

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
BUDGET WORKSHOP
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2020, 5:30 P.M.
CHEROKEE CITY HALL**

A budget workshop was called to order on this date by Mayor Schmidt. Present: Council members Brown, Johnson, Loughlin, Miller, Pingel, Administrator List and City Clerk Cargin.

Department heads presented their budget requests for fiscal year 2020-21.

Dave Ellis, Recreation Director included funding for new concrete steps at the Community Center and replacing awnings at the swimming pool. Ellis mentioned that the swim team coach has retired and board members have approached him about swim team becoming a city recreational program. Pingel and Brown would like to hear a proposal from the swim team board/committee before pursuing this further.

Zach Freking-Smith, Library Director, commented that the library's circulation is increasing and complimented his staff. Tyler Hahn has applied for and the library has received numerous grants over the past few years, as well as developing new programming and outreach programs. The Library Board has approved a \$1.00/hr. wage increase for his part time staff. Freking-Smith is requesting that Tyler Hahn, Youth and Special Services Librarian, be changed from part time to full time status with a salary of \$35,000 annually. With the change of status, Freking-Smith is lowering his part time salaries budget request from the current amount of \$56,135 to \$41,000. Brown requested assurance that the part time budget of \$41,000 would be adhered to and Freking-Smith replied that it would.

Nate James, Police Chief included funding for a new "LETS" surveillance program, trading in a squad car and new computers for the squad cars as the current ones use Windows 7 and cannot be upgraded. He is applying for a Legacy grant to help with the cost of the new computers. He is also requesting funding for new vests for the reserve officers.

Greg Eaton, Fire Chief, reported on repairs needed to the fire station roof at a cost of \$6800.

City Hall proposed budget includes funding for plumbing upgrades and a panic button system.

Jamie Hodgdon, Cemetery Sexton, is requesting two new mowers.

Duane Mummert, Parks Superintendent is requesting funds to upgrade electrical pedestals in the campground, replace a mower and skidloader

Armond Rider, Public Works Director, reported on Streets, Water and Wastewater budget requests. Proposed funding for the Street Dept. includes replacing a 2009 dump truck & plow, rather than trading in the truck it will be passed to the cemetery department. Also included in the Streets budget request is \$22,000 for replacing a stop light controller and \$40,000 for grinding concrete. Water Dept. proposed budget includes funds for pulling three high service pumps and replacing a 2003 truck. The Wastewater Department budget

request includes \$40,000 for an RAS pump, and \$100,000 to replace a screen that is 23 years old and falling apart, and a lift station rehab to be funded out of Sewer System Maintenance.

List advised the council that the Hotel/Motel Tax Advisory Committee is requesting an increase from \$25,000 to \$30,000 for grant awards and also wishes to carry over unspent funds from the current fiscal year. After discussion the council decided to leave the grant funding at \$25,000 with a recommendation to the Committee that if they wish to fund a specific larger project they make a request to the council for additional funding.

The budget workshop was suspended at 7 p.m. in order to hold the regular meeting and reconvened at 7:30. The budget workshop was then adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Media Present: *None*

Craig Schmidt, Mayor

ATTEST:

Diane Cargin
City Clerk Treasurer