BUDGET WORK SESSION

APRIL 23, 2024

The Truesdale Board of Aldermen held a budget work session on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at the Truesdale City Hall, 109 Pinckney Street, Truesdale, MO. The purpose of the work session is to discuss the items to be included in the 2025/2026 budget and a vote to go into an Executive (Closed) Session pursuant to Section 610.021 (3) the hiring, firing, disciplining, or promoting of employees by a public governmental body when personal information about the employee is discussed or recorded. Mayor Cannon requested a roll call, and it was answered as follows: Alderman Thomas-present, Alderman Brooks-present, Alderwoman Hartley-present, and Alderwoman Wortham-present. A full Board was present. Others attending the work session were Mayor Jerry Cannon, Public Works Lead Steve Harlan, Chief of Police Casey Doyle and City Manager/ City Clerk Elsa Smith-Fernandez,

Mayor Cannon called the meeting to order.

Mayor Cannon started the discussion with the projects that had been completed with the 2024/2025 budget. Those projects include the following:

 General:

* Public Works Truck, Snowplow & Salt Spreader
* Hired Part Time Public Works Woker
* Hired Part Time Office Worker
* Contracted with a Zoning Consultant
* Implemented Planning and Zoning Ordinance
* Smith Street Improvement Phase 1
* Dumpster Pad at The MaryLou Center

Water:

* Purchased 160 Radio Read Water Meters

Police Department:

* USDA Grant Police Truck
* Successful Shop With a Cop

Projected to be completed in this budget.

* Lewis Bade Invoice Smith Street Engineering $10,000.00, Elsa stated that that she checked with Bart Korman with Lewis-Bade and he said that the final engineering cost would be between $7,000.00 and $10,000.00.
* Boonslick Regional Planning Commission Smith Street Improvements Phase 2 Grant writing $2,000.00

DISSCUSSION ON 2025/2026 FISCAL BUDGET

 A general list of items for the budget was presented for the Board to review and for additional comments from the Board on items they want to see added into the budget.

General: Other items that were discussed were leveling up in the Lagers retirement, it was stated that it is an additional benefit for hiring and retaining employees. If the city can increase the level of retirement, then that would be a factor in considering raises. Elsa stated that she spoke with the ladies in the office, and we are all on the same page and that the goals of the city hall office would be to get the records retention up to date and discard what is not needed or required by the state as space is limited. Elsa stated that she wanted to get an Ipad, for minutes etc. to get rid of all the additional papers and notebooks. Alderman Thomas made the motion to approve the purchase of an iPad and the accessories for City Hall, second by Alderwoman Hartley. Motion passed with 4 ayes. Elsa suggested that there would be an increase in the training fund for opportunities for planning and zoning, and MoDot training for Public Works. It was suggested to see if we could get an engineer to investigate the possibility of building on to city hall or if it would be a better option to purchase land and build a new city hall. Elsa talked about the possibility of updating the lobby and possibly putting in a second window to assist customers.

A side x side was discussed again this year and the potential need for it. It was talked about that it would be used for events and Alderwoman Wortham suggested that there could be attachments added to plow sidewalks or parking lots and potentially using it to pull the barrel train. The Smith Street Phase 2 Project will be an important factor in this budget, and it is the intention for the city to apply for a grant for financial assistance in funding phase 2.

Alderman Thomas talked about no raises for the Board of Aldermen, and that he would like to see if it was a possibility to move the Term of the Mayor from a 2 year to a 4-year term. Alderman Brooks stated that he would like to see that go to the employees. Alderman Thomas mentioned additional staff for all departments. Alderman Brooks talked about live streaming and a GoPro that was purchased for that.

Steve discussed a wish list and would like to get a skid steer and the need for a generator.

The MaryLou Center:

Safe Room: utilities, insurance (approx. $9,000.00 per year), the lease purchase in the amount $26,211.74 ($13,105.87 every 6 months in September and March).

There was a discussion on the need to install a locking display case for historical items at the building. Other items that were considered were asphalting or concrete the parking lot and a plaque for MaryLou to hang up at the MaryLou Center telling people who she is.

Bruer Park: Insurance on the playground equipment and the Park. The items that were discussed for Bruer Park were stationary trash cans, and a large sign for Bruer Park, fencing by the basketball courts, an overlay on the parking lot, maintenance to the wooden train and a water fountain. Alderwoman Wortham suggested that we contact C&S Metals for the large sign at Bruer Park and maybe a concrete bench by the basketball court instead of the fence. Alderman Thomas stated that maybe if there was a water bottle filler, but his concern would be vandalism.

Truesdale Police Department: Chief Doyle discussed the following items, Additional information from Chief Doyle, Board Bill, is $55.00 per day, Axon Body Camera Upgrades, AI Translator-Report Writing, Thermal Drone.

Street project: Smith Street would be a focus for this fiscal budget and the intention of applying for the grant, other projects would be the Laura Street and Smith Street intersection and the industrial park and Pinckney Street. Alderwoman Hartley discussed the streets in Dieckman Farms.

Events: Elsa stated that the event budget covers the following events:

Railroad Days, National Night Out, Community Christmas, Shop with a Cop.

It was discussed on increasing the fund to allow for hiring more well known bands. Alderman Thomas stated that there would be a concern on some of the stipulations the bands have, and being careful about getting too big.

Water Department budget:

Elsa discussed looking into a module for a customer portal that would allow customers to access their accounts online. It may be necessary to continue with the 3% cost increase for utilities to offset the costs for modules.

The City enters into two agreements for the well and towers: Suez provides water tower maintenance and inspections. Flynn Well Drilling provides inspections on both wells and provides results on tests conducted during these inspections. The city has Diamond mapping application that provides a map showing the water and sewer lines, fire hydrants, and valves within the City.

Being no other business to discuss in open session, Alderman Thomas made the motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Alderman Brooks, with all Aldermen approving. The meeting ended at 7:13 pm.

 At 7:13 pm Alderman Thomas made the motion to enter closed session, , pursuant to 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 Hartley. A roll call vote was taken, Alderman Hartley-yes, Alderman Thomas-yes, Alderman Brooks-yes, and Alderwoman Wortham-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