

City Council Planning Session
April 10, 2007 - 5 p. m. – 7:30 p.m.
Multi purpose room – Roosevelt Swim Center

Attending: Council President Johnson, Council Vice President Chapman, Aldermen Kroeger, LaCroix, Gundersen-Olson, Hadcock, Mayor Shaw, Kay Rippentrop.

Finance Officer Preston presented the revenue projections estimated for 2008 that showed a modest increase to 43.8 million which compares to 42.5 for 2007. Preston distributed a list of the unfounded initiatives and noted no additional funding sources for 2007. He presented a tentative budget schedule as follows:

- April 12 – Department Heads will prioritize their unfounded needs.
- May 11 – Undesignated balance to the Mayor
- July 2 – Mayor’s budget presentation to the Council
- July 23, 25 – Budget hearings before City Council
- August 9 – 1st time to Legal Finance Committee
- Sept 4 – 1st reading of budget ordinance
- Sept. 17 -2nd reading of budget ordinance

Preston noted that as far as budget projects, there are no additional funds available at this time due to rising costs for health insurance, operations and utilities. He reported that the City has little to no control over those items. The members present agreed that there is a need for more information from Department Directors on their departmental needs.

Going over the budget process, those members present pointed out some possible changes to consider:

- ξ Strategic plan/goals (need meeting to set goals and discuss management of overall growth)
- ξ Quarterly meetings of the City Council to produce conversations on items needed for growth/change
- ξ Forward leadership by elected officials
- ξ Council Operations – meetings – is there a need to always form committees?
- ξ Need for a “Bonnie Hughes” person – not a “Community Development Director” but rather a knowledgeable and outgoing city employee who can take issues and run with them. This would perhaps be a difficult job description to write but personality is important.
- ξ Revenue opportunities – annexation of business communities
- ξ Need to budget for outcomes of growth

Through the discussions, the Council agreed that there are many good issues that have come forward and they need to tell the community. Those include:

- ξ Land acquired – Skyline/M Hill
- ξ Additional travel has provided growth by Council members – community benefits
- ξ Council is generally good stewards of the taxpayer dollars
- ξ Need community involvement
- ξ Council role to give good guidance to Department Heads
- ξ Council needs to decide if they are “ready to cut” – budget consists of general fund and enterprise funds – lower contingency funds /fees/programs to cut/reduce such

as Small Business Development funds, ACE Coordinator position, need for Human Resource Director

Council members offered the following items as guidance to department head for this coming budget year:

- ξ Limit budget to 2%
- ξ Focus on affordable housing – attainable housing
- ξ Franchise fee increases
- ξ Family & Youth Development
- ξ Include additional inspector for streets (City infrastructure)
- ξ Fund a Human Resource Director starting July, 2007
- ξ Program redirection – what are your needs – not wants (put high priorities first and cut or redirect other monies)