TRUESDALE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

WORK SESSION

June 12,2025

The Truesdale board of Aldermen held a work session on Thursday, June 12, 2025, 5:30 p.m. at the Truesdale City Hall, 109 Pinckney Street, Truesdale, MO. Roll call was requested, Alderwoman Wortham-present, Alderman Thomas-present, Alderman Brooks-present, and Alderwoman Hartley-present. Elsa reported there was a quorum present. Attending the meeting on behalf of the city was Mayor Jerry Cannon, City Manager/City Clerk Elsa Smith-Fernandez, and Chief of Police Casey Doyle. There were no guests in attendance.

The purpose of this work session was to discuss the proposed budget for the fiscal year of 2025/20256, which will consist of going into closed session to discuss personnel. In addition to the discussion of the proposed budget, there was also discussion on the Refresco Tax Abatement.

Mayor Cannon called the meeting to order.

**Budget Information:**

Elsa provided the proposed budget on the tv for reviewal and discussion. Elsa discussed the the estimated beginning balance for the general account was estimated at $605,975.41, with is quite a bit lower that the estimated beginning balance from the last fiscal year. The reason the estimated beginning balance is lower, is because the city had nearly completed payments on the Smith Street Phase 1 Improvement project. The city had been saving the funds in the previous years to complete work on the project last fiscal year. Elsa explained that if for some reason the city is unable to be awarded the street grant then Phase 2 of the project will not be in the plans for this fiscal year. Elsa also explained that funds are set aside from three different accounts for street work. The General Account provides $20,000.00 in professional engineering fees, and $100,000.00 allocated to street projects. Other account allocations come from the Street & Motor Fuel Account $130,000.00 and the Transportation Sales Tax Account $100,000.00. Elsa also gave figures for estimated available funds from each account allocated to Street Projects is a total of $330,000.00.

General Income:

General Fund: Elsa stated that the general account estimated beginning balance is $605,975.41, which is a decrease of $357,136.05 from the 2024/2025 budget: This is due to the completed work on the Smith Street Phase 1 Improvement Projects.

The Real estate and personal property tax estimation increased from $394,325.57 (2024/2025) to $452,325.85 (2025/2024) due to the Refresco not being in compliance with the Chapter 100 and will have to pay 100% of the personal property taxes. There should also be additional homes from the Elkhorn Ridge Subdivision on the tax roll.

Elsa explained that there was an increase on the building permits due to the developments in the Elkhorn Ridge Subdivision and the Boone Ridge Manor Subdivision.

Elsa stated that she did not include in income from grants because it is unknown if the city would be awarded any. The city has intentions on applying for a USDA grant for a Police Patrol Vehicle and a CDBG grant for the Smith Street Phase 2 Project.

The Miscellaneous income would come from the payroll reimbursement from the Warren County School District for the Cross Guards and School Resource Officer and the Water Department, the event sponsorships, animal release fees and fines, interest and other miscellaneous.

The total estimated funds available are $1,824,644.95.

The General Expenditures

The Salary expense went from an estimated amount of $586,206.61 (2024/2025) to $642,428.96 (2025/2026). The FICA, Unemployment amount stayed the same at $52,000.00 (after looking at figures from the year the city only had and expense of around $38,000.00)

Elsa stated that she had an inflated figure for the Health insurance due to having to change insurance and not knowing exactly what that figure will look like and also, insurances typically increase about 15% yearly.

Elsa kept the amount for Service and Supply Co. the same at the amount of $950.00. This is because the city currently has a credit of over $1,100.00 with Service and Supply Co.

The Police Department budget decreased from $458,487.77 in 2024/2025 to $391,418.28 due to the voter approved safety sales tax, and purchasing a vehicle from the Capital Improvement account. If the grant is awarded, there would be no increase to the budget.

Streets/Sidewalks: Public Works has provided the following projects to be included in the budget under the allocated amount of $330,000.00 for streets (this amount includes budgeted figures from Street and Motorfuel and Transportation Sales Tax).

1. SMITH STREET-if grant is awarded
2. IDA concrete street repairs
3. General Street Repair includes crack filling, filling in potholes, and minor street repairs.

The attorney requested an increase of $50.00 per month, bringing the contract payment to $2,100.00 per month.

The Contingency/Miscellaneous Expense in general decreased from $51,172.41 (2024/2025) to $26,564.01 (2025/2026).

Water Account:

The estimated beginning balance for the water account for 2025/2026 is $206,616.47, an increase of $51,425.06 from the estimated beginning balance of $155,191.41 for 2024/2025. This is due to the intentionally recouping funds as there was an emergency repair made in 2023/2024 fiscal budget.

The Truesdale Water and sewer rates will increase in the 2025/2026 fiscal year by 3% and the Warrenton sewer rate increase is unknown at this time but for budgeting purposes it was figured at 4%.

The city currently has a contract with Grace Hauling for sanitation service that will expire on December 31, 2027 and has the option to renew for an additional two years. It is estimated that a single residential service would increase from $16.49 per service to $17.31 per service.

Miscellaneous income: It is unknown how many water and sewer connections will be made in the subdivisions.

Expenditures:

The Water Department reimburses the General Account for salaries related to Water and Sewer work by the employees.

The Water Department Lead is looking to install one new fire hydrant at Well#2 with a budgeted amount of $15,000.00. There is also funds budgeted for Lead and Cooper Service Line Inventory. There is new software that the City Manager is looking into that will allow customers to have a portal to access their accounts electronically.

Projects the Public Works Supervisor has placed into the budget:

Install 1 New Fire Hydrant $15,000.00

Lead and Copper $10,000.00

Implementation of New Billing Software $48,500.00

Professional Services:

Annual inspection of Wells by Flynn Well Drilling $800.00

CUSI tech support and training (utility billing program) $3,000.00

Neptune 360 Annual Maintenance $6,000.00

Missouri Rural Water Legislation fee $800.00

Diamond Maps for GPS Mapping $500.00

Sewer Maintenance

smoke machine and supplies $2,500

inflow covers $300.00

Sewer rings $2,000

sewer lines and manholes maintenance and repairs $10,000.00

CK Power Lift Station Inspection and Load Test $2,00.00

Vandeventer Engineering Lift Station $2,000.00

Well Maintenance and Repairs

Suez (formerly utility Service): Maintenance agreement for both wells $30,389.84

**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUND**

American Rescue Plan Fund is a closed account. Funds were allocated and expended in 2024/2025 fiscal budget. The timeline for the use of the funds is as follows, costs must be obligated by December 31, 2024, and expended by December 31, 2026.

Street and Motor Fuel tax account and the special accounts (Capital Improvement Sales Tax, Officer’s Training Fund, Transportation Sales Tax Account, Truesdale Grant Account, and Water security are shown at the end of the budget.

The budget hearing will be June 25, 2023, at 5:15 p.m. and the budget will be submitted to the Board of Aldermen at their regular meeting following the public hearing for their approval.

**Refresco Tax Abatement – Chapter 100**

Mayor Cannon stated that he believes Truesdale is doing everything we can to show that we are open for business. Mayor Cannon also stated that Jerry Terry would draft a response letter to Refresco and would include that Refresco would be responsible for all of Truesdale s legal fees pertaining to the abatement.

With Alderwoman Wortham being new to the tax abatement conversation. Elsa explained that this tax abatement is a Chapter 100, where the city is “technically” the owner of the personal property (the production line) being abated. This is how the production line is tax exempt. One of the stipulations of the performance agreement is that Refresco would need to create 30 new jobs and maintain employment for those 30 jobs. Currently, Refresco is non-compliant with the agreement and the at this time the city has not terminated the abatement but is in a negotiation phase. Mayor Cannon discussed some of the reasonings on why Refresco was not able to meet the requirements of the performance agreement.

It was agreed that Mayor Cannon would contact Jason Terry to respond with while there will be no extension of the abatement itself, there would be an extension of the creation of the 30 jobs until October 1,2026 and Refresco would need to pay 100% of taxes for the 2025 calendar year.

**Other Items Discussed:**

The city received two bids to take down a tree and grind the stump at Bruer Park close to the bathrooms. One bid was from My Tree Service for $750.00 to take down the tree and dig out the stump. The other was from Snyder’s Tree Service for $1,900.00 to take down the tree and grind the stump. It was discussed that the city would go with the lower bid and that city employees could put dirt and seed or sod down.

**Being no other business to discuss in regular session, at 6:51 pm Alderman Thomas made the motion to adjourn the regular Board of Aldermen Meeting and enter into closed session per Section 610.021 (3) of the RSMo: Hiring, firing, disciplining, or promoting of employees by a public governmental body when personal information about the employee is discussed or recorded., second by Alderwoman Wortham. A roll call vote was taken, Alderwoman Hartley-yes. Alderman Brooks-yes, Alderman Thomas-yes, and Alderwoman Wortham-yes. Motion passed with a 4 yes/0 no vote.**

**Closed Session**

**At 7:04 pm Alderman Thomas made the motion to adjourn closed session, second by Alderman Brooks. With a roll call vote as follows, Alderwoman Hartley-yes, Alderwoman Wortham-yes, Alderman Thomas-yes, and Alderman Brooks-yes. Motion passed with a 4 yes/0 no vote.**

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Elsa Smith-Fernandez

City Manager/City Clerk

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Approved on date written above

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Jerry Cannon-Mayor