

City of Troy, Missouri
Budget Workshop
Wednesday, May 17, 2023
6:30 P.M.

Present for the Board of Aldermen Workshop were Aldermen Gary Leifert, Kay Diekemper, Steve Jones, David Norman, Harold Horner, and Mayor Ron Sconce. Alderman Rachel Dunard arrived later. Also present were Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor Jared Comer, Woodard and Curran Operations Manager Greg Freiden, Parks Director Ryan Howell, Building Official Dave Lindsey, Public Works Superintendent Jeff Burkemper, Judge Gary Grunick, Police Chief Jeff Taylor, Finance Director Linda Flinn, Attorney Jesse Granneman, and City Clerk Tonya Hawkins.

Mayor Sconce called the budget workshop to order and led in the Pledge of Allegiance. He turned the meeting over to Finance Director Flinn.

Finance Director Flinn read a quote from Government Finance Review. "The budget is the most important policy document that a local government produces because it outlines resources for a community's policy priorities," she said.

She provided a high-level overview of the budget. She explained that four-step pay increases had been added for employees who did not receive a minimum of a four-step increase in the current fiscal year. She explained the most notable item would be the pay increases, which had been tabled until now.

Alderman Diekemper asked about the cost of the pay increases. Finance Director Flinn said the total cost of the increases was \$222,000, which includes everything except workers compensation insurance and overtime. Alderman Jones asked if four steps was agreeable for department leaders. Finance Director Flinn explained that department leaders met on May 16, 2023, to discuss pay increases.

Mayor Sconce clarified that anyone who received a pay increase of four steps in FY23 was excluded from pay increases in FY24. Alderman Leifert asked how the increase pertains to the compensation study. Mayor Sconce and Finance Director Flinn explained that they used the steps provided in the compensation study. Alderman Jones said he believed the four-step pay increase was fair. Mayor Sconce said he was looking for equity.

Alderman Horner asked individual department leaders if they felt four steps was fair. All department leaders agreed.

Mayor Sconce explained that departmental budget requests were not included in the budget summary, and he said those items would go toward a deficit.

Alderman Diekemper mentioned using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for grit removal efforts. Mayor Sconce agreed and said payments would be spread out over three years, which would give the City a chance to look at capital improvement funds over time.

Alderman Horner asked how long we have to spend ARPA funds. Finance Director Flinn said the funds must be committed by December 2024 and spent by December 2026. Operations Manager Frieden explained grit removal plans.

Mayor Sconce said the debt service on the wastewater treatment plant retires after next year, and the City will gain \$700,000 more per year. He added that new sewer rates would help.

Alderman Horner asked if grit issues were due to infiltration. Supervisor Comer said yes, 100 percent. Superintendent Burkemper explained this is why more sewer lining is in the budget for FY24.

Alderman Jones asked about three Ford Escapes requested for the Building Department. Official Lindsey said this is to replace the two trucks the department currently uses. He said when one of his trucks breaks down, he borrows a vehicle from another department.

Alderman Horner asked about three Chevy Tahoes requested for the Police Department. Chief Taylor said the listed cost of \$87,213 was an estimate. He said the department is still waiting on pricing for vehicles from FY23. He said he has a fleet of 15 patrol vehicles; he would like the fleet to be comprised of 12 new vehicles, two existing Dodge Durangos for K9, and one existing Charger. He said he wants to start rotating cars out at 50,000 or 60,000 miles.

Official Lindsey asked Chief Taylor if he would use ARPA funds allocated to the Police Department for the requested vehicles. Chief Taylor said three cars would come from ARPA, and three cars would come from the FY24 budget for lease.

Alderman Norman asked if Item #5 (Two, One-Ton Trucks, equipped) was for snowplows. Superintendent Burkemper said yes.

Alderman Diekemper asked for the source for the sewer van quote. Superintendent Burkemper explained that dealers have come to Public Works to do demonstrations. He explained the City would have to go out for bid.

Alderman Norman asked Parks Director Howell if he was seeking a used truck. Director Howell said yes, and explained he needs a truck for the cemetery.

Alderman Jones asked Chief Taylor the difference between .com and .gov. Chief Taylor said it was for security reasons.

Alderman Jones asked about Trimble Catalyst DA2 requested for the Building Department. Official Lindsey said it was for tablets.

Official Lindsey said Boonslick Regional Planning would give the City a \$5,000 break if the City opts to conduct a Comprehensive Plan and Planning and Zoning Ordinance. He said the last comprehensive review was updated in 2012, and the Planning and Zoning Ordinance was revamped in 2000. Alderman Dunard asked if ARPA could be used. Director Flinn confirmed that ARPA could be used. Alderman Dunard asked about funds in 02 General Fund Reserve.

Alderman Dunard asked about Apple Tablets + Gear. Alderman Jones explained the tablets for aldermen would help the city go green. He said it would save money and get rid of paper packets.

Alderman Dunard asked Official Lindsey to get quotes for Macs instead of HP tablets.

Alderman Horner asked about a zero-turn mower requested for Parks/Cemetery. Parks Director Howell explained the last mower for Parks/Cemetery was purchased four years ago. Alderman Horner asked what brand he was considering. Director Howell said he was looking at a Kubota.

Alderman Horner asked about a skid steer loader requested for Streets, Water, and Sewer. Superintendent Burkemper confirmed he was planning to purchase the equipment outright. He said he is considering a Kubota.

Building Official Lindsey explained his request for SAM Surveying and Mapping. He said this would preserve data for 10 to 20 years. He explained issues with connectivity with sewer mapping. He said this is the same system Lincoln County Government uses.

Alderman Leifert asked Superintendent Burkemper if he consulted the bank for a lease. Superintendent Burkemper said he used Sourcewell. Finance Director Flinn said Public Works was considering an operating lease, not a capital lease.

Alderman Dunard asked if Superintendent Burkemper checked with Kubota in Bowling Green for equipment. Superintendent Burkemper said Kubota has a protected selling area, and he had to consult Mordt Tractor.

Alderman Dunard asked about a cost of living pay increase. Director Flinn explained the pay increases that were included in the budget summary. Alderman Dunard said if another step is not included across the board, the City would fall behind again.

Building Official Lindsey read pay increase amounts given to some employees in FY23. He said all increases should have been considered at budget time. He said the compensation study was conducted by a professional company that did not know anyone personally at the City of Troy. Official Lindsey said he did not expect to pay to work at the City of Troy.

Alderman Jones explained that before Alderman Dunard arrived at the meeting, all department leaders agreed to the four-step pay increase for employees who did not receive a minimum of a four-step increase in FY23.

Aldermen set the next budget meeting for Tuesday, June 6, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

The budget workshop adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor Sconce