



CITY OF ABSECON
Municipal Complex
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CITY COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 12, 2015

BUDGET MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Chris Seher at 7:00 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Cain, Camp, Horton, Phillips, Ring Vizthum, Seher (late)
ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Armstrong; Jessica Thompson, Carie Crone

PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ON THE SUNSHINE LAW

NOTIFICATION OF MEETING BEING RECORDED

PUBLIC PORTION

Motion to open to public – Councilman Vizthum – second – Councilman Ring
All were in favor.

DISCUSSION

2015 MUNICIPAL BUDGET DISCUSSION

Jessica – explained the proposed budget documents and charts she gave to everyone. She went through each department with Council. They discussed what was put into the technology and computers budget. The budget covers what we pay Galloway to use their tech guy which is about \$16-17,000 a year; backup of the server is included; the website contract; virus software; etc.

LEGAL

Discussion on legal budget was held. The years from 2013, 2014 and 2015 were compared and contracts are completed and lawsuits coming to an end so there shouldn't be a need to budget for high legal expenses this year.

HEALTH INSURANCE

With employees having to pay towards their health insurance, it alleviates the city a little with their expenses.

POLICE

Salary and wages is down \$100,000 this year because of the police salaries due to retirements of the Chief and a Lieutenant. There are two vacant positions and interviews are being done now to fill them. They will be brought in at the starting salary. Reorganization of the department is being looked into to save on upper management salaries also. Police O & E is up a bit for equipment that is needed; the accreditation process that can start this year and crossing guard uniforms.

FIRE DEPT

Budget up \$1,300 for some repairs that are needed to be done.

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

Because of equipment being replaced, we are seeing savings in this line. It was able to be lowered \$25,000.

RECREATION

Discussed requests from the Green Team and Cultural Arts Society for things they would like to do and whether to put it in the budget. \$2,000 was added to the budget.

LIBRARY

The State determines this amount; there is a reduction from last year of about \$12,000.

COMPENSATED ABSENCE

This is money for a fund to pay out employees who retire and can get paid for some sick leave. She feels we should add some this year, so it is \$25,000 will be added.

UTILITIES

All were bumped up a little.

PENSION

The numbers are given by the State and they have all gone up.

REVENUE

All the income from the different departments was gone over and explained.

Chris would really like to keep the City's share of the tax rate the same as last year with no increase.

CAPITAL BUDGET

Eddie Dennis went through a list of projects that are semi-ongoing, part of grant programs or ones that have been discussed that would need to be considered if council wants to do them.

A list of projects and items to be purchased were gone through to possibly be done this year in the capital budget.

Everyone is to review and be ready for voting at the next budget meeting.

PUBLIC PORTION

Motion to open the meeting to the public – Councilman Ring – second – Councilwoman Horton

All were in favor.

Jerry Hoenes – 740 Shelburne Ave. – wanted to know what is going on in his street out front of his house. Eddie said a new gas main is being installed so they might be doing test borings. Asked about a tax collection rate,

Jessica – said it was about 97.41%. We are anticipating putting in the same amount this year as last.

Jerry - on the employee insurance, are they at the final phase in? Can an employee opt out and get paid if they can get insurance elsewhere?

Jessica - Yes, everyone is at final phase and we don't have an opt-out program.

Motion to close public – Councilman Vizthum – second – Councilwoman Horton

All were in favor.

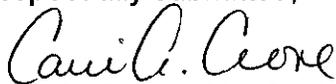
Next budget meeting is planned for February 26th at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn – Council President, Seher – second - Councilwoman Horton

All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 3-12-15