

City of Wabasso
City Council – Special Workshop
Monday, November 28, 2022
5pm

The meeting opened with the recitation of the pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Atkins called the meeting to order with Council members Roger Baumann, Jeff Olson and Brad Salfer present. Also present was Larry Thompson, Jim Jenniges and Kyle Salfer

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the proposed 2022 Operating budget.

Mr. Thompson presented an overview of the budget as follows:

- Remaining budget schedule.
- The budget is based on estimates through November 2022.
- The 2016A Refunding Bond tax levy ended in 2021 which was replaced by the 2022A GO Improvement bond levy.
- Property tax increase of .33%. Again, the total tax levy can be decreased after the Truth in Taxation hearing but not increased.
- Wages – Proposed wage increase of 5% due mostly to inflation and job markets.
- No change in staffing levels. The city will continue to use People Services until Jim Jenniges obtains his Class C licenses in 2024
- Covid Relief Aid – Received in 2021 and 2022 to be used for Water meter.
- City insurance – Allocated liability and workers comp insurance premiums by departments and funds per the insurance policy.
- Community Center – Proposed capital improvements of \$12,500 to include installation of cameras for zoom meetings and council/board meetings. The budget also includes \$10,000 for updating the bathrooms.
- Public Works – Capital Improvements include the following
 - Tractor Trade \$30,000
 - Lawnmower Trade \$ 3,500
 - Grapple Bucket \$ 7,500
 - Rake Attachment \$ 1,000
 - Sealcoating \$40,000
 - Street Repairs \$35,000

Sealcoating and street repairs be allocated based on need. The Council may have to modify how much is spent in each category based on the USDA RD Sewer Rehab Project.

- Library Fund – No major changes. The budget is set by the Library Board and is for informational purposes. The budget includes support from the city General fund of \$46,495
- Fire Department – no major changes for original preliminary budget. As previously noted, I am recommending \$10,000 be earmarked for a future truck replacement. The budget includes support from the city General Fund of \$29,707.
- Ambulance – No major changes. The budget includes support from the city General Fund of \$15,900.
- EDA Budgets – This budget is set by the EDA and is for informational purposes. The EDA tabled action on the budget at its last meeting as I was out with COVID.

- Debt Service Funds are governed by the enabling resolutions and mostly cannot be amended until the debt is retired. There will be some substantial transfers from the EDA General Fund to the Tax Abatement Fund (#405) for the 2022/2023 lot sales (Samyn, Salfer and Schmidt) The Tax Abatement fund was used to finance the May Street Improvements.
- Water Fund – Proposed increase of 5% to keep up with the cost of electricity, supplies and chemicals. First full year of the service maintenance agreement approved by the Council in 2021. It is proposed to purchase a Water Tower Telemetry switch for \$15,000 in 2023.
- Sewer Fund – Recommended sewer rates be increased by 10% for the City share of the USDA RD Sewer Rehab project. The Council recently approved a letter of commitment with the USDA, and it is anticipated the state will approve its commitment in 2023.
- Sanitation Fund – No major change. Proposed rate increase of 5% to keep up with inflation. The city was recently notified that the Redwood Renville Regional Solid Waste is increasing its tipping fees by 23% and the city is waiting to hear what impact the increase will have on city rates.
- Debt Schedule – Revenue sources have been updated to include all funding sources. The 2022A Improvement Bonds Fund (Cedar Street) was updated with the bond resolution requirements approved by the Council last July. This fund will be updated once the assessments have been finalized.
- Proposed capital improvements for listed 2023 – 2027. This will be updated once the budget is adopted after the Truth in Taxation Hearing.
- Storm Sewer Fund will be added once the ordinance and facilities plan has been approved.

Questions/comments from the council.

- City should purchase a commercial grade microwave for the Community Center asap.
- Funding should be added for Community Center exterior painting
- Approval of the Water Tower Telemetry Switch should be added to the next council meeting for approval
- Staff to research status of Lamberton Ambulance Agreement and monitor Ambulance staffing needs.
- Staff should closely monitor the pending railroad strike as it may impact the availability of water chemicals.
- Add 2023 Salaries to the next agenda

Motion Olson, second by Salfer to adjourn at 5:45 p.m.

Atkins – yes; Baumann – yes; Olson – yes; Salfer – yes.

Larry Thompson
City Clerk/Treasurer/Administrator