

## **SPECIAL FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Date and Time: Tuesday, November 18, 2014 @ 7:00 pm., Council Chambers

Members Present: Winters, Kellbach, Nagle, Oberbeck, Nutting

Other Council Members Present: Wagner, Neal, Rasmussen, Abitz, Mielke

Others Present: Tipple, Groat, Giese, Jacobson, Hite, Kujawa, Hardel, Wesolowski, Duncanson, Hebert, Klein, Werth, Mohelnitzky, and an audience of interested parties.

*The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Winters. It was posted that a possible quorum of the Council would be present but no action would be taken by the Council as a whole.*

### **Review of Existing Position Vacancies (Hite)**

Myla Hite, Human Resource Director, stated there were nine total vacant positions in public safety: four of those positions are in the Fire Department; four positions are in the Police Department; as well as four vacant positions in DPW, including the Director of Public Works; and Administrative Assistant position; Electrical Worker III, and a Plumbing Inspector position. She noted they are currently in the process of recruiting for a Bus Operator for Metro Ride that has been vacant since June and there is a pending offer on the Electrical Worker III position. She reviewed the proposed positions for 2015.

### **Discussion and Possible Action on the Airport Fees (Groat)**

Groat stated at the last Finance Committee meeting they considered the 2015 Fee and License Schedule which is going to Council for consideration on November 25, 2014. She noted at that time the Airport Committee had not yet met to evaluate the hangar lease rates. She indicated they met last week and recommended a 1.5% increase to those rates. The hangar rates are set based on the amenities and size of the hangar and range from \$86.79 to \$184.16 at the current monthly rate; with the proposal they would change to a rate of \$88.09 to \$186.92.

Motion by Nagle, second by Kellbach to incorporate the airport fees into the 2015 Fee and License Schedule. Motion carried 5-0.

### **Discussion and Possible Action on a Budget Amendment Process for the Council Meeting on Nov. 25th (Winters)**

Winters stated the goal was to decide on a process for orderly consideration of possible changes to the 2015 budget with accurate cost information that people can view in advance of the final discussion on November 25, 2014. He indicated the process would start tonight with brainstorming possible budget reductions. He explained Council members have been asked to send ideas through email which have been collected and included in their packets. He stated they can add to them and the list will be compiled for review and staff can put in final dollar amounts. He suggested having it introduced as one large amendment and the Council would have an opportunity to strike the things they didn't like. A spreadsheet with all the items in it could be put up on the projection screen and when something is voted out and deleted they would be able to see the new total.

### **Discussion and Possible Action on Proposed Changes to the 2015 City Budget (Winters)**

Ideas agreed upon for staff to put a cost to:

- Roll back of the half-time position in the Assessment Department.
- Roll back of the 0.38 FTE Payroll Clerk in the Finance Department.
- \$14,000 proposed increase for an audit of the Community Development Department.
- Eliminate all department level budgets for legal services.
- Cut cleaning services of City Hall in half.
- Eliminate all Assessment Department staff and obtain the services from a contract vendor.
- Fund public access TV coverage of all committee meetings.
- Roll back the .075 FTE Administrative Assistant added during 2014
- Defer borrowing and reduce debt service for Schulenberg and Memorial Pools Projects
- One-time transfer from the Motor Pool Fund to the General Fund to reflect lower fuel prices.
- Reduce increase in subsidy for airport operations from \$10,000 to \$5,000.
- Rough cut or reduce grass cutting in the smallest one-third of the parks and additional natural growth areas.
- Look into using Huber release prisoners to cut grass in parks.

- Reduce Park Department budget to compensate for transferring 400 Block expenses to a segregated fund.
- Eliminate the large item pick-up or have a central drop off site.
- Eliminate a half-time position in Parks and a half-time position in Public Works.
- Go to bi-weekly garbage pick-up.
- Defer hiring four vacant Firefighter positions for three months.
- Roll back 1 FTE Property Inspector when all inspections are combined under the Fire Department by 3/30/2015.
- Reduce 0.12 FTE Administrative Assistant (Currently filled by Temp).
- Defer hiring two vacant police positions for six months.
- 2% overall reduction in payroll through the use of four hour furloughs by departments. (Does not apply to the public safety departments with unions)
- Pay freeze (no cost of living increase)
- Sell our over-sized buses and transition to smaller, more efficient transit vehicles
- Preauthorization needs based overtime. (Overtime reduction program 10%)
- Eliminate all wayfinding projects.
- Sponsorship program by Parks Department (\$40,000)
- Eliminate all grants and go to loans at zero percent for any TIF or developments
- Omit services to surrounding communities – generate estimate of cost for doing services
- Eliminate funds to Boys & Girls Club programs
- City-owned properties auction

#### **Public Input for Matters Appearing on the Agenda**

Comments from the audience:

Mark Hadley

Dennis Smith

Ardin Emmerich

Donna Mae Normand

Deb Ryan

Bernie Delonay

Jack Hagandike

Barbara Frazier-Herera

#### **Adjournment**

Motion by Nagle, second by Nutting to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.