

Council Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2015

The City Council of Audubon Park held a special meeting provided under KRS 61.823 on Monday June 8, 2015 at 3340 Robin Road with the following present : Mayor Dorn Crawford and Councilors Darrell Shelton, Laura Stevens, Nancy Zinner, Tony Williams and Lindsey Breen. Also present were Police Chief Doug Sweeney, City Attorney Steve Emery and City Clerk Janette Mercer.

Call to Order

Mayor Crawford called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM. After inviting opening public comments, and hearing none, the Mayor presented a draft of May's financial report as to assist with setting the budget for fiscal year 2016. He asked the City Treasurer to present an update on the collections of the City taxes. The treasurer reported that 87% of the taxes have been collected with the 2% discount. She also reported that 34 residents have filed for an appeal of the PVA's new assessment. The potential decrease in total property value (if all 34 were approved for complete rollback to their previous valuation) is 1.855 million. The Mayor noted with a quick calculation that, worst case, the City could stand to lose about \$5K in collections. A spreadsheet reflecting these numbers is included as part of these minutes.

The Mayor started the budget review by asking the Councilors to set aside the budget message for easy reference, since it explains the key ideas in the proposed budget. He noted that the Council wanted to go line by line through the budget spreadsheet. They started with revenue. Laura Stevens wanted to take account of the discounted amount collected in property taxes. The Mayor questioned altering the baseline figure to be used to set tax rates next year. Laura Stevens said that she would like to see the discount, and perhaps an estimate for appeals, displayed in appropriations to account for the loss of revenue. Councilors had discussions on where to show the loss. The Mayor offered to have that discussion with the auditors. The Mayor walked through each line item and invited conversation and/or questions on each.

The following were Revenue line items that were discussed or questioned:

Police Services – Audubon Hospital was discussed and Chief Sweeney noted that he was discussing a modest increase in the contract fee.

Ordinance Recodification Grant - Mayor Crawford noted that the 2,300 is a carryover from the current budget. Laura Stevens asked if it should be coded as a carryover, understanding the issue with the Road Fund carryover. The Mayor stated this would be another issue for the auditors.

Proceeds of Community Activities – Mayor Crawford offered this line item as a fund to operate much like the Road Fund and Sanitation Fund... a 'stovepipe' item with projected revenue assigned directly to appropriations. He pointed out the corresponding line in the Public Works budget for expenditures.

The following were the Appropriations - Public Administration line items that were discussed or questioned:

Supplies and Equipment – Tony Williams wanted to be sure that the number reflected includes supplies for Laura Kelty, City Archivist. Mayor replied "no", because he is hoping to go to surplus property and property disposal for file storage and security equipment.

Repairs and Maintenance – The Mayor noted the line item has been increased to cover the cost of City Hall repairs, including heating and air conditioning, and painting the building. Tony Williams questioned if the number reflected includes windows. The Mayor replied “no”, the estimates that he received on replacement windows varied from \$6K to \$22K, covering a range of options of both quality and timing.. The Mayor note that Steve Cullen, the building inspector, has been involved in getting bids to complete some of the repairs needed at City Hall.

All insurance policy lines were discussed because the data currently on the proposal will change. The City received its insurance policy renewals with the General Liability premium increasing by 80%; Public Officials increased by 68% and Law Enforcement 34%, for a combined increase of about \$10K. Lindsey Breen asked the Mayor if he explained to KLS, if premiums increase more than 25%, then it is required to give a 75-day notice. Mayor Crawford replied he has been furnished the statute and will act accordingly.

The following were the Appropriations- Public Works line items that were discussed or questions:

The Mayor noted that the increase on Supplies and Equipment represents both a new truck and plowing equipment.

Mayor Crawford addressed the Public Facilities line item. That figure is based on departing Engineer Clinton Channell’s estimate of what would be required to fix the entrance lighting and some additional trash cans. The Mayor explained the \$18K Forest Management proposal as representing the Forest Board’s budget request, but with the deferral of tree removals. Darrell Shelton noted the revised figure from the Forest Board was \$25K, and hoped we could find means to fund the entire request.

The following were the Appropriations- Public Safety line items that were discussed or questioned.

The Equipment line was increased based on a grant to replace failing equipment.

Chief Sweeney feels most of this budget is in line with what will happen.

In summary, the Mayor noted that a number of line items in question remain to be settled, so we should anticipate another special meeting shortly in order to complete the budget for the start of the new fiscal year on July 1.


There being no further public comments, Nancy Zinner made a motion to adjourn. Laura Stevens seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9.25 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2015 at 7:00 PM



Attested



Approved