

**MINUTES OF A BUDGET WORKSHOP/SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ZION CITY COUNCIL
HELD ON FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2010, AT 3:41 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
CITY HALL, ZION, ILLINOIS**

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Mayor Harrison called the meeting to order.

On call of the roll the following answered present: Commissioners Jim Taylor, DeTienne, Flammini, Shantal Taylor and Mayor Harrison.

BUDGET

Mayor Harrison stated the State of Illinois is considering reducing municipal revenue from 10% to 7%, which would result in a total loss of \$528,000 for Zion. State representatives should be contacted, noting the hardship this would place on Zion and all municipalities.

Fire and Rescue Department

Chief Lewis explained various budget items, emphasizing training, memberships and equipment needs. During 2009, there were approximately 3,400 calls, of which 85% were for ambulance or EMS. In comparison, in 1990 there were 1,600 calls. Chief Lewis stated Zion has one of the lowest ambulance fees in the county. Many other municipalities charge fees for other types of calls other than for the ambulance. Chief Lewis stated the department conducts annual inspections of businesses and apartments. If violations are found, return inspections are made. Chief Lewis recommended that fees be charged when two return visits are warranted due to violations.

14-00-2-00-671 – Plan Fees and Permits Revenue – Chief Lewis stated the actual amount received as of February 28 was \$23,344, so the year end projection should be increased accordingly.

ZBTHS is required to have an ambulance on site during school football games. This service has been provided alternately between Zion and other neighboring communities. Chief Lewis stated he is aware that other communities and fire districts will no longer be able to afford to provide an ambulance at these events. Chief Lewis recommended charging the school for this service. Commissioner Flammini stated Nostalgia Days pays to have an ambulance at their event, noting a private service was asking \$150 to \$200 per hour. The Council agreed to charge ZBTHS a fee based on the overtime rate, and for Chief Lewis to notify the school accordingly.

Commissioner Jim Taylor asked Chief Lewis about paid-on-call. Chief Lewis stated most communities do not use paid-on-call today, noting the preferred practice is paid on premise, wherein part-time employees are paid to stay in the station.

Police Department

Former Chief Larry Booth and Chief Wayne Brooks presented proposals for budget reductions with larger items as follows:

- Conducting in-house janitorial service
 - Commissioner DeTienne stated he would rather have an outside cleaning service, as there would be an ongoing responsibility to keep everything clean. Larry Booth noted the incentive for in-house cleaning is that it could save funds and therefore save personnel.
- Reducing over-time for sworn personnel, animal control and support personnel
- Reducing CSO budget
- Eliminating Backup Dispatch
- Eliminating various trainings and conferences
- Reducing gas and oil expenses
- Reducing various ESDA expenses totaling \$45,685
- Reducing various expenses for Fire and Police Commission totaling \$16,350
 - Mayor Harrison recommended the Fire and Police Commission secretary be paid a stipend amount per meeting and having an existing part-time employee assume the duties.

10-03-1-01-020 – Overtime Police Department – The year-end projection for this expense should be reduced from \$307,702 to \$275,000.

Chief Brooks recommended the Council consider keeping the current rank structure for sworn officers, noting this could actually help with reducing over-time expenses.

The Council agreed that a general discussion of the overall budget would take place at a special meeting on March 17.

CLOSED SESSION

It was moved by Commissioner Shantal Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Jim Taylor that the Council recess to Closed Session at 6:25 p.m. to discuss personnel. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Jim Taylor, aye; DeTienne, aye; Flammini, aye; Shantal Taylor, aye; and Mayor Harrison, aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Shantal Taylor, seconded by Commissioner DeTienne to reconvene the Special Council meeting at 6:43 p.m. with all members present. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Jim Taylor, aye; DeTienne, aye; Flammini, aye; Shantal Taylor, aye; and Mayor Harrison, aye. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, it was moved by Commissioner Shantal Taylor, seconded by Commissioner DeTienne and unanimously approved the meeting be adjourned at 6:45 p.m. Motion carried.

City Clerk

Approved March 16, 2010