



MINUTES

BUDGET WORKSHOP
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MEETING
Wednesday, March 14, 2012
City Council Chambers
7:00 p.m.

ALDERMEN PRESENT: Bernick, Sweeney (arrived 7:05), Smith, Raspanti, Knight and Maloney

ABSENT: DiPietro

STAFF PRESENT: Stutts, Zywanski, Kaminski, Hock, Beil, Doczekalski, VanDeCarr, Nelson, Suppan, Sorensen and Maller

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Schmidt
Press
Citizens

I. Roll Call

Ald. Knight called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. On roll call vote the following Aldermen indicated their presence at the meeting: Knight, Maloney, Raspanti, Smith and Bernick.

II. Updated Fund Balance Scorecard

Ms. Stutts reviewed the updated scorecard. Changes from the last meeting includes adding in the \$40,000 grant funds for the Police Station renovation, changing the amount for employee insurance to reflect the actual increase which is lower than predicted and adding in the refund due for the overpayment on the Ragona claim.

III. Ad Hoc Budget Topics

A. City Manager Proposed Cuts

The City Manager has proposed a number of cuts resulting in a spending reduction of \$194,490. Some of the cuts include cuts in the tree trimming budget, salt purchases, building maintenance, Fire training as well as other miscellaneous materials and contractual services. The Mayor would rather see other cuts such as the City Manager Assoc. membership cut rather than necessary training.

B. Non Union Performance Plan

The City's non-union pay-for-performance program has three rating levels; employees in two of the levels may be eligible for performance awards. The City Manager is recommending 2% for Meets Standards and 3% for Exceeds Standards. After surveying the Department Heads, the funding for this plan would be \$137,921. Mr. Hock reminded the Council that inflation is 3% and non-union employees will be receiving an increase in the percentage paid for their health insurance from 10% to 11.5%. The City has seen wage compressions between union & non-union employees. As an example, no Fire Lieutenants are interested in a promotion to Battalion Chief because of the wage discrepancy. Lieutenants receive overtime; Battalion Chiefs do not. The Consensus of the Council is to fund the non-union pay for performance program as follows:

Requires Improvement	0%
Meets Standards	1%
Exceeds Standards	2%

C. Municipal Waste Collection Fees

Traditionally the city's cost for solid waste pickup is paid out property taxes. The City Manager is suggesting the City start charging the residents for their solid waste pick up on their bi monthly water bill. The annual cost for this service is \$300 per household. He is suggesting phasing the charge in over three years with the residents paying \$100 the first year \$200 the second and \$300 the third. This would add \$1,186,248 per year to the General Fund. The consensus of the Council is to bring this to the next Finance COW as a discussion item.

D. Vehicle Sticker Fee

Many of the surrounding communities offer senior discounts on vehicle stickers. The City Council may wish to consider offering this discount, as the City of Park Ridge is one of only two communities that do not offer a discount. The consensus of the Committee is not to discuss this item.

E. Cultural Arts Sticker

Historically the City gave annual contributions to cultural arts organizations in the community. Last year the City sold Cultural Arts along with our vehicle stickers to raise funds to help these worthwhile organizations. The City Manager is proposing we continue the program this year with the City being reimbursed for the cost of the stickers. Ms. Stutts suggested buying the stickers and letting the individual groups sell them; Ald. Knight agreed. The consensus of the Council is to not fund this program.

F. Overtime Budget

There had been some discussion on the amount budgeted for Fire overtime. Ms. Stutts suggested adding \$60,000 to their overtime budget for 2012-13. The consensus of the Council is to increase the Fire overtime budget by \$60,000. Ald. Knight feels the Public Works overtime is high and should be reduced by \$50,000. The consensus of the Committee is to leave the Public Works overtime as is.

G. Police Station Renovations

Ald. Raspanti requested this item be brought back for further discussion. Ald. Knight moved to eliminate the vehicle sticker increase and to find the money to fund this project with other budget cuts. It was suggested to use \$180,000 from the parking fund and eliminate replacing the parking lot lights at City Hall saving \$140,000. Those amounts with the additional \$40,000 grant funds will fund Phase I of the Police Station renovation. The consensus of the Committee is to eliminate the vehicle sticker increase.

H. Sewer Lining Project

I. Spokesman May 2012

Ald. DiPietro requested staff look into ways to fund the Spokesman while cutting costs. Currently the Spokesman is published 6 times a year for a total cost of \$52,220. If the Spokesman would be produced quarterly the cost would be \$34,813. The consensus of the Council is to have the Spokesman written by staff instead of an outside vendor and to reduce it from 6 times annually to quarterly.

J. Contingency Budget

K. Medical, Dental, Life Benefits

IV. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

