

BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

NEWBERG, OREGON

Members Present:

Charles Cox	Roger Currier
Bob Ficker	Fred Howe
Robert Larson	Donna McCain
Bert Pennock	Donna Proctor (left at 8:15 p.m.)
Robert Soppe	Damon Sump (arrived at 8:05 p.m.)
Robert Weaver (left at 7:55 p.m.)	

Others Present:

Duane Cole, City Manager	Terry Mahr, City Attorney
Kathy Tri, Finance Director	Leah Griffith, Librarian
Mike Soderquist, Comm. Dev. Dir.	Larry Anderson, City Engineer
Debbie Smith-Wagar, Asst. Fin. Dir.	

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Chuck Cox at 7:02 p.m.

Finance Director Kathy Tri reviewed the handouts that were provided to everyone at the beginning of the meeting. They included the agenda for the meeting, printouts of Duane Cole's Budget Message presentation, minutes for the April 28, 1998 budget committee meeting, minutes from the June 16, 1997 City Council meeting, copies of letters that Bob Weaver had received regarding budget issues, information from the Newberg Area Chamber of Commerce, the budget for Yamhill County Mediators, and a summary of Central Services charges.

Citizen Input: Representatives of the Newberg Area Chamber of Commerce gave a presentation on the Visitor's Center. Those present included Chamber Executive Director Ann Pesola, Chamber Treasurer Bob Alexander, Shilo Inns Manager Ray Sallee, and Best Western Motel Manager Chetan Patel. Ann Pesola said the Visitor's Center had 15,000 inquiries last year. Of the phone inquiries, 43% were visitors to the area, 27% were local residents, and 30% were businesses. Of the walk-ins, 54% were visitors, 27% were residents, and 19% were businesses. She also said tourism is a good investment, and that for every dollar invested in tourism, \$20 is returned to the community. Bob Alexander said it was his understanding that last year, when the City was faced with Ballot Measure 47 impacts, the Chamber didn't expect to get any money in the future. But he said the perception is that things aren't as bad as last year.

Ann Pesola said the Chamber was looking for other sources of funds for the Visitor's Center. She said the Chamber earmarked a portion of the proceeds from the last auction for the Center. She said she has called various state organizations to find out how other Visitor Centers are funded. She has also contacted local attractions and tourist businesses to see what they thought about voluntary or mandatory fees to support the Visitor's Center. She said she received a mixed reaction.

Ray Sallee said the Visitor's Center is important to the motel industry, because when visitors have questions it gives his staff someone to call for answers. He said he gets many questions from people who are relocating or are looking for work in Newberg. He said the Visitor's Center helps current and future residents, and it helps get business into the community.

Roger Currier asked why more businesses aren't contributing if they would be getting a 2000% return on their investment. Ann Pesola said businesses are already paying some.

Chuck Cox said if the Chamber wasn't providing this service the City would be at some level.

Bob Larsen said he was concerned about paying approximately 60% of the Visitor's Center budget. He thought that was too much.

Donna McCain said it was the people staying in the motels, paying the motel tax that provide the money to support the Visitor's Center.

Bob Weaver said he was concerned about attaching the word "Area" to the Chamber of Commerce. He wanted to know if St. Paul or Dundee were contributing.

Donna Proctor said she was assured last year that the Chamber would not be back requesting funds this year. She said the motel tax is used to help run the City and provide for safety. She agrees that other towns should be contributing.

Robert Soppe said if the Chamber has 330 members, then it would cost them an additional \$43 a year to fund \$14,000. He asked who was getting the 2000% return on tourism dollars. Ann Pesola said the 2000% is calculating using the flow of dollars through the community. Robert Soppe wanted to know if there was a way to have questions about the City transferred so City staff could answer them, and questions about the Chamber transferred to the Chamber. The consensus was that would not work.

Bob Larsen asked if the Chamber had a "Plan B" if the City didn't provide funding. Ann Pesola said no.

Bert Pennock said he felt the Chamber funding was hidden in the budget. Kathy Tri responded that in the eight years she has worked for the City the Chamber has always been from the line item called "General Projects". She said it has not been moved.

Bob Weaver said he thought City staff is too busy to take over the duties of the Visitor's Center. He said the committee should decide if the City wants a Visitor's Center, decide who will run it if it wants one, and then allot the money.

Fred Howe said he agreed. He said it would cost the City three or four times as much to provide the service.

Bert Pennock moved to table the issue of funding the Visitor's Center until Tuesday. Bob Larsen seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 to 4.

Kathy Tri said Barbara Brown was present to answer questions about senior transportation.

Bob Weaver moved to approve spending \$14,900 on senior transportation. Bob Ficker seconded the motion.

Discussion: Fred Howe said last year the City decided social services were no longer a priority. He said the Senior Center had ample warning to look for funding elsewhere. He said this isn't about transportation; it's a policy question. He said he would like to see the line item removed until the City decides if it is going to fund social services.

Bob Weaver called for the question. The motion passed 7 to 2.

Bob Ficker asked why the City isn't running the transportation program. Chehalem Valley Senior Citizens Council president Lou Brillas said the program would lose federal and matching funds if it were transferred to the City.

Bob Weaver moved that the budget be increased \$25,000 to provide an additional three hours of library services per week. The motion died for lack of a second.

(Bob Weaver left at 7:55 p.m.)

Tricia Crawford from Yamhill County Mediators handed said all but two cities in their service area donate to the agency. She said of the 252 people served in Yamhill County last year, 75 were from Newberg. She said the agency has asked small cities for a dollar a day.

Fred Howe said he didn't think the City was interested in serving any more social service agencies.

Roger Currier said he disagreed, and that there was some additional money in the General Projects line that could be used for this.

Bob Ficker recommended that the agency seek funding from service organizations such as Rotary and Kiwanis.

Capital Projects: Community Development Director Mike Soderquist presented the Capital Projects budget. He started by handing out the Capital Improvement Program.

(Damon Sump arrived at 8:05 p.m.)

Mike Soderquist said many projects take more than a year to complete, and the Capital Improvement Program will be updated each year.

Mike Soderquist said there are a number of motivators to determine what gets on the Capital Projects list. This includes master plans for water, sewer, storm water, and transportation; outside influences, such as ODOT projects; water issues; mandates from outside agencies, such as DEQ and the state health department; and mandates from the voters.

(Donna Proctor left at 8:15 p.m.)

Roger Currier asked if the dechlorination project is getting done. Staff said yes, it should be completed by early in the next fiscal year.

Bert Pennock asked about projects that get carried over more than one year...do they get new funds, or is

the funding carried over. Staff said the funding was carried over.

Roger Currier asked about relocating the water plant. Mike Soderquist said it could be done, but would be expensive. For now staff plans to move forward on bank stabilization, which is less expensive than building a new plant.

Bob Larson asked about the cost of the Middlebrook light. City Engineer Larry Anderson said the project involves more than one traffic light, and the traffic light at Middlebrook will be a special one that can be triggered by the Fire department once the new substation is built.

Robert Soppe asked if the animal shelter could be contracted out. Staff consensus was that we could. Roger Currier said the plan was to sell the land where the existing shelter is located and use money to build a new shelter.

Bert Pennock asked about the pH adjustment project for the City's water. Mike Soderquist said the project has been completed, but it would be a few years before a difference in the level of corrosion products is noticeable.

Fred Howe asked if SDCs will be increased. Staff said they most likely will. The SDC money being budgeted now is money in the bank. Future SDCs will be spent on future developments.

Bob Ficker asked about the work being done on Elliott Road, and why it's being done on the other side of Highway 99. Larry Anderson said the work being done right now is for maintenance only. The other side of Elliott needs extensive work, and it may be necessary to form an LID to provide a funding source.

Duane Cole said he encourages the City Council to use the Capital Improvement Program document and bring suggestions for additions. He also recognized the effort Mike Soderquist and Larry Anderson put in to getting this document finished. Duane Cole also said the City Council should be having an LID discussion every year.

Bert Pennock moved to approve the Capital Improvement Program. Fred Howe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Fred Howe said he felt staff should bring policy issues to the City Council, and that whether or not to fund Social Services was a policy issue.

Duane Cole said several policy questions regarding transportation are clearly outlined in the Comprehensive Plan. He said he thought about not including the transportation funding, but he felt the public did not have the political will to change it, and it would be perceived as a harsh action. He said he is not satisfied with transportation in this county, but it needs a different funding source, and he doesn't know the answer to the problem.

Robert Soppe said he prefers to have a budget committee meeting early in the year to discuss the direction the budget should take.

Bob Ficker said he would like the budget committee to consider adding \$28,000 to the budget to increase library hours on Wednesday nights.

Chuck Cox said he is uncomfortable with the Legal department not restoring the paralegal position. City Attorney Terry Mahr said he would like to have the position restored, but left it out after talking to City Manager Duane Cole.

Chuck Cox said he was also concerned that by moving Court to the new Public Safety Building it would be subsidizing the Finance department when it came to covering the counter.

Kathy Tri said actually it is almost the other way around. She said Court is being moved because it will be close to where Municipal Court is held, it will be close to the police for scheduling, and this will allow resolve the issue of the Court office being closed while Municipal Court is being held.

Adjournment: The committee adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bob Felt", written in dark ink.

Secretary