

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
A STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL

Time & Place: Tuesday, October 20, 2015 at 6:00 pm., Council Chambers
Members Present: Nagle, Wagner, Nutting, Gisselman, Winters, Rasmussen, Kellbach, Oberbeck, Mielke (C), Tipple
Members Excused: Neal, Abitz
Others Present: Groat, Department Heads, Groeschel

Council President Mielke noted a quorum and called the meeting to order. Roll call indicated 10 members present.

Policy Makers debate and prioritize items.

Groat stated they will be using two large ledger sheets: 1) City of Wausau 2016 Supplemental Budget Requests, for things the Council will debate on adding to the budget; and 2) 2016 Budget Reductions and Other Savings Proposals, which shows the full rankings. Wagner suggested starting with the 2016 Budget Reductions and to have the department heads explain their proposals

From the 2016 Budget Reductions and Other Savings Proposals Sheet:

Motion by Oberbeck, second by Wagner to cut the following items from the Police Department budget:

- Item #9 - \$1,500 Reduce Animal Control Training budget
- Item #8 - \$2,000 Reduce Animal Control Supplies budget
- Item #11 - \$42,498 Reduce Salaries & Maintain 3 FTE vacancies for two months
- Item #7 - \$23,376 Eliminate the majority of CSO Animal Control staffing for 2016 & uniform costs
- Item #10 - \$21,246 Reduce budget for CSO police part time staff
- Item #12 - \$50,000 PD will seek CRO officer in the neighborhood funding from CDBG
- Item #6 - \$52,500 Eliminate service of housing/disposing of cats and other non-dog strays.

Motion carried 8-1. (Groat noted the value of the change is \$63,744 in the general fund and \$37,105 in Animal Control – total \$100,849.)

Motion by Rasmussen, second by Winters to cut from the budget:

- Item #3 - \$20,539 Eliminate Council Raise (Common Council)
- Item #2 - \$11,670 Eliminate Mayor Salary Raise (Mayor's Office)
- Item #1 - \$10,313 Reduce Dental Insurance Costs to reflect 0% (Various Depts)
- Item #17 - \$1,340 Increase in Revenue to reflect new Lamar Lease (Unclassified)
- Item #18 - \$2,400 Eliminate Comp Time budget due to Presidential Election activity (Finance)
- Item #13 - \$10,000 Eliminate engineering contractual services line item from operating budget (Engineering)
- Item #14 - \$6,000 Reduce budget to reflect the contract recently authorized by Finance Committee (Audit)
- Item #15 - \$9,000 Adjust for clarification in the residential unit definition (Refuse)
- Item #16 - \$8,500 Adjust for clarification in the residential unit definition (Recycling)

Motion carried 7-2. (Groat noted the value of the change is \$79,762.)

Motion by Winters, second by Rasmussen to eliminate (Item #4) \$120,000 of funds set aside for non-represented salary increases for 2016.

Rasmussen noted wages were frozen in 2015 but the Council needs to consider this. Discussion followed. Mayor Tipple suggested delaying acting on this to a later time and look at other funding sources. Oberbeck wanted to see data on where we are in the matrix from HR so he supported delaying it until we can go over the information. Myla Hite clarified the HR Committee did not approve the funds for a general wage increase, they approved money to fund pay-for-performance and money to administer the compensation plan

Motion by Winters, second by Rasmussen to amend the motion to reduce the funds (Item #4) from \$120,000 to \$60,000 and delay implementation to July 1, 2016. Motion failed 2-7.

Vote on the original motion to eliminate the entire \$120,000 from the budget. Motion failed 0-9.

Kellbach exited the meeting.

Motion by Rasmussen, second by Nutting to keep all the remaining items in the budget, to include:

- Item #20 – Finance \$112,782 due to election calendar including Presidential; benefits
- Item #22 - Public Works \$163,000 due to salary and fringes
- Item #21 - Public Works \$152,000 due to salary and fringes
- Item #5 - Fire \$221,773 Staffing & training
- Item #19 - Police \$460,421 Six sworn officer positions

Motion carried 7-1.

Groat summarized the changes they have made so far reduced the levy \$196,717 which is about a 7.5 cent decrease in the tax rate. We are now at a 64 cent increase in the tax rate, whereas before we were at 71.5. The total levy increase is \$808,463 or a 3.35% increase.

From the 2016 Supplemental Budget Requests Sheet:

Peter Knotek, Parks Department, noted their Item #5 - \$18,306 Payroll related to deferred maintenance projects request has been removed

Motion by Rasmussen, second by Winters to defer the following items of the Park Department to the 2017 CIP Budget:

- Item #13 – Athletic Park 1st Base Concession Roof
- Item #15 – Stewart Park Light Fixture Replacements
- Item #14 – Oak Island Restrooms Sink Replacement
- Item #16 – Sylvan Park Front Door Replacement
- Item #17 – Athletic Park 1st Base Drinking Fountain Replacement

And to keep Item #8 - Stewart Park Masonry Repairs in the current budget. Motion failed 3-5

Motion by Oberbeck, second by Nagle to place the following items (as amended by Wagner & Gisselman to add 8, 12, 11) in the 2016 CIP Budget

- Item #13 – Athletic Park 1st Base Concession Roof
- Item #15 – Stewart Park Light Fixture Replacements
- Item #14 – Oak Island Restrooms Sink Replacement
- Item #16 – Sylvan Park Front Door Replacement
- Item #17 – Athletic Park 1st Base Drinking Fountain Replacement
- Item # 8 - Stewart Park Masonry Repairs
- Item #12 – Fern Island Park Replace Bridge Decking
- Item #11 – Sylvan Park Furnace Replacement

Motion carried 5-3.

Motion by Rasmussen, second by Gisselman for the TID funding and the room tax to be put into the 2016 budget as follows:

- Item #2 – Parks \$44,501, TID #3
- Item #3 – Public Works Street Seal Coating, \$100,000 TID #6 & #8
- Item #4 – Parks Design a Mountain Bike Park in Sylvan Hill Park, \$20,000 Room Tax
- Item #9 – Parks 400 Block- Wall surface repairs & re-staining, \$6,000 Room Tax
- Item #18 – Parks Whitewater seating and bank repair, \$8,000 Room Tax
- Item #10 – Parks 400 Block- Install 6’ concrete walk in front of stage, \$6,000 Room Tax

Motion carried 7-1.

Motion by Rasmussen, second by Nutting to put the following items back in the 2016 budget:

- Item #1 – Fire Accreditation \$6,000
- Item #6 – Parks Facilities & Grounds Operations \$7,884

Motion carried 7-1.

Mayor Tipple recommended removing the Large Item Spring Pick Up from the budget, noting the drop off day at the DPW site was very successful.

Motion by Wagner, second by Oberbeck to remove Item #19 – Public Works Large Item Spring Pick Up \$60,000 from the budget. Motion carried 7-1.

Wagner questioned what the reason for requesting epoxy paint for street signs and lines was and if it saved money. Lindman explained there is cost savings in longevity as it extends the life of the paint four to five years, versus latex that has to be put down annually. There is a budget for latex painting and some epoxy painting without this request.

Motion by Wagner, second by Nutting to defer (remove) Item #7 Public Works Epoxy Paint Street Signs and lines. Motion carried 7-1.

Motion by Wagner, second by Rasmussen to remove \$33,000 from the seal coating allocation. Motion carried 8-0.

Groat stated the levy increase is now \$823,585; which is a 3.41% increase; the tax rate to \$9.41; a .64 cent increase or 7.37% increase in taxes. She noted our assessed value is still an estimate because we haven't gotten the ratio from the manufacturing yet.

Budget discussion followed regarding revenue, pros and cons of closing TID #5, and CBL and the mall issue.

Motion by Winters, second by Nagle to move this proposed budget with a 7.37% increase forward to the November 4th Public Hearing. Motion carried 6-2.

Motion by Winters, second by Oberbeck to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.