



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, June 26, 2018

Council Session

Item G-2

Approving Minutes of June 19, 2018 City Council Study Session

Staff Contact: RaNae Edwards

CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

June 19, 2018

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Study Session of the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska was conducted in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 100 East First Street, on June 19, 2018. Notice of the meeting was given in the *Grand Island Independent* on June 13, 2018.

Mayor Jeremy L. Jensen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following Councilmembers were present: Mitch Nickerson, Jeremy Jones, Chuck Haase, Linna Dee Donaldson, Michelle Fitzke, Vaughn Minton, Roger Steele, and Mike Paulick. Councilmembers Julie Hehnke and Mark Stelk were absent. The following City Officials were present: City Administrator Marlan Ferguson, City Clerk RaNae Edwards, Assistant Finance Director William Clingman, City Attorney Jerry Janulewicz and Public Works Director John Collins.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was said.

SPECIAL ITEMS:

Discussion on Estimated Revenues FY 2019. City Administrator Marlan Ferguson reported that on June 12, 2018 the City Council passed a resolution approving a balanced budget for the general fund. In order to do that it was estimated that the base 2018 budget plus 2% increase would be allowed. The administration had been meeting with the Department Directors on their proposed budgets.

Interim Finance Director William Clingman stated the projected revenues for 2019 was estimated at \$40,889,399.65. He stated there was a \$400,000.00 increase in the Municipal Equalization Funds over last year. Questions were answered regarding the Fire Departments revenues. The increase in property valuations would increase the revenues the City would receive.

Further Discussion on Balanced Budget Spreadsheet and Pie Chart. Assistant Finance Director William Clingman reviewed the updated pie chart to date. Projected ending cash balance for 2018 was \$10,757,763.00.

Mayor Jensen mentioned that Administration had worked hard getting this information out to the Council. Mr. Clingman stated they had met with all the Department Director's and everyone held close to the 2% increase in their budgets. There were only 2 new FTE's planned for the General Fund. Mayor stated the expenses and revenues submitted were sustainable.

Discussion was held concerning the 1/2 cent sales tax. Mr. Clingman stated it could possibly bring in between \$5 to \$6 million dollars which could offset Capital projects. The easiest way to use those funds would be to offset the Capital equipment funds which would include Public Safety equipment. Mentioned was that the wheel tax would sunset in a few years.

Comments were made concerning open positions in the Police Department. Police Chief Robert Falldorf stated there were two reductions in the force last year and they had two open positions now. There were three in training. Three officers were on light duty which made the Patrol Division down ten officers to date. He stated they could hire officers ahead of time but had to wait for the Training Center for a class to open up.

Mentioned was a cop's grant that was awarded last year but wasn't used. The grant was for three years and could be extended. Chief Falldorf commented on overtime. He stated typically when you were down officers there was more overtime. Holiday pay was considered overtime.

Human Resources Director Aaron Schmid answered questions concerning the open positions for the Police Department and the turn-over. Hiring Police Officers was a lengthy process especially if they had to go through training. Comments were made by Council about hiring two more Police Officers. Mr. Schmid stated they could be more proactive if employees would give them at least a 60 day window before they retired so they could hire a new person for that position.

Police Chief Falldorf stated the cost of training for a Police Officer was \$4,000.00 to \$5,000.00. Mentioned was Airport Security had to be covered by a sworn certified Nebraska Officer for each flight which took up several hours of the Officers time taking him/her off the street. The City was reimbursed but didn't cover the cost. Mayor Jensen suggested using retired officers for this security.

Comments were made that in order to hire a certified officer the City could consider looking at paying at a higher step or a lateral move. Kearny paid a hiring bonus which worked well. Mr. Schmid explained the process of hiring a Police Officer. These positions go through several Civil Service Committee meetings. Mayor Jensen stated that both the IAFF and FOP union contracts would be coming up for negotiation next year. There were currently four union contracts up this year.

Fire Chief Cory Schmidt commented on his department. He stated in the past he had asked for more personnel and would continue to do so to staff a third ambulance. They were seeing more calls and would have to call in off duty personnel. They were doing the best they could with what they had. Last year IAFF froze their salaries to keep positions from being cut from the budget.

Discussion on Non-Departmental Fund and Transfers Out. Mr. Clingman presented the transfers out for a total of \$3,835,000.00.

Discussion was held regarding the wheel tax which was designated to the Street Department. Proposed for 2019 was \$1.5 million.

Comments were made concerning ending cash balance and reserves. Mayor Jensen cautioned the Council of spending down the cash reserves. Reviewed were personnel services in the next four years. Mr. Schmid commented on the health insurance fund. Mr. Clingman stated the self-insurance fund was doing well and should finish strong at year end.

Utilizing Food and Beverage Tax for New Ballfield Maintenance. Parks & Recreation Director Todd McCoy reviewed the tentative capital projects in his department. The biggest project was the Veterans Athletic Complex construction. Mentioned were the maintenance issues at Island Oasis which needed to be addressed in the next three years at a cost of \$1 million. With the expansion of the Veterans Athletic Complex they would need more employees.

Mr. Clingman reviewed the Food & Beverage cash that had been collected and what was projected for the next ten years.

Comments were made by Council concerning taking care of what we have before we start new projects.

Public Works Director John Collins answered questions concerning recapturing consulting fees.

Council complimented staff on the process of this year's budget and seeing the numbers in advance.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

RaNae Edwards
City Clerk