
Meeting of the: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Date/Time: Thursday, October 5, 2017 @ 6:00 p.m.
Location: Council Chambers (2nd Floor Public Safety Building) 321 S Fourth Street
Members: Tim Swadley, Sid Boersma, Michael Engelberger, Regina Hirsch, Greg Jenson, Kathleen Johnson, Dennis Kittleson, Lisa Reeves, Tom Majewski, Pat O'Connor, Scott Truehl, Matt Bartlett, and Mayor Olson

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Swadley called the meeting of the Committee of the Whole to order at 6:00 p.m.

Clerk Kropf called the roll and noted that nine alderpersons along with the Mayor Olson were present, with Bartlett, Boersma, and Johnson being absent and excused.

NEW BUSINESS

Review, Authorize and Direct the proper City official(s) to approve the proposed 2018 Stoughton Utilities (SU) Budget and Five-year (2018-2022) Capital Improvement Plan (CIP):

Jamin Freidl, the Finance Manager for the Utilities Department, gave a detailed presentation of the Utilities 2018 Budget. He noted that the 2018 budget does not include any rate increases.

Johnson joined the meeting at 6:07 p.m.

Friedl continued his presentation by noting that the trends of the electric utility are gradually decreasing. He noted that the largest factors for these decreases have to do with energy efficient options and having a mild summer in 2017. The water utility did see a significant increase in the maintenance of wells as well #7 needs a complete rehab. Other than that, there was very little if no increase in the remaining water utility budget. He noted that the water has had stagnant growth and he noted that the water utility may see a rate increase in 2018. He stated that all three of the utilities will have strong debt coverage for all three of the utilities.

Motion by Engelberger, to approve the Utilities 2018 Budget and the Utilities 2018-2022 Capital Improvement Plan and refer to Council for consideration, second by Truehl.

Utilities Director Kardasz reviewed the CIP plan to encompass 2018-2022. He noted that the Utility will be purchasing a dump truck and part of the CIP is dedicated to finding ways to eliminate some of the lead service lines in the City. Kardasz noted that effort will be determined by the findings coming from legislation. Motion carried 11-0, with Mayor voting.

2018 Executive Budget Presentation

Mayor Olson gave the 2018 Executive Budget Presentation. This budget would allow for the increase of the wage scale for all employees to maintain market competitiveness. This budget would have a savings due to the change of the health insurance carrier. She outlined that the various departments that had requested additional personnel will not be receiving them, as the budget cannot support it. She then outlined the normal increases in operating costs. This budget is balanced after closing a \$173,000 gap. This budget includes a levy increase of \$409,432 between debt service and net new construction. Finance Director LaBorde noted that the 2018 CIP plan was approved by the Council in September and this CIP

included the borrowing for the new public works facility. Mayor Olson noted that the 2017 tax levy has a 1.755% increase in net new construction which equals to \$123,332. The levy increase includes a City Tax rate decrease of 4% and a mill rate decrease of \$0.34. This means that the taxes on a home valued at \$100,000 will decrease by \$34.

Review 2018 General Fund Budget

Finance Director LaBorde gave the Council a detailed presentation of each department's 2017 budget versus the 2018 static budget. The Administrative Services Department (which included the Finance and Clerk's Department) showed a very static budget. The Clerk's office did see increases in the election budgets as 2018 will have four elections instead of two elections.

Human Resources Director Gillingham presented her budget to the Council. She noted that she had requested a part time employee to help with data entry but that request was not allowed through the budget. Gillingham also spoke to the employee wage scales. She noted that she continues to work on the Springsted wage scales so that employees are being paid fairly.

Police Chief Leck gave his budget presentation to the committee. He noted that he is desperately in need of more patrol officers, as he is short staffed about four police officers. The committee expressed concerns with the short staffing especially with the addition of a hotel and senior living home.

Fire Chief Wegner gave the committee his 2018 budget presentation. He noted that he, like the police department, is extremely short staffed. He noted that his volunteers do fill a big role and their involvement and save the City a large amount of money. While they are an asset, Wegner noted that it is difficult to receive enough help during the days for fire calls as most of his volunteers work in Madison during the day.

Planning Director Scheel presented his inspection and buildings budget. There was very little increase in the inspection budget, while the buildings budget saw a significant decrease. This decrease is due to the lower utilities cost for the city buildings.

Public Works Director Hebert gave the committee his budget presentation. Truehl asked if he was budgeting for the new facilities ongoing costs. Hebert noted that they are continuing to investigate what the ongoing costs for the facility will be.

Hebert noted that the Parks budget was also stagnant. The Parks maintenance and parks mowing funds were combined together which ultimately showed an increase in one account and a decrease in the other.

Recreation Director Lynch addressed the committee regarding his budget. He noted that his budget is very static and he suspects that the revenues will outweigh his costs in 2018. He also explained the Youth Center budget to the committee.

IT Director Montgomery explained his 2018 budget. He noted that his budget will be fairly erratic because this is a newly created department. He indicated that most of the increases that come with his budget involve the pulling of funds from various departments. Some of the software programs had been paid by individual departments and this effort would be to centralize those costs to the IT department.

Planning Director Scheel gave his presentation for the planning department budget. There was a decrease for wages and some of those monies were reallocated to their proper accounts.

Future Agenda Items

- Senior Center Budget**
- Account Transfers**
- Opera House Budget**
- Library Budget**
- EMS Budget**
- Stormwater Budget**
- Other Funds**

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Jenson, to adjourn the October 5, 2017 Committee of the Whole, second by Truehl. Motion carried 11-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm.
