

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

Regular Meeting
Monday, May 17, 2010

CALL TO ORDER: By Mayor Smith Monday, May 17, 2010, at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmembers Arnold, Cuttle, Kruger, Sanders, Weissenborn, Mayor Smith and City Manager Guetschow

ABSENT: Mayor Pro Tem Baker

The invocation was offered by Mayor Smith followed by the pledge of allegiance.

EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS: Motion by Councilmember Kruger, second by Cuttle to excuse Mayor Pro Tem Baker from the May 17th meeting. Carried. 6 Yeas. 0 Nays.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Al Miller, 808 Warren urged Council to look for other ways to trim the police budget and make them more efficient rather than cutting patrol officers

Irene Jewett, 815 N. Sheldon St, has worked with the City Manager and City Clerk to address the retirees concerns regarding the Retiree Health Insurance Policy. The current 65 and over retirees that it effects are in support of the policy presented to Council at this meeting.

Michael Atayan, 7147 Steeplechase (Delta Township), suggests Council put together a committee of department heads and elected officials to work on budget issues.

Zack Story, 4859 Valley Highway (Carmel Township) urged Council not to invoke the millage increase or lay off Police Officers, but understands that hard decisions need to be made

Lou Boone, 112 Wedgewood, in favor of implementing the .87 millage increase

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Councilmember Arnold, second by Sanders to approve the agenda, as presented. Carried. 6 Yeas. 0 Nays.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

A. Consider Council Policy Regarding Retiree Health Insurance

City Manager Guetschow provided Council with the Policy that incorporates the changes that Mrs. Jewett alluded to. The changes include increasing the monthly HRA contribution from \$350 to \$500; to allow retirees to buy into the City's group plan, if they desire; and an inclusion to allow, but not require, City Council to increase the City's contribution in the future.

Motion by Councilmember Kruger, second by Arnold to adopt Council Policy 2010-04, Retiree Health Insurance Policy. Carried. 6 Yeas. 0 Nays.

B. Discussion regarding the Budget

City Manager Guetschow indicated that he created a list of the issues that Council wanted to discuss at this meeting. He asked the Department Heads to be available to answer your questions and comment tonight. Discussion was held regarding the following topics:

1) ***Five year Financial Forecast*** – Christine Mossner, Treasurer/Finance Director answered questions and elaborated on the spreadsheets and charts provided to Council.

2) ***Saving money in the Police and Fire Departments*** – City Manager Guetschow re-iterated why cutting out the Fire Truck would not significantly impact the General Fund Budget and Fire Chief Fullerton elaborated on why postponing the purchase is not an option. Police Chief Callahan answered questions regarding cost recovery for

special events in the City and how, if necessary, the Police Department would function with fewer officers.

3) **Capital Improvements Plan Review** – DPW Director Schoonover answered questions regarding Capitol Improvements and especially the money set aside for running utilities to Lincoln Park.

4) **Costs in Water and Sewer Budgets** – DPW Director Schoonover and Water/Wastewater Superintendent Moss answered questions regarding the cost of chemicals and water main breaks. It was also ascertained that some of the problem in the Water and Sewer Funds is not increasing expenditures by the decrease in revenue, our costs are the same, but we are selling less water due to conservation efforts by the residents and business and especially by OI, one of the City's largest water customers leaving the City.

5) **Airport Expenditures** – The City Manager lead in a discussion regarding the Airport and the challenges associated with abandoning it, including the possible loss and repayment of federal grant money. Before closing the Airport, a costly study would need to be done similar to the study done several years ago when there was discussion of moving the airport. Councilmembers expressed their concern over contributing to the Airport when only a small number of City residents use it.

PUBLIC COMMENT: **Al Miller, 808 Warren**, stated that the City should look to retiring senior officers or reducing command staff rather than laying off patrol officers and possibly the School Liaison Officer.

Zack Story, 4859 Valley Highway, after sitting through the meeting has a better understanding of the challenges being faced by the City. Although he doesn't like it, he sees where the millage increase may be necessary.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilmembers thanked the members of the audience for coming to the meeting, and staying for so long.

Mayor Smith thanked Mayor Pro Tem Baker for sitting in for him while he was away and wished her a speedy recovery.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:42 p.m.

Deleski R. Smith, Mayor

Michelle M. King, City Clerk