

Council Study Committee
January 21, 2014
Minutes

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

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:

- The City has some financial challenges but they can be fixed
- Indianola is a strong and growing community
- Necessary adjustments will need to be made but services will continue with operation changes
- Recommendations to cut of approximately \$512,000 to property tax driven departments:
 - Will cut personnel in all tax driven departments
 - Police Department – one officer and a vehicle in an amount of \$105,000
 - Fire Department/ambulance – Full-time mechanics position will not be filled plus \$5,000
 - Park and Recreation – 2 full time positions (P&R Director and Assistant Horticulturist) will not be filled, reduction in printing, conferences, travel, dues and reducing maintenance expenses – total of \$280,000. The emerald ash bore problem has been left in the budget
 - Library – has reduced their budget by \$110,000 – a retiring full-time and part-time employee will not be replaced, reduction in books/materials and travel by 35%, not opening on Sunday and a reduction in hours from 60 to 52/week
 - Pool will not be opening until Memorial Day and will close when school starts - \$12,000
- The non-property tax budgets were also discussed (sewer, road use tax, TIF, general government)

Committee discussed:

- The budget timeline - sets a public hearing at the February 3, 2014 council meeting for March 3, 2014.
- Debt Service schedule is out to 2041 which includes the SRF loans.
- Greg Marchant stated he was disappointed that the second officer would not be hired. Also the City would not be closing any city parks and all services will still be there. He also said he was disappointed in the Record Herald and Indianola Tribune's headline stating the City is broke.
- Another council study committee meeting will need to be held to discuss the tax rate – possibly the week of January 27, 2014

- Commend the staff for the work they have done on their budgets
- P&R Director would not be rehired for at least 1-2 years – in the interim the Recreation Director and Park Director's job description will be restructured
- If tax rate was increased, the Police Pension would go into trust and agency
- IMU budget will need to be presented to the council

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.