



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, September 7, 2021

Special Meeting

Item E-1

Public Hearing on FY 2021-2022 Annual Single City Budget and the Annual Appropriations Bill

Staff Contact: Patrick Brown

Council Agenda Memo

From: Patrick Brown, Finance Director

Meeting: September 7, 2021

Subject: Public Hearing on FY2021-2022 Annual Single City Budget and Annual Appropriations Bill

Presenter(s): Patrick Brown, Finance Director

Background

The purpose of the meeting is to comply with the requirements of Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 13-506 as amended by Laws 2020 LB 148, which requires:

Each governing body shall each year or biennial period conduct a public hearing on its proposed budget statement. Such hearing shall be held separately from any regularly scheduled meeting of the governing body and shall not be limited by time. Notice of place and time of such hearing, together with a summary of the proposed budget statement, shall be published at least four calendar days prior to the date set for hearing in a newspaper of general circulation within the governing body's jurisdiction. . . . At such hearing, the governing body shall make at least three copies of the proposed budget statement available to the public and shall make a presentation outlining key provisions of the proposed budget statement, including, but not limited to, a comparison with the prior year's budget. Any member of the public desiring to speak on the proposed budget statement shall be allowed to address the governing body at the hearing and shall be given a reasonable amount of time to do so. After such hearing, the proposed budget statement shall be adopted, or amended and adopted as amended, and a written record shall be kept of such hearing. The amount to be received from personal and real property taxation shall be certified to the levying board after the proposed budget statement is adopted or is amended and adopted as amended. There will be no council action taken during this meeting.

Discussion

The “Notice of Budget Hearing and Budget Summary” was published in the Grand Island Independent on September 3, 2021. It is appropriate at this time to solicit public comment. The action item for this public hearing will be under Ordinances at the City Council meeting on September 14, 2021.

The following is a comparison of the fiscal year 2022 proposed budget to the FY2021 amended budget:

- The FY2022 budget appropriation is 7% or \$17,956,562 lower than the FY2021 amended budget. The difference is mainly due to the weather event that occurred in February of 2021.
- The City requested the same tax ask for Property Tax which in turn decreased the mill levy from 0.34445 to 0.32359. Community Redevelopment Authority kept the same mill levy resulting in a \$45k tax ask increase. The total mill levy will decrease from 0.3650 to 0.3441.
- Total Sales Tax revenue is forecasted at \$21,810,636 for FY2022. It is a 22.5% increase over FY2021 budget. The increase was due to the uncertainty of the pandemic and how it would affect sales tax during the 2021 fiscal year. Sales Tax receipts came in much higher than anticipated which in turn increases our forecast for FY2022. Currently with one month of Sales Tax revenues still due, we are at 118% of FY2021 budget.
- The General Fund is adding two full time equivalents (FTE's) staff members. They are a Grants Administrator and an Interpreter/Translator. The Grants Administrator will be located in the Finance Department and will be funded by administrative fees associated with grants. The Interpreter/Translator will be located at the Customer Service (Utility Billing) location at 1306 W 3rd. This position will be funded by the Enterprise Funds.
- The General Fund Fire/Ambulance Department applied for a grant to hire three firefighter/EMT/Paramedics. The status of the grant is still pending however budget authority is being established in case the City is awarded the grant. The grant would pay for three firefighters for three years at 100% reimbursement.
- The Streets Division will be adding an Equipment Operator position (one FTE).
- The Transfer Station is adding a 0.25 FTE for help on Saturdays.
- Transfer increases in the FY2022 budget include moving the \$4.5m to Wastewater for the Airport Sewer Project (American Rescue Plan funds), loaning \$2.7m to Solid Waste Fund to finance the Transfer Station upgrade, and a \$217k increase to other budgeted entities.
- General Fund Personnel Services for FY2022 increased 7% due to step increases, COLA, and the addition of five FTE's (of which three are for budget authority only). Operating expenses increased 5.7% for the General Fund over FY2021 budget.