



Budget Committee Minutes

City Council Chambers
Wednesday, January 5, 2022

Chairman Kreinbrink called the meeting to order at 4:39 PM.

Roll call was taken:

Present: Treasurer Pete Dell, Alderwoman Rebecca Johnson, City Accountant Wes Levy, Alderman Bill Fritsch, Mayor Todd Latham & Alderman Fred Kreinbrink

New business : Review financials Mr. Dell inquired about Police pension reports showing differently. Mr. Dell requested funds show on all reports with foot notes. Alderman Kreinbrink noted that we are ending in the positive with deposits which is extraordinary. Inquiry about what percentage of property taxes we are currently at. Mr. Levy informed us that we were at ninety percent in November. Mr. Dell inquired about the fund balance policy and requested Mr. Levy to update it with his conservative recommendations. Mr. Levy requested some time to update it. Reminded council that reserves are adequate. Currently looking to draft policy for approval by council. Alderman Kreinbrink inquired about blending fund balance policy and general fund policy. Mr. Levy noted that based on last 24 months we have \$224,000.00 surplus when rolling over general fund. Two projects noted for budget consideration: Opera House repair / maintenance and 50/50 sidewalk program.

Old business: Police budget; Inquiry about hiring new patrol officer. Mayor Latham reminded us that until negotiations are done with contract – it's hard to see what path we will take. Discussion on hiring of administrator, economic development and City planner.

Water fund / reserve & streets: Mr. Levy walked us through the budget narrative. Numbers are mostly updated – but focus was mostly on text.

Water Fund: Wes & Brian went over narrative & budget is conservative going into 2022-2023. Year to date, we are negative and using reserve funds. Currently close to -\$95,000.00 for 2021 water usage. Water usage study is pending. IMRF rate had reduction and will be 6.9% for 2022 as opposed to 9.26 in 2021. Longevity line item – cannot be removed and will be there for two more years.

Utilities and electric: budget committee would like an increase of 25 percent (or \$10,000) due to ComEd utility cost increases. Mr. Kreinbrink to follow up with Arnie and confirm where bills are coming from. Total commodities are up 3% for the year.

Water Reserve: All in wish list is at \$1,226,440.00 Some projects on reserve narrative are eligible for grant money. Overall on capital improvements we are \$10,000.00 less than last year – checking to see

what projects were not completed from last year. Risk & resilience study – first portion of HMO install – Well rehab and others.....– need to confirm with Brian which projects are pending.

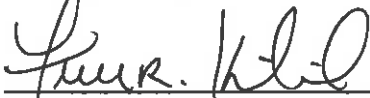
Mayor Latham requested the budget committee consider contingency plan for emergencies. Alderman Fritsch asked if we might consider writing new employee policy with order of operation when heads of departments are out. Suggested compensation and comparable wage for such time. Treasurer Dell added that compensation for high performing employees be considered as incentive when there is a surplus in the general fund.

Mr. Levy is working to have binders completed for budget committee members by January 21st and going over them at the January 31st meeting.

Further future meetings TBD. Looking at Saturday February 12th or 26th for a meeting with all department heads starting at 9 AM.

Audience Comments: None.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Committee, **motion made by Alderwoman Johnson, and seconded by Treasurer Dell, to adjourn at 6:15 PM. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**


Fred Kreinbrink, Budget Chair