

BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

NEWBERG, OREGON

Members Present:

Tomina Carter
Don Holland
Robert Soppe

Ron Fulham
Nancy Jiosa
Robert Weaver

Lisa Helikson
Robert Larson
Noele Wilson

Members Absent:

Roger Currier
Donna McCain
Bret Veatch
(Mayor Chuck Cox was attending week-long training session out of town this week)

Others Present:

Duane Cole, City Manager
Kathy Tri, Finance Director
Barton Brierley, City Planner

Robert Tardiff, Police Chief
Leah Griffith, Librarian
Debbie Smith-Wagar, Asst. Fin. Dir.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Robert Soppe at 7:01 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Roll call was noted by Kathy Tri.

3. Minutes

The April 27th minutes were presented for approval. Bob Larson moved that the minutes be approved. Lisa Helikson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Continued Business

Reports from Last Meeting Finance Director Kathy Tri handed out an additional report regarding the SPWF (Special Public Works Fund) Loan from the State of Oregon. She reiterated that the City has committed to repaying the loan from SDCs. Robert Soppe asked if there were any questions regarding the reports handed out last week or tonight. There were no questions.

5. New Business

Library Library Director Leah Griffith presented the budget for the Library. She said she was very happy to see all of the citizen members of the Budget Committee present for the meeting. She said the City of Newberg answers about three times as many questions as libraries in other cities this size. The library is providing a lot of activities for children, including six story-time activities for pre-schoolers and their parents. The library is also working on making the young adult area more attractive for teenagers. Another program will match up senior citizens with middle-school children to participate in an Internet class together. This library gets about twice as much participation in programs as other

libraries in cities the same size. Bob Larson asked how the cutbacks in the budget will affect the community. Leah Griffith said the patrons will just have to get used to leaving earlier...and students won't be able to come in at the last minute to get homework done. She said the experience in the City has been that people will check out just as many items...they will just do it in the reduced amount of time. Other libraries in communities this size are open an average of 55 hours per week.

It was asked how many George Fox University students had library cards. Leah Griffith said about 400. Robert Soppe asked if George Fox paid the library any money. Leah Griffith said no, although she is looking at some possible joint programs.

Nancy Jiosa asked why there was such a big increase in the travel and training line item. Leah Griffith said more staff members need to be trained on technology issues and one employee is going back to school to get her Master of Library Science (MLS). She said the employee has worked for the City for 17 years and will likely stay with the City even after she completes her degree. Leah Griffith said she expected the cost for the City's portion to be about \$3,000 this year.

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. Kathy Tri said that has been discussed and the money will be put into the Library Gift and Memorial Fund so it will be dedicated for library services.

Ron Fulham asked about the regional library fee. Leah Griffith said the services are valued at about \$60,000 more than the City is paying per year, but the Chemeketa Cooperative Regional Library Services (CCRLS) has agreed to raise the fee \$10,000 per year to help ease the burden on the City. At some point CCRLS will take over computer technical maintenance for the library.

Administration City Manager Duane Cole reviewed the City Council and the City Manager's budgets. He said he was recommending the budget include money to continue membership in the National League of Cities. He said one benefit was that organization has a lobbyist at the federal level, and with the new federal budget surplus, Congress is looking at possible projects. One of those projects could be a Newberg by-pass.

Robert Soppe asked about the status of Well 7. Duane Cole said the meeting between Newberg and Marion County staff went well. He said the City is getting ready to submit the preliminary application. He said a new law is in place that should help the City's application, but the City is still in for the long haul.

Robert Soppe asked about public access television, and if people could just get things copied without paying for the tapes. Ron Fulham said yes, people do not have to pay for tapes. Kathy Tri said the City has been using public access money paid by the cable company to the City for tapes that are used by the public access channel. Ron Fulham asked about the future of public access. Duane Cole said AT&T has said it costs \$1 per person to provide a public access channel. He said it is not clear what AT&T intends to do in the future.

Legal Kathy Tri discussed the Legal department's budget. City Attorney Terry Mahr could not attend the Budget Committee meeting as his father passed away this week in Florida. The biggest change in this department's budget was in professional services. The codification of the City's ordinances is nearly complete, and that line item has been reduced to reflect that.

Finance Kathy Tri said the Finance department is budgeted in five funds. She said the main change is Finance will not have a work co-op student next year as that has been cut out of all budgets (Police and Finance were the only departments that still had work co-op students). Also, the line item for travel and training has increased. Employees have certain requirements to keep certifications, and the department has been working to get the receptionist trained to speak Spanish to help out when the court clerk who speaks Spanish is not available.

Municipal Court The Committee decided to move the review of the Municipal Court budget to Tuesday, May 9th.

6. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 8:55 p.m.


Secretary