Personnel and Finance

November 25, 2024

Council President King; Council Members Baltzell, Buxton, Clausen, Fleck, Gray, Sanford, and Wolfe; Mayor Hazel; Safety Service Director Hitchcock; Auditor Shinn

CM Clausen called the Personnel and Finance meeting to order at 6:00 pm to discuss a possible 2025 budget.

6:03 pm, CM Baltzell made a motion to go into executive session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee of official, seconded by CM Gray. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

CM Clausen spoke briefly about the Courts budget and Mayor Hazel explained when the City could say no to some items but also noted that with court fees, they help fund their own accounts and noted they have been great to work with and spend less than the appropriate. CM Clausen asked about the 2025 payroll and it was noted they have a payout and additional bailiff in there to learn from the one retiring. Auditor Shinn noted that the courts get reimbursed a certain amount from the County as well that helps fund the courts. CM Gray asked if they ever use general fund money and Mayor Hazel noted it depends but they can and have used general fund money.

CM Clausen asked about the Law Director line items on the budget and Auditor Shinn noted that the amounts you see are actually the general fund amounts and the re remaining 67 percent are splits. CM Clausen noted the amount paid out to the three assistants and it was noted that he only pays the amount he appropriates and does not go above and Mayor Hazel noted the consultants are also entered and split the same way which would be someone like Ed Smith. CM Sanford confirmed that Law Director Moore is an elected official and that he also works at the courts and money is brought in that way.

Safety Service Director Hitchcock spoke about the City debt lines. CM Clausen asked about what might be the next items maturing and Auditor Shinn confirmed that Main Street matures in 2025 and the Water Tower that matures in 2025. Auditor Shinn noted we are going into 2025 with 4.14 million dollars in debt, down from 23.029 million from 2012. Safety Service Director Hitchcock noted that paying off these debts has helped with the budget and the payments alone has gone down under 700 thousand and helps free up money because it is no longer tied to debts.

CM Sanford spoke about the tuck point of the wall and AC unit and how it affects the general fund and Safety Service Director Hitchcock noted they made some cuts to only do part of the wall to make sure it works and cut out tearing down and the cemetery.

CM Clausen spoke about the last page of the budget which showed a balanced budget when considering future spending. CM Sanford noticed that we are budgeting 5.4 million dollars less for expenses than 2023 but noted projects will come and increase that number.

CM Buxton asked about the TIF falling off and administration noted it was on page 10 with maturity dates next to them. Mayor Hazel explained what Tax Increment Financing (TIF) was and how it has been utilized depending on the TIF language and noted it came from the district and have used it on a myriad of major improvement projects.

CM Clausen adjourned the meeting at 6:56 pm.

Submitted by Michael F. Didonato, Clerk of Council