

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING, AUGUST 21, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers by Mayor Rick Von Holdt with the following members present: Larry Janssen; Chris Kielblock; Chad Cummings; Amy Ernst; Alaina Kolpin.

Staff present: Steve Robinson, City Administrator; Deb Olsen, Finance Director; Todd Wietzema, Public Works Director; Steve Schneider, City Engineer; Matt Selof, Community Development Director; Jen Cummings, Accounting Clerk; Tammy Makram, Memorial Auditorium Managing Director; Mindy Eggers, City Clerk.

Others Present: Kari Lucin, The Globe; Stewart Chisham, The Globe.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

Steve Robinson, City Administrator, gave an outline of items that make up the levy increase for 2024.

Steve Robinson, City Administrator, said the preliminary budget for 2024 is \$7,490,316 representing a 14.21% increase over the 2023 levy.

He explained there are several factors that will impact the budget and make up the levy increase for 2024. Health insurance costs are estimated to rise 12%. Other options are being explored for next year and proposals will be ready in early October. Also, as a result of inflation the city was told to expect an increase of 15% for vehicles, buildings and equipment.

Staff is also recommending the city end the contract services with the YMCA and takeover the operation of the Center for Active Living and bring the manager on as a city employee which would be an increase of \$38,168.

The Improvement Construction Fund that is used for street maintenance including bituminous overlays, seal coating and other street repairs will also see an increase of \$453,314. The budget had remained at \$400,000 for numerous years.

The Park and Recreation Capital Improvement Plan will also see increases for a new skate park estimated at \$130,000 and new restrooms at the Centennial Park ballfields estimated at \$200,000.

Deb Olsen, Finance Director, said on the revenue side the LGA for 2024 has been certified at \$4,117,146.00. This is an increase of \$540,186 of 2023. A one-time payment for Public Safety Aid in the amount of \$605,545 is also designated for Worthington which can be used for law enforcement and emergency services.

Ms. Olsen also explained the interest earnings have not been added in to date and indicated it could

make a significant difference.

Public Works - 101 Budget

Todd Wietzema, Public Works Director, stated the Public Works budgets include paved streets, ice and snow removal, signs and signals, spring clean up, lake improvement and special days and events.

The two largest areas of increase were in the snow removal budget under miscellaneous rentals for \$10,000 for additional snow hauling and the special days and events budget which has been increased by \$8,000 to replace and repair picnic tables.

Mr. Wietzema said the increase for the 101 budget is a \$9,650 or a 4.85% from last year.

Park & Recreation - 229 Budget

Mr. Wietzema said the 229 budget includes recreation programs, swimming beaches/splash pad, ballfields, soccer complex/golf course greens, park areas, Olson campground, 10th Street Pavilion and tree maintenance.

He explained there are no notable large increases to this budget. The increase will be \$15,375.00 or a 3.85% increase above last year.

Memorial Auditorium

Tammy Makram, Manager, said there are no large increases to the budget and the tuck pointing repairs that were planned this year will be moved to next year since a contractor could not be secured.

Finance

Ms. Olsen explained how the salaries in finance are split between Data Processing/Accounting. The new Accounting Clerk position will also be doing the duties of Assessment Clerk so salary will be reallocating between department budgets. A new accounting firm was hired so there is an increase in that line item as they will be also writing some of the end of year reports.

Clerk/Elections

Mindy Eggers, City Clerk said the only significant increase in the Clerk budget is the Travel, Conference and Schools line item which reflects the third year of Clerk Institute for Angela Thiner, the Annual Clerk's Conference and additional MCFOA Region 5 meetings.

Ms. Eggers explained three elections will be held in 2024 which will result in an increase in expenses under the Election budget and \$4,500 was added to the budget for meals for the judges. In attending conferences it was found that Worthington was one of the only cities that did not provide them.

Administration, Mayor/Council

Mr. Robinson said there are no significant changes in these line items. He noted that the Community Relations & Communications salary and benefits are included in the Administration budget.

He said another special meeting is scheduled for August 30th as pre-certification for the 2024 levy needs to be voted on at the September 11th council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion was made by Council Member Cummings, seconded by Council Member Kielblock and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Mindy L. Eggers, MCMC
City Clerk