

CITY OF NEWBERG BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2014
7:00 P.M. MEETING
PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING TRAINING ROOM (401 EAST THIRD STREET)

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Lon Wall called the meeting to order at 7:03PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present:	Lon Wall, Chair	Megan Morris	Denise Bacon
	Anthony Pete	Helen Brown	Mike Corey
	Ryan Howard	Patrick Johnson, vice-Chair	Stephen McKinney
	Beth Koschmann	Jack Reardon	Lesley Woodruff
	Bart Rierson		

Members Absent: Anthony Pete (excused) Mayor Bob Andrews (excused)

Staff Present: Lee Elliott, City Manager Pro-tem Janelle Nordyke, Finance Director
Caleb Lippard, Assistance Finance Director
Nicole Tannler, Minutes Recorder

Others Present: Marlena Bertram -Your Community Mediators, Marcy McDowell – Homeward Bound Pets, Crista Eberle NASF, Crystal Case NASF, and Janet Floren NASF president

III. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. Committee and Staff Introductions
2. Elect Chair/Secretary and Vice Chair

MOTION: Bacon/Rierson nominated Mr. Lon Wall as Budget Commission Chair. (13 Yes/ 0 No [1 absent Andrews]) Motion carried.

MOTION: McKinney/Woodruff nominated Mr. Patrick Johnson as Budget Commission Vice Chair. (13 Yes/ 0 No [1 absent Andrews]) Motion carried.

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval of April 30, 2013, May 7, 2013, and May 14, 2013 minutes

MOTION: Brown/Bacon approving the Consent Calendar including April 30, 2013, May 7, 2013, and May 14, 2013 minutes as amended. (13 Yes/ 0 No [1 absent Andrews]) Motion carried.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. Budget Message by City Manager Pro-tem

Mr. Lee Elliott, City Manager Pro-tem, presented the staff report including a PowerPoint slideshow (see official meeting packet for full report).

Councilor Ryan Howard asked if the revenues really increase by 1 million dollars in the general fund. Ms. Janelle Nordyke said a lot of that is PERS and is still pending.

Commissioner Megan Morris asked how long Yamhill County has been mandated to provide Animal Control. Commissioner Patrick Johnson said we are the only city in the state that is doing this so I would ask City Council to look at that again.

Councilor Denise Bacon asked about employee salaries and if we looking at compression at all in upper and middle management. She would like to see people stay at the city and work their way up. Mr. Lee Elliott said it is getting to the point in public safety where management staff is making less than their subordinates. What concerns Mr. Elliott is keeping the staff here because it will be really difficult to replace them.

Councilor Ryan Howard asked if the city is contemplating sending any of these ideas to the voters. Mr. Lee Elliott said it is council action only.

2. Public Comment

Ms. Marlena Bertram with Your Community Mediators thanked the city for the past support of the community mediation program which serves increasing Newberg residents. It helps reduce the costs by 43% and has not continued that way with grants because we are a non-profit group which means it can go up and down. We have mediation training every other year at George Fox University and we had 4 new mediators come from Newberg this last year. We hope to train mediators from all cities in Yamhill County and mediators contribute over 1000 hours per year. Our letter in your packets is a letter asking for funding this year and includes information on what we do. People tend to turn to mediation before going to court and there is a Newberg case statistic summary for the 2013 year. Of our 14 cases 10 are from Newberg, which is 71% of our cases.

Marcy McDowell with Homeward Bound Pets a cat spay neuter program stated they are primarily funded by a Petco grant. They are asking for funding from the city and county and seeking \$1,500.00. She stated when community cats suffer people suffer and there are people asking for our help. Once a month six to eight volunteers from Homeward Bound take cats up to the Tigard hospital for care. We serve cats that have homes, multiple cat situations (barn cats), but where we struggle is with cats that are abandoned at properties. These situations show the lack of resources we have and we are one of the few counties that lacks resources.

Crista Eberle with the Newberg Animal Shelter Foundation (NASF) said she started volunteering to help the community and make sure the animals are fed, socialized, and clean and healthy. These are our communities' pets that come through the door and our community has helped fund this shelter. Removing the animal control person is not just a line item and we are looking to you to bridge that gap.

Crystal Case with NASF stated she is a volunteer at the animal shelter and was disappointed to hear that the city is cutting the animal control person without a plan in place. She is requesting more time and monetary support. Outside of the animal control program we have on average 250 animals in the shelter. We care for animals that are lost and adopt out our animals that are brought in. We spay, neuter, relocate, and quarantine dogs that have bitten. We have only been in this new building for a year and have not had a chance to use it to its full potential.

Councilor Bart Rierson stated he thinks it is an important service and he did not support this decision. He is pleased to see the animal shelter friends here to share their needs.

Janet Floren NASF president stated two weeks ago we were notified the animal program will not be funded in the budget. We have not been able to fully plan for the full impact of this change and we have been working on a list of finishing needed for the building. Some are HVAC and dog kennels that need to be finished. NASF is an all volunteer foundation except for the officer who has been enforcing the leash laws, picking up the animals, and adopting out the animals. We need the leadership of a full time employee and we would like to be included

in the request for funds. We have not had the opportunity to investigate other options, so she asked if it is possible to have more time to present a formal request.

Councilor Howard asked if they have developed a plan for the long term operations. Ms. Floren said we have the animal officer until July 1 and we are in the process of trying to find out what our resources are. Councilor Rierson asked about legal resources and if our legal staff can assist the Newberg animal shelter friends. Mr. Lee Elliott said he would run it by the city attorney. Councilor Howard said I would be happy to help you guys with this. Ms. Floren asked if we are not prepared by May 13 is there a time limitation. Chair Lon Wall said I am sure we can put it off if needed. Commissioner Jack Reardon asked who takes care of the licensing now. Ms. Nordyke said the city takes the money starting June 1, 2014 and the police will take the calls.

Councilor Stephen McKinney said I am sorry for the time restraints we put on you. It will most likely be looked at by the Council and I am not surprised at the change but further animal control officers will be a discussion in the future. We will meet this present budgetary crisis. We do have an investment in the shelter and what you can do in the short period of time is to change the non-profit status.

3. Budget Calendar Review and Acceptance

4. Time for Budget Committee members to ask questions they want addressed during the 2014-15 budget meetings

Commissioner Reardon said there is a lot of major percentage or dollar changes but isn't evident to me what that change was. When you are talking a lot of dollars it would be helpful to know why. Councilor Rierson said he would like a history of reserves, contingencies, and beginning fund balance. Ms. Janelle Nordyke said on page 13 you will see the property tax information financial overview.

Commissioner Patrick Johnson asked if there are other budgetary problems from Council over the past year. Mr. Lee Elliott said the two items the council has taken action on is the animal shelter and city manager position. Commissioner Helen Brown said communication is the most important thing and I am thinking two things changed the Oregonian and the local paper. The process has to keep going and it is nice there is a website, but was wondering if there was another way to find out what is going on in the City.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Future Budget Committee Meeting Dates:

May 6	Shared Revenues, Questions for Department Directors, Budget Committee Deliberations
May 13	Budget Committee Deliberations, 2014-15 Budget Recommendation to City Council (tentative)
May 20	2014-15 Budget Recommendation to City Council (tentative)
May 27	2014-15 Budget Recommendation to City Council (tentative)

The meeting adjourned at 9:01PM.

Approved by the Newberg Budget Committee Commission this 14th day of April, 2015.



**Sue Ryan, City Recorder for
former
Minutes Recorder
Nicole Tannler**



**Lon Wall
Budget Commission Chair**