

CITY OF WYOMING, MICHIGAN
Minutes of the City Council Work Session
Monday, March 13, 2023

PRESENT: Councilmembers Brann, DeKryger, Hill, Postler, Mayor Vanderwood and Mayor Pro Tem Postema

ABSENT: Councilmember Arnoys

STAFF: Erickson, Hofert, Koster, McCarter, Smith, VandenBerg and Yenchar

1. Call to Order

Mayor Pro Tem Postema called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Student Recognition

None.

3. Public Comment on Agenda Items

None.

4. 2024 Budget Overview: Public Works & Utilities & CIP

McCarter explained this is the second of four presentations outlining specific city budgets. McCarter provided an overview of upcoming presentations and processes and noted initial budget documents will be distributed to council next week.

Erickson reviewed the principles that guide the operation of the Public Works and Utilities Departments. Erickson discussed operations and budget highlights for the funds addressing Streets, Motor Pool, and Water and Sewer Mains.

Erickson noted the City's Capital Improvement Plan, outlining projects for construction years 2023, 2024, and 2025, and noted this will be detailed in a public meeting on Tuesday, March 14, 2023.

Erickson next discussed the Water Treatment Plant, noting the population it serves and recent projects completed at the plant. Erickson provided an update on development of the third transmission line, including potential funding mechanisms and rate increases to support this project. Erickson reviewed budget highlights and water rates of various communities.

Erickson explained the Clean Water Plant is nearing completion of the ultra-violet disinfection project. Chemical costs will be reduced as a result of this project, however there will be an increase in electrical power. Erickson reviewed upcoming projects, budget highlights, and sewer rates of various communities.

Finally, Erickson noted Wyoming's efforts to assist residential customers in the case of water and sewer backups. In fiscal year 2022, 48 addresses were assisted through this program at a cost of \$135,000.00.

Council held lengthy discussion on rate increases and the metrics behind proposed rate increases.

5. Police Equipment Purchase

McCarter introduced Captain Eric Wiler to share information about a purchase of police rifles and shotguns.

Captain Wiler provided details on the use of police rifles and shotguns and the value of these tools in certain public safety situations. It is now time to replace these items and there is an opportunity to trade-in existing equipment for credit toward the purchase of new items.

Council supports moving this item to the next regular city council meeting.

6. Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)

McCarter introduced this item, noting Hofert's goal tonight is to educate council on the use of PILOTs and how they can be used to encourage residential growth and economic development.

Hofert explained the purpose of a PILOT and how it is used as an economic development tool to assist in the development of housing. During the months of April and May, Hofert will be presenting several housing-related items to further educate council on the community's housing needs. Hofert noted the City's limited existing economic development tools and reviewed Wyoming projects where PILOTs have been used and what staff might consider in a proposed PILOT request. Hofert further discussed how PILOTs can help developers make residential projects economically feasible while providing needed housing and quality developments.

Hofert noted two potential PILOT projects and is seeking council feedback to develop policies to guide the use of PILOTs. There was further discussion about the use of municipal service agreements in conjunction with PILOTs.

Council would like to review the city's existing policy, PILOT project history and the value of municipal service agreements to the City with these projects. Staff will also work on a draft policy and incorporate any feedback provided by council.

7. Board and Commission Compensation

VandenBerg provided the background and history of compensated boards and council's role in establishing the compensation rates. The last time these rates were adjusted by council was 1999. Based on a recent compensation study, an increase has been proposed for four of the current compensated boards. A resolution has been prepared for council's consideration and can be presented at the next regular city council meeting.

Council supports moving this item to the next regular city council meeting.

8. Human Resources Reorganization

McCarter noted recent changes in the Human Resources Department and with a recent vacancy, a reorganization of the department was deemed necessary. McCarter explained the changes proposed and costs and timelines associated with these changes. McCarter further shared how this reorganization supports succession planning within the department. Employment contracts related to these changes will be presented to council for consideration.

Council supports moving these items to the next regular city council meeting.

9. Any Other Matters

None.

10. Acknowledgement of Visitors/Public Comment (3-minute limit per person)

None.

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Kelli A. VandenBerg, City Clerk