

The Budget Workshop Meeting of August 11, 2015 was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

MAYOR

Ron Reinhard

OTHERS

Shannan Kinsley

Debbie Swisher

Chief David Bejar

Damon Swisher

Lieutenant Frank Francis

Ed Scharf

COUNCILMEMBERS

Lou Hoffman

Chris Mikel

Don Nettle

Don Reddout

Jennifer Nottingham

Shane Reddout

Mitch Thornton

Brenda Reinhard

Lynn Tiner

Freda Hoffman

Mayor Reinhard declared a quorum with all Councilmember's present.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. DISCUSS THE CITY OF GREY FOREST 2015/2016 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

Mayor Reinhard stated at the last City Council Meeting, he provided Council worksheets of where we project to be and a five year analysis. The numbers provided were a starting point based on recommendations from city operations, forecasting the current year end totals, and analyzing previous year's budgets to forecast where we need to be in the upcoming year. Mayor Reinhard reviewed the Opening Balances. He stated restricted balances can only be used on specific items. The restricted funds can't be placed in the General Fund to be used for other budget items. The funds have to carryover each year until used. Mayor Reinhard stated the current tax rate for the City is \$0.093525/\$100. He's proposed the Rollback Tax Rate of \$0.088441/\$100. This will lower the City tax rate because property values went up and you're capped at an 8% increase. The highest rate the City can propose is the Rollback Tax Rate. If you exceed the Rollback Tax Rate, voters in the jurisdiction may petition for an election on the tax increase. Mayor Reinhard stated he didn't project any income for SLPC as it hasn't been outlined how it will work. Once outlined, he proposes SLPC funds be restricted. He'd like to see any funds received for clubhouse rentals, fundraisers, etc. go back to SLPC and not into the General Fund just as the Madla Park does. Mayor Reinhard stated as it stands, we have more expenses than income. The projected Income is \$798,199 and Expenses \$804,366. Mayor Reinhard reviewed Administration in detail. He stated funds were put into Line Item No. 108, Mayor/Council Expenses to purchase a projector and furniture other than folding tables for Council Chambers. It was Council's consensus to reduce Line Item No. 108 to \$1,200. It was agreed Line Item No. 124 would be titled "Facility Cleaning & Maintenance Supplies" adding the word supplies. Mayor Reinhard reviewed Public Works in detail. He stated Roads & Bridges was removed from Public Works and placed under Capital Improvements/Infrastructure. It was Council's consensus to increase Line Item No. 216, Public Works Equipment to \$8,000. They would like Public Works to have good working equipment. Mayor Reinhard reviewed Capital Improvement/Infrastructure. He stated \$25,000 was placed under Line Item No. 201, Road and Bridge awaiting the completion of the road analysis by the City Engineer. If more funds are needed for this line item, the budget can be amended at a later date or funds can be taken out of contingency. Mayor Reinhard reviewed Public Safety Police. He stated as discussed last year, the Police Department does not have 24/7 coverage. Chief Bejar asked for an additional Full-Time Officer last year to provide this coverage and didn't receive it. This year he's brought it back for consideration. Councilmember Nettle stated he feels it's not a good idea to increase incurring expenses until we know what the needs for our roads are. The City no longer has a bond payment of \$85,000 and he was expecting to have those additional funds for roads, instead the expenses continue to go up. Councilmember Hoffman stated he agrees with Councilmember Nettle and the roads should be a priority. Councilmember Thornton stated he feels Public Safety is a priority. Citizens have expressed they want 24/7 coverage. It's been Council's goal for years to reach that goal. After lengthy discussion, Council agreed they would leave the new police officer position in the budget for now and will revisit this item. Mayor Reinhard reviewed the Municipal Court in detail and there were no changes. Mayor Reinhard reviewed Public Service Medical. Council agreed Line Item No. 600 should be titled "Acadian Ambulance Services" as the City no longer contracts with AMR Emergency Medical Services. Mayor Reinhard reviewed Public Safety Fire.

Line Item No. 700, Fire Department Contract Amount includes a 2.5% increase. Councilmember Hoffman stated if the City was in the ESD, citizens would be paying half the contract rate of \$85,000. It's not logical to pay more than twice as much as the taxpayers surrounding us that receive the same service. In addition, there's a conflict of interest with Fire Department Board members being on City Council or having affiliations with City Councilmember's. Councilmember Hoffman asked why the Fire Department is listed as a "For Profit". Chief Shane Reddout and Administrator/Treasurer Don Reddout stated they are not a "For Profit" organization and assured Councilmember Hoffman they are not a "Not for Profit". Councilmember Hoffman stated he has documentation showing them listed as "For Profit". Chief Shane Reddout stated he would need to look into the document referenced and requested a copy from Councilmember Hoffman. Councilmember Thornton stated yes the City is paying a higher rate than the taxpayers in the ESD, but he's willing to pay a higher rate for a premium service. He stated 20% of the calls made by the Fire Department are in the City. If you look at their budget, the City contract is 20% of their operating account so it's proportional. Councilmember Nottingham stated she doesn't receive any form of compensation from the Fire Department. She appreciates the 2.5% increase and thinks another workshop with the Fire Department Board and Council as they did a year ago would be a good idea. Councilmember Nettle stated he agrees with Councilmember Hoffman. It's not logical to pay over twice the amount. He understands the sentimental value but not at twice the amount. He proposes the City reduce the contract to the ESD rate plus add an additional 10% for a premium service. Councilmember Tiner stated we don't have volunteers anymore. The Fire Department needs the funding to have paid personnel. There was lengthy discussion on the Fire Department funding and the ESD tax rate. Mayor Reinhard stated he understands both arguments. This is a discussion every year during the budget process. Mayor Reinhard stated since he will be proposing a budget by the end of the week and hasn't heard of consensus of all of Council, he will present Line Item No. 700 at \$85,965 as proposed. This item can be readdressed. Mayor Reinhard stated he added a new budget section of Parks and Programs. He moved Line Item No. 602, Citizen Education & Activities under this section as it's more in line with where it should be. Council agreed that Line Item No. 602 will no longer be needed if SLPC transfers the land to the City. Mayor Reinhard stated he added Line Item, New SLPC Community Operations of \$20,000. He estimated that should cover the transfer of land and registering the dams. Madla Park Operations was also moved under this new section. The Madla Board met and proposes to receive Income of \$7,500 from fundraisers, etc. and Expenses of \$6,000. These are restricted funds and this would also leave them a contingency in the bank account. Councilmember Nottingham stated we've had issues with property being cleared and the question on water availability. The City should seriously consider finding ways to purchase vacant properties as they go up for sale to add to our parks. Mayor Reinhard stated he would like to schedule the Budget Public Hearing on September 15th. The Regular Council Meeting is September 22nd. Some sort of action must be taken after the Public Hearing. Although Council can approve the budget after the Public Hearing, in the past Council has moved to approve it at the September Council Meeting.

There was no further discussion. Mayor Reinhard adjourned the Budget Workshop Meeting at 9:26 p.m.

These minutes were written/recorded by Shawnau Kinsley.

These minutes were approved as ~~written~~ amended on the 22 day of September, 2015.

Signed: Ronald G. Reinhard
Ronald G. Reinhard, Mayor