

BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

NEWBERG, OREGON

Members Present:

Tomina Carter
Nancy Jiosa
Robert Soppe

Roger Currier
Robert Larson
Robert Weaver

Ron Fulham
Donna McCain
Noele Wilson

Members Absent:

Lisa Helikson

Don Holland

Bret Veatch

Others Present:

Duane Cole, City Manager
Mike Soderquist, Comm. Dev. Dir.
Debbie Smith-Wagar, Asst. Fin. Dir.
Steve Palmer, Municipal Court Judge

Kathy Tri, Finance Director
Larry Anderson, City Engineer
Charles Cox, Mayor
Jim Morrison

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Robert Soppe at 7:04 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Roll call was noted by Kathy Tri.

3. Minutes (May 2, 2000)

Bob Weaver moved the minutes be approved. Bob Larson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Bob Weaver said he didn't think he asked the questions he was given credit for in the May 4, 2000 minutes. The minutes referring to the Library Department budget were amended to read "It was asked how many George Fox University students had library cards" and "It was asked what will be done with the money the Oregon Department of Transportation is expected to pay for the additional right-of-way needed when Hancock Street is repaved".

4. Continued Business

Finance Director Kathy Tri went over information requested at the last meeting that was included in the agenda packet. A correction was made to the City Manager's budget that actually meant a slight increase in personal services in that department.

Detail of activity in the Cable TV Trust Fund was discussed. Jim Morrison, a member of the Cable Commission, reviewed the ordinance that established the Cable Commission. He said the Cable TV provider, as part of the franchise agreement, was giving the City \$5,000 per year for cable access. He said in 1997 Terry Mahr went back through the City's records and identified \$22,000 that hadn't been spend. Mr. Morrison said Terry Mahr began using part of the \$22,000 for cable franchise negotiations. He said the Cable Commission was disbanded in February 1999. He said the City should not be using

the cable tv money to renegotiate the franchise agreement. City Manager Duane Cole reviewed the ordinance establishing the franchise agreement. He said direction for spending the money was up to the City Council.

Roger Currier said he was concerned about the nearly \$400 spent at the Public Works Shop for picture frames. He said no one would see them. Kathy Tri said an old picture of Newberg and a poster were framed. He said he knew it wasn't a lot of money when compared to the whole budget, but he felt it was the job of the budget committee to look at how money is spent.

4. New Business

Municipal Court Budget Kathy Tri reviewed the Municipal Court budget. She said prosecuting DUIs costs the City money. People generally want a jury trial, and frequently they get a court-appointed attorney. When the budget was being constructed the City had hoped to transfer more of the DUIs to the County. However that has not progressed, so court-appointed attorneys may cost more than the \$6,000 that is budgeted for the year at this point. Kathy Tri said the receptionist assists the Municipal Court in suspending people who don't pay fines and collecting those fines.

Judge Steve Palmer said he was concerned about court-appointed attorney fees. Most attorneys would charge \$120 an hour for representing someone with a DUI. The City of Newberg pays \$40 an hour and limits the total charge per person to \$350. In this current fiscal year the City will spend about \$14,000 on court-appointed attorneys. Judge Palmer said there are already 24 cases ready to go to trial.

Robert Soppe asked how the County can prosecute these cases cheaper. Judge Palmer said the County can get graduate students who need the experience to do most of the work.

Tomina Carter asked about adding a finance fee to fines when people want to make payments. Kathy Tri said the City could do that, but she is concerned about people who don't have the money in the first place, and this would just add more burden on them. She said "unsuspending" fines was very effective in keeping people making their monthly payments. If someone defaults on a payment schedule, any fine that may have been suspended by the judge will be "unsuspended", and the offender will owe the whole amount.

Noele Wilson asked about taking credit cards. Kathy Tri said the City is working on that. Noele Wilson also said she would like to see all of Municipal Court stay in Newberg.

Duane Cole said the problem was with Terry Mahr's time. He said Terry needed to be working on other issues rather than spending time prosecuting DUIs.

Community Development Department Budget Community Development Director Mike Soderquist reviewed his department's budget. He said it was a "step-back" budget with an overall decrease primarily through staff reductions. He said although two engineers have been hired, one full-time and one half-time, they are aware that they have been hired just to do projects, and if the projects run out, so will their jobs. He said the City will probably have to hire one more engineer just to work on the Highway 99 Brutscher to Main project once ODOT gets it going.

Bob Weaver said he wanted to recognize City Planner Barton Brierley. He said Barton did a very good job of explaining projects and issues to the Council.

Bob Larson asked why gasoline was increasing so much. Duane Cole said he believed there was an error in the Sewer Fund. Finance staff made a note to correct the line item.

Tomina Carter asked why the line item for computer replacement was increasing when there was already \$40,000 available for computers. Staff said some computers at the plants can cost \$100,000, and while most are new, money needs to be set aside now for future replacement.

Robert Soppe asked about the test well. Mike Soderquist said the test well appears to be a good well and can be used as Well 7 if approval is received from Marion County. Roger Currier asked if the well was a Rainey system. Mike Soderquist said the well is not a Rainey system.

Robert Soppe asked where the City was on developing a stormwater plan. Mike Soderquist said he believes Newberg is several years away from being required to treat stormwater. Larry Anderson said the City will likely be notified it is in tier two, but the City is doing a good job of keeping pollutants off the streets. However he says the City may be required to do more as the Environmental Protection Agency reviews fish issues.

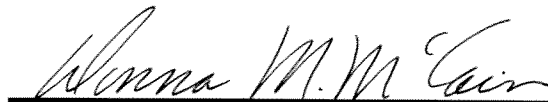
Roger Currier asked if the City is ever going to cover the settling ponds at the water treatment plant. Mike Soderquist said staff has talked to consultants, the Department of Environmental Quality, and the Oregon Health Division, and all have said the City doesn't need to cover the ponds.

Robert Soppe asked what the City's role is in the Loren Berg site. Mike Soderquist said the southern portion of the site is believed to have more contamination, and the City is concerned about having a dead spot in the middle of town. He said the City may be able to get a grant of up to \$300,000 to clean up the site. Now staff is trying to determine if clean-up will cost more than \$300,000. The City has been offered the property in exchange for cleaning it up. Roger Currier said he didn't think we should spend any more money on the site, as the City has already spend \$15,000 and doesn't help other business owners that much. Mike Soderquist said the \$15,000 was spent to gain knowledge about the site. Duane Cole said the City does help other business owners with low interest loans.

The review of Capital Projects was postponed until the next Budget Committee meeting May 18, 2000.

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 9:15 p.m.


Secretary