

CITY OF WYOMING, MICHIGAN
Minutes of City Council Work Session
Monday, February 11, 2019

PRESENT: Councilmembers Burrill, DeKryger, Postema, Postler, Vanderwood (6:05 p.m.)
and Mayor Poll

ABSENT: Bolt

STAFF: Balfoort, Dooley, Erickson, Holt, Koster, Ooms, Oostindie, Rynbrandt, Sall,
Smith and VandenBerg

1. Call to Order

Mayor Poll called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

2. Student Recognition

None.

3. Public Comment on Agenda Items

None.

4. 2019-20 Budget Review

Holt introduced this agenda item, noting the general plan for budget review from this point to budget approval in May. Tonight's presentation is a very high-level overview and in the coming weeks and months, specific budget areas will be reviewed more thoroughly. Holt welcomed councilmembers to submit requests if there are specific questions or need for additional information on any of the budget items presented.

Balfoort reviewed millage rates and other revenue sources and the estimated amounts of each. Next Balfoort reviewed employee benefits, employee contributions and anticipated trends in the cost of providing fringe benefits. Balfoort discussed the annual required contribution to the pension fund and referenced areas that are now fully-funded and other efforts that have reduced this liability. Balfoort reviewed the drastic reduction in OPEB liability, noting the contribution of the implementation of the Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug (MAPD) plan in reducing this obligation.

Balfoort reviewed General Fund revenue sources, including 2019 estimates and 2020 proposed amounts of each source. Balfoort also discussed state shared revenue, taxable values and personal property tax revenues.

a. Building Inspections Fund Contribution to OPEB

Balfourt explained a budget amendment has been proposed to authorize the payment from the Building Inspections Fund to the Retiree Health Trust Fund. This funding shift will result in the Building Inspections OPEB portion being fully-funded.

5. Master Plan Consultant Recommendation and Funding Request

Rynbrandt provided background to council on the purpose and requirements of maintaining a community master plan. Rynbrandt noted the changes in the community since the approval of the current land use plan in 2000. It is time to complete a comprehensive review of the master plan. Rynbrandt gave background on the process used to seek professional services to complete the master planning process. A placeholder of \$70,000 was budgeted in the 2019 budget for this purpose. The final cost of this project was expected to exceed this placeholder amount and part of awarding this contract will include a request for a budget amendment. Rynbrandt noted savings identified from recent staff transitions and a potential grant of \$20,000 could also contribute to funding this effort.

Councilmember Postema noted the review team’s general consensus that the chosen service provider had the most robust background and experience to complete the master planning processes.

Council supported moving this item forward to the next regular City Council meeting.

6. Panhandle Sanitary Truck Sewer Capacity Study

Dooley discussed the development of the sanitary sewer system in the panhandle area of the city and the changes that have occurred in that area since. There has been interest in developments with higher densities and it is important to determine if the existing system can accommodate that growth. This study will evaluate the sanitary sewer and its ability to support higher density growth. If authorized, Dooley anticipates the results of this study in early summer.

Council supported moving this item forward to an upcoming City Council meeting.

7. Michigan Indigent Defense Commission Update and Recommendation

Smith noted the purpose of the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC) and standards that have been created to provide legal counsel to indigent criminal defendants. One of the areas of concern is ensuring availability of competent attorneys to assign to these cases. It is recommended that the city and district court contract with the Kent County Office of the Defender for the coordination of attorneys for these cases. Smith discussed the benefits of contracting this service through the Office of the Defender and noted other district courts are doing the same.

This item will return to Council for consideration once Smith has developed a contract with the Office of the Defender.

8. Odd/Even Parking Ordinance Update

Smith noted the recent challenges with residents' failure to abide by the odd/even parking ordinance during the recent inclement weather. Some of the items addressed in this proposed update include expanding those authorized to issue these tickets and allowing for the removal of vehicles after 48 hours when ticketing does not result in the movement of the vehicle. This will be presented as an emergency ordinance so it will take immediate effect.

Council supported moving this item forward to the next regular City Council meeting.

9. New State Legislation Regarding Fireworks Regulations

Smith explained there have been recent changes in fireworks laws. The most notable component of this new legislation includes allowing local ordinances to restrict fireworks use to a more limited period of time than what is currently permitted. The fire department is supportive of approving the minimum standards and new penalties.

Holt noted many communities in this area will support the minimums identified in the law. For ease of enforcement it would be best if we are consistent with neighboring jurisdictions.

Council supported moving this item forward to an upcoming City Council meeting.

10. Any Other Matters

None.

11. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

None.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Kelli A. VandenBerg, City Clerk