

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Budget Workshop

City Hall, Cherokee, Iowa

February 8, 2017, 5:30 P.M.

A budget workshop was called to order on this date by Mayor Murphy. Present: Council members Agnitsch, Brown, Johnson, Pingel, City Administrator Kooiker and City Clerk-Treasurer Cargin. Absent was councilperson Miller.

Administrator Kooiker added the following under 2.(a) Parks: Discussion of hotel/motel tax.

Cemetery – Jamie Hodgdon is requesting a small increase for part-time salaries. Over the last year they have done a lot of tree removal and straightening stones, which hadn't been done for many years. The two overhead garage doors on the storage shed are shot, as well as the roof. He included funds in his budget for a new steel roof and doors. Brown stated that he doesn't think putting money into the old building is cost-effective, when the new bathroom/storage building is built this old building should be torn down.

Parks – Duane Mummert explained his requests for increased funding which include a new roof on the shelter at Wescott Park, filling the cracks at the tennis court, underground electrical service in the upper campground at Spring Lake Park, funds for seal coating at the park and trails, a tractor replacement and mower replacement. Long term goals include putting pull-through camping area in the center where there is now tent camping.

Hotel/Motel Tax – Kooiker updated the council on the structure of a new hotel/motel tax advisory board, a reconstitution of the previous tourism committee, which has had several meetings lately. The function of this board will be to make recommendations for distribution of hotel/motel tax revenue. Kooiker will be bringing an ordinance forward which creates the framework for this board. Currently \$70,000 is allocated yearly to general fund recreational activities including swimming pool operations, and \$25,000 yearly for three years has been targeted to the CDBG Downtown Façade Program. FY17-18 will be the final year of contribution to the Façade Program. Until that obligation is met there are no funds available for other tourism-related programs. The council expressed agreement to authorizing the board to develop and submit funding requests for hotel/motel revenue once funds become available.

Recreation – Dave Ellis is requesting an increase for compensation to IC Parish for the use of their gymnasium. He is working out the details with the Parish. He is also requesting funds for weeding and spraying Wescott park. His request includes funds for new basketballs, an increase in fees for referees and a new computer at the community center for program registrations.

Community Center – Funding is requested to chip seal the upper parking lot, purchase new chairs for the south room and re-doing the stage front.

Aquatic Center – Three pumps have been sent in for maintenance at an estimated cost of \$20,000. Funding is requested for installing security cameras, new lounge chairs and new Red Cross lifeguard books.

Library – Zach Freking Smith reported his budget request is basically the same as the current year. Long range goals include new carpeting and updating the HVAC system.

Streets – Armond Rider presented his budget request. Funding is requested for a new salt/sand bunker, replacement of a skid loader a funding match for replacement of the Cherry Street railroad crossing and replacing a 1998 plow truck.

Water Department – Armond is requesting funding for necessary water plant upgrades and sand filters controls and valve replacement.

Wastewater – George Schmidt noted many upgrades needed at the wastewater plant including repairing of #3 aeration basin, repairing RAX pump, installing a new influent dual channel hydro-ranger, repairing or replacing the flow transmitter at MHI, purchasing a new sump pump, repair on digester #2 blower, and replacing several valves. Lift stations at Beech St., MHI and the solids handling building need new roofs. We are closing in on 20 years since major upgrades have been done to the plant. With the closing of the Tyson plant, wastewater revenue has suffered and yet the city has to maintain the industrial wastewater plant, pay utilities etc. The council discussed the implementation of a sewer system maintenance fee to increase revenue.

Adjournment.

Agnitsch made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Johnson. All voted aye. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Media Present: *None*

Mark Murphy

ATTEST:

Diane Cargin
City Clerk Treasurer