

MINUTES
SPECIAL JOINT BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE & CITY COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 8, 2010

Jeff Thompson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Other members present were Dennis Zimmerman, Renee Eckerly, Belinda Ludwig, Jeff Bertram, Jean Soine, Gene Beavers, and Kirk Johnson. Also present were Stephanie Hormann, Cable Coordinator; Jennifer Welling, Administrative Assistant; Kent Kortlever, Chief of Police; Ron Mergen, Public Works Director; and Bill Ludwig, Liquor Store Manager.

Motion was made by Soine to approve the October 18, 2010 Budget & Finance Committee Meeting minutes. Seconded by Bertram and unanimously carried.

2011 BUDGET

Union Response – It was commented that the members were caught off guard by Ms. Pokorny’s response. The comment was rude and disrespectful. It was the intent in negotiations to not cut department heads or impose furloughs. AFSCME needs to be more reasonable and consider longer term agreements.

Fees – Thompson announced the three fees that had previously been increased:

Gazebo Rental	=	\$25.00
Veterans Park Shelter	=	\$100.00
Finger Printing	=	\$15.00

Eckerly reviewed the fee schedule and listed the following possible increases:

Temporary Liquor	=	\$50.00
Temporary Beer (special event/beer garden)=		\$50.00
Consumption & Display	=	\$50.00
Moving Permit	=	\$25.00
Temporary Structure Permit	=	\$25.00
Metal Detector Rental	=	\$15.00

The fee schedule was discussed. It was suggested to create a list of how many permits/or fees are collected in each category. It was consented to increase the fees as proposed.

Boards/Committee/Commissions – It was suggested to give Boards/Committees/Commission revamping suggestions to Beavers, Zimmerman or Eckerly before the Executive and Administrative Committee meeting on Monday, November 15, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

Volunteer Task List –

Cutting License Plates – The method of cutting these plates was discussed in length as well as the reason for cutting the plates. It was suggested to take them to a business (Stanger or Louis Industries) and have them cut.

It was commented that having volunteers do some work is a wonderful idea, but the more volunteers the more difficult coordinating them and to get the jobs done. Volunteers need recognition and will require marketing to get them. Volunteers in some areas will pay off.

It was stated that the list is a good place to start. It was suggested to encourage the Chamber to help with the clean up after Town & Country Days as well as each group that participates, including when street closings are requested.

Budget -

Eckerly noted that the “green” highlighted items were changes from the last meeting totaling \$16,600.00 in cuts. Revenue has decreased about \$10,000.00 from airport fuel and building permits. Expenses decreased due to the Building Inspection Services contract.

It was stated that there is about \$102,000.00 surplus in revenue in the budget; however, the Council’s goal is \$150,000.00. There was a lengthy discussion on LGA cuts and not knowing the amount; and it being a guessing game. Eckerly expressed that a tax levy

amount needs to be set tonight so that staff can prepare for the Truth In Taxation Public Hearing. Currently the levy is set at 8%; past opinions have ranged from 3% to 6.5%. There was some discussion on the school and county levies. It was stated that the City does not want to be in the position that that taxes are so high residents can't afford to live here.

The consensus was that the Council members could support a 5% -6% tax levy. There was some discussion on mandates the City is required to follow. At a 5% tax levy it equals \$26,000.00; therefore, at 5% there would be a total of \$88,884.00 in reserves; so there is a need for an additional \$61,600.00.

The negotiation team members reported on last Wednesday's meeting with the department heads. All positions were discussed and it was recommended to cut two positions. Positions were looked at and where the savings would generate from. The two positions to be cut are the Driver/Vehicle Services Clerk and Police Support Secretary. The field was narrowed by removing the police officers, department heads, and city administrator positions. It was suggested to stagger the layoffs so that staff can adjust. The savings from these positions will not be immediate and if they were dropped to part-time it does not produce the savings needed.

The following cuts were confirmed:

Cut one part-time public works position	=	\$3,535.00
Cut the part-time police officer position by half	=	\$6,473.00
Layoff the Police Support Secretary	=	\$20,947.00
Cut the Driver/Vehicle Services Clerk position	=	\$7,779.00
Amount already in the budget for layoffs	=	\$14,689.00

Even with the above cuts, \$22,432.00 is still needed to reach the \$150,000.00 reserve goal.

It was mentioned that if any more cuts are made they would come from the Public Works Department.

Eckerly commented that the notices are ready to be served tomorrow. Employees will be given a 10 day notice and must work those days, use vacation, or it will be considered quitting and the employees will not receive the unemployment benefits. It was stated that these were hard decisions, but don't have a choice.

Motion was made by Bertram to eliminate the Driver/Vehicle Services Clerk position and layoff the Police Support Secretary, effective November 9, 2010. Seconded by Zimmerman and unanimously carried.

Eckerly asked where the remaining \$22,000.00 would come from. It was consented to take the \$22,000.00 from reserves.

The EDAP budget had no changes. The Liquor Store budget had a few changes.

Motion was made by Bertram to eliminate one part-time Public Works position and cut the part-time Police Officer position by half. Seconded by Beavers and unanimously carried.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Renee Eckerly, City Administrator