

City of Troy, Missouri
Budget Workshop
Tuesday, May 25, 2021
6:30 P.M.

Present for the meeting were Aldermen Detert, Dunard, Grimstead, Horner, Norman, Jones and Mayor Sconce. Also present were Assistant Public Works Superintendent Burkemper, Building Official Lindsey, Police Chief Taylor, Parks Director Howell, Wastewater Managers Jared Comer and Greg Frieden of Woodard & Curran, Water Superintendent Lourance, Treasurer Flinn and City Clerk Schneider.

Mayor Sconce opened the Budget Workshop at 6:30 p.m. and declared a quorum present. Several citizens were present at the workshop.

Treasurer Flinn relayed notes on “What’s changed since the May 12th Budget Workshop.” The changes included updated costs on Well House for Well 15 increased by \$115,000 after bid opening, increased City Attorney contract costs, costs on Cherry Street project alternates and contract price with Lamke Trenching for Cherry Street Water Main due to pending change order.

Treasurer Flinn added all street projects into the budget and added estimates of engineering costs, entered Sonic Wall licensing into budget, new projects added to capital projects spreadsheet as a result of a recent meeting with Jen Anders of Woodard & Curran and increased amount of HVAC for City Hall.

Mayor Sconce suggested Items A, B and C on Capital Projects be budgeted from General Fund Reserve as a one-time capital expenditure.

Discussion was held on Item 6 on Departmental Budget Requests for Fairgrounds Pavilion Materials at \$22,000 to include a roof and electric to generate pavilion rental revenue.

Mayor Sconce reminded that revenue was budgeted at 2.5% higher than 2020 which has remained at a 10% increased level and it was unknown whether revenue would continue to remain high. Mayor Sconce cautioned that general fund was already in the red due to salary increases several months ago.

Wastewater Manager Comer said Item R was put in the budget to repair the sewer main but would probably cost less than the amount budgeted. They planned to camera the line to identify the problems.

Mayor Sconce said Item G on Capital Projects could be scratched because there is water already at that location. Mayor Sconce said the water study would encompass the entire area, isolate problem areas and be necessary to obtain grants and project funding.

Alderman Horner asked Comer about outsourcing the camera on the sewer line. Comer replied that they planned to use funds already in the Woodard & Curran budget to pay for the outsourced camera vendor since City's equipment was not big enough. The target was the 18" gravity trunk line behind Bluffview.

Comer said Item U grit removal was needed to prevent the grit from getting to the new plant. Item V was a lift station SCADA system to tie into the new plant to replace the old outdated dialers.

Mayor Sconce shared general fund budget amounts from prior year budgets with the dollar amount and whether it was a red or black figure and said this year's number was already in the red by \$174,825 with no department requests and based on operating costs for next year.

Alderman Grimstead suggested using a tiered approach to budget requests. Mayor Sconce said that Linda needed guidance and if no Board consensus then the item should be placed on the next meeting agenda and voted on.

Alderman Detert pointed out that he requested ten patrol officers and only saw two officers listed on the budget. Alderman Detert pointed to the worksheet on patrol officers pay with benefits of \$626,488.20 and how to structure the increase in officers.

Alderman Norman said that Items 12, 13 and 14 in Administration requests totaling \$47,000 be removed.

Alderman Detert said how do you explain no police protection to the public and all else in the budget was toys for everyone else. Mayor Sconce asked how to pay for the added police officers plus cars totaling approximately \$800,000. Chief Taylor said the police skipped vehicles last year and needed at least two cars to replace vehicles with high mileage. Alderman Dunard asked if ticket revenue could go into police fund and Treasurer Flinn estimated the revenue at \$200,000 annually. Chief Taylor said that the 23 officers were working a lot of overtime due to under-staffing and cited the department had 28 officers in 2008.

Alderman Dunard asked whether Item 9 Vehicle for Building Department could be swapped for Clint Cunningham's truck. Burkemper said that Clint's truck would be in use by Public Works.

Alderman Horner said that we need to build back our labor and suggested to hire four officers in July and two additional officers in January for a total of six officers.

Alderman Jones believed that ten officers was out of reach but did agree that the City needed more officers suggesting the City hire four and then come back in January to revisit the matter. Mayor Sconce aid if added four new officers would put general fund \$500,000 in the red.

It was clarified that the CARES Act money was placed in General Fund Reserve. Mayor Sconce started with Departmental Budget Requests item by item for comment. Item 1 was on hold for now. Item 2 for Public Works employee was left in. Item 3 for Flood Study was removed as Woodard & Curran prepares the MS4 plan encompassing the area of the Highway J creek branch to Witte Trucking. Item 4 was partially left in for \$2,000 to pay for one bullet-resistant window for Second Floor Police Department window. Item 5 was removed. Item 6 was changed to \$30,000 and placed in General Fund Reserve. Item 7 remained in the budget and moved to General Fund Reserve. Item 8 remained in the budget as a three-year lease purchase. Item 9 was removed and the use of an old police car was suggested. Items 10 and 11 were approved. Items 12 and 13 were removed. Item 14 was left in the budget and moved to General Fund Reserve. Item 15 was removed. Item 16 remained in the budget and changed to funds street, water and sewer. Item 17 stayed in the budget and moved to general fund reserve. Items 18, 19, 20, 21 remained in the budget. Item 22 remained in the budget and moved to general fund reserve.

Departmental Budget Request Item 1 was discussed to hire four officers beginning in July plus two more officers in January. Citizen Harvey Rhoads commented that public safety is most important and the City needs more cops. Mr. Rhoads thanked the aldermen for working for free as elected officials for the community.

The Mayor adjourned the Budget Workshop at 8:50 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor Ron Sconce