



CITY OF FLORISSANT
BUDGET MINUTES
OCTOBER 17, 2015



The City Council met on Saturday, October 17th, 2015 for a budget work session on the FY 2015-16 proposed budget at 8:00 am in the Council Chambers at 955 rue St. Francois. Council members in attendance included: Schildroth, Henke, Pagano, Schmidt, Siam, Lee, Eagan, Caputa and Jones. Also in attendance were Mayor Thomas P. Schneider, Director of Finance Randy McDaniel and City Clerk Karen Goodwin. Council President Eagan stated that a quorum was present and the meeting was brought to order.

Police Department – Chief Lowery, Capt. Boden

Chief Lowery reviewed his budget. He explained the way the dispatchers were listed in the budget with regard to hours needed to cover as opposed to positions. He stated that he shows an increase of one police officer. This is not an additional position; this position was moved from the courts to police.

Chief Lowery stated that the overtime account shows a small increase. He noted a minor increase on uniform cleaning and repair that reflects market trends.

Chief Lowery noted that the telephone budget has been taken out of the Police budget and put into the IT budget.

Chief Lowery stated that the forensic computer analysis is no longer free so the City has to pay a subscriber fee.

Dues travel training - Chief Lowery stated that there is a slight increase in St. Louis county municipal police academy. Funds are budgeted for Sgt. Peters to attend the Missouri Police Chief's Association command college in Jefferson City.

Community outreach – Chief Lowery is asking for \$2,000 for the police to interact with the public and the youth programs.

*Councilman Schildroth asked if \$2,000 was enough. Chief stated that they could always use more and there are always more programs to get involved in.

Chief reviewed the capital improvement requests.

Councilman Schildroth asked about the decoy cars.

***Councilman Eagan asked for a quarterly report on where they have been deployed. Councilman Eagan made a motion to take 2 additional cars and make them into decoy cars, seconded by Caputa, motion carried.

Chief Lowery stated that the CALEA assessors will be visiting in December. They invited the council to come and see the set up.

** Henke asked for a weekly email for reminders of upcoming events.

*** Councilman Schildroth made a motion to increase the community outreach to \$4000, seconded by Henke. **Councilman Eagan asked to let the council know what they are using the money for. Council and Chief Lowery discussed some of the potential community outreach programs. Motion carried.

Public Works Department

Public Works Director Lou Jearls, City Engineer Tim Barrett, began by reviewing the Public Works Department budget requests.

Mr. Jearls stated that they are requesting to re-classify the Health Dept. Foreman to a Superintendent. Councilman Eagan asked Lou Jearls to explain the request to change the foreman to the superintendent. Lou Jearls explained the responsibilities of the foreman, stating that the requirements never changed when the superintendent position was not replaced, the responsibilities fell on the foremen. At the time there were two foremen to split the job but now there is one.

Councilwoman Pagano asked about the grass cutting. Council discussed the billing of the grass cutting as well as the collection. **Councilman Lee asked how much the city was getting back from the property maintenance bills.

** Councilman Lee asked for a list of the yards that were cut. Greg Koester reviewed the numbers of the properties that are being maintained.

Mr. Jearls reviewed the 4800 accounts.

He stated that they are requesting to add one full time permit inspection clerk and one additional part time housing inspector.

Uniform and safety shoes. Mr. Jearls requested to add funds to the uniform account for uniform shirts for office 17 at \$200 each for a total addition of \$3,400.

Professional services – they added \$15,000 for tree trimming around street lights.

** Councilman Caputa asked for a breakdown by ward of street light repair or removal of trees. Councilman Siam asked about the cost of an additional street light. Mr. Barrett stated that they range from \$1500 to \$4000.

Councilman Eagan asked about the software for public works and Consultant/Programmer Dave Renner. Lou Jearls explained that he is not under contract. He explained that the software program was built in Filemaker Pro, which is a program used by many large corporations. Phil Lum explained the use of Filemaker and the comparison to what other cities are doing. Councilwoman Pagano asked what happens if something happened to Mr. Renner.

**Councilman Lee asked about the Handyman services contract. He suggested expanding the use of the program to include properties that are not vacant. Lou Jearls stated that he would like to expand the program but they have many more vacant properties that can be handled.

Councilman Eagan asked about purchasing the tax sale properties. Mr. Jearls stated that the city has acquired 2 properties. He stated that he is working with Carol O'Mara and the key is to get them fixed up and sell to a homeowner.

** Councilman Eagan asked for a report on these properties.

** Councilman Henke asked for a cheat sheet for the time frames for enforcement in Public Works.

**Councilman Eagan asked if someone could work with neighbors who may want to purchase a piece of property. He specifically asked for a report on #5 Linxous.

** Councilman Jones asked about being able to access the public works database to check on property. A tickler file was suggested, with updates on property requests. Mr. Jearls suggested that there would need to be a training session for reviewing properties in Filemaker.

Mr. Jearls reviewed the Capital Improvement budget requests.

Council discussed the historical significance of the Bockrath-Weise House. The Discussion involved the historic value as well as the cost to maintain the structure. Councilman Henke suggested funding the repairs for this year but work in the next year toward finding someone else to take over this historic building for the future. He did not like being in the home preservation business.

Parks Department

Parks Director Todd Schmidt, , Parks & Recreation Superintendent Cheryl Thompson, Park Maintenance Superintendent Bob Laramie reviewed the proposed budget.

Civic Centers – no changes.

Summer playground program salaries reflect a slight increase due to additional hours for training.

Bangert pool – Mr. Schmidt stated that the only change is the number of days of operation...less days.

**Koch aquatic center – Mr. Schmidt stated that with leakage and the slide tower evaluation is a difficult situation. They have been looking at alternatives without the slide tower. Mr. Schmidt stated that, in his opinion, the aquatic center has a number of viable years of life left.

Councilman Eagan asked about grant opportunities for the repair or replacement of a pool.

Councilman Eagan appointed a council Sub-committee to study and come up with a long term plan with regard to the Koch aquatic facility. Committee consists of Chair Keith Schildroth, Joe Eagan, Tim Jones, Jeff Caputa.

Park Improvement Fund

Salaries – Mr. Schmidt is requesting 2 part-time park maintenance employees to work year around and the removal of 2 seasonal part-time park maintenance employees. He is also requesting to eliminate a C person and add one additional B person.

Mr. Schmidt stated that they are working on a grant for the Korean War memorial that will be reimbursable, this is not in the budget at this time. He hoped to have a number prior to the finalization of the 2016 budget.

** The Mayor asked Mr. Schmidt to obtain an estimate and recommendations on the St. Ferdinand lake aeration.

Mr. Schmidt stated that he distributed a sheet with recommended changes in certain park fees. He is asking that the resident card fee increase be expedited if they are approve because the park department issues new resident cards at the end of the year. Council discussed some of the user fees that were being recommended.

Information Technology

Kim Emerson reviewed the proposed budget.

Senior Department

Peggy Hogan reviewed the proposed budget. Mrs. Hogan explained and reviewed the way the finances work with the Senior Commission. Many activities are funded out of the Senior Citizen Commission account.

Mrs. Hogan asked that the two part time senior dining center workers be moved to a clerk level because they are required to do so much more than they used to do.

**Councilman Lee asked for an account of the reimbursement for the meals for the senior center.

Theater Department

Gary Gaydos, Theater Director, reviewed the proposed budget. Mr. Gaydos distributed information about the upcoming events at the theater.

Mr. Gaydos distributed a handout regarding the funding that is received through grants as well as ticket prices.

Mr. Gaydos asked that the Assistant Theater Manager's salary be looked at as he feels this position was overlooked when the salaries were reworked. He handed out a memo with this request. He also asked that his part time clerk be upgraded to full-time or full-time part-time.

Media Department

Kerry Luster, Media Director presented the proposed budget.

Courts

Judge Dan Boyle discussed some recent legislation and his proposed budget

Housing Department

Carol O'Mara discussed her proposed budget.

Property Revitalization Fund – the HAP program is now finished and funds have been exhausted. Mrs. O'Mara stated that the program serviced 112 homes with down payment assistance. Mrs. O'Mara would recommend changes in the program if the Council chooses to refund the program.

**Councilman Caputa asked if Mrs. O'Mara could get the Council some recommendations.

Property Acquisition program – they have one home in the program at this time that was acquired from St. Louis County.

Housing resource center department budget salaries funded 50% funded of the community development program funds.

Mrs. O'Mara asked the Council to change the titles from Administrative Assistant to Community Development Specialists as well as changing the grade level from grade 4 to grade 5. The change would cost approximately \$2000.

Councilman Caputa asked about the safety issues of going into the houses to clean things up.

Golf Course

Terry Grosch, Golf Course manager presented the golf course budget.

Mr. Grosch feels the projections and requests have been adjusted to be more realistic.

Councilman Schildroth asked if they could get by with 2 fans instead of 4.

Mr. Grosch stated that all of the work they have done has been directed toward increasing revenues. A course in good condition gets more players.

Councilman Lee asked about the revenue estimates. Mr. Groesch explained the revenue projections and increasing return players.

Councilman Eagan asked about the estimated rounds of golf were played in 2014 and the 2015 numbers. Discussion was had on how to best advertise the golf course.

Mayor asked Mr. Grosch to comment on the pro shop sales.

**Councilwoman Pagano asked for a breakdown of the repairs for the equipment.

Administration

Randy McDaniel, Finance Director stated that the Administration budget includes the addition of one the full time HR Specialist position and the elimination of the part time HR Specialist.

Participation in the residency incentive program has increased, which has resulted in a budget increase.

Professional services.

Insurance – Mr. McDaniel stated that we have a larger premium due to increased work comp experience modification rate.

Election expense – Mr. McDaniel stated that there is nothing in the budget but the Council may want to take into consideration the vehicle sales tax issue, which will require an election.

New fund Court building fund reflects debt service for the purchase of the court building. The Court building fee will be used to reimburse the general fund for this expense.

Councilman Eagan made a motion for public comment of no more than 4 minutes for the public, seconded by Schildroth motion carried.

John Engelmeyer asked about the expenditures for the Valley of Flowers. He also asked about dues and travel. He made comments about the professional services fees and noted that court travel increased. Any input by the staff of the new building. Housing ..participation with St.

Louis County. Contractors, who are they and is there a report. Golf Committee – is there a report from the meeting. Need to do a better job of managing the golf course.

Council Discussion:

Council discussed being able to look at the information presented and adjourn to a later date to finish the discussion.

There being no further discussion, Councilman Henke moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Caputa, meeting adjourned at 1:06 pm.

Karen Goodwin
City Clerk

** Information requested

*** Action Taken