

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING - BUDGET

MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2012 – 5:00 PM

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL

Mayor Connors called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Roll Call. Present: Aldermen Hougen, Wall, Mott, Hill, Kehoe, Kupsik, Krohn and Tolar. Also present: Administrator Jordan, Comptroller Pollitt, City Clerk Hawes, Fire Chief Connelly, Police Chief Rasmussen and City Treasurer Klein.

Discussion/Action on publication of 2013 Annual Budget summary and setting public hearing date of November 19, 2012

Comptroller Pollitt stated that copies of the draft 2013 annual budget were distributed to the Council. She reported that no changes were made since the budget workshop on October 22. Ms. Pollitt also distributed the 2013 Budget Summary for the Council's consideration. Once approved, the summary will be published in the newspaper. She stated the budget summary also serves as the notice that the budget public hearing would be set for Monday, November 19 at 5 p.m. Ms. Pollitt said the budget is not final until it's adopted after the budget hearing. Administrator Jordan explained that staff is following the budget procedures as prescribed by the state statutes. The budget summary has to be published two weeks prior to the public hearing. He said members of the public may attend the hearing and comment on the proposed budget. The budget has to be adopted by the first Friday in December. Mr. Jordan added that the proposed budget will likely change a little bit once the City receives manufacturing assessment figures from the State.

Mayor Connors asked Comptroller Pollitt for a brief comparison between the 2012 annual budget and the proposed 2013 budget. Ms. Pollitt said proposed budget includes a 2.5% increase, largely due to insurance increases. She added the proposed budget includes transfers from the Parking and Lakefront funds which is depicted under the Special Revenue Funds; these transfers were discussed in the budget workshops. Ms. Pollitt noted the actual TID budget will be considered by the Council at a later date. She said the Capital Projects Fund reflects the third year of the previously approved capital budget. She added that Debt Service and General Fund were thoroughly discussed at the budget workshops. Alderman Hill asked if the public will have access to the full proposed budget. Comptroller Pollitt said the proposed budget will be on the website. The budget summary will also be on display at the Library and City Hall.

Alderman Wall said that departments were asked to prepare a flat budget; he suggested it is unfair that some budgets did not bring forth a flat budget. Mayor Connors said some expenses were beyond departments' control and not all departments were able to propose a flat budget. Alderman Wall asked if the 2% wage increase includes part-time staff. Comptroller Pollitt said it includes part-time parking staff but not seasonal part-time employees. She said this was how she was directed to put the budget together; it is ultimately the discretion of the Council to change that.

Alderman Wall suggested that the summer brush pick-up program be brought back now that revenues are on the upswing. Mayor Connors suggested staff look into how bringing back the summer brush program would impact the proposed budget. Alderman Mott said he is not in favor of renewing the brush pick-up in the summer. He said the decision to discontinue the program wasn't just about saving money, it was about prioritizing other services during the summer. Mr. Mott added that he believes the current level of brush collection services is adequate and that residents are catching on with the current schedule.

Hill/Kehoe motion to approve the 2013 budget summary as presented and to set the public hearing date as Monday, November 19. Unanimously carried.

Adjournment

Kehoe/Hougen motion to adjourn at 5:18 p.m. Unanimously carried.

/s/ Michael D. Hawes, City Clerk

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