

FINANCE COMMITTEE – BUDGET SESSION #1

Date and Time: Thursday, September 29, 2016 @ 5:30 pm., Council Chambers

Members Present: Rasmussen (C), Smith, Gehin, Nutting

Members Excused: Kellbach

Others Present: Groat, Lindman, Jacobson, Kujawa, Mielke, Wagner, Goede.

Link to the City of Wausau 2017 Proposed Budget:

http://www.ci.wausau.wi.us/Portals/0/Departments/Finance/Documents/FINALCOMBINED_BOOK.pdf

Chairperson Rasmussen called the meeting to order and explained the budget process for the three sessions.

Discussion and possible action regarding the 2017 budget and 2017 fee schedule

Mayor Mielke thanked all the department heads and Finance Director, Maryanne Groat, as we work through this budget process. Groat commented we started out the budget really early this year and have made some technology improvements for how the budget is managed. She noted we have already gone through the CIP process which gets incorporated into our operating budget and we are going over the departmental budgets. She pointed out there were still a couple of unknowns: transportation aids (so we are using last years') and our assessed values (which we will have when Board of Review concludes).

Groat presented a PowerPoint of the City of Wausau 2017 budget. The **2017 PowerPoint** can be accessed on the City's Website: <http://www.ci.wausau.wi.us/Departments/Finance/Budget.aspx>

Groat stated in May of each year we have to inform the state if we are going share increment between the TIF districts, such as the TID #5 donation to TID #3. She suggested putting it on the Council agenda each year in April to determine if they want to continue with it.

Groat stated the Animal Control was a new Enterprise Fund in 2016. She noted last Council made a change to allow any newly licensed pet to get their license at half price. Administratively this has turned out to be an extremely difficult thing to manage because we have so many people buying online. A person can claim it is a new pet when it is not and there have been issues with verifying. Rasmussen felt we should consider reversing this half price fee for a new pet for 2017 since it is an administrative headache and is affecting viability. She indicated she would put it on a future Finance agenda for consideration.

Rasmussen suggested changing Animal Control from an Enterprise Fund to a Special Services Fund, rather than have it operate as a business, because it does not operate like one and is a service we provide to the community. This way the funds from pet licensing and citations are still earmarked for the Animal Control Program.

Groat distributed a packet with departmental supplemental requests and the ranking sheet. She indicated she would invite department heads to the next session to present their supplemental requests and answer questions.

Adjourn

Motion by Gehin, second by Nutting to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.