

TUESDAY, 7:00 P.M.

MAY 1, 2001

BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

NEWBERG, OREGON

Members Present:

Roger Currier
Lisa Helikson
Donna McCain

Sally Dallas
Nancy Jiosa
Robert Soppe

Ron Fulham
Bob Larson
Robert Weaver

Members Absent:

Tomina Carter

Bret Veatch

Noelle Wilson

Others Present:

Duane Cole, City Manager
Robert Tardiff, Police Chief
Mike Soderquist, Comm Dev. Dir.
Frank Douglas, EMS Director
Cindy Bolek, Police Support Svcs Mgr

Terry Mahr, City Attorney
Leah Griffith, Librarian
Kathy Tri, Finance Director
Debbie Smith-Wagar, Asst. Fin. Dir.
Mary Newell, Police Office Manager

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Robert Soppe at 7:05 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Roll call was noted by Kathy Tri.

3. Minutes

Roger Currier moved that the minutes from the January 30, 2001 meeting be approved as presented. Bob Larson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Budget Presentation

City Manager/Budget Officer Duane Cole said the budget presented this year contains cuts in services, but looks to the future with capital projects. Duane Cole and Kathy Tri presented the budget, starting with capital projects. Roger Currier asked about funding for installing the sewer line along Mountainview Road. Staff said the plan was to use System Development Charge (SDC) money to do the project and then collect SDCs from property owners as the property was developed. Staff said the City could also use advanced financing and then collect from property owners over the next ten years. Roger Currier asked if the parallel water line over the Willamette River project had been budgeted in a prior year. Staff said the project had been in the Capital Improvement Plan in prior years, but this was the first year it was in the budget. Roger Currier asked about maintaining roads. He said he was concerned about spending money to improve Villa Road when maintenance needs are so great. Staff

said SDC money would be used to improve Villa Road, and SDCs can not legally be used for maintenance. Staff also said a transportation task force is reviewing the needed maintenance and how to pay for it. Bob Weaver asked about the Mountainview Road project and what staff was doing to make sure the low areas didn't flood during the wet months. Staff said the project will include a stormsewer system and other development to help prevent flooding. Lisa Helikson asked when the transportation task force will have some funding proposals. Staff said the preliminary report will be presented to the City Council on May 21st, although that will focus on the needed projects. Funding proposals will likely be presented to the Council this summer. Ron Fulham asked what was left to be completed at City Hall. Staff said landscaping and possibly a bulb-out in the sidewalk. There may be some money left over to put toward debt service. Bob Weaver asked if the City has to wait for all the money to come in before the animal shelter can be built. Staff said that is a Council decision. If the donations and grants have not been received by the time the shelter is built, the City will have to borrow money and pledge General Fund revenues.

In the utility funds staff said the Rate Review Committee is expected to start meeting in the fall. Increased staff costs and increasing power costs are putting pressure on the funds.

In the special revenue funds, there is pressure to consolidate the 9-1-1 centers in Yamhill County into one center. Bob Larson asked if we could have a property tax levy to fund Newberg's center. Staff said yes, but the City does not have the authority to remove the 9-1-1 tax from telephone bills as that is a statewide tax.

Staff reviewed trends in property tax rates, population, and assessed value of property. Newberg has the second-lowest operating tax rate among the cities used in the comparison, and many of the other cities don't provide the range of services that Newberg does.

Duane Cole and Kathy Tri went over the proposed budget for the General Fund. Changes include increasing the assistant court clerk to full-time to handle the case load, contracting with court-appointed attorneys to save about \$6,000, reducing the police department by one officer (a retiring officer will not be replaced), reducing the contribution to the police vehicle replacement fund, adding a LOSAP program for fire volunteers, transferring two dispatchers back to the General Fund from the 9-1-1 Fund, reducing equipment replacement fund contributions for communications equipment, reducing library hours from 42 to 39 hours per week, reducing the library book budget, increasing the payment to CCRLS, and cutting all of the transportation funding.

Robert Soppe asked if the number of DUIs was increasing. Staff said no, the number actually decreased last year. Bob Weaver asked about the officer in the schools. Staff said pending the outcome of the school district budget, one officer is expected to still be in the schools, and it would be the truancy officer. Bob Larson asked why Wednesday night was chosen as the one that the library would be closed in order to reduce hours. Staff said Wednesday is one of the slowest nights. Bob Weaver asked if there should be a different schedule of open hours in the summer versus the winter. Librarian Leah Griffith said at 39 hours there really wouldn't be much benefit in reorganizing hours from season to season.

Roger Currier asked about identifying leased vehicles so the residents would see where there money is being spent. Staff reported that Community Development Director Mike Soderquist is the only staff member with a leased car. Mike said he had some magnetic signs but they fell off.

5. State Revenue Sharing Public Hearing

Finance Director Kathy Tri reported that \$102,000 is budgeted for state revenue sharing for next year. Chair Robert Soppe opened the public hearing on state revenue sharing.

Darlyn Adams, representing the Newberg Animal Shelter Friends, said she hoped that the City would not cut the animal control officer. She said the group she represents is just waiting for an architect to finish a plan and then the group can move forward in trying to get grants. She said they just need more time to gather money.

Chair Robert Soppe closed the public hearing.

6. Public Hearing on the Budget

Chair Robert Soppe opened the general public hearing on the budget.

Frank Hall said his wife volunteers at the animal shelter and he does not want the City to cut animal control. He said the current animal control officer protects her volunteers by warning them ahead of time if any of the animals in the shelter are aggressive. He said his wife would not volunteer if the City cut the animal control officer.

Dan Hess asked how cutting the animal control officer would affect the police department. Chief Bob Tardiff said the current animal control officer only works eight hours a day, so the other officers have to respond to animal calls anyway. Chief Tardiff says the department already has to decide which calls to respond to and how to prioritize them. Staff pointed out that the animal control officer is in the budget for 2001-2002, but the position could be cut the year after next.

Barbara Brown with the Chehalem Valley Senior Citizens Council asked the Budget Committee to restore transportation funding. She said the agency is able to leverage the City's contribution into a larger amount by getting grants. Roger Currier said the agency needs to do a better job of letting people know that the bus serves more than senior citizens.

In addition to Barbara Brown, a letter from Mitsi Vondrachek was provided to the Budget Committee supporting funding for transportation. Duane Cole and Kathy Tri said they each received one call supporting funding for transportation.

Chair Robert Soppe closed the public hearing.

7. Adjournment

Kathy Tri announced the next Budget Committee meeting will be Thursday, May 3rd at Fire Station 21. The committee adjourned at 9:15 p.m.



Secretary