
Meeting of the: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL
Date/Time: Thursday, October 12, 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 to order at 6:00 p.m.

Clerk Kropf called the roll and noted that eight alderpersons and the Mayor were present, with Boersma, Johnson, Reeves, and Truehl being absent and excused.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of the October 5, 2017 Committee of the Whole meeting minutes:

Motion by Majewski, to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2017 Committee of the Whole meeting, second by O'Connor. Motion carried 9-0.

Continue with Review of 2018 General Fund Budget – Senior Center and Transfers:

Senior Center Director McGlynn noted that like most years, her budget is very straight forward and static. McGlynn stated that the position of the Program/Volunteer Coordinator has been requested to become a full time position. This position has been supplemented by a grant from the Bryant Foundation and with the increase of the positions salary, the City will contribute the remaining amount.

Finance Director LaBorde addressed the committee regarding the account transfers. She noted that the contingency amount will remain the same and that increases were being given to the Library and the Opera House due to the overall increase of expenses. There was also an increase to the Economic Development fund of \$10,000.

Review and recommend approval of the 2018 Library Budget:

Library Director MacDonald addressed the committee regarding the 2018 library budget. He noted that there is expected to be an increase in the library's revenue due to the expected capability to accept credit cards at the library's front desk. He noted that the budget is very static with little increases to the expenditures.

Review and recommend approval of the 2018 Opera House Budget:

Opera House Director Brehm addressed the committee regarding his budget. He noted that the Opera House budget has not had any significant changes from last year. He indicated that the previous employee restructure has been working for the department very well and he will be looking into part time staff for lighting and etc, in the near future. Brehm noted that Arts America conducts a study to determine the impact of economic development in relation to the arts. He noted that the conduct of shows has contributed approximately \$500,000 to Stoughton's economic development.

Review and recommend approval of the 2018 EMS Budget:

EMS Director Schimelpfenig addressed the committee regarding her 2018 EMS budget. She reported that her budget is very static and will see an increase in revenues from last year. She noted that there will be an increase in the sinking fund to aid in the replacement of an ambulance and some additional repairs to the buildings HVAC system. She noted that the contributions to the debt service are for the EMS remodel and it's due to expire in 2020. Once that expense has been exhausted, she will more than likely use that extra revenue to hire more day time staff.

Majewski left the meeting at 6:39 p.m.

Schimelpfenig noted that if there is a call that can't be met by her staff, they do use a mutual aid agreement with the County. This will ensure that a call is met by a EMS department within the county and that aid is offered to the other communities by the Stoughton EMS as well.

Review and recommend approval of the 2018 Stormwater Budget:

Planning Director Scheel addressed the committee regarding the stormwater budget. He noted that the ERU rate did increase by \$0.04. He noted that this increase will help with the allocations of time of the staff that contribute to the operation of the stormwater utility. These expenses are not charged through the tax levy and are charged those the collection of utilities.

Review and recommend approval of the 2018 Other Funds:

Finance Director LaBorde addressed the committee regarding the 2018 budgets for the remaining funds. These funds included the Public Safety building, Township Outreach program, Landmarks Commission, the Fire Pension, Sick Leave fund, K9 fund, Economic Development, Redevelopment Authority, and Debt Service Fund. There were very little changes from 2017 to the proposed 2018 budget for these funds.

Recommend approval of the 2018 General Fund Budget:

City staff explained the costs associated with the hiring of an additional Police and Fire staff. An additional police officer would come at a cost of \$83,812.90 and an additional fire staff person would cost \$83,532.72. Mayor Olson noted that she has proposed a 2.25% increase to City staff wages. Swadley had asked to see the numbers for 2%, 1.5%, 1.25%, and 1% increases. Mayor Olson reported those numbers to the committee, but noted that she does support the 2.25% increase as that is what will be awarded to the police officers through their union contract. Swadley noted that he had asked for those numbers to determine if potentially cutting some of that increase could aid in the funding of an additional police officer or fire staff. It was indicated that reducing or eliminating the wage increase would not cover the costs of any additional staff. The committee agreed that they do not wish to take away a wage increase from the employees, but are concerned with the lack of staff available in the emergency services departments. Swadley noted that he felt there needs to be more City planning when it comes to forecasting retirements and potential changes in jobs.

Motion by O'Connor, to approve the General Fund Budget and all City Special Fund Budgets as presented and refer to Council for consideration, second by Jensen.

Hirsch noted that she is not comfortable with passing the current budget without the additional police and fire staff. She indicated that the City staff may not receive the full 2.25% wage increase and look at hiring those additional individuals at half year.

Amendment by Hirsch, to amend the budget to include a full time staff person for Police and Fire to be hired in June of 2018 and to change the staff wage increase from 2.25% to 1%, second by Kittleson. Amendment to the motion failed on a roll call vote of 2-6, with Jenson, Engelberger, Swadley, O'Connor, Bartlett, and Olson voting noe.

Original motion was read. Motion carried on a roll call vote of 6-2, with Hirsch and Kittleson voting noe.

Future Agenda Items

- Options for additional meeting dates

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Jenson, to adjourn the October 5, 2017 Committee of the Whole meeting, second by O'Connor. Motion carried 8-0. The meeting of the Committee of the Whole adjourned at 8:47 p.m.
