2021 Long Bill Companion Ordinances

Overview:

The City Charter (Section 7.2.1) requires City Council to enact the Annual Appropriation Ordinance, also known as the Long Bill, for the ensuing year no later than the fourth Monday of November. To meet this deadline, the Budget and Management Office will file the 2021 Long Bill in Legistar by Thursday, November 12th, 2020, it will appear on first reading on Monday, November 16th, and will appear on second reading on Monday, November 23rd.

The Charter requires that the amounts appropriated in the Long Bill for agencies, departments, and other spending authorities not exceed the amounts fixed in the budget adopted by City Council. Therefore, the Long Bill is the final, required step to make the appropriations for the coming year, which City Council already approved after weeks of budget hearings, offline deliberations, and amendment proposals, and final voting.

This year, the Budget and Management Office and the Capital Planning and Programming Division submitted a total of 11 companion ordinances along with the 2021 Long Bill. These additional legislative actions support the implementation of the 2021 Budget that will soon be adopted by City Council.

Adjustments to Special Revenue Funds in 2021 – these bill requests are companions to the Long Bill because they make changes to funds that will be used in 2021.

- 20-1224: *Climate Office Donations Fund*
    - This bill request amends the ordinance that created Fund 11715, the Mayor's Office Donations Fund, to change the name to the Climate Office Donations Fund and change the expending authority to CASR. While the fund was initially created for mayor initiatives, the sole initiative that has incurred donations in recent years is sustainability/climate. Now that CASR has been created, it makes sense for it to administer the fund.
- 20-1225: *Change name of Gateway Area Development Fee Funds*
    - This bill request amends the ordinance that established the "Gateway Area Development Fees-Parks" and "Gateway Area Development Fees – Schools" Funds to change the name of said funds to "Gateway Area Fee-in-Lieu Fund- Parks and Rec" and "Gateway Area Fee-in-Lieu Fund- Schools" to more accurately reflect the revenue and expenditure of the fund. The funds were created in 2018 to provide a means for developers to pay fees in lieu of land dedication requirements for parkland or schools in the Gateway Area.
- 20-1230: *Change cost center of Metro Mortgage Assistance Fund*
    - This bill request amends an ordinance to change the cost center, and therefore expending authority, of the Metro Mortgage Assistance Fund, Fund No. 11860, from the Department of Finance to the Department of Housing Stability (HOST). As of May 2020, HOST now administers the program. In addition to being a companion ordinance to the 2021 Long Bill, it also is a companion ordinance to 20-1231 and 20-1232, which change the programmatic administration to HOST.

New Special Revenue Fund in 2021 – this bill request is a companion to the Long Bill because it creates a new SRF in 2021 that did not previously exist.

- 20-1226: *Establishes the Internal Billings and Reimbursements SRF*
    - This bill request establishes a new SRF in the 2021 budget, the Internal Billings and Reimbursements SRF. The purpose of the fund is to bill Denver Human Services and Denver International Airport for direct services provided by various agencies and departments within the City. Prior to 2021, the City budgeted for these services in each department's respective General Fund appropriation, including the City Attorney's Office, the Denver Police Department, the Denver Fire Department, the Denver Economic Development and Opportunity, General Services, Parks and Recreation, and the Office of Human Resources. Starting in 2021, appropriations for services provided by the above departments to DHS and DEN will reside in the Internal Billings and Reimbursements Fund, and reimbursements and bills for services from DHS and DEN will be received in this new fund. The program budget will continue to be administered by the agencies providing the services.

Special Revenue Fund and Other Capital Project Fund Closures – While these fund actions are occurring in 2020, they are submitted as companion requests to the Long Bill as they provide supporting revenue and administrative actions in advance of the 2021 Budget. The actions reconcile cash and help explain why certain SRFs are not listed in the 2021 Budget SRF or Other Capital Project Funds Sections.

- 20-1227: *SRF closeouts and transfers*
    - This bill request closes SRFs that are no longer needed because the programs they were created to administer expired. In order to close SRFs, they must have $0 cash balance. Therefore, prior to closing them, the positive balances are transferred to the General Fund, and negative balances are restored to $0 using some of the revenue transferred to the General Fund. This bill request also closes the City Council Special Meals Program Fund by transferring the cash balance to the City Council Special Revenue Fund.
- 20-1217: *Arts and Venues SRF Closure*
    - This bill request closes five operating and capital special revenue funds that were administered by the Denver Arts and Venues that are no longer needed. This is part of an ongoing efforts to manage funds and reconcile cash. The balance will be transferred to Denver Arts and Venues main operating fund, 15815.
- 20-1222: *38000 Funds Closure to CIF*
    - This bill request closes several funds in the Grants and Other Money Projects Fund Series (38000) that are no longer needed and transfers cash to Capital Improvement Fund Series (31000). A total of 261 funds are identified for closure, of which 33 funds have a cash balance (positive or negative). The resulting net cash balance of $143,837.46 will be transferred to the Capital Improvement Fund. For these funds, there has been no financial activity in at least five years and the related grant or funding agreement is closed and complete.

2020 Transfers to support financial stability – these are necessary transfers in 2020 that support this year's budget and support the financial stability of the City.

- 20-1223: *SRF Transfers for 2020 Mid-year Budget Reduction*
    - This bill request transfers approximately $330,000 from the Education Refund Program SRF to the General Fund to meet 2020 reduction targets. This is not a direct tie to the 2021 long bill, but it is tangentially related because the 2021 budget was built on assumptions related to 2020 revised revenue, which includes transfers back to the General Fund.
- 20-1218: *Excise Tax Reserve Transfer to the GF*
    - This bill request transfers $42,586,294 of 2C (Series 2016) excise tax overperformance to the General Fund (01010). This includes a transfer of $14,003,786 from the Excise Tax Base Account (25500) and a transfer of $28,582,508 from the Excise Tax Reserve Fund (38421). The funds will be used to support 2C excise tax commitments in the General Fund.
- 20-1219: *2020 Colorado Convention Center Transfers and Fund Closure*
    - This bill request closes an old Colorado Convention Center Fund, which was created in 1989 to support improvements to the CCC. This fund is no longer needed. The remaining cash balance will be transferred to the active Colorado Convention Center Capital Fund to serve as reserves for future COP payments to protect against the volatility of revenue sources.
- 20-1221: *2020 Capital Project Rescissions*
    - This bill request approves the rescission of stale, unexpended capital improvement funds totaling $2,420,000 from uninitiated capital projects The capital projects were never started. The idle funding has been returned to fund balance to support the financial position of the Capital Improvement Program and appropriated as part of the 2021 annual budget.