



MINUTES

BUDGET WORKSHOP
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MEETING
Wednesday, February 8, 2012
City Council Chambers
7:00 p.m.

ALDERMEN PRESENT: Bernick, DiPietro, Smith, Raspanti, Knight and Sweeney (7:10)

ABSENT: Maloney

STAFF PRESENT: Stutts, Zywanski, Kaminski, Hock, Beil, Doczekalski, Zingsheim, Mitchell, Nelson, Sorensen and Maller

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Schmidt (via telephone)
Betty Henneman

I. Roll Call

Ald. Knight called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. On roll call vote the following Aldermen indicated their presence at the meeting: Bernick, DiPietro, Knight, Raspanti and Smith.

II. Updated Fund Balance Scorecard

Ms. Stutts has updated the budget scorecard to reflect changes made up through January 25, 2012. There are three new funds listed, the Sewer Construction Fund and one for each of the new debt services. Ms. Stutts informed the Committee that without a rate increase, the Water Fund is facing a \$2.4 million deficit. We also need to firm up overtime costs for the Fire Department. Ald. Knight stated that these items would be discussed on February 15.

III. Contracting and Material Detail

a. Public Works General Fund

i. Administration

Discussing the associations and memberships, they are suggesting keeping the American Public Works Association membership and cancel the American Water Works Association membership saving \$3,200.

ii. Engineering

The funds in the training account are necessary for the Engineers to keep up their necessary licenses. Ald. Raspanti asked about the \$6,000 for misc consultants. If we treat Public Works like other departments, this item needs to be removed. The consensus of the Committee is to lower the \$6,000 for outside engineering from \$6,000 to \$2,000.

iii. Traffic Control

The majority of this budget is for maintenance.

iv. Street Lighting

This budget is for the maintenance and electricity for street lighting. Ald. Knight suggested reducing the maintenance budget for maintenance from \$60,000 to \$50,000. The consensus of the Committee is to leave the budget at \$60,000.

v. Storm Control

Mr. Zingsheim stated he might be reducing his salt budget for next season. He would like to wait until the end of February before making his decision.

vi. Street Maintenance

Mr. Zingsheim said they would like to do more striping this year. Ald. Sweeney asked why they were canceling the NIPSTA membership. Mr. Zingsheim said NIPSTA is not used by Public Works enough to justify the expense. Ald. Bernick feels the employees should be paying for their own CDL licenses. It is part of the Union Contract but can be part of future negotiations.

vii. Sidewalk Repairs

There were no questions or comments on sidewalk maintenance.

viii. Building Maintenance

Ald. Knight asked about the increase in the building maintenance budget. Ald. Bernick said the cost of goods and labor keep going up so they shouldn't be surprised in the budget increase. The Aldermen questioned the \$25,000 for building assessment. These funds will be used to do an assessment on all our buildings, which will give us an idea of those items that will need to be replaced so we can have a maintenance plan. Ald. Bernick asked why we couldn't have staff make the assessment rather than hiring an outside firm. We have trained staff and should be using them to do the job. The consensus of the Committee is to eliminate the \$25,000 from the budget.

ix. Forestry

There is money in the account this year for time & materials, tree trimming and stump removal. There is also money budgeted for a tree inventory.

x. Grounds Maintenance

They recently went out to bid on a contract for cul de sac maintenance; they will be the amount to the Council as soon as the new landscaper takes a look at all the grounds maintenance covered under the contract.

xi. Vehicle Maintenance

Ald. Bernick will meet with Mike McGrath to discuss his budget. He feels we should be selling and testing our oil. Ald. Smith questioned the tool allowance for Mike McGrath. Although Mike is a supervisor, he is a working supervisor. All vehicle mechanics get a tool allowance according to their contract. Ald. Bernick reminded the Committee that vehicle technology is constantly changing requiring updated tools.

b. Parking Fund

Mr. Zingsheim gave a brief explanation of Parking Fund expenses. Ald. Sweeney asked why the large increase in salaries in the Parking Fund. Ms. Stutts said it was due to increases in the ICOP wages. He also asked about the large capital items amount, the increase in the capital amount is related to resurfacing of the Summit Parking Lot.

c. Water Fund

Ald. Sweeney asked about maintenance on the water pumps. Mr. Zingsheim said there is constant preventative maintenance done on the water pumps; they are kept in excellent condition. The membership in the American Water Works Association is in this fund. The consensus of the Committee is to eliminate the cost of this membership from the budget. Ald. Bernick questioned the cost of electricity. Mr. Hock said that the City receives free electricity to all their buildings with the exception of the pump stations due to the large amount of electricity used by the pump stations.

d. Sewer Fund

Ald. Sweeney asked about the condition of the lift station. Mr. Zingsheim said that although they should be all right for a couple of year, they are looking into what needs to be done to keep it working properly.

e. Municipal Waste Fund

Due to the good weather there have been fewer water main breaks therefore less waste to dispose of. This Fund is supporting 100% by the property taxes.

f. Dempster TIF Fund

There were no questions or comments on the Dempster TIF Fund.

g. Uptown TIF Fund

Ms. Maller stated they are using the same tax rate as last year. New student payments are based on information submitted by the school districts. Ald. Raspanti asked how we could justify paying out these amounts while the TIF is not generating any revenue. Ald. Bernick stated this was just a bad deal. The TIF is in debt to the General Fund in excess of \$4,000,000.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.