

THURSDAY, 7:00 P.M.

MAY 18, 1995

BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

NEWBERG, OREGON

ROLL CALL:

Present:

Roger Currier	Alan Halstead
David James	Alan Larking
Donna McCain, Chair	Dave McMullen(7:50)
Melinda Newland (7:10)	Bert Pennock
Tracy Pinder	Andrew Poole (7:30)
Barbara Secor	Robert Soppe
Robert Weaver	Dan Wollam
Don Wright	

Others Present:

Donna Proctor, Mayor	Duane Cole, City Manager
Katherine Tri, Finance Director	Robert Tardiff, Police Chief
Terry Mahr, City Attorney	Diane Padilla, Asst. Fin. Dir.

Chair Dan Wollam called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m..

MINUTES

The minutes of the April 20, May 2, and May 4, 1995 meetings were reviewed. **MOTION:** Bert Pennock/Roger Currier moved to approve the minutes of the April 20, May 2, and May 4, 1995 minutes. Approved by those present.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chair Dan Wollam asked if there were any additional questions about the Community Development Department. There were no questions.

NEW BUSINESS:

Election Results: Kathy Tri handed out the election results from the Tuesday mail-in ballot. It showed that the Police department and Fire department serial levies both passed and the Library serial levy failed. The handout also included how the levy election results compared to the mail-in ballot survey. The Police and Library election results and the mail-in ballots were identical, and the Fire department was very close.

Allocation of Discretionary Funds: Kathy Tri provided background on her memorandum on Allocation of Discretionary funds. She indicated that she went back and reviewed certain revenue projections. The County has completed it's reassessment and refund to Cascade Steel and the impact on our current year property tax revenues is less than anticipated. There is an additional \$10,000 available. In addition, all the franchise fees have been paid for the year and they all came in over estimate. Revised estimates and a revised estimate for 1995-96 equal \$26,000. The attachment to her memo was strictly a staff recommendation on how the discretionary funds and the additional \$36,000 could be distributed. She presented the recommendation as a starting point for the committee discussion.

Roger Currier asked about the ad in the May 10 Graphic requesting donations for dog food. Staff indicated that sufficient funds were budgeted to cover dog pound needs. Chief Tardiff responded that people like to help the pound and the donated food helps us keep animals longer. The City receives about \$1000 a year in donations.

Dan Wollam stated that he was concerned that the Library serial levy did not pass and he felt that the committee should designate some of the discretionary funds to help the library. Duane Cole indicated that the staff did go back and ask the Library Director to look at her needs. Two memorandums from Leah Griffith were passed out to committee members. Leah Griffith explained that the memo dated May 17 addresses the Children's area. By adding \$16,230, the City could have staff present in the children's area for the 39 hours the Library is open. She explained that the way the Library is configured, the circulation staff cannot help in the Children's area during open hours. The only way to cover the needs is to add staff hours. The memo dated May 18 addressed book purchasing concerns. By adding \$6900 the City would bring the book budget back up to its current level plus inflationary increase. The Library is losing between 6% and 7% a year in purchasing power. Bob Weaver asked if the additional funds open the Library on Monday. Leah Griffith responded no, it would not. Bob Weaver reiterated that the City must support the Library. Roger Currier added that he would like \$400 added for the Fire department. Staff indicated that the Fire Chief had stated that the \$400 was needed for nozzles. There appeared to be sufficient funds in the current fiscal year to handle this purchase.

Donna Proctor indicated that she would like \$1000 added for training. Bob Weaver asked about long range planning needs. Duane Cole indicated the \$2500 was primarily to be used for matching grants for additional consulting needs.

There followed some discussion among committee members about Newberg Human Resource Center, the services they provide, NEDs, and the value of the buildings that they use for no rent from the City. Questions were asked about Great Expectations and the involvement with the school district.

Roger Currier asked about the donation to the Old Fashioned Festival for the fireworks. Donna Proctor indicated that there would be no fireworks at the Old Fashioned Festival if the City did not help finance them. Robert Soppe indicated that he has some bias in that the City has raised revenue from a specific source and it should be spent on a related item. We need to give the money back, although we do not have to spend the money on the same items each year. He said it is important to tie Tax money to related community needs.

Don Wright added that the Visitor's Center rated twelfth on the priority list and we should not put it up at eighth. Alan Halstead recommended moving the fireworks because it was low priority on the list.

Andy Poole asked why the Library needs were not among the list or included in the regular budget. He thought it was not fair to add the Library needs at this time. Dan Wollam responded stating the levy took up some of that need, however it did not pass. The Library still needs help. If the Library is a priority to have an election, should not the budget committee still consider its needs. Bob Weaver added that he believes in the social service agencies and what they do. However, if we want to run the City, are social services a part of it? He felt that it was important that we fund the basics first. Robert Soppe suggested that we allocate funds to NHRC and let them decide how to spend them internally. This is what the committee did last year. He suggested combining NEDs and NHRC and to budget \$20,000. The committee then moved to vote on the allocation.

ITEM	COST	YES	NO	
Library Books	\$6000.00	8	4	
Other Library needs	\$16,130.00	12	1	
Transportation	\$19,500.00	12	2	
Staff Training	\$1000.00	5	8	
NHRC	\$20,000.00	13	1	
Long Range Planning	\$2500.00	6	8	
Old Fashioned Festival	\$3500.00	6	7	(1 unsure)
Visitors Center	\$20,000.00	5	9	
	\$1500.00	11	3	
Beautification/Misc.	\$6500.00	8	4	

(Andy Poole left at 7:45, Donna McCain arrived at 7:50)

The item for staff training, long range planning and \$20,000 for the Visitor's Center were deleted from the list due to not enough votes.

Donna McCain indicated that she no longer works for the Chamber of Commerce and would vote. MOTION: Don Wright/Bert Pennock moved to approve the funds listed above and not to decrease any of the items when allocating the balance. Donna McCain wanted to add the Old Fashioned Festival since it was a split.

Barbara Secor/Alan Halstead moved to allocate the balance of the discretionary funds to the Visitor's Center. Failed 6/8.

Bob Weaver/Roger Currier moved to add \$3500 for the Old Fashioned Festival Fireworks. Vote on the motion: 8/5.

Don Wright/Tracy Pinder moved to add \$2484 for the Senior Center referral program. Passed by those present.

Bob Weaver /Alan Halstead moved to add \$1889 to the Visitor's Center. Passed by those present.

Vote on the original motion. Passed by those present.

Serial Levies: Kathy Tri indicated that the packet include a printout of the serial levies and how the funds would be allocated. In addition, she had a handout that listed all the levies and it is important for the budget committee to approve this as presented. Bob Weaver/Don Wright moved to approve the property tax levy as presented. Vote on the motion: Passed by those present.

Terry Mahr indicted that he needed to provide some legal advice. He indicted that the budget contains some conflicts that people need to be aware of. First, City Council members received pay for meeting expenses. Second, Bert Pennock is an employee of GTE, and the City pays GTE for its telephone service. However, he is a salaried employee and part of a general group that does business with the City. Third, Robert Soppe is a consultant for the City. Fourth, Melinda Newland is married to the Police lieutenant. He indicated that it might be important to separate out the different budgets that cause problems for members of the committee that might receive personal benefits by having the budget passed. Don Wright/Alan Halstead moved to approve the budget without the Central Service fund and General fund. Passed by those present. There was some discussion about Council pay and felt that it was not a particular conflict for council members to vote on the budget because of the amount. Don Wright/Alan Halstead moved to approve the general fund. Passed by those present. (Melinda Newland abstained.) Don Wright/Alan Halstead moved to approve the Central Services budget. Passed by those present. (Robert Soppe abstained.)

Adjournment: The committee moved to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.



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