

First, I want to thank the committee for their time and effort in creating a conversation about municipal funding that has been very helpful. The past few months I've had the opportunity to hear from the committee, pastors, business leaders, and residents that have been very enlightening when considering our path forward. It's important to note that our discussions about funding are not being had because the city of Bryant is in financial distress. The City of Bryant is in an excellent financial position. The creation of this committee was to help ensure we are prepared for future growth and infrastructure upgrades—particularly stormwater improvements, public safety funding, and street maintenance.

That being said I would ask the Municipal Funding Committee to make the following recommendations to the City Council.

- Seek to lower fees that directly increase water, sewer, and stormwater fees.
- Do not increase property taxes
- Pursue a sales tax initiative to help spread the cost of city services and infrastructure improvements to non-residents who also use and benefit from them.

If a sales tax initiative is pursued, it should:

- Be fully vetted through public input to build transparency and trust.
- Receive unified support from city leadership.
- Be clearly communicated to the public, with extensive education efforts to ensure voters understand exactly what they are funding and how those dollars will be used

If a sales tax initiative is the desire of the council the 2050 Comprehensive Planning Process could serve as the vehicle for developing and determining the details of a potential sales tax initiative. I believe such an initiative could be placed on the ballot in the future.

Furthermore, I recommend that no new fees or increases to property taxes be enacted until this process is complete and voters have had the opportunity to decide on a sales tax initiative.

Finally, I would ask members of this committee to make themselves available to assist the City Council throughout the comprehensive planning process, whether by serving on a steering committee or any other capacity that may be helpful.