

MINUTES OF A BUDGET WORKSHOP/SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ZION CITY COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 31, 2005, AT 4:06 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, ZION, ILLINOIS

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Mayor Pro-Tem Bennett called the meeting to order.

On call of the roll the following answered present: Commissioners Flammini, Taylor, DeTienne and Mayor Pro-Tem Bennett. Mayor Harrison arrived at 4:15 P.M.

2005/06 BUDGET

Assistant Finance Director Larry Pannell reported that the City's General Fund revenues from 2004/05 are \$11.4 million with anticipated 2005/06 revenues at \$12 million. Expenses for 2005/06 are estimated at \$60,000 higher than the current year budget. Commissioner Bennett stated revenues for general property tax are down, reflecting an actual amount rather than a projected amount as in past years. Commissioner Taylor stated that estimated sales tax revenue should be higher, since new businesses will be adding to the sales tax. The Council questioned the decrease in non-traffic fines and the sources for these fines. Mr. Pannell stated he would check into this issue. Mayor Harrison stated Cable Fund revenue should be kept separate, in order to distinguish this fund from the General Fund.

The Council recommended amending the proposed budget revenue as follows:

- Sales tax to be increased from \$2,022,000 to \$2,172,000
- Utility tax to be decreased from \$1,900,000 to \$1,752,000 to reflect the actual amount
- Onyx host fees to be decreased from \$1,750,000 to \$1,600,000

Public Affairs/Legislative

The Council agreed to consider amending Special Events, line item 10-01-1-02-295:

- Employee Holiday Gathering, holding a city-wide holiday dinner outside of City Hall in lieu of the holiday luncheon - \$5,500
- Adding Employee Relations for individual departmental requests for gatherings with guidelines to be established - \$5,000

The Council agreed to consider eliminating Holiday Gifts to Employees, line item 10-01-1-02-320, instead providing the Employee Relations item under Special Events.

The Council agreed to consider adding Special Events, under City Clerk and Staff, Personal Services, line item 10-01-1-01-050, for part-time assistance with various special events, as further discussed under Festival of Lights - \$15,000

Requests for capital outlay purchases include:

- Portable computer server upgrade - \$2,000
- Color printer ink cartridges - \$1,500
- Council Chambers tables and skirting - \$1,000
- Mayor's couch, chairs & carpeting - \$5,000

Public Affairs/Legal

There were no recommended changes to the Legal budget. Mayor Harrison stated legal bills need to be itemized by department.

Public Affairs/Grants to Other Agencies

The Grants to Other Agencies budget reflects a total of \$22,600 to various entities and organizations.

Mayor Harrison presented a request from Zion Elementary School District 6 for monetary assistance for the purchase of audio and video equipment. The Council agreed not to fund this request.

Mayor Harrison stated the Zion Historical Society is looking for a share of the Hotel-Motel tax, in order to help with the cost of annual insurance, although a definite amount has not been determined. It was noted the Chamber of Commerce may also be adding personnel in the near future.

Public Affairs/Board and Commissions

There were no recommended changes to the Boards and Commissions budget.

Festival of Lights

The Council agreed to consider amending Contracted Services/Promotional, line item 78-00-1-02-125, eliminating Trolley Rental of \$1,500, as city is pursuing the purchase of a trolley

Mayor Harrison noted his concerns regarding the future of the Festival of Lights and the need for more assistance with the many months of work involved. Commissioner Flammini suggested considering a Special Events Coordinator. Mayor Harrison stated the Council would need to determine what the return and value would be to the city. Commissioner DeTienne stated he could recommend a part-time position. The Council agreed a part-time Special Events Coordinator could assist with various projects and events throughout the year.

Jubilee Days Commission

There were no recommended changes to the Jubilee Days Commission budget.

Accounts & Finance

Commissioner Bennett stated Accounts and Finance needs to replace their envelope stuffer and mailing machine, recommending a lease for this equipment. The Council agreed to consider this request, and to be place this item on the June 7 Council meeting.

Requests for capital outlay purchases include:

- Replacement of 3 desks - \$4,500
- Computer software - \$2,000

Rescue

Chief LaBelle presented a hourly comparison for call backs, hold overs, training and shift over-time during the past three years.

Chief LaBelle requested additional increases for Battalion Chiefs of \$800.80 per person, in order to maintain the current pay differentials.

Requests for capital outlay purchases include:

- Office equipment & computer upgrade - \$10,000
- Radio equipment upgrades - \$101,982
- Preemption equipment - \$65,010
- CPAP - \$2,700

Fire

Chief LaBelle requested additional increases for Battalion Chiefs, in order to maintain the current pay differentials.

Chief LaBelle discussed the need to replace the current 25-year old pumper with a new engine at a cost of \$450,000.

Requests for capital outlay purchases include:

- Pumper engine - \$450,000
- Radio equipment upgrades - \$67,988
- Preemption equipment - \$43,340

Fire Impact Fees

The Council agreed to consider amending Revenues/Licenses, Permits and Fees for Impact Fees from \$55,000 to \$75,000.

E-911 Telephone System

The current dispatch center is outdated and needs to be replaced, as it is experiencing problems and outages. The cost of the system would be split between Police and E-911. Chief Malcolm is researching costs, and it is anticipated the top end cost for a new system would be up to \$400,000. Capital Outlay, line item 11-00-1-05-990, includes \$80,000 for this dispatch center. Chief LaBelle questioned the fund balance in E-911. Mr. Pannell stated he would check into this issue.

Requests for capital outlay purchases include:

- Dispatch center 911 portion - \$80,000

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, it was moved by Commissioner Bennett, seconded by Commissioner DeTienne and unanimously approved the meeting be adjourned at 7:10 p.m. Motion carried.

City Clerk