

COUNCIL SPECIAL WORKSHOP MEETING

December 10, 2013

Mayor Coate called the meeting to order.

Present were: Mayor Coate; *Councilmembers:* Fred Francis, Debbie Miller, Jason Tinnerman, Scott Fogle, Ora Ashley, and Susan Willis. *Also present were:* Manager Kline, Ben Herron, Tim Swartztrauber, Jill Grise, and Clerk Cantrell. *Absent:* None.

Dated: December 10, 2013

Signed: Linda L. Cantrell CAP-OM
Clerk of Council

2014 BUDGET

Manager Kline stated all the changes Council requested had been made to the 2014 Budget. One hundred and five thousand (\$105,000.00) dollars was added to the budget to purchase a camera, do mapping, and additional money for work to be done on the streets. He stated the following had also been added: employee pay increases; three thousand (\$3,000.00) dollars for codification of Ordinances; and three thousand three hundred and fifty (\$3,350.00) dollars for CMI to implement the meter reading software for billing.

Jason Tinnerman stated he was still curious about the need for base mapping and whether it would be useful. Tim Swartztrauber stated the Municipality's mapping system is very poor. Mr. Swartztrauber stated they do not know where the storm sewers are, which way they are running, the size of the pipes, or what is hooked into the sanitary sewer.

Mayor Coate asked how many catch basins had problems when the smoke testing was done. Mr. Swartztrauber stated twenty-two (22) catch basins had smoke coming out of them and needs to be repaired.

Mayor Coate and Jason Tinnerman asked once the camera is purchased wouldn't they be able to see where the storm sewer lines are located. Mr. Swartztrauber stated yes. Mayor Coate and Mr. Tinnerman asked if the Municipality could hold off on the base mapping. Mr. Tinnerman asked if the base mapping is done would the Municipality need the camera. Mr. Swartztrauber stated he could work without the base mapping; but the base mapping is really needed.

Jason Tinnerman asked if there was any place in the budget that could be cut. He asked if maybe something could be cut out of the Police Department budget. Manager Kline stated the only place he could see to cut would be to cut out the dress uniforms.

Debbie Miller stated the deficit spending is very uncomfortable; however you can feel the difference in the town. She stated pride in the town has increased. She recommended doing Market Street and doing it well. Ms. Miller stated she thinks what the Municipality has been doing for the town has had a positive impact on the town.

Fred Francis stated he would like to see Council have a sub-committee to work on the budget for 2015. Ora Ashley stated he feels it is the responsibility of the Municipal Manager and the Department Heads to do the budgets rather than bringing it for Council to do.

It was discussed that in the future the amount the Municipality pays for the employees insurance may need to be cut and raises may not be as much.

Debbie Miller asked if Manager Kline had heard anything about there being some financial help for Municipalities in the future. Manager Kline stated that at this point several cities and municipalities across the state have increased their taxes.

Mayor Coate stated he was okay moving forward with the 2014 budget; but if the 2015 budget has a higher deficit he thinks the Municipality will have to be careful with its spending. Fred Francis suggested passing the 2014 budget as is and try to see if there would be any way to cut expenses. But he stated the Municipality needs to look at cuts and increasing income for the coming years.

Jill Grise stated the Municipality lost one hundred and eight thousand (\$108,000.0) dollars of monies previously received from the State and one hundred fifty-seven thousand (\$157,000.00) dollars received from interest in past years.

Jason Tinnerman asked Manager Kline, Fire Chief Frantz, Police Chief Kimpel, Ben Herron, Tim Swartztrauber, and Jill Grise if they were open to having a three (3) person committee to help work on the 2015 Budget. Manager Kline stated they would not take offense at all to having a Finance Committee. Scott Fogle stated he feels the committee should be established in January of 2015. Mayor Coate stated he thinks this should be discussed in the January 2015 Council Workshop Meeting.

Discussion took place regarding what work should be done on Market Street. At the November 26, 2013, Council Workshop Meeting it was discussed that the following should be done on Market Street: travel lanes needed to be widened to 14', do a full depth reclamation, a final overlay, engineering, grading, and miscellaneous supplies. Scott Fogle asked since Market Street is not a main thoroughfare if all that work needed to be done. After discussion, it was the consensus of Council to go forward as discussed in the November Workshop Meeting.

Manager Kline stated he would instruct Jill Grise to get the new numbers prepared for the 2014 Budget and have it ready for passage at the January meeting.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Jason Tinnerman stated he talked with the gentleman regarding the dam removal he mentioned at the November Workshop Meeting. Mr. Tinnerman stated he made it clear to the gentleman that he was not representing Council. He stated he did not care to see the dam go; that he did not see the purpose in taking it out. Mr. Tinnerman state he personally thinks Council owes it to the committee to look at this and make sure this is what this Council wants to do. Fred Francis stated he goes back to what can Council do legally. Manager Kline stated it is his basic understanding that in order to get the water lines to go under the river the dam had to come out. He stated he will check with Law Director Sell to get more history regarding the reason for the removal of the dam. Manager Kline stated approximately two hundred and seventy thousand (\$270,000.00) dollars has been spent out of the grant to have the dam removed. Manager Kline will check with Law Director Sell to see if the Municipality has any options in this matter.

Manager Kline stated not everyone has completed their Christmas decorations, so the Christmas Pride Awards will be given out at the January 2014 Council Meeting. He stated he will have Mr. Herron put the signs out once the winners have been chosen. Manager Kline stated he would have Joyelle of the newspaper take pictures of the houses.

Manager Kline stated instead of spending seventeen hundred (\$1,700.00) dollars to purchase fourteen hundred (\$1,400.00) dollars of visa gift cards for the employees for Christmas, gifts cards will be purchased for local restaurants.

ADJOURNMENT

Fred Francis made a motion, seconded by Debbie Miller to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

Linda L. Cantrell CAP-OM
Clerk of Council

Michael Coate II
Mayor