Council Study Committee
January 13, 2014
Minutes

Members present: Greg Marchant, Eric Mathieu, John Parker Jr., Brad Ross, Greta Southall and Mayor Kelly Shaw. Absent: Pam Pepper.

Also present were: Chuck Burgin, Diana Bowlin, Doug Bylund, Dave Button, Brian Seymour, RoxAnne Hunerdosse, Joyce Godwin, Dan Miers, Ed Yando and Mike Bowlin

City Manager Eric Hanson and Finance Director Chris DesPlanques discussed the FY 2015 budget with the committee. Highlights included:

- Budget Objective
- Overview of where the City is today
    - Tax levy history
    - Current debt
    - Looking back 10 years (income vs. expense)
    - Taxes per capital comparison
- Structural changes in cash management/accounting
- FY 15 going forward
    - Budget 101
    - 2014 increases affecting the budget
    - Commercial tax changes
- Review property tax driven budgets
- Issues affecting FY15 budget and beyond
- Council decisions
    - Budget/service operational priorities
    - New priorities not previously in the budget
        - Strategic planning goals and priorities
- Recommended changes in current budget/services
- Tax/levy rate
- Alternate sources of revenue

Committee priorities:

- Need to streamline
- Make cuts to expenses and increase taxes
- Maintain a quality of life
- Public and fire safety – do not cut from these budget
- Economic Development
- Waste Water Pollution – do not cut from this budget
- Possibly not opening the pool this year
- Need to find alternate sources of revenue

Those speaking were:

Al Farris, 811 E. Salem, stated this meeting was very informative and asked the committee to phase in a 10% increase in taxes. The Library and Park and Recreation are also a huge priority for residents and urge the committee to keep it balanced within all departments.

Jon Vernon, 401 W. Ashland, stated they should not close the swimming pool; this is a quality of life for our residents.

Kathy Farris, 811 E. Salem, was concerned with cutting programs for the kids. The Library and Park and Recreation services are important to have for a good community and asked them to raise taxes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.