



COMMITTEE WORK SESSION NOVEMBER 23, 2009

Committee Members Present: Ken Braman
Brenda Hlas
Tom Jones-Excused
Dennis McGlone
Bill Mowery
Mike Zita
Scott Pelot

Also Present: Mayor David Koontz
Rick Ryland
John Moss
Karla Richards
Ann Campbell

The Committee Work Session convened on Monday, November 23, 2009 at 6:00 PM, in the Council Chambers of the Safety Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mike Zita, President of Council. Following a salute to the flag and the Pledge of Allegiance, there was a moment of silent prayer.

Public Comment-Agenda and Non Agenda Items:

There was no communication from the public this evening.

General Topics of Discussion:

2010 Budget

Mrs. Hlas turned this discussion over to Mr. Moss for the highlights. Mr. Moss stated that an exhibit would be included with the final ordinance and anything with a zero amount would be deleted. Mr. Moss stated that the city's revenue stream is trailing off showing \$6,400,000.00 in revenue and we are spending \$6,300,000.00, which only leaves us with a balance of \$100,000.00. Mr. Moss stressed the real challenge is to deal with an additional payroll in 2010. Normally there are 26 pays in a year and the way the calendar falls in 2010 there are 27 pays. This means a four percent increase in payroll costs for 2010. Mr. Pelot inquired as to how much the payroll runs bi-weekly and Mr. Ryland replied it averages between \$82,000.00 and \$85,000.00 depending on overtime. There was discussion about the 800 MHZ radios and the ballfields and Mrs. Hlas asked if the ballfields were paid off yet? Mr. Moss replied no, we are paying down this debt from the Time Warner account. Mr. McGlone discussed the Self-Insured Fund and questioned the amount in Refunds/Rebates. Mr. Moss explained that is when employee expenses exceed the limits.

Mr. Pelot asked about the big jump to \$810,000.00 and that typically we were at \$600,000.00 per year and this year it was projected at \$700,000.00. Mr. Moss replied that we start with expenses at the bottom of this worksheet and the claims we anticipate and we then work the numbers backward from there. The costs are calculated in 2010 at \$1350.00 per month per employee and we have 50 employees in the plan currently. Mr. Moss discussed the need for a healthy carryover balance each year. Mr. Ryland stated we just met with the insurance people on Thursday and the actuaries are up almost 24 percent. Mrs. Hlas stated that it appears the premiums have nearly doubled. Mr. Pelot asked if the union negotiations are looking into the employees contributing to health care and Mr. Ryland stated it would be an unfair labor practice to respond to that question. There was discussion on the benefits of increasing the deductible amounts to save money on the premiums and how it might have an impact. Mr. Ryland stated that for 2009 we projected having 5 lasers in the plan and we actually have none for 2010. Mr. Pelot discussed other communities being self-insured and if it was beneficial in partnering with them to get a better cost saving. Mrs. Hlas discussed the debt services worksheet and indicated she would like to see all of the debts owed not coming out of the General Fund being listed on one separate page. Mr. Pelot asked what is the grand total of all of the city's debt as of today and Mr. Moss replied he did not have that exact figure. There was discussion relating to the various city parks and Mrs. Hlas indicated she would like to see Frashure Park eventually get basketball courts in the near future. Mr. McGlone asked about the Planning Director position and Mr. Moss replied this is not a committed contract and he is not returning for the remainder of this year. Mayor Koontz indicated he is having conversations with the Summit County Planning Dept. to see if they can help. We are also looking at someone to write grants for us on a project by project basis and this would be a contractual basis. Mr. Pelot questioned if we are looking at any layoffs and Mr. Ryland stated we have nobody that we can lay off, we are not planning on any, however this 27th pay issue is causing him some concerns. Mr. Moss reminded Council we have two (2) positions that we will not be filling; a Secretary to the Boards and Commissions, and the Planning Director. Mr. Ryland noted that possible furlows are an option in the labor negotiations. Mr. Pelot asked if everyone would be receiving the standard three (3) percent pay raise next year? Mr. Moss replied no, if there are any raises at all it might be around 1 percent. Mr. Braman discussed police cruisers and that we are not getting any new police cruisers for 2010. Mr. Ryland concurred however we are buying the D.A.R.E. vehicle for \$14,000.00. Mrs. Hlas asked to keep the Committee agenda for the next work session.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

Mr. Ryland asked for legislation to authorize the Administration to advertise for bids on the construction of the new fire station to be addressed as soon as possible and apologized for not having this to Council for this evening. It was decided to have this on the Committee Work Session agenda for December 7, 2009 and hold a Special Council meeting immediately following that meeting in order to adopt the legislation.

Topics for the next Work Session:

Authorization to advertise bids for construction of the new fire station, 2010 Budget discussions continued.

Adjourn

There being no other business to come before the Committee Work Session, the meeting was adjourned at 6:44 PM.

Mike Zita, President of Council

****NOTE: THESE MINUTES ARE NOT VERBATIM****

All Committee Meetings will be held at the Norton Safety Administration Building, unless otherwise noted.