

OCTOBER 26, 2009

Special Budget meeting was called to order by Mayor Meyer at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers, City Hall Plaza.

PRESENT: Michael Feirer, Alanna Feddick, Dave LaFontaine, Gordon H. Earll, Ed Wagner, Russell Stauber, Donald Krueger, John Spiros, Tom Buttke and Pete Hendler (arrived at 6:02 p.m.)

ABSENT: None

The flag was saluted and the pledge given.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

William Penker of 600 S. Sycamore Avenue. He spoke about the 2010 proposed budget and the budget process. The removal of the brush/branch and tree pickup is not realistic. It's an overreaction and it is a true value added service. Don't overreact but do adapt and if there is not a value added element; eliminate. Communication is very important. The public deserves to see and hear what is happening.

Mayor Meyer turned the chair over to Alderperson Feddick, Chairperson of the Finance, Budget and Personnel Committee.

The following budgets were reviewed: Planning and Economic Development; Historic Preservation Committee; Industrial Park Operation and Development; Office of the Mayor; Common Council; City Administrator' Office; UW College – Marshfield/Wood County; General Public Facilities Fund 405 – UW Building/Remodeling Project; Municipal Airport; Airport Capital Outlay 415; Cable Television Committee; Hillside Cemetery; Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund; Parks and Recreation Department; Room Tax Fund; Parks and Recreation Capital Projects Fund 420; Fairgrounds; Aging/Senior Center; Information Technology; City Assessor; City Clerk/Elections/Purchasing; Police Department (Law Enforcement, Ordinance Enforcement, School Crossing Guards, Dispatch Center); Emergency Management; Protective Services Fund; Fire and Rescue Department; Emergency Medical Services; Protective Services Capital Outlay Fund 410; Finance; Non-departmental budgets; Residential Rehabilitation Fund 204 and Debt Service Funds.

City Administrator's Office

Administrator Brehm explained that at the next budget meeting he will be asking the Council to consider adding \$5,200 into his budget to help fund the Marshfield Job Center. Earlier this year, the Common Council approved through a budget resolution an appropriation of \$5,200 to help the funding of the Marshfield Job Center for 2009. He met with staff of Wood County Social Services and others who are supportive of keeping the Job Center open in 2010. They would like the City's support again in 2010. He did not make this request in his 2010 budget because the budget was put together prior to the meeting with Wood County and others.

Hillside Cemetery

Alderperson Stauber requested information regarding the usage vs. the cost to maintain the chapel located at Hillside Cemetery.

Cemetery Sexton Baltus said that the chapel is only used about 2-3 times a year. He doesn't know the exact dollar about for maintaining the chapel but it is probably around \$10,000 - \$12,000. This facility was donated by the Vaughn/Hansen families.

Administrator Brehm added that they will get more details on what the costs and revenues are. But he also needs to check to see if there are any kinds of requirements or restrictions set at the time the chapel was donated to the city.

Parks and Recreation Department

Aldersperson Stauber asked if they have ever looked at getting the Oak Avenue Community Center off the books whether they relinquish that responsibility to a private organization or a not-for-profit organization that has a connection to the building. He also questioned the fairgrounds and the senior center.

Parks and Recreation Director Englehart responded that they generate about \$9,000-\$10,000 in revenues to help offset the costs. There are a lot of services that they do provide that are in the Parks Maintenance budget that are not directly attributed to that facility so it probably understates its true costs slightly. The building is used as a voting site and by a lot of public support groups (Marshfield Youth Football, Zoo Society, Boxing Club). He is not sure if this would be a viable option or if there would be groups to step forward but this is always something that could be looked at. The Fairgrounds was shifted to the Parks and Recreation Department shortly after he started. The Fair Association didn't want to maintain the buildings and the rentals and those types of things. It is working very well. The Senior Center budget reflects the maintenance and operation of the building. The senior group does a lot with their volunteers and programming and it is also used as a voting site.

Administrator Brehm added that Wood County also makes a financial contribution towards the fairground facilities although they are owned entirely by the City. As far as the Senior Center, it is part of the Blue Sky Project in the expansion of some of that land over there for this center as well as the Library.

Aldersperson Feirer stated that if the Blue Sky Project goes through and they build a larger facility, the ADRC (Aging Disability Resource Center) is chopping at the bit to move into this building so they can be next to the seniors. They will rent part of this building if it is built. They are looking for a permanent home and they would like to get with the seniors in the same facility.

Discussion was held on increasing user fees for the zoo. Some ideas that were shared were renting the facility out for birthday parties, company parties, etc., and possibly bidding out concessions for food and gifts.

Aldersperson Wagner asked if there was any measure or way that they can look at the cost effectiveness of the zoo itself.

Mr. Englehart said that he would have to get back to him with that information.

Room Tax Fund

Aldersperson Feirer said that they had a Convention and Visitor's Bureau Meeting last week and they looked at the room tax collection. It looks like it is running about 9% - 10% less than last year and it doesn't look good for the remainder of the year. What is budgeted for 2010 probably won't materialize. It will probably be about 10% or less than what is showing.

Information Technology

Aldersperson Wagner asked for information regarding the lifetime costs of the Enterprise Business System installation has been.

Finance Director Strey responded that they can respond to the contracted services but as far as staff time that has been put into this; they have not tracked that separately. That is part of their normal course of duties. They will respond as best as they can.

Protective Services Capital Outlay Fund 410

Aldersperson Stauber questioned the Emergency Vehicle Preemption System, FD-F-5807 for \$222,550 with the funding source being long-term debt. Could this amount of money be funded through the Emergency Medical Services fund which is funded by user fees?

Administrator Brehm said that a portion of that could be funded through the Emergency Medical Services fund that is pertinent to the ambulance and those vehicles that would have a need for that.

The next budget session will be held on Monday, November 2, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

Motion by Stauber, second by Spiros to adjourn at 8:14 p.m.

Motion carried

Deb M. Hall
City Clerk