

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Police Department Budget

Thursday, May 6, 2004 - 6:30 p.m.

Conference Room A

City Council Present: Mayor Sirrell, Assistant Mayor Hanson, Councilors Whitehouse, Grasso, Hynes, Ferrini, Raynolds, and Pantelakos.

Officials Present: John P. Bohenko, City Manager; Dianna Fogarty, Human Resource Director; Judie Belanger, Deputy Finance Director; Police Commissioners Howe and Kelley; Michael Magnant, Police Chief; David Young, Deputy Police Chief; Len DiSesa, Karen Seneca, Kathe Hoyt, Felicia Donovan, Police Staff.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Sirrell called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

II. INTRODUCTION

City Manager Bohenko introduced the Police Department budget and highlighted the amount requested along with the reductions made. He noted that the budget is highly labor intensive.

Commissioner Kelley explained that the City has met the requirement of sworn officers for the federal grant stipulations. Mr. Kelley also noted the reductions made, the union agreements, and that it is a streamlined budget. Commissioner Howe was concerned regarding training, as it was not part of the budget. City Manager Bohenko said that the City would work together and noted that the Human Resource Department budget has a line item for training.

Chief Magnant distributed a budget presentation and highlighted the budget.

Councilor Raynolds questioned the training concern. City Manager Bohenko explained the scenario that occurred last year. Commissioner Howe reiterated that the training funds are not part of this budget. Deputy Belanger explained that last year the funds were taken from contingency. City Manager Bohenko said that he requested a 9% increase in the budget and he left it to the department to make the alterations. Mayor Sirrell noted that the City Council is there for unexpected expenditures.

Councilor Whitehouse questioned the budget increases and highlighted the personnel line item. City Manager Bohenko explained that it reflects the CPI and the step increases.

Councilor Pantelakos questioned where the line item is for workers compensation. Director Fogarty explained that it is in the budget of the Police Department. Councilor Pantelakos questioned the hours of the auxiliary officers and feels the auxiliary officers are arrogant and are only interested in talking on a cellular phones, looking in manholes, and chatting with the workers. She is concerned because the taxpayers pay for these hours. Chief Magnant explained that the auxiliary officers receive a small

stipend and most of the hours are considered volunteers. Councilor Pantelakos said it appears that the City pays for its officers after they retire. Chief Magnant explained that there is an ordinance stating that an officer must be there for roadwork and that the City Council could make a policy change. Councilor Pantelakos questioned if the auxiliary officers are there to fill in for sworn officers. Chief Magnant said that is not the case. Councilor Pantelakos clarified that the City does pay an hourly rate when auxiliary officers are working on City water/sewer projects.

Mayor Sirrell confirmed that sworn officers do have the first option to take roadwork jobs. She also noted that there was a problem with using flag personnel. City Manager Bohenko noted that the law changed in October allowing flaggers for traffic control.

Councilor Pantelakos questioned why the City does not use the sheriff for assistance. Chief Magnant said the sheriff had worked on South Street and other special events. Councilor Pantelakos was concerned regarding the increase in the prosecutor costs. Chief Magnant explained that the services are contracted out and the funds pay for a full time and part time prosecutor and ensure that a prosecutor is present at court. He noted that the prosecutor is in court every day of the week. City Manager Bohenko noted that the county dues do not provide prosecution assistance. He also noted that revenue is collected for DWI cases in court. He explained it is cost effective versus having a City Prosecutor.

Assistant Mayor Hanson explained that the prosecution issue was researched before and this situation provides the best value. He noted that the auxiliary officer cost was researched along with changing officers to flaggers.

Councilor Ferrini questioned if the Police Department is satisfied with the operations based on the budget amount. Chief Magnant responded that he is comfortable and could make this budget work.

Councilor Grasso thanked the Police Commission for presenting a budget increase as requested.

Councilor Reynolds requested statistics of crime, accidents, and other items. Chief Magnant noted it is provided on a monthly basis.

Councilor Pantelakos questioned the breakdown of overtime per department. Chief Magnant explained that former Chief Russ attempted to present a program budget along with each department being accountable for their own overtime. City Manager Bohenko said that it does work to a degree with a variable amount of adjustments. He noted that a summary page could be included in the budget with a lump sum of the overtime expenses.

Mayor Sirrell closed the work session at 7:26 p.m.

Minutes taken and typed by: B. Christopher Maxwell, Deputy City Clerk