

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING, NOVEMBER 18, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers by Mayor Pro Tem Mike Harmon with the following Council Members present: Larry Janssen, Alan Oberloh, Amy Ernst, Chad Cummings, Mike Kuhle (via conference call).

Staff members present: Steve Robinson, City Administrator; Jason Brisson, Assistant City Administrator/Director of Economic Development; Deb Olsen, Staff Accountant; Mindy Eggers, City Clerk; Dan Wycoff, Liquor Store Manager.

Others present: Cheniqua Johnson, Honorary Council Member; Leticia Rodriguez, Scott Barber, McNay Nkashama, Andrea Duarte (via Conference call).

2021 LIQUOR STORE FUND BUDGET

The 2020 Liquor Store Fund Budget was presented for Council review. Dan Wycoff, Liquor Store Manager, provided information on the 2020 projections which came in much higher than expected as a result of COVID-19. In March alone sales were up \$103,000.00 and income is up 14.6% for the year to date. The 2021 budget projection was left at 5% in the case things return to normal. There was \$275,000 transferred to the General Fund with an approximate \$86,787.00 remaining that Council has the authority to pay down debt or put it in reserves.

Council Member Cummings stated he would prefer to pay down the debt of the purchase and remodel project. Council concurred that paying down the debt at a faster pace should be done.

A motion was made by Council Member Cummings, seconded by Council Member Oberloh and unanimously carried to transfer \$80,000 to pay down the debt.

2021 STREET LIGHTING BUDGET APPROVED

Staff presented the proposed 2021 Street Lighting Budget. Steve Robinson, City Administrator, said there is no proposed change for the 2021 Street Lighting Budget. The projected 2021 income is \$270,000. A transfer of \$165,000 will be made to Public Utilities for the installation of the trail lights and street lights.

Staff is recommending no rate change. Council concurred that the rate should remain the same for the 2021 Street Lighting Budget.

2021 STORM WATER BUDGET APPROVED

Steve Robinson, City Administrator, said staff recommends no increase for the 2021 Storm Water Utility Budget.

Council concurred that there is no increase to the 2021 Storm Water Budget.

2021 BUDGET / FINAL CERTIFICATION RECOMMENDATION

Steve Robinson, City Administrator, stated that Council had recommended a 4.0% levy increase for the 2021 budget. Mr. Robinson said there is no fluff built in to the 2021 budget.

Council Member Cummings said he would like to hear from department heads as to how they think everything went in their department, there is definitely street work that needs to be prioritized.

Council agreed to leave the 2021 levy increase at 4.0%.

CROSS CULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Steve Robinson, City Administrator, explained staff has met with individuals interested in addressing improved community engagement and outreach with the City's racially and ethnically diverse community members. The group formulated the plan for the establishment of a City Council advisory committee that would foster cross cultural communication, education and engagement.

Scott Barber explained this is a significant step in the community and will help facilitate communication between the city and diverse community. Council Member Oberloh asked how this committee relates to the Nobles County Collaborative. Mr. Barber said the Collaborative is under the School District.

Council Member Oberloh stated he has a couple of questions pertaining to the by-laws which include that city committee members be residents of the city and un-excused absences. Mr. Robinson said the ad hoc committee wants various representation on the committee. Mr. Robinson said the committee is a City Council appointed committee and all committee nominations will have to go through the Nominating Committee and then gain approval from the City Council. As far as un-excused absences they would be handled as they have been in the past through administration. Mr. Robinson noted that while the Cross Cultural Advisory Committee will be active, the decision power lies with the City Council.

Council Member Cummings stated he has a concern about the request to have a budget of \$10,000. His recommendation would be to start with a 1/3 and adjust from there based on the progress and productivity of the committee. Council Member Oberloh said he agreed as it is unprecedented that committees have separate budgets, he said they usually go through the department that the committee is related to. Mr. Robinson stated the budget for this committee would be a line item under Administration and any expense would have to be approved by the City Administrator.

McNay Nkashama said he wanted to assure the City Council that this committee will not be a platform but a partnership with the City. Cheniqua Johnson stated that the advisory committee will be good for Worthington and City Council. Mayor Kuhle stated that he is excited about the

committee and hopes it can aid in the specific needs of the community. Scott Barber stated that he will make the noted changes to the by-laws and resubmit them to staff. Mr. Robinson stated that all committee recommendations should be submitted to staff by December 2, 2020 so they can go before the Nominating Committee the next week.

Council Members agreed to have staff move forward and bring the final by-laws to City Council on December 14th.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion was made by Council Member Oberloh, seconded by Council Member Ernst and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

Mindy L. Eggers, MCMC
City Clerk