

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING, AUGUST 27, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers by Mayor Mike Kuhle with the following members present: Larry Janssen; Alan Oberloh; Chad Cummings; Amy Ernst; Mike Harmon.

Staff present: Steve Robinson, City Administrator; Brian Kolander, Finance Director; Jason Brisson, Assistant City Administrator/Director of Economic Development; Troy Appel, Public Safety Director; Todd Wietzema, Public Works Director; Dwayne Haffield, Director of Engineering (4:00 p.m.).

Others present: Leah Ward, The Globe.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

Brian Kolander, Finance Director, stated that the budget as presented today represented an 17.54% increase over the 2019 budget. Last year Council pre-certified at 7.99%, and then reduced it to 7.89% in December for certification.

Public Safety

Troy Appel, Public Safety Director, reviewed his department's budget, noting that the WPD staff currently consists of twenty-four officers. Sworn staff related to population is currently 1/532 and with the 2020 census and an estimated 13% population increase the officer ratio would be at 1/601. Chief Appel explained ideally the ratio would be 1/500 or fewer, he said that it is anticipated that the department will need to increase the number of officers as the city's population grows. He also noted that the Kevlar vests worn by police officers have expiration dates and will be expiring, new ones will be needed in 2020.

Public Works

Todd Wietzema, Public Works Director, said there will be an increase in the snow/ice removal budget. He noted that last year some of the reserve had to be used and will probably have to use some of it this year as well.

He said that \$2,000 had been added for signage in regards to parking downtown. The new signs will clarify that 2 hour parking is only enforced between 7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

There will be an increase in the Recreation with the addition of the new splash pad, the city will incur more water and chemical costs. Revenue is down from Olson Park Campground because people have not been camping as much. Trees will be replaced where needed and is partly due to the newly found Emerald Ash Bore. He noted that a more extensive study will be done to see how much of the city trees have been affected by the Emerald Ash Bore. Depending on the severity of the ash bore he may have to come back to Council with a budget amendment. There is \$6,000 in the tree planting budget for the replacement of trees.

Engineering

Dwayne Haffield, Director of Engineering, reviewed his operating budget, noting there was nothing significant.

Included in the ERS is \$30,000 in funds for aerial mapping, which would be done in conjunction with the County if they make the decision to do it.

Mr. Haffield stated the Contract Maintenance, which started out as \$872,400 has already been cut by \$30,000. He noted that the City is falling behind on residential street projects - there are a few million dollars worth of assessable projects and we need to make up some ground. The Olson Park Bike Trail rehabilitation also needs to be done and this project does not qualify for state aid.

Community/Economic Development

Jason Brisson, Assistant City Administrator/Director of Economic Development, provided information on his department's budget.

A reduction to WREDC in the amount of \$43,000 will help to off-set the wages in the department.

Council/Mayor, Administrator, Clerk, Finance, CAL, Event Center, Aquatic Center, Data Processing

Brian Kolander, Finance Director, stated the Memorial Auditorium, Council/Mayor, Clerk, Finance, CAL, Event Center, Aquatic Center, and Data Processing have no significant expenses for the next year.

DISCUSSION OF PRE-CERTIFICATION LEVEL - 2020 TAX LEVY

Steve Robinson, City Administrator stated that Worthington has a total tax rate that is the second lowest in comparison with 18 other Minnesota cities of similar size. Staff noted that even if the tax levy goes up that doesn't necessarily mean that taxes will increase.

Brian Kolander, Finance Director, said Council must set the pre-certification level for the 2020 levy by September 9th, and could decrease that amount when they certify in December, but they could not increase the level. Council agreed that not to allow the tax levy increase exceed 17.54%.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion was made by Council Member Oberloh, seconded by Council Member Cummings and

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unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

Mindy L. Eggers, MCMC
City Clerk