

The Budget Workshop Meeting of July 29, 2014 was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

MAYOR

Ron Reinhard

OTHERS

Shannan Kinsley
Chief David Bejar
Don Reddout
Joni Simon

COUNCILMEMBERS

Don Nettle
Jennifer Nottingham
Mitch Thornton
Lynn Tiner
Jeff Waldrop

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

NEW BUSINESS:

1. DISCUSSION ON THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE CITY OF GREY FOREST FOR THE 2014/2015 FISCAL YEAR

Mayor Reinhard stated he has been working on the budget in stages. He pulled the numbers for the last six years and did a financial review. Mayor Reinhard provided Council Budget Worksheets and reviewed the numbers. The Income was reviewed in detail. The projected Income is \$755,120. Mayor Reinhard stated as it looks right now, we have more expenses than income but will look at those numbers and see where we stand. Public Service/Medical was reviewed in detail. Line Item No. 602, Citizens Education he put in two classes at \$500 each with \$100 each for postage and to sponsor four events in conjunction with SLPC at \$200 each. Last year the City sponsored three events. Councilmember Nottingham stated last year we discussed purchasing a banner that says event sponsored in conjunction with the City of Grey Forest. This hasn't been done and she would like to see that if we are going to sponsor events. Mayor Reinhard reviewed Administration in detail. It was noted Line Item No. 111, Office Supplies did not pull over \$1,200 and Line Item No. 126, Board of Adjustment did not pull over \$250. Line Item No. 115, Finance Auditor would be changed to \$5,000 as this is the fee for the annual audit. Mayor Reinhard stated he would update these numbers. Mayor Reinhard reviewed Public Works in detail. Line Item No. 201, Road and Bridge he would like to put money in the budget for an analysis on the roads once the City appoints an Engineer but he's not sure yet what amount to put in. He stated the City needs to solicit Engineers but he just hasn't had time to work on it. Line Item No. 205, Public Works Full Time Pay he put an increase and title change for Chris Mikel. Chris is making decisions, managing people and time and he thinks he deserves recognition for that. He's increased his pay to \$15.00 an hour and is proposing a title change to Public Works Manager. Councilmember Nottingham stated Chris deserves this and possible more, she would like to revisit this item. It was noted Line Item No. 203, Public Works Part Time Fica is high and should be lowered to \$765. Line Item No. 208, Restricted Road Repair Tax Fund, they can consider using this money for the road analysis. Line Item No. 2xx, Madla Park Operations, the park was built and opened with no funds from the City but now that the grant money is gone, there will be some expenses to maintain the park such as the restroom, internet, cleaning, etc. We don't know exactly what it will cost at this point so he put in \$6,000. Councilmember Nottingham stated they need to go to the Board of Directors to decide if they are willing to accept that money or not. When this idea was brought to City Council, it was presented and very clear that this will not cost the City any money. That was a promise she made to the citizens. She personally thinks it is wrong for the City to be putting money into the park. The park needs to be self sufficient. Mayor Reinhard stated at a minimum, some things have to be paid and there should be money in the budget for those commitments. Councilmember Waldrop stated we built the park and it needs to be maintained. With no money in the budget, it gives us no room for improvement. We don't want to be in the business of building a park and not improving it. It was the consensus of the majority of Council that they would reduce this number to \$3,000 to meet the bare minimum commitments. It's not a requirement for the Board to use the money. The money can be in the budget with the goal to not spend it but it will be there if needed. Mayor Reinhard and Councilmember Nottingham stated they will bring this to the Madla Board of Directors. They will see if the Board expects to receive income so that can be added to budget.

Mayor Reinhard stated he will update these numbers. Public Safety Police was reviewed in detail. It was noted 4xx, Police Vehicle Lease that \$7,800 did not pull over. Mayor Reinhard stated the big change here is Line Item No. 4xx, New Police Officer Salary. He has put in the budget a new Full Time Police Officer. This position is basically moving the Part Time position into a Full Time position. Ideally, Chief Bejar would have liked to keep the Part Time position and add a Full Time position but the funds just aren't there. Mayor Reinhard stated what we are running into again is the Chief has to cover shifts when he doesn't have anyone. He's already started building up time and isn't able to use it. The City has to determine if they want to add an officer to cover shifts or understand that we won't have 24 hour coverage. There was further lengthy discussion regarding coverage and creative scheduling. It was the consensus of the majority of Council that they will move the part time position to into a full time position and see where we stand next budget. Mayor Reinhard stated he will update these numbers. Public Safety Fire was reviewed in detail. Mayor Reinhard stated Line Item No. 700, Fire Department Contract he put in for a 5% increase. He stated if you look at the graph, you can see where pretty sizeable increases have been given since 2011 trying to get the Fire Department where they should be. Mayor Reinhard stated he feels the City has made a good effort in trying to address them being under paid in the past but also realizing we can't do that forever. Councilmember Tiner stated he agrees with Mayor Reinhard, that the City has done a good job working towards getting the Fire Department more money but we can't do it forever as the City just doesn't have the money. Councilmember Nottingham stated the Fire Department was hoping to put on another person. She knows it's going to sound outrageous but they were hoping for at least \$120,000. She knows it's high but was hoping to meet middle grounds somewhere. As discussed in the early spring, they're trying desperately to pay for trucks & equipment out of City funds but they also need to pay salaries out of City funds. Councilmember Nettle stated it's his belief the City should not pay more than what the ESD is paying. Mayor Reinhard stated the City receives superior service and he believes that's worth a premium but again it goes back to what can the City afford. Councilmember Thornton stated he values the faster response time and values paying more than the typical person. His concern is when the ESD builds a new station, will fire personnel remain stationed in the City or will they move to the new station. Councilmember Waldrop stated he thinks the City has made a good effort in getting the Fire Department to where they need to be. He stated the Fire Department is not moving next year. If the station moves, we will have other decisions to make and if it becomes that big of an issue, the City can address it with the contingency fund at that time. Councilmember Nottingham stated she would like to get \$45,000 at a minimum to pay for one salary. She doesn't want to have to go back and play catch up. She would like to keep moving with the same momentum to make sure they keep up. There was further lengthy discussion regarding the Fire Department contract, ESD, mandatory state requirements, etc. Mayor Reinhard stated this can be revisited but asked Council what direction they would like to go in at this time. Councilmember Nettle stated he thinks the contract amount should stay at its current rate with no increase. Councilmember Nottingham stated she would like to see at a minimum a \$45,000 increase. The remainder of Council stated they felt a 5% increase is very fair. Mayor Reinhard stated he will keep the 5% increase in the budget but will also put numbers together for Council to compare all three of these options. Municipal Court Costs were reviewed in detail. Mayor Reinhard stated Line Item No. 502, Warrants Served has increased as we are now collecting on warrants and a fee is paid to the officer. Line Item No. 5xx, Court Clerk Retirement is retirement for the Court Clerk, Belinda. Any employee working 1,000 hours or more must to be a part of TMRS. With Belinda being back up to Shannan and collecting on warrants, she is meeting the 1,000 hours. Mayor Reinhard stated he will update the numbers as discussed this evening. He will make notes on areas to revisit. Mayor Reinhard stated Council's scheduled to continue review of the Zoning Ordinance at a Workshop on August 9th at 9:00 a.m. He stated they could add continue review of the budget to that Workshop. It was Councils consensus to add budget review to that Workshop.

There was no further discussion. Mayor Reinhard adjourned the Budget Workshop Meeting at 9:23 p.m.

These minutes were written/recorded by Shannan Kinsley.

These minutes were approved as written / amended on the 26th day of August, 2014.

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