

January 21, 2019
City Council Budget Workshop Minutes

The January 21, 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 Mike Donovan, EMS Director; Denny Green, Fire Chief, Brian Drew and Bert Kraai, representing the Fire Department; Fred Heim, Police Chief and Melissa Kane, Library Director and Amy Ludwig, Library Chairman.

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

Melissa Kane and Amy Ludwig, representing the Library discussed their budget with the Council. Their budget increased slightly from FY19, and the main reason was due to the director's hours getting increased from 34 per week to 38 per week. The reason for the increase is because of expanding the number of programs the library is offering and for the director to be at the library longer into the evening to provide technology assistance to patrons. Council was ok with their proposed budget.

Fred Heim, Police Chief then discussed his budget with the Council. The main increase in his budget is in part-time wages. He said our community has grown and our population has increased and therefore we need more coverage and using part-time help is a good alternative for now to hiring a 3rd full-time officer. Fuel also increased since we will be doing more patrolling with the use of the part-time officers. He also increased the Internet amount since we received a laptop from Dubuque County to be placed in the squad car and we will need to increase our data. He also briefly mentioned squad car replacement. When the newly purchased car is 5 years old, we will move that to secondary and we will just get rid of the red explorer and keep the cars on a 5-year rotation. Council was ok with the proposed police budget.

Denny Green, Fire Chief then discussed his budget with the Council. He first went through some statistics regarding the number of calls, the number of fire men and titles and calls in town vs. rural calls. He then discussed grants that he has written and received and what they are for and the amount the City will have to match. The fire department will be getting new, fit tested face pieces and SCBA gear. Their budget is basically staying the same as this budget year. The City Council was ok with the proposed fire budget.

Mike Donovan, Ambulance Director then discussed their budget with Council. The budget is basically the same as last year. They did increase volunteer compensation since they have added a few people. During their discussion, it was discussed about recognizing the years of service of Fire and EMS members. We will get this information and Council will discuss purchasing plaques recognizing their years of service. The Council was ok with the proposed ambulance budget.

Council discussed what was included in the budget and some items that should be discussed to possibly add to the budget. Council discussed purchasing a new payloader and thinks we should establish what is wrong with the current one since there is only 7000 hours on it. Council also discussed renewing our Boxcast which is the livestreaming feature. We are also going to get the livestreaming synced with the local access and improve the sound quality. It was also discussed to look into upgrading the local access equipment since it would be more efficient and better. Expanding the Coohy Trail south along the river and then having some type of walking trail along the river to the south of the bridge was discussed. It was also discussed putting a dog park in the area of the old sewer plant or near there. Mowing city property and the idea of hiring part-time individuals to do the mowing was discussed since we would need to budget the funds. This will be discussed at a later regular city council meeting. The next budget workshop will be held Monday, February 4th at 6:00pm and the rest of the budget will be gone through.

With no other business, Rausch moved and Kelchen seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:52p.m. Motion carried.