



***COMMITTEE of the WHOLE***  
***Budget Review***  
***CITY COUNCIL***

**Minutes**  
**October 31, 2016**  
**Penn Room**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

S. Marmarou, J. Waltman, J. Slifko, B. Twyman, M. Goodman-Hinnershitz, D. Reed, C. Daubert

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

L. Kelleher, C. Younger, D. Cituk, D. Pottiger, W. Stoudt

The Committee of the Whole meeting was called to order at approximately 5:05 pm by Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz. Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned Ms. Encarnacion's absence. She noted the importance of her attendance and participation as Acting Administrative Services Director. Mr. Pottiger stated that he was unsure why Ms. Encarnacion is absent.

**I. Budget Review Meeting Schedule**

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule to review the budget. Meetings are scheduled for November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Slifko expressed concern that none of the changes identified have been made to the budget and redistributed to Council. He stressed the need for Council to see the effect of the changes that have been made to date along with the correction of the various errors identified. He also expressed concern that to date Council and the administration have not addressed the Parking Lot issues identified during the review process and they have not come to terms on various discrepancies and controversial issues.

Mr. Waltman and Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz agreed with the issues described by Mr. Slifko. Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz requested that Council receive new budget binders with all the corrections no later than Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. She suggested a meeting on Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> to settle the parking lot and controversial issues.

As various Councilors have schedule conflicts for Saturday November 5<sup>th</sup> and the 12<sup>th</sup>, the date for the Saturday meeting will be discussed further at the November 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

Ms. Kelleher was asked to change the Act 47/Budget review session with PFM until Monday November 14<sup>th</sup>.

## **II. Mount Penn Preserve Meetings**

The email listing the Mt. Penn Preserve Strategic Planning schedule was distributed. Council questioned why some meetings are scheduled during the work day and on Monday evenings. Council inquired about the names of those serving on the Steering Committee and Executive Committee.

Ms. Reed announced that an email postponing the Strategic Planning meetings until early 2017 had just arrived.

## **III. Budget Review**

### **1. Fire Department**

Chief Stoudt stated that overall the salary line item is increased due to the need for an adjustment to the sick incentive bonus that is provided annually. He also noted that the uniforms line item will increase as the City wants to provide department personnel with a second set of turnout gear.

The Chief stated that the Administration area employs the Chief, four (4) 1<sup>st</sup> Deputies, one (1) 1<sup>st</sup> Officer and a Clerk.

Mr. Daubert pointed out the errors in the calculations for Social Security, Pension, and Fringe Benefits. Mr. Pottiger said that he would check these calculations.

Mr. Daubert questioned the number of errors appearing in these line items and noted his discomfort as the corrections have not occurred. He questioned the value of the errors throughout the entire budget.

The Chief stated that the Prevention area employs the Fire Marshall and three (3) Lieutenants. The Contracted Services line item provides for 3<sup>rd</sup> party plan review as needed and the General Plant line item provides manuals and a variety of educational items. The Community Services line item covers the smoke detector program.

The Chief stated that the Suppression area employs 92 personnel, which is currently five (5) below the amount budgeted. He stated that there are an additional three (3) firefighters scheduled to DROP between February and August 2017. They plan to begin a class in March 2017 to hire eight (8) new firefighters. He noted that the administration is working to replace outdated fire stations. In response to a question from Mr. Marmarou, the Chief stated that the administration is looking to do a land swap, using the 9<sup>th</sup> and Marion playground to replace the 9<sup>th</sup> and Marion fire station.

The Chief stated that the EMS area employs the Deputy Chief, four (4) Lieutenants and 28 paramedics. He noted the high demand for EMS services and the high number of calls by citizens who are seeking inappropriate transportation to the emergency room for services that could be provided by a family practitioner or Urgent Care facility.

Mr. Daubert noted the number of overall errors in the calculation of the Social Security, pension and fringe benefits throughout the Fire budget and again he questioned the overall savings that could be realized by making the corrections throughout the 2017 budget.

## **2. Law Budget**

Mr. Younger stated that the only change in this budget area is the inclusion of outside legal counsel to handle the upcoming contract negotiations and arbitrations budgeted at \$300K under the Special Counsel area.

## **IV. Other**

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned the amount of unpaid legal expenses for 2016. Mr. Cituk explained that in governmental accounting the expense is charged to the year the service was provided, unless the books are closed out for that year when the payment is made.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:40 pm.

*Respectfully Submitted by  
Linda A. Kelleher, CMC, City Clerk*