

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING, AUGUST 30, 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; Denise Deitchman, Assistant Finance Director; Troy Appel, Public Safety Director; Todd Wietzema, Public Works Director; Matt Selof, Community Development Director; Pat Shorter, Fire Chief; Hyunmyeong Goo, Assistant City Engineer; Marilyn Cilengi, Assistant City Engineer; Jill Cuperus, Center for Active Living Director; Mindy Eggers, City Clerk.

BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

Community Development

Matt Selof, Community Development Director, highlighted areas of his budget but reported there were no significant increases.

Public Safety

Troy Appel, Public Safety Director, said law enforcement has become increasingly challenging over the last couple of years. According to the MN POST Board, and through data established with a recent study of numerous comparable cities, the Worthington Police Departments pay grades are well below average. He encouraged Council to consider a comprehensive pay adjustments to regain viability within the difficult market. Currently, the department is down three-full time patrol officers. He noted there were no other significant changes to the department budget. Mr. Robinson said the current budget numbers do not reflect the Public Safety Aid that the City will be getting. Staff is waiting to find out the parameters of how the funds may be used.

Center for Active Living

Jill Cuperus, Center for Active Living Director, said that membership continues to increase. The grant that was received has been significant in helping with the purchase of IPADs, computers and other amenity items. She said she is currently working on another grant. Mr. Robinson said staff is suggesting to bring the Center for Active Living under the City, which would add an additional \$38,000 to the budget for wages for the Director.

Engineering

Hyunmyeong Goo, Assistant City Engineer, said the only notable change in the Engineering budget is the CIP which has been raised to \$800,000. This would aid in being able to add some projects to the schedule each year and allow for the increase in project costs.

Fire Department

Pat Shorter, Fire Chief, said there are not any notable increases in the budget. He would like to review jobs within the department. He said there is a need to get everyone trained in EMR or come up with a pay grade adjustment for those that are certified or will become certified. Council discussed the need to add more funding into the ERS budget.

Mr. Robinson noted that pre-certification will be approved at the September 11th Council meeting. He encouraged Council to consider a higher pre-certification amount since the renewal for insurance has not been received to date.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion was made by Council Member Kielblock, seconded by Council Member Cummings and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 5:23 p.m.

Mindy L. Eggers, MCMC
City Clerk