Board of Aldermen Public Hearing Minutes
Monday, December 6, 2021 at 6:45 pm

Mayor Cozy called the Public Hearing to order at 6:45pm.

Present were Mayor Cozy, Administrator Rost, Alderman Viehland, Alderman Counts, Alderman Frossard, Alderman Sikes and Attorney Voss.

Mayor Cozy explained this public hearing is to seek input on the recommended adoption of the 2022 Annual Budget.

Administrator Rost said most the work was done by Travis Dierker before he got here and there were only a couple of adjustments that he needed to make following the last budget workshop meeting. He said the total budget for the city is about $6.5 million dollars and all of the accounts are balanced in all categories. The changes that were made from the last budget meeting workshop involve the building department. In the building department, adjustments were needed to accommodate the existing employee in the building department becoming certified. He said it does take a significant amount of time and in the meantime, we must provide building inspection services for commercial and industrial projects along with plan reviews. Mr. Rost said there was about a $15,000 adjustment to the budget. He explained it didn't go up, but we need to change the position back to assistant temporarily, provide the employee the cost-of-living increase since they will no longer be on probation, and give her a $1.00/hour raise due to the extra work being the primary contact for all building matters. Mr. Rost said this would be until that person becomes fully qualified and we no longer need these additional services. What would happen now is the person will come in, complete the application and it would go to the building assistant. She would present it to him, and he would determine what type of service needed to be provided. Mr. Rost said he has also spoke with Mr. Dan King, which is something he will ask the board to approve tonight, to come to work as a part time employee to handle those inspections and complicated industrial and commercial projects. He said as the building assistant meets the five qualifications, each time a certification is obtained, an incremental pay increase will be received. At the end of the day, she will be fully qualified to do building inspections and some plan reviews which will reduce the cost needed for professional services outside the city and allow her the opportunity to move into the building inspector position. He said he thinks the plan is sound and will work and the building inspector is happy with it as well.

Mr. Rost said everything else was pretty much the same at the budget workshop, including the salary schedule. We will, by resolution, ask to adopt the longevity salary policy that Travis worked on following the approval of the budget along with the police salary and increase for the next four years for the incoming term. He said it is a very sound budget.

Alderman Viehland said in running these numbers he noticed Ben Thomas, Laborer I, is getting a 10% raise, Megan Francis is getting a 7.5% raise and Dana Collins-Messex is not quite getting 5.3%.

Administrator Rost said these numbers, have been discussed thoroughly now in the budget workshops and what you are seeing there is the effect of their longevity with the city. All the rates are based off on longevity and the 5.3% cola rates.

Alderman Viehland said two of the people that were mentioned do not have a lot of years.

Dana Collins-Messex said Ben Thomas took on the Wastewater Pretreatment Coordinator position and that is why his supervisor asked for a raise for him. He has taken on extra work from the building department that Mr. Bursey was doing. She said she requested the raise for Megan due to the workload. That was the reason she asked for a little higher of an increase and it was what she presented in her budget.

Administrator Rost said that 90-95% of the budget was done by conversation he had with Travis before he got here. He said there were only a couple of issues that he needed to go in and work on, and those mainly had to do with the building department. He said he understands there was another raise given back in September and he has to write a letter to the union, who wanted a side letter attached to their contract to preserve that. He said there was a lot done before he got here.

Alderman Viehland said he was under the impression that everyone, other than the police department, would get 5.3%, but that is not the case.

Administrator Rost said the 5.3% is what is being added to those salaries now. The police departments will begin January 1st and will be an additional longevity policy for the police department itself.

Alderman Viehland asked if the longevity we gave back in September was included in all of this longevity pay.

Mayor Cozy asked if anyone in the public wished to address the board regarding the property tax rate for 2022.

Alderman Sikes asked for clarity with the change in the building department if the job title needed to remain the same as the original hire.

Administrator Rost said whatever that position was is what we would go back to. He said he thinks what matters is that she is doing the things she is skilled and qualified to do. The title at this time doesn't matter but he wouldn't call her building inspector. That can be changed in the future. Those changes are reflected in the budget, and she knows what they are and there are no surprises for anyone. According to the budget, it is building assistant.

Mayor Cozy asked if anyone from the audience had any comments. None were made.

Mayor Cozy closed this Public Hearing at 6:59 pm.

Cozy Bailey, Mayor

Date Approved: 12/20/2021

Attest:

Kim French, City Clerk