

CITY OF WYOMING, MICHIGAN
Minutes of the City Council Work Session
Monday, April 8, 2024

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

ABSENT: Councilmember Arnoys

STAFF: Chapman, Engerson, Hofert, Shay, VandenBerg, Vis, Waterman 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. WKTV's Request for Increased Franchise Fee Payments

Shay explained the recent communication from WKTV, seeking an increase in franchise fee payments. The cities of Wyoming and Kentwood receive public, educational and government (PEG) fees and franchise fees from cable-television providers. Wyoming provides all PEG fees and 37% of these franchise fees to WKTV. WKTV's request is to increase the franchise fee percentage to 47%. Kentwood has a similar arrangement and is also being asked to consider an increase in PEG fees.

Tom Norton, WKTV Executive Director, spoke on potential legislation that would consider the use of streaming services and how fees are assessed for those services. Norton also noted how the increased franchise fees from the municipalities would be used in the short term to hire a development director to assist the station in fundraising and seeking grants. Depending on legislative outcomes, it is possible the franchise fee percentage could be reduced in the future.

Shay and Norton answered questions from council.

Council was generally supportive of this request. Staff will adjust the budget to include the change in franchise fee percentage for council consideration.

5. FY 2025 Budget Presentation

Yenchar reviewed the discussion and budget status since the last work session, noting the budget is also available online for public viewing. Final budget consideration will be presented to council on May 20. The proposed budget continues to be updated based on feedback provided by council.

Yenchar explained the basic framework of the budget process, including how the strategic plan goals aid in budget development to ensure funds are allocated to facilitate specific goals. Other items of note in developing the fiscal year 2025 budget include a review of fee schedules, developing a city-wide five-year capital improvement plan, assessing staffing levels, assessing Motor Pool needs, and separating public safety revenues and expenditures from the General Fund.

Yenchar provided an overview of property assessments and how taxable value estimates are generated. Historic and current information was shared on state equalized values, taxable values, and millage rates. Engerson provided some clarification on the property assessment process and millage rates. Yenchar outlined how these millage rates and property values result in tax revenues.

Yenchar reviewed various fund summaries, noting revenue sources, major expenditures and strategic goals and objectives for each fund. Shay, Yenchar, and Vis responded to council questions related to the budget and budget processes.

Shay outlined next steps, noting the final proposed budget will be provided by April 15. The budget public hearing will be held on May 6 and budget adoption will be presented to council on May 20.

6. Any Other Matters

None.

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

None.

The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Kelli A. VandenBerg, City Clerk