March 24, 2026, Budget Worksession & Council Meeting				
Item	**Question/Request and who made it**	**Responsible Staff/ Dept.**	**CM/ ACM**	**Staff response/update**
Budget Reductions	Provide list of all recommended budget reduction strategies	Lindsay S	DK	Please see the list here. Please note that this is a preliminary list, subject to change. The total will not exactly match the presentation from last week, due to a calculation error in the presentation.
Compensation	EM: Requests staff to research a scenario to provide a flat dollar increase, while keeping money reserved for the study (#2 and #4 combined). Please calculate how many employees would remain below the living wage and how many are temp/seasonal/full-time.	Emily P	Ben	*Scenario #5: $3MIL used as follows: $1,750 flat dollar increase to every full-time permanent employee; $740,000 left for strategic adjustments once the market study is complete.* Living wage: With this scenario 61 people would move above Just Economics annual living wage threshold leaving 127 full-time employees below. Make a staff recommendation: After consideration of all feedback received, Staff recommends a 2.8% salary increase for all full-time permanent staff for FY27. This proposal follows the 2026 Consumer Price Index benchmark, which is the recognized industry standard for fair pay adjustments. By using this official federal figure, we rely on independent, national data rather than subjective internal opinions. This approach ensures our budget decisions are transparent, easy to justify, and based on the actual rise in the cost of living. Staff further recommends that the balance of $311K (assuming $3MIL budget allocation) be used to directly address compensation pain points using market data once the salary study is complete. The reduced amount held for strategic adjustments will minimize FY28 impact.
Parking Fee	KR: Interested in knowing the costs associated with	Jessica M/Dustin C.	Jade	First year cost - $463,190 Annual ongoing cost - $166,190 Expected Revenues - $498,775

	expanding metered parking to the South Slope.			Implementation timing - Staff will begin implementation in early FY27, including planning, engagement, and installation of a mix of meters and permit parking areas throughout the South Slope area, including coordination with the Coxe Avenue reconstruction.
Parking Fee	KR: Side-by-side comparison of the net cost/benefit from each option/alt.	Jessica M	Jade	Cost-benefit breakdown

Additional Staff Updates			
Item	**Responsible Staff/ Dept.**	**CM/ ACM**	**Status/response**
Biltmore Village + City of AVL Priority List Biltmore Village compiled a list of top-priority items for the district.	Rachel T	Ben	Copy of Business District Support-Needs Assessment Ta… These issues involve multiple departments, historic district considerations, and other agencies such as Duke and NCDOT. We are working with each department to provide updated information and completion timelines. As we work with each department, we are also working to understand, document, and address the pain points that have prolonged issues. As a temporary, real-time communication, we are providing updates as we receive them via the initial document that Biltmore Village created.