

CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP

NOVEMBER 10, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

A Council Budget Workshop of the City of Saint Marys was called to order by Mayor Robert Howard on Tuesday, November 10, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Council Room of City Hall, 11 LaFayette Street. Notice of this meeting was sent to Council on November 3, 2016, posted at City Hall, and published in the Daily Press.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Robert Howard, Gregory Gebauer, Nedward Jacob, Gary Anderson, Lou Radkowski, Andrew Mohney, Bob Mohr, Manager Timothy Pearson, Finance Director Carol Muhitch, Public Works Director Timothy Brennan, Public Works Deputy Director Travis Skrzypek, Chief of Police Tom Nicklas, Chief Operator Lad Kornacki and Plant Maintenance Supervisor Ike Kraus.

VISITORS

Visitors included: Amy Cherry and Jim Wolf.

BUDGET DISCUSSION:
Budget Recap

Manager Pearson provided a recap of the first budget workshop. The only item not finalized from the November 8th workshop was the Shade Tree Fund and was added to tonight's agenda.

Recreational Board
Presentation/Recreation Fund

Jim Wolf, member of the Recreation Board, provided a recap of the Recreation Fund, which is a millage fund of .9 mills equaling \$194,714. Total revenues were \$350,000. He stated expenditures were short \$8,000 each year. The last request for a tax increase was in 2006. He explained concerns with building and property maintenance, the aging community pool, management of the parks, purchasing procedures, capital purchases and obtaining grant funds. He provided pictures of the areas of the pool in need of repair. He proposed a Park Manager be hired to assist with the concerns. He proposed an increase of 3 tenths of a mill to the Recreation Fund budget to cover the costs for the position. He provided a one, three and five year plan details. He explained a list of proposed solutions.

Manager Pearson explained Mr. Wolf had presented the proposal earlier today to himself and the Finance Director. He stated the position had previously been discussed considered and recommended by City staff.

Council, the Manager, Finance Director and Mr. Wolfe had a lengthy discussion on the proposal presented.

Motion

Lou Radkowski made a motion to increase the Recreation Board budget by 3 tenths of a mill per the recommendation presented, seconded by Gregory Gebauer.

Discussion

Bob Mohr was concerned the newspaper had already published no increase in taxes and Manager Pearson responded at the first budget workshop there were no requests made at that time from any of the funds discussed at that workshop and the general fund did not have an increase. The Recreation Fund is a separate fund with its own millage rate.

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Bob Mohr asked if the increase could be given without a tax increase and Manager Pearson responded he didn't recommend it since it would need to be determined which other funds to decrease to offset the increase. The average increase per household would be between \$10 and \$20 dollars.

Gregory Gebauer commented he believed if Council wanted to keep the parks up to par, keep them top notch, the programs going and keep the community utilizing the parks and if this request is what the individuals who Council appoints to oversee the parks are asking of Council, it was Council's job to look seriously at this.

Lou Radkowski commented he had received comments from people that have visited the parks. He was told the City has incredible parks in St. Marys and some of those people would consider moving here. He further commented he believed the impression our parks make on people and the hard work done by the people involved with our parks made him agree with Councilman Gebauer. He also believed the case analysis and the cost benefit analysis included a tax increase but in the long run it would even itself out and could possibly pay for itself.

Gregory Gebauer stated if there was a tax increase he preferred it be to take care of the parks or fire department.

Nedward Jacob commented he believed if you want economic development you need good parks, a good police department and good hospitals as all are important.

Mayor Howard commented he lives next to Benzinger Park and believed it is well utilized. He also believed our parks were fantastic.

Gregory Gebauer stated he hoped the new position would oversee the summer staff and use them more effectively and economically than they are now. He further stated he would be very disappointed if he voted for this increase and it passes and he sees no improvement.

Council members stated the same concerns along with keeping the grass mowed and garbage picked up.

Jim Wolf responded their concerns were already on a list of things to address with the new position. He further stated when he presented his proposal he was already aware of the issues and knew the issues needed to be corrected. He stated, unless the Recreation Board members planned on taking vacation from their regular jobs to address these matters, there was a need to have someone to take care of these issues, because he believed the Board members could not do it all.

Gary Anderson was concerned with a full time position and believed an hourly contracted position might be more efficient. He further commented after September he believed there was not much going on and Jim Wolf responded most grants have to be submitted by December of each year, inventory processes would still need to be done, building cleaning and maintenance could be done and projects could be planned for the spring, since most

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capital improvement projects could not begin until the busy season was over in September.

Lou Radkowski commented in the early spring the parks are not cleaned or opened to the public yet but are being utilized by families and Jim Wolfe responded softball and baseball begins up to two months before the summer workers start working which he believed was an additional revenue source.

Gregory Gebauer questioned if the new position would be a working supervisor and Mr. Wolf responded yes absolutely. Mr. Wolfe stated the concession could be opened up and could make a profit, unlike this year where it lost money.

Roll call vote – Motion Passed

On a roll call vote all were in favor to increase the Recreation Board budget by 3 tenths of a mill per the recommendation presented. Motion passed.

Gregory Gebauer requested a quarterly update from the Recreation Board and Mr. Wolf agreed.

Shade Tree Fund

Manager Pearson explained the Shade Tree Commission had sent a letter requesting an additional \$2,500 for a total of \$10,000.

Motion

Bob Mohr made a motion to keep the \$7,500 the same as last year, and to maintain the trees they have, seconded by Gregory Gebauer.

Discussion

Nedward Jacob was concerned with the cost of replacing trees that are possibly in failing health on Erie Avenue and Gary Anderson responded the replacement trees do not have to cost \$1,250.

Gary Anderson also noted the cost for the replacement trees along S. St. Marys Street was much less per tree.

Bob Mohr suggested a bid process for the replacement trees.

Nedward Jacob questioned whose responsibility are the Erie Avenue trees once the organization that raised the money for them no longer takes care of them and Council members all assumed the Shade Tree Commission.

Mayor Howard restated the motion and asked for any further discussion.

Roll Call Vote – Motion Passed

On a roll call voted all were in favor, except Nedward Jacob and Andrew Mohny who voted in the negative. Motion passed.

Manager Pearson recommended the Shade Tree Commission request Council for any additional funds for projects that are not in their current budget.

Sewage Treatment Fund

Manager Pearson explained the Sewage Treatment Fund had no major ups or downs, a deficit in revenue, no proposed rate change, \$1.1 million cash on hand to cover the deficit.

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Carol Muhitch, Finance Director explained the new billing for sewer bills and the new part-time position added this year for the sewer office.

Tim Brennan, Public Works Director, provided details of the Charles St. project breakdown of funds.
Manager Pearson explained the details of the I & I fund.

The Wastewater Treatment Plant was discussed.

No changes were made to the fund as presented.

Administration

Manager Pearson explained the Administration Fund had increased for computers, supplies, summer help, equipment and a HR/PR position. The Manager recommended adding the HR/PR position.

Gary Anderson recommended considering a purchasing agent as suggested in the Novak Group Report.

The fund and the new position will be discussed further at the next budget workshop.

Bond refinance project

Tim Brennan, Public Works Director explained the recently approved repaving/base repair of City parking lots can no longer be done within the time frame for the required bond refinancing project. He will propose options for Council's consideration at the next budget workshop during the Capital Improvement Fund discussion.

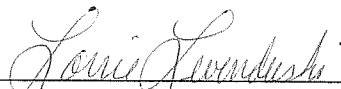
ANNOUNCEMENTS

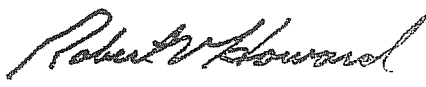
Mayor Howard made the following announcement:

- The next Budget Workshop will be held Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

Bob Mohr made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.


Recording Secretary



Mayor