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Anomaly may mean dip in city's reserve fund

Issue in Hamilton stems from having a 27th pay period during 2026.

By Michael D. Pitman
Staff Writer

The city of Hamilton won't be passing a structurally balanced 2026 budget because of a once-in-11-year anomaly.

Hamilton's general fund bud-

get is projected to see \$63.9 million in revenues for 2026; however, spending could be \$66.1 million, said city Finance Director Dave Jones. The anomaly occurs because Hamilton will issue an extra paycheck to employees.

"It's an anomaly due to the number of days and weeks in a year, 27 pay periods occur about every 11 years," said Jones, which adds about \$1.5 million to the general fund.

This extra pay period will also result in the city dipping below its policy of maintaining an ending unencumbered balance of 10% of revenues.

"With that 27th pay, it looks like we're going to come in at \$5.2 million," Jones said of the unencumbered reserve fund. "However, we do have a budget stabilization fund that has about \$1.2 million

Budget continued on A6



Hamilton City Council is considering its 2026 budget and is expected to vote on it on Wednesday. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF FILE

NEW DETAILS



Teachers at Ross Schools publicly rally Nov. 5 in front of Ross Schools' central office building. Teachers announced Friday that their union has authorized its contract negotiating team to exercise a labor stoppage option, if they choose to, during the team's stalled labor contract talks with district officials. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

Ross teachers put strike notice on table for talks

District's teachers have been working without contract for nearly 100 days.

By Michael D. Clark
Contributing Writer

Teachers at Ross Schools announced Friday their union has authorized its contract negotiating

team to exercise a labor stoppage option, if they so choose, during the team's stalled labor contract talks with district officials.

The contract negotiating team has had the option to employ a 10-day strike notice since Nov. 17, when teachers in the 150-member Ross Education Association (REA) approved granting its negotiators the work stoppage notification powers granted by Ohio labor laws.

A 10-day strike notice is required of Ohio public school teacher unions, should they collectively decide to pursue a strike during contract negotiations.

Friday's announcement by REA official is not an alert to the district or public that Ross school teachers will strike, but only to publicly inform the Ross Schools community that such an option is available to its team as they try to negotiate a new labor

contract, said Amy Brossart, spokeswoman for the REA.

"This is in no way authorizing a strike," Brossart told the Journal-News late Friday afternoon.

"We are hoping for the best but want to be prepared for the worst."

Ross school officials did not respond to electronic messages Friday seeking their comment.

Strike continued on A6

CLOSER LOOK

Officials play up pipe bomb suspect's arrest

Justice Department silent on violence of Jan. 6 riot.

By Alanna Durkin Richer and Eric Tucker
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After the arrest of a man charged with placing two pipe bombs outside the headquarters of the Republican and Democratic national parties on Jan. 5, 2021, the warning from the Trump administration was clear: If you come to the nation's capital to attack citizens and institutions of democracy, you will be held accountable.

Yet Justice Department leaders who announced the arrest were silent about the violence that had taken place when supporters of President Donald Trump stormed the Capitol and clashed with police one day after those bombs were placed.

It was the latest example of the Trump's administration's efforts to rewrite the history of the riot, through pardons and the firings of lawyers who prosecuted the participants of the siege, and of the disconnect for a government that prides itself for cracking down on violent crime and supporting law enforcement but has papered over the brutality of the Jan. 6 attacks on police officers.

"The administration has

Bomb continued on A6

THE LATEST

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Grocery cashier, 88, overwhelmed by sudden \$1.7M gift. B2

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INDEX

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