

**City of Medical Lake
Budget Workshop Meeting
S. 124 Lefevre Street
10/19/2017**

Mayor Higgins called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Council, staff and audience said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Present: AJ Burton, Destiny Stein, Shirley Maike, Laura Parsons and Jessica Roberts

Excused Absences: John Paikuli and Elizabeth Rosenbeck. Councilmember Maike moved to excuse, Councilmember Stein seconded. All vote Aye.

Staff Present: City Administrator Doug Ross, Mayor John Higgins and Finance Director Karen Langford

Others Present: Fire Chief Jason Mayfield and interested citizens.

Mayors Report:

PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS & RECOGNITION

Mayor Higgins went over expenditures and projects coming up in 2018. Mayor Higgins stated he would like justification for items the council may think are needed. City Administrator Doug Ross explained how he calculated the revenue projections for 2018. Salaries, benefits, fuel, utilities and insurance are all fixed expenses for city operation. The approximate \$200,000.00 that was left in the police reserve fund was transferred into the general fund in 2015. This is the final year for the EMS levy.

Councilmember Roberts asked Mayor Higgins for his advice for the up and coming future. Mayor Higgins stated he could not see the City supporting a fulltime fire department. However, Mayor Higgins did think that adding some more EMS employees would be beneficial, due to the higher EMS call volume.

FIRE/EMS:

Fire Chief Mayfield explained his need for new monitors and the annual purchase of turnouts. He is following up on the rechargeable batteries and stated that all the trucks have been pump tested and most have maintenance issues. He would like to lessen the City's truck volume and buy a truck that holds more water. Chief Mayfield made a proposal for a fulltime Fire Chief position at \$70,000.00 per year. Chief Mayfield stated the chief would maintain the same type of duties, including running EMS calls. City Administrator Doug Ross reminded the council that a revenue source was needed. Chief Mayfield thought a fire levy would be a good source for funding, after the EMS levy is completed. Chief Mayfield feels a combination department would be best for the City, a fire chief and part-time Fire/EMS employees. The council is hoping for funds from the state. A fire levy may give approx. \$388,000.00. Councilmember Roberts would like to revisit the City's staffing situation. She suggested to "tighten" up the City's ranks and check to see if all full-time positions need to remain full time. Councilmember Maike suggested the City wait to see if the money comes through before we offer just a year of change. City Administrator Doug Ross says it's up to the council, revenue and the people. It was also discussed possibly reducing sheriff policing from 24 hours to 20 or 12 hours. Councilmember Stein feels we need Fire Chief. Mayor Higgins asked for a proposal to bring to the council. Councilmember Roberts asked about a bond as well.

LAW ENFORCEMENT:

Mayor Higgins stated the contract with the Spokane County Sheriff's Department will not be available until November. The City will have to pay the contract for 2018, however, the Council can the cancel contract for 2019. Mayor Higgins thought it had to be cancelled by the end of December. Currently the City has 24/7 coverage, plus an extra officer at the school. The school pays for the extra officer at the school. Council wanted to know the savings of 4 hours per day and what time period had the least amount of calls.

STREETS:

City Administrator Doug Ross stated the City will not change the snow plow process for the streets. Although a complaint was made, the City has certain priorities set. Chief Mayfield asked the City to make the fire station a priority. The street funds have not been transferred from the general fund yet, that is why it shows a negative balance. Councilmember Roberts asked for lights around walking paths, mainly by Fox Hollow. City Administrator Doug Ross will look to see if Avista helps with that.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Parks & Recreation Coordinator Lomas is looking at the possibility to contract out the Voyagers Program. The cost would have to remain comparable to what we charge now.

W.W.T.P.:

Councilmember Maiké asked if the utility rates would be lowered, due to the payoff of the wastewater treatment plant. City Administrator Doug Ross said the rates should not be lowered in order to cover cost for unforeseeable water main breaks and sewage pumping that may happen. Utility taxes could be raised to recoup some costs, however, citizen's bills will go up. City Administrator Doug Ross spoke about the intertie contract with Spokane, as a new water source, that he will be bringing to the next council meeting. The City may need to raise rates because of the cost per thousand gallons that the City will have to pay.

FINANCE:

Finance Director Karen Langford had nothing for council. City Administrator Doug Ross will get copies out to councilmembers about our impact accounts and reserve funds.

DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS FOR THE CITY:

Councilmember Parsons went over a list of some things that council had talked about in the past.

- A. Purchasing a generator for City Hall.
- B. Putting together a citizen emergency handbook
- C. An outline for city employees & city council, for city emergencies beyond the City's control.
- D. A reader board outside of Medical Lake City Hall.
- E. An emergency line item to pay for food for firefighters.
- F. Sending out an electronic questionnaire to the citizens, also a possible question and answer page on our website. A website that is interactive and informative.
- G. Having SCOPE officers or police go to Waterfront Park and physically check things out.
- H. Get yard waste carts more publicized.
- I. Repair and redo signage for the walking path around the lake.
- J. Leaving Pepper Park as a natural area and getting Goose repellent for Waterfront Park.
- K. Having a city-wide clean-up day.
- L. City e-mail addresses for councilmembers to make them more available to the community.

Fire Chief Mayfield requested WIFI availability for the volunteer firefighters

Adjournment: Councilmember Burton motioned to adjourn, Councilmember Roberts seconded. All voted aye. Meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM.

Mayor

Finance Director