, that
10 Black and brown businesses, that minority
11 businesses, they are crying for help in
12 our communities and particularly since
13 the pandemic, and I look at this as an
14 opportunity to do so, especially because
15 we know that although we have projected
16 fund balance and fund revenue numbers
17 from the Administration early in this
18 process, we know that we will be much
19 higher than where we started.

20 So I wanted to come on the
21 record to be clear for the public so
22 those who may not fully understand the
23 budget process knows and understands how
24 this works.

25 Thank you, Council President.

1 6/8/23 - WHOLE - BILL 230144, ETC.

2 Thank you, colleagues.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

4 Thank you, Councilwoman.

5 The Chair recognizes Councilman
6 Thomas.

7 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you,
8 Council President.

9 I really don't want to do this,
10 but I will try to be brief. I did listen
11 to the comments that were made by other
12 Councilmembers, and I want to be clear.

13 The Mayor's proposal for BIRT
14 recommended that we cut BIRT to 5.83. My
15 bill that I circulated -- my amendment
16 that I circulated recommended that we cut
17 BIRT to 5.81, which is less than a
18 \$3 million difference than what was
19 recommended by the Mayor.

20 So to talk about \$18 million to
21 corporations, I'm not sure exactly where
22 that number came from or what that is
23 about, but at the end of the day, when
24 we're talking about a tax cut for
25 businesses, I just want people to

1 6/8/23 - WHOLE - BILL 230144, ETC.
2 remember a couple facts that we
3 circulated prior to the conversation so
4 people can understand where we are.

5 A business post-pandemic that
6 decides to move out of the City, because
7 the pandemic taught us that businesses
8 can locate anywhere, people can do
9 business from anywhere now, they save --
10 based on our tax structure right now,
11 they'll save 75 percent of what they pay
12 in taxes by moving out of Philadelphia
13 compared to staying here.

14 We also know that when you look
15 at Philadelphia compared to other big
16 businesses across the City of
17 Philadelphia compared to other cities
18 across the country, while we may be the
19 sixth largest city in the entire country,
20 we rank 28th as it relates to a city
21 that's beneficial to small businesses,
22 which are often Black and brown
23 businesses.

24 Like I said in the briefing, I
25 do have a great relationship with our

1 6/8/23 - WHOLE - BILL 230144, ETC.

2 friends in Allegheny County in
3 Pittsburgh, but it makes no sense that
4 Pittsburgh is a better place for a small
5 business to locate than the City of
6 Philadelphia.

7 So at the end of the day, I did
8 support the Councilmember's advocacy as
9 it relates to providing JustServices to
10 the City of Philadelphia. I appreciate
11 her effort. I think that's a very
12 important notion, and it's something that
13 we really need to happen, but to tie the
14 lack of support or the lack of delivery
15 on her request to the tax cuts to me is
16 not connected. It's somewhat
17 disingenuous, because at the end of the
18 day, the amount of money that we're
19 talking about on this particular
20 initiative compared to the JustServices
21 is apples and oranges. It doesn't even
22 compare.

23 So it's disappointing that we
24 have to come on the record to put these
25 remarks out there. This is information

1 6/8/23 - WHOLE - BILL 230144, ETC.

2 that we've already circulated to
3 Councilmembers and other legislators as
4 well, because we need support from
5 Harrisburg on some of this stuff, and I
6 just thought it was important to put that
7 on the record, because we need the
8 citizens of Philadelphia to understand
9 that we're trying our best to move in the
10 best interest from the economic
11 perspective to ensure that we're doing
12 what's best for our city.

13 So thank you, Council
14 President. I just wanted to put those
15 facts out there.

16 And, colleagues, I do apologize
17 for the rant and for the delay in taking
18 this vote.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

20 Thank you, Councilman. Thank you.

21 Let's just go on and I'll say a
22 couple of words at the end of the
23 process.

24 The Chair recognizes Councilman
25 Jones for a motion on Resolution No.

1 6/8/23 - WHOLE - BILL 230144, ETC.
2 230227.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
4 Mr. President. I move that Resolution
5 No. 230227 be reported from this
6 Committee with a favorable
7 recommendation.

8 (Duly seconded.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
10 Thank you. It has been moved and
11 properly seconded that Resolution No.
12 230227 be reported from this Committee
13 with a favorable recommendation.

14 All in favor indicate by saying
15 aye.

16 (Aye.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
18 Those opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
21 ayes have it and the motion carries, and
22 that resolution is adopted.

23 The Chair recognizes Councilman
24 Jones for a motion on Resolution No.
25 230228.

1 6/8/23 - WHOLE - BILL 230144, ETC.

2 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
3 again, Mr. President. I move that
4 Resolution No. 230228 be reported from
5 this Committee with a favorable
6 recommendation.

7 (Duly seconded.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
9 Thank you. It has been moved and
10 properly seconded that Resolution No.
11 230228 be reported from this Committee
12 with a favorable recommendation.

13 All in favor indicate by saying
14 aye.

15 (Aye.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
17 Those opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
20 ayes have it. The motion carries.

21 The Chair recognizes
22 Councilmember Jones for a motion on
23 Resolution No. 230229.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
25 again, Mr. President. I move that

1 6/8/23 - WHOLE - BILL 230144, ETC.
2 Resolution No. 230229 be reported from
3 this Committee with a favorable
4 recommendation.

5 (Duly seconded.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

7 Thank you. It has been moved and
8 properly seconded that Resolution No.
9 230229 be reported from this Committee
10 with a favorable recommendation.

11 All in favor indicate by saying
12 aye.

13 (Aye.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

15 Those opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
18 ayes have it, the motion carries, and
19 that resolution is adopted.

20 The Chair recognizes
21 Councilmember Jones for a motion on
22 Resolution No. 230262.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
24 Mr. President. I move that Resolution
25 No. 230262 be reported from this

1 6/8/23 - WHOLE - BILL 230144, ETC.

2 Committee with a favorable
3 recommendation.

4 (Duly seconded.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
6 been moved and properly seconded that
7 Resolution No. 230262 be reported from
8 this Committee with a favorable
9 recommendation.

10 All in favor indicate by saying
11 aye.

12 (Aye.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
14 Those opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
17 ayes have it, the motion carries, and
18 that resolution is adopted.

19 That concludes the bills on the
20 public hearing. I do want to say -- I
21 want to thank the members, although we do
22 have a final vote coming next week, for
23 their participation. As always, it is a
24 very challenging issue with respect to
25 negotiating a budget. The old saying,

1 6/8/23 - WHOLE - BILL 230144, ETC.
2 making budgets are like making sausage.
3 They're always messy, but at the end of
4 the day, the members have stepped to the
5 plate and requested things that's going
6 to enhance the lives of the citizens of
7 the City of Philadelphia. So I want to
8 thank all of you all's commitment.

9 There will be a budget summary
10 released that references all the various
11 amendments and that are in addition to
12 the original budget proposal that reflect
13 all aspects, be it tax cuts, be it
14 service delivery, be it anti-violence
15 initiative, whatever it is. That will be
16 reflected in that, and people can look at
17 that and make a determination as to
18 whether or not the commitment by this
19 Council as it relates to negotiating a
20 budget on their behalf.

21 That being said, I want to
22 thank you very much for your patience.

23 That concludes the business on
24 the Committee of the Whole.

25 Members, we need to go back

1 6/8/23 - WHOLE - BILL 230144, ETC.
2 into the Council Chambers so we conclude
3 the Council session by reporting the
4 bills out of Committee and then closing
5 out our Council session. So as soon as
6 you can, please go back to the Council
7 Chambers.

8 Thank you all very much again.

9 - - -

10 (Committee of the Whole
11 concluded at 3:00 p.m.)

12 - - -

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CERTIFICATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the
proceedings, evidence and objections are
contained fully and accurately in the
stenographic notes taken by me upon the
foregoing matter, and that this is a true and
correct transcript of same.

MICHELE L. MURPHY
RPR-Notary Public

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