

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING - BUDGET, AUGUST 23, 2013**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 a.m. in City Hall Council Chambers by Mayor Alan E. Oberloh with the following Council Members present: Mike Kuhle, Diane Graber, Rod Sankey, Ron Wood, Scott Nelson. Members absent: Honorary Council Member, Robert Bristow.

Staff present: Craig Clark, City Administrator; Brian Kolander, Finance Director; Janice Oberloh, City Clerk; Mike Cumiskey, Public Safety Director; Nancy Veen & Larry Rogers, Police Dispatchers; Tanya Aanenson, Police Dispatcher (7:22 a.m.)

Others present: Abraham Algadi, WREDC (9:55 a.m.).

**GENERAL BUDGET DISCUSSION**

Craig Clark, City Administrator, provided a brief summary of 2013-2014 budget differences (levied funds):

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| 2% COLA adjustment (salaries and benefits)     | \$55,000             |
| Health Insurance Increase-10%                  | 41,000               |
| CWP funding increase:                          |                      |
| New money 2014                                 | \$88,000             |
| New money 2013                                 | <u>36,000</u>        |
| Dispatch - supervisor position and increase    |                      |
| 3/5's to full-time                             | 15,000               |
| Oxford Street Redevelopment                    | 80,000               |
| Engineering Surcharge Revenue decrease         | 53,000               |
| Elections (no election in 2013)                | 18,000               |
| Recreation Fund ERS funding increase           | 35,000               |
| Tree maintenance increase                      | 40,000               |
| Special Levy increase (Debt Service/Abatement) | <u>42,000</u>        |
| <br>Total of larger variances                  | <br><u>\$431,000</u> |

The proposed budget reflects a 2.5% increase to the levy over 2013.

Rick Von Holdt, Fire Chief - noted that in the Equipment Revolving Schedule they are looking to replace the 1978 International Pumper Truck with a Pumper/Tanker truck. The 2013/2014 budget includes a reserve budget of \$215,000 for the replacement truck, which will be used in the rural areas we are obligated to and in the areas within the city that lack adequate fire hydrants. Council inquired if it would be cheaper to install additional infrastructure for hydrants than purchase a truck. No decision will be made on the truck until additional information is obtained.

Mike Cumiskey, Public Safety Director; stated the 2014 budget includes moving 3/5's dispatcher to full time to replace a retirement - additional cost \$12,539, and implementing a dispatch supervisor

position - additional cost \$2,310. A lengthy discussion was held on Rock County's request to partner for dispatch services, particularly in light of recent comments that Nobles County would like to take the LEC Dispatch over completely. Current dispatch employees were present at the meeting to share their views with Council, indicating they were willing to learn the Rock County layout should they partner for dispatch services, but were not in favor of Nobles County taking over the dispatch, as they would become Nobles County employees and potentially need to re-apply for their jobs. An initial meeting for discussion will be set up with Council Members Wood and Kuhle, Craig Clark, and Tom Johnson. A second meeting will follow to include Chief Cumiskey and Sheriff Wilkening.

Dwayne Haffield, Director of Engineering, stated his proposed 2014 budget was pretty much a duplicate of last year's, and noted the ERS includes \$84,000 in carry-over from 2013 - as they are extending their vehicle purchase and data processing/copier equipment out as long as they can, but keep funds available-ready for replacement. Council requested that staff look into leasing options rather than purchasing for the scheduled replacement of the copier.

Clean Water Partnership budget - budget lists \$200,000 for 2014 but includes \$112,000 from reserves plus additional \$88,000 of new money that could be used for Partnership projects and wetland acquisitions for restoration. There will be close to \$485,000 in reserves at the end of 2013 - Council was in favor of bringing that number to ½ million.

The CIP includes routine street reconstructions. Mr. Haffield noted his concern regarding projects that are less than 20% assessable as you can't bond for those.

The proposed 2014 election budget includes an increase in hourly wage for election judges from the past \$7.25 per hour to \$9.00 per hour. The City Clerk noted the proposed rate is still on the low end of what other communities pay, and it is hoped that the increase will make it easier to find election judges.

Brian Kolander, Finance Director, noted this is the last year of a three year agreement with the County for assessing services, and added there is not much change in the Finance Department budget.

Brad Chapulis, Director of Community/Economic Development, was proposing a change to the building fee structure as the residential valuation schedule has been the same since 1992. Council expressed an interest in how our fees compared to those in other communities. Also discussed was the potential redevelopment for the one mile corridor that includes the mall area.

Abraham Algadi, WREDC Director, discussed the proposed 2014 WREDC budget, which is an increase of \$46,500, excluding BioScience Conference costs over the 2013 budget, which would include an increase of \$24,000 to the City's share of support. Mr. Algadi said he is aware that the City already contributes a larger share than Worthington Public Utilities and Nobles County. In

addition to reminding Mr. Algadi that Worthington Public Utilities is actually part of the City, Craig Clark, City Administrator, noted that the City has already more than doubled our contribution by transferring to the economic development levy - and the County has lagged behind. The current Economic Development levy, which is \$83,000, of which WREDC already received \$72,000 and can apply for the remaining. Mr. Algadi will talk with Mr. Chapulis and Mr. Clark and tune his numbers.