

COUNCIL MINUTES BUDGET WORKSHOP DAY 2 10/26/2021

A Common Council Budget Workshop Day meeting was held on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 at 6:30 PM in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 819 Superior Avenue, Tomah, WI. After the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was taken. Present: Michael Murray, Adam Gigous, Richard Yarrington, John Glynn, Shawn Zabinski, Mitchel Koel, Lamont Kiefer, Nellie Pater, and Dean Peterson. Absent: None. Also present was: City Administrator Bradley Hanson, City Clerk Becki Weyer, City Treasurer Molly Powell, Building Inspector Shane Rolf, Sr. and Disabled Services Coordinator Pam Buchda, and Public Works Director Kirk Arity. The meeting was recorded via Zoom. Members of the public were able to access the meeting remotely.

No one desired to be seen before the Council.

Administrator Budget

Hanson covered the Administrator budget in detail. 10% of the Administrator's salary will be moved to the Industrial/Economic Development fund.

TID Forecasting

Paper copies of the updated TID project costs were given to the Council at the beginning of the meeting. Hanson summarized the projects that will be paid for by the TIDs. The TID will help to contribute to projects that were planned because they are within a half mile of the TID.

TID 8, 9, 10, 11 Budgets

Hanson covered the TID 8, 9, 10, and 11 budgets in detail with the Council.

Senior and Disabled Services

Coordinator Buchda was unable to attend the meeting. Changes include increasing the music budget to \$7500 because of increased costs of music performers. Hanson requested that Sr. Buchda be moved to a salaried position vs. an hourly position due to increased costs in overtime.

Motion by Kiefer, second by Glynn to request the Administrator and Mayor discuss the future salary of the Sr. and Disabled Center Coordinator position and return with a request in the November Council meeting. Motion carried.

Industrial/Economic Development

Hanson covered the changes to this fund, including office supplies being removed from the TID budgets and added to the Industrial/Economic Development fund. Training will be made available from this

City Clerk, Elections, Computer, and Insurance

City Clerk Weyer gave an overview of the Clerk, Elections, Computer, and Insurance budgets. Insurance was estimated to increase next year. The elections budget will increase slightly due to more elections in 2022.

Mayor and Legal

The budget is largely the same as last year.

Legislative

The legislative budget is largely the same as last year.

Inspection, Zoning, and Planning

Building Inspector Shane Rolf covered that the expenses in the Inspection, Zoning, and Planning budget are similar to last year. There was a slight increase due to the need for a cell phone for the new Code Enforcement officer.

Conservation and Planning Budget

The Conservation and Planning Budget is largely constant from year to year. The professional services budget may be significantly less than the \$9000 budgeted, but Rolf will not know with certainty until after the first of the year.

Public Works, General Building, Refuse, Airport, Lake, Water, Sewer

General Buildings Budget

A Chiller upgrade is included in capital projects.

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Lake Budget

There is a percentage of the Dir. Of Public Works salary in the Lake Budget. Line item 2100 professional services was increased to allow for costs associated with algae management control. Repairs and maintenance was also increased for this same purpose. There are five different approaches: harvesting, weed cutter, chemicals, dredging, and nothing. Aeration is likely to cost around \$500,000 and is a likely outcome, but nothing has yet been approved for this coming year. This budget will need to be increased each year to afford some of the more expensive projects planned for the future. Normal operating expenses are \$40,000. Alderman Kiefer gave the Council a brief history on the work done on the lake.

Water Budget

Water: There are not a lot of changes from year to year. The projects drive the revenue deficit or gains. The water department is in great financial shape. There will be a 3% increase recommended to the Public Works Commission at the next meeting, which comes out to \$10.00 per person in the city per year. The increase is due to increased costs associated with planned projects. They have paid approximately \$500,000 in debt and don't anticipate borrowing for projects in the foreseeable future. Cash flow is in a good place, and this will remain based on future requirements from the DNR. Security was increased at the well sites, and the directional flushing done this year has improved the water quality across the city. Mark Rezin is doing a fantastic job for the water utility.

Sewer Budget:

Financially the Sewer department is in great shape, no rate increases will be proposed in the foreseeable future. There is an aging plant that will require many upgrades, and the plan is to use cash to complete those upgrades. There is a sump line project is ongoing, and Arity anticipates some good returns on the lime stabilization from a working conditions standpoint, along with electrical and gas uses and reduction in line expenses.

Public Works Budget

In order to save on expenses, staff has been asked to do more with less. The focus during next summer is to maintain the road system including: chip sealant, epoxy for bridges, crack sealant, and side street repair throughout the TIDs. There will be a resolution for the City's commitment to the County for the County ET project. Bill Kobleska does an outstanding job.

Street: Budget

Some costs were shifted to the lake, most costs are the same. Some of Public Works superintendent's wages were moved to the airport. Because of age of trucks, no new trucks were purchased last year.

Airport

A portion of the Public Works superintendent's wages were moved to the airport budget. Public Works has upgraded the flight shack substantially, and the City needs to pursue building/procuring additional hangers. The estimated cost is \$500,000 and would be obtained through debt service. This is something to look at for the future.

Refuse and Garbage

There are not many changes to the budget from last year. The City's recycling goes to Modern Disposal and they charge the City a handling fee, which is subsidized by the County. Gains have been made over the last couple years due to the use of automation.

There was a short break at 8:24 until 8:31 p.m.

Parks and Recreation

Parks Budget

There are no major changes with operations. There was one retirement in 2021 and after budget discussions, Protz will consider taking that full time position and creating two seasonal positions likely to work May-August at \$18-\$19 dollars per hour. This will save the City about \$51,000 with insurance and benefits not paid.

Recreation Programs Budget

There was a significant savings in 2021 due to Covid-19 but costs should return to pre-2019 budget levels once recreation programs resume.

Rec Park

Operations are predicted to be normal, with minimal changes from last year.

Aquatic Center

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The pool continues to have issues, and the department is working on hydro digging to find issues that are under the ground. There is \$50,000 budgeted in the capital budget to assist with the issues of leaks. If that number will not suffice, there will be additional conversations regarding what to do with the Aquatic Center. There is a good chance the pool will not be open next year based on the ongoing issues with leaks in the pool. There was \$20,000 budgeted in 2021 for water, and as of October 1, there has been about \$31,500 in water costs due to leaks this year.

Capital Projects

Winnebago Park Phase 1 Bids

Protz would like to take this back to the Park Board with alternative bids that some of the work that could be done by city workers. Protz has requested \$150,000 out of capital projects to complete this project. Estimated amount of ARPA funds to be used for this project are \$250,000 due to lost revenue from Room Tax.

Other capital project items including: new stairs and new sign for the library, a security system for the Police Department and City Hall, and other items that will be presented at subsequent Council meetings for potential funding from the available ARPA funds vs. the capital project budget.

Other capital project items not included in the meeting on 10/25/21 include:

A \$70,000 Chiller for City Hall, \$6,000,000 towards the Emergency Services building project; \$360,000 for dump trucks; \$1,370,000 for road work, including seal coating; \$167,000 for sidewalk by the Fire Station, Vet shelter and Winnebago roadways, \$1,850,000 for the Flare Avenue project; and \$50,000 for the Bath House at the Aquatic Center

Approval of Preliminary Budget

The original presented budget was short by about \$57,000. With the adjustment and cuts made by reducing the presented cost of living increase, cuts to individual budgets, and cuts to full time positions, the budget would be balanced for 2023 with a transfer of \$224,000 from the fund balance. The 2021 levy for 2022 is \$5,091,216.

Motion by Koel, second by Glynn, to approve the preliminary budget for 2022. Motion carried.

Public Hearing - Scheduled for November 16, 2021

Adjourn

Motion by Zabinski, second by Yarrington, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Mayor Michael Murray

Attest: Rebecca Weyer, City Clerk

To be approved on November 16, 2021