

# SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**September 4, 2013**

The special Working Budget Meeting of the City Council, City of Audubon Park, was held on Wednesday, September 4, 2013 at 7pm at City Hall with the following people present: Mayor Mike Scalise, Councilpersons Joanne Bader, Nancy Zinner, Vince Osbourn, Al Huber, Mark Stevens and Cary Campbell. Also present was Officer Mike Minniear and Interim City Clerk Robin Shouse.

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mike Scalise at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014:** The meeting was opened with Mayor Scalise explaining that this was a working budget meeting and that there would be no comments allowed from the audience. He also introduced Carrie Ritsert as an applicant for Audubon Park City Attorney. Councilperson Osbourn introduced the projected spread sheet of the city budget and stated they would only be discussing items that were highlighted.

City Clerk Health Insurance supplement was \$826.90 paid to former Clerk.

City Clerk Approved vacation, sick payment was approved and was accrued over her tenure at Audubon Park. The final payment was \$4279.90.

Codification of ordinances-Councilperson Osbourn asked if Councilperson Campbell wants to keep this in the budget since we have a \$10,000 deficit. Councilperson Campbell stated they had no choice and that the approximate cost is \$7500 per year over a two year period. Councilperson Bader wants to revisit this topic but Councilperson Campbell says that they have no choice because state law demands the codification of ordinances. Councilperson Bader says the KLC says there is no penalty for not doing the codification but she knows it needs to be done. Nancy Zinner questions the Mayor on why the codification was not done in the past and the Mayor says stated that we are doing it now. The codification topic was tabled and left at \$7500.00.

Worker's Comp- is currently \$15,600.18 and it has been discovered that the Workers Comp Insurance can be reduced by \$5286.78 and the general liability would be reduced by \$5108.14. The city won't get money back because the city makes payments, so the credit will be applied to future payments in this fiscal year. The city will realize these cost savings in this budget.

Public Works: Councilperson Campbell says he has a company who can cut the grass at \$10,000 a year. Councilperson Bader wants to keep the works department position as a full time position. Councilperson Campbell says her assumption that the work can't be done cheaper is not a valid reason to keep our public works employee. Campbell wants to keep the position, but at a fraction of the cost. Councilperson Osbourn asked Campbell who the grass company was that he got a quote from and Campbell said he couldn't remember the name; it was a company who was cutting his neighbors grass. He had them quote the price. Osbourn wants Campbell to figure the costs of what it would be to outsource the Public Works job. Campbell reiterated that he wants to keep the public works job, just outsource the grass cutting duties.

Councilperson Bader says that the public works position is intangible and the Mayor followed up by saying that you have loyalty with a full time employee that you don't get with a part time employee. Campbell once again says to make the position part time and "contract out" the grass. Concerns arose about how to find a works replacement if Jason, the current employee, quits because he cannot afford to work part time. Campbell says a good interview process will weed out the bad people. Councilperson Bader suggests the council get a consensus and vote on whether the position will be part time or full time. Councilperson Stevens supports Bader by saying that the city has someone at their beckon call and having that is worth the extra money.

A consensus vote was held to leave the position of Public Works at full time and the consensus was 5-1 with Cary Campbell dissenting.

Public Safety- \$30,000

Parks general expense: \$12,000

Public Safety Salaries was adjusted from \$255,848.00 to \$247,520.00

Councilperson Campbell wants to discuss an investment in having a website developer come in and revamp the current website because he feels it is inadequate. He suggests \$5,000 will cover the cost. Councilperson Bader wants the website to be interactive where permits and records can be obtained on line and it would free up the city clerk of those duties. Councilperson Stevens says this needs to be done but is not knowledgeable on the costs of this type of service. The rest of the council agreed that this needs to be done and stays with \$5,000.

Road Funds: \$57,000 was left over from last year's budget and there is some discussion on how to carry this amount of money over from last year, to this year. Councilperson Campbell wants to look into a bond issue to cover the costs of street paving for all streets within Audubon Park. The council can decide which streets need to be paved. The Mayor is against bonds because it will put the city into debt. Campbell also says that if the streets are repaved, it will cut back on the need for public works to fill pot holes. The street paving will be increased to \$55,000.

Councilperson Bader made a motion to pass the budget. Councilperson Huber seconded the motion. Councilperson Campbell made a motion to table Bader's motion and Councilperson Zinner seconds his motion. Bader inquires why Campbell made his motion and he said he wants the city attorney to look at the budget and give the residents time to look at it also. He also is concerned that there may be some amendments and that it would cost the city extra money for the publishing of the amendments. This discussion continued for some time and then Councilperson Osbourn asked Campbell when he thought the budget could be approved; Campbell did not answer. Then Councilperson Stevens asked Councilperson Zinner why she doesn't want to approve the budget and she said because she doesn't understand why the council is moving money around. She also didn't have enough time to review the budget and to understand it thoroughly. Councilperson Bader told Councilperson Zinner that she can assist her with the explanation. It was motioned to vote on the "table the vote" on the City Budget. The table of the vote motion failed. The motion to pass the budget as it was presented was voted on and passed with the vote being 4-2 in favor of passing the budget, it passed with Cary Campbell and Nancy Zinner descending.

**Check Signing Authorization:** Mayor moved onto Check Signing Authorizing business: It was motioned by the Mayor to give Gloria Curran, with Veeneman Associates Accounting Firm, check signing authority. Chief Jeff Cox will also have check signing Authority. Councilperson Huber seconded the motion. Vote to pass motion giving check signing authority to Curran and Chief Cox passed unanimously. Mayor Scalise will have a municipal order at the next meeting to reflect this motion.

**Introduce applicant for Audubon Park City Attorney:** Mayor Scalise introduced Carrie Ritsert again as an applicant for the City Attorney position. He also introduced James Hodge as her Senior Partner. Ms. Ritsert answered questions from the council and says she wants to modernize the city ordinances, help with the cities codification and find court revenue money for public safety. It was also asked of Ms. Ritsert if she would solely represent the city or would her partners be available as well. She said the City of Audubon Park would have all three partners from Hodge, Singler and Ritsert working with the city. The legal firm has a conflict with the third Monday of the month so Mayor Scalise suggested changing the meeting date of the city to another day of the week. Councilperson Bader requested that Ritsert submit some available days and they the council will evaluate them. Ms. Ritsert and her associate left the meeting.

Councilperson Zinner wants a choice in the attorney the city chooses and she is unimpressed with Ms. Ritsert's resume'. Councilperson Campbell does not want to take the first lawyer who comes through the door. Campbell said we also shouldn't vote on this attorney tonight, and we can hire her services as needed without a vote. Councilperson Bader said that the city needs an

attorney with municipal law background. Councilperson Campbell wants to start precedence and wants to quit hiring "a friend of a friend". He wants to be an Equal opportunity employer. Council Osbourn wants to keep looking for an attorney. Campbell says there are plenty of attorneys who would like this job; even attorneys out of state could be interested. The job should be posted.

Councilperson Osbourn wants to bid out paving of the roads. Mayor Scalise explained that Flynn Brothers can do this work because they already have a blanket government contract which has been negotiated by the state to be the lowest bidder. The City of Audubon Park will piggy back on this contract.

Councilperson Bader moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilperson Stevens seconded the motion. A unanimous motion was approved to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM

ATTESTED

Janice B. Bader

APPROVED

[Signature]