

MONONA CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
REVIEW OF 2023 OPERATING BUDGET
October 27, 2022

The meeting of the Monona City Council Committee of the Whole was called to order by Mayor O'Connor at 5:37 p.m.

Present: Mayor Mary K. O'Connor, Alderpersons Teresa Radermacher, Patrick DePula, Brian Holmquist, Nancy Moore, Doug Wood, and Kathy Thomas

Also Present: Interim Administrator/Finance Director Marc Houtakker, Senior Center Director Diane Mikelbank, City Planner Doug Plowman, Police Chief Brian Chaney, Library Director Ryan Claringbole, Parks & Recreation Director Jake Anderson, and City Clerk Alene Houser

ROLL CALL

COUNCIL REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF 2023 OPERATING BUDGET

Overview

Interim Administrator/Director Houtakker reviewed a Power Point presentation of the budget summary. The total property tax levy is \$9,514,866. The average house, assessed at \$428,700, has an average property tax increase of \$179.74 for the City's portion of the property tax. Non-represented salaries increased 2%. The projected Fund Balance is \$1,453,531 or 21.01%.

Senior Center

Director Mikelbank presented her operating budget requests and highlighted changes from the 2022 budget:

- Revenues were updated to be more realistic for this coming year. Seniors are not ready to have large catered lunches.
- The Senior Commission voted to increase the New Bridge contract 3%. This is not a personnel line item but it does pay salaries.
- RSVP relies heavily on volunteers and we pay for a coordinator to pair up senior in need with volunteers to give rides. There are not enough volunteers so it is currently only for medial rides. This is used as a last resort because they need five days notice. If the demand does not pick up and we retain current employees, this could potentially be cut in the future.

Planning

Planner Plowman presented his operating budget requests and highlighted changes from the 2022 budget:

- Professional development increased by \$500 due to the hiring of a new employee.
- Supplies decreased by \$400 due to historical usage.

Police and Emergency Communications

Chief Chaney presented his operating budget requests and highlighted changes from the 2022 budget:

Law Enforcement

- Professional development increased by \$500. Department is fully staffed and will now have the opportunity to do more than just the required amount of training.
- Fitness incentive budget was removed; physical fitness is just as important as mental fitness.
- Community events budget was removed.
- Fuel & Additives hybrid vehicles get better gas mileage; the vehicle shuts down and use the battery when idling. Due to supply chain issues the two hybrids that were ordered for this year still have not arrived.

Emergency Communications

- Professional development increased by \$200
- Criminal records check – the City is charged \$7 for every license that needs a background check. This will be offset by an administrative fee increase.
- Dispatch overtime is significantly higher than last year; this is resulting from the part-time employees not being able to work as much and Assistant Chief Deuman not being able to fill in as much due to her other job demands.

Library

Director Claringbole presented his operating budget requests and highlighted changes for the 2022 budget:

- Professional development decreased by \$1,000; it is important but staff is finding more resources online for a lower cost.
- Gas & Electric Utilities increased due to energy costs being significantly higher right now.
- Periodical and Pamphlets decreased by \$1,000; magazines and newspapers are getting harder to find and subscriptions are being reduced based on demand.
- Adult books decreased by \$500

Parks, Recreation, Community Center, Pool

Mayor O'Connor informed Council that the Friends of San Damiano will be paying for San Damiano mowing maintenance and utilities for the coming year.

Director Anderson presented his operating budget requests and highlighted changes for the 2022 budget:

Seven full-time employees work across these four budgets.

Parks

- Park salaries have decreased but part-time has increased; the parks department was understaffed before the San Damiano purchase. The busiest time is April through October and the typical part-time summer help works May through August. Adding an addition 1200 hour position covers the busiest time of April through October.
- Portable restrooms have increased due to an increased number of special events, additional restroom rentals, and a per restroom per week fee increase.

Community Center

- No longer having private rentals, this is just the cost to maintain the building and programing.

Recreation

- Programing has increased a lot in the last five years. Reducing tax levy from about \$80,000 to about \$50,000, which means revenue is up. Additional dedicated full time person is needed due to the demand for both afterschool and summer services.
- Credit card surcharge will now be charged to purchaser instead of being absorbed into the budget.

Outdoor Swimming Pool

- Staffing has been an issue across the country. Monona pool is successful due to high resident and nonresident usage, aqua Zumba instructor, open swim times, and swim team.

Revenue, Finance, Legal, Assessment, Paid Family Leave, Tourism, Transit, Renew Monona, CDA, Inspections

Interim Administrator/Director Houtakker presented his operating budget requests and highlighted changes for the 2022 budget:

Revenue

- Expenditure Restraint Program, the City qualified again for 2023.
- Court costs, Monona does not keep all of the revenue, a portion of each ticket goes to the state and county.
- Fire Protection fees has increased. The state reimburses \$500 for each accident that occurs on the beltline that has not been paid by insurance.
- Boat launch fees have decreased due to Ace no longer selling the permits for the City.

Legal

- Legal retainer (City) has increased due to the number of lawsuits and a rate increase.

Assessment

- Professional services for property assessment, the City is in the last year of a four year contract with Accurate Appraisal. Will be going out for bids for 2024.

Paid Family Leave

- The City pays for two weeks of family leave, this account is for paying overtime if we have to cover a shift.

Tourism

- The City gets to keep a portion of the room tax collected and the rest has to be spent to encourage tourism.

Transit

- This budget reflects the current contract and not Madison Metro.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Alder Holmquist, seconded by Alder DePula, to close the Committee of the Whole.
Motion carried (8:20 p.m.).

Alene Houser
City Clerk