

February 4, 2019  
City Council Budget Workshop Minutes

The February 4, 2019 City Council Budget Workshop meeting was called to order at 6:00PM by Mayor Staner. Hosch, Kelchen, Rausch, Knepper and Delaney answered roll call. Also, present was Phil Gehl, City Superintendent.

A motion was made by Kelchen, second by Knepper to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Since the City Superintendent was present, Council and the City Administrator reviewed the street, water and sewer budgets. Purchasing a new payloader was again discussed. It was suggested getting a quote on replacing the cab and possibly having Altorfer take a look at the machine to see what maintenance it might need or things that need replaced. Since we won't be purchasing a new one this next fiscal year, money from RUT, water and sewer will be transferred to the street equipment reserve fund to have money in case the payloader quits all together. We will move \$10,000 from each fund. Street lights were discussed. We will budget to purchase 3 more for the downtown and 1 more for River Bend subdivision. If funds are available, we will purchase enough to finish the downtown. We will get the directional boring done for all the lights even if we don't purchase all of them. It was mentioned if we need to budget any money for lights needed by CMU for any of their projects. Also, they were wondering what we are paying for the street lights and what it includes and how is it billed. The City Administrator will discuss this with the utility manager. We discussed the ceiling in the gym at City Hall. At this time, we will just see what happens. We discussed purchasing a bigger mower and a tractor to save time in the big mowing areas, like the soccer fields and down by the SILO. This will be on the next regular city council agenda. We will be doing more seal coating and replacing some of the older manholes and fire hydrants. We discussed how the testing cost for the sewer has increased and how our chemical cost of maintenance has increased due to some issues at the plant. The Water Excise Tax was discussed, which is a new way of receipting the water tax which is already being collected from utility customers. The water tax has to be kept separate from sewer tax now. In the near future funding will be available from the State of Iowa from the Water Excise Tax for water quality projects. We are working on possible projects in our source water committee.

Then the City Administrator reviewed the tax levy rate with the council. Ours will be \$9.00 per \$1,000 of valuation for FY2020. Ours is one of the lowest in Dubuque County and the surrounding area. The debt schedule was reviewed. We will have 2 debt obligations paid off in FY2022. We will be holding another budget workshop on February 18<sup>th</sup> at 6pm and will need to finish reviewing the budget that night since it will need to be at the Pioneer for publication on Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

With no other business, Kelchen moved and Rausch seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:40p.m. Motion carried.