

MINUTES
Finance Committee
Budget Hearing
August 14, 2018
City Hall Council Chambers

The meeting convened at 7:53 p.m.

Roll Call

Roll was recorded by Missy Wilson, Assistant City Administrator and the attendance was as follows:

Present: Alderman Jason Greene (Chair), Alderman Frank Hunt, Alderman Steve Meyers, Alderman Ryan Myers

Absent: Alderman Bonnaye Mims

Introduction

Michael Keenan, Finance Consultant provided introductory information.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1) Community Development

Ray Haydaripoor, Director of Community Development

The Community Development budget was discussed.

The Committee asked questions about revenues and the process associated with nuisance abatement including costs, warrants, court involvement and staffing needs.

2) Parks

Dave Turner, Director of Parks and Recreation

The Parks and Recreation budget was discussed.

Alderman Myers asked about the cost of April elections for the City and the cost was estimated at \$28,000.

The Committee asked the Parks Director to take the proposed Parks and Recreation budget back to the Parks Board to reassess the election line item.

The Committee requested that the Parks Director ask the Parks Board to consider incorporating GPS expenses as a line item for Parks vehicles.

3) Public Works

Damon Hodges, Assistant City Administrator

The Public Works budget was discussed.

The Public Works Department will continue to research the cost effectiveness of having an in-house inspector.

4) Police

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Jim Lynch, Chief of Police, Major Randy Hudspeth and Captain Michelle Rogers

Ms. Wilson advised the Committee that GPS systems are being researched and should be addressed shortly for all unmarked, and some marked, police vehicles. The first 90-days using the GPS system would be a pilot program.

The Police budget was discussed.

Alderman Greene inquired about the lack of a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) increases for city staff and the inclusion of step-increases in the Police Department's budget.

The Committee asked questions about training, supplies, staffing and the use of reserve officers.

Closing Comments

Michael Keenan provided estimated values for a 1% COLA increase (approximately \$86,000) and a 2% COLA increase (\$172,000). A COLA increase would apply to employees, not elected officials.

The Sewer Fund structure was clarified.

Adjournment

Alderman Greene adjourned the meeting at 9:17 p.m.