

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
DATE: MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2015

PORTSMOUTH, NH
TIME: 6:30PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

At 6:35 p.m., Mayor Lister called the regular City Council meeting to order.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Lister, Assistant Mayor Splaine, Councilors Shaheen, Kennedy, Lown, Dwyer, Morgan, Spear and Thorsen

III. INVOCATION

Mayor Lister asked everyone to join in a moment of silent prayer.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Fire Commissioner Richard Gamester led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

V. DISCUSSION RE: PROPOSED FY16 BUDGET

City Manager Bohenko announced that last week Standard and Poor reaffirmed the City's AAA bond rating. He thanked the Finance Department and all departments that participated in the meeting as it reflects well on all of us.

- Resolution No. 11-2015 – Municipal Fees

City Manager Bohenko said the Fee Committee met to review the fees on May 27, 2015. Councilor Dwyer said last year a number of fees were raised regarding land use and building practices. She said there has been some streamlining of fees. The following are the actions taken by the Fee Committee:

- To expand area of High Occupancy metered spaces
- Increase hourly transient rates by \$0.25 an hour from \$1.00 to \$1.25 in the High/Hanover Parking Facility as recommended along with increasing the validation stickers from \$50.00 per hundred to \$75.00 per hundred
- Increase both metered Non-High Occupancy and High Occupancy hourly rates by \$0.25 each or \$1.25 and \$1.75 respectively

Councilor Spear moved to adopt Resolution No. 11-2015 – Municipal Fees. Seconded by Councilor Lown.

Councilor Spear said he is concern with raising rates for the garage before raising the fees on the street.

Councilor Kennedy said she will vote for this in good faith that the fees on the street will be increased. She said this does not cover the rates for constructing the new garage.

Councilor Dwyer said the fees will be raised in the future.

Councilor Kennedy asked if long term monthly rates were discussed. Councilor Dwyer said those fees were raised last year.

Assistant Mayor Splaine asked how to get the easy park device. City Manager said we need to work on how the person claims they're a resident.

Councilor Morgan would like the Parking and Traffic Safety Committee to have a very quick time table on the process to implement a parking permit program. Councilor Lown said Parking and Traffic Safety Committee will take that up at a future meeting.

On a roll call 8-1, motion passed. Councilors Shaheen, Kennedy, Lown, Dwyer, Morgan, Spear, Thorsen and Mayor Lister voted in favor. Assistant Mayor Splaine voted opposed.

- Resolution No. 12-2015 – General Fund Expenditures

City Manager Bohenko explained that there were two Resolutions for the General Fund Expenditure, one is the original proposal and the second is the amended proposal.

Councilor spear moved to adopt Resolution #12-2015 – General Fund Expenditures, as amended. Seconded by Councilor Shaheen.

City Manager Bohenko said the reductions are in the Non-Operating portion of the budget.

Councilor Dwyer said we need to discuss the \$45,000.00 needed by the Police Department for pursuing cold case files and adding funds to the Fire Department for additional firefighters.

City Manager Bohenko said you could amend just the Non-Operating first and then you may discuss other areas.

Councilor Spear moved to reduce Non-Operating by \$412,500.00 for a new total of \$21,921,017.00. Seconded by Councilor Shaheen.

On a roll call 7-2, motion passed. Assistant Mayor Splaine, Councilors Shaheen, Lown, Dwyer, Spear, Thorsen and Mayor Lister voted in favor. Councilors Kennedy and Morgan voted opposed.

Reductions made to Non-Operating:

Debt Service

- *Debt Service for Fire Heavy Rescue Unit* \$142,500.00
- *Projected Savings from Library Deb Refunding* \$ 40,000.00

Rolling Stock

- *Public Works – 2003 Pick-Up* \$ 20,000.00
- *Police – Reduce Rolling Stock* \$ 20,000.00
- *Fire – 2007 Tahoe* \$ 40,000.00
- *School – 2007 Sedan* \$ 15,000.00

Overlay

\$ 50,000.00

Capital Outlay

- *II-21 – Refurbish-Fire Boat* \$ 60,000.00
- *II-33 – Land Acquisition* \$ 25,000.00

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Total Reduction from Original Recommended | \$412,500.00 |
|--|---------------------|

Councilor Spear moved to adopt Resolution No. 12-2015 – General Fund Expenditures, as amended. Seconded by Councilor Shaheen.

Councilor Dwyer moved to add \$25,000.00 to the Police Department budget for use in pursuing cold case files. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Splaine.

Councilor Shaheen asked if the expenses could be absorbed over the next few budget years. Police Chief Dubois said we have a better understanding of what is left at the end of year's budget and next year we could use the same methodology.

City Manager Bohenko said in the second and third quarter of the fiscal year the Chief could come forward with the amount needed and the funding could be taken from the Contingency Fund.

Councilor Dwyer said if we were to do this she would want the City Council intention to go forward with pursuing cold case files because there will be a new City Council in place. City Manager Bohenko said he could bring the matter back in December so that this City Council would act on the motion.

On a unanimous roll call 9-0, motion passed.

The new total for the Police Department Budget is \$9,617,688.00.

Fire Chief Achilles spoke to the fire boat and said they reviewed the operation and the cost of maintaining it. He expressed concern with taking away a valuable service if other services couldn't pick up the need. Chief Achilles stated he has reached out to the Coast Guard and the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard on their abilities to handle any water way issues if we were to do away with the fire boat.

Councilor Lown said the Fire Department has increased the overtime account by \$28,000.00 and he is concerned with the continued increasing of the line item.

Councilor Dwyer said the overtime could come down by adding more personnel to the Fire Department.

Councilor Lown said that this has been an issue for many years with him and he feels the current number for overtime is too high. He stated he does not see the Fire Department making any effort to reduce the line item.

Councilor Lown moved to amend the Fire Department Budget by the reduction of \$28,000.00. Seconded by Councilor Spear.

Councilor Thorsen asked Chief Achilles if the department can take a \$28,000.00 reduction. Chief Achilles said 7% of the budget has flexibility but he is concerned taking \$28,000.00 out of the budget.

Councilor Dwyer said given the timing of this and not knowing the alternative work schedule for personnel and Chief Achilles not being able to give examples of costs for additional firefighters she would vote opposed. She said remember Councilor Lown stated that he is only voting against the overtime but he would vote for the Fire Department budget if he was able to vote against overtime costs only.

Councilor Shaheen spoke opposed to the motion. She said the funding is needed and reminded the City Council that we already reduced the Fire Department budget by \$202,000.00 in the Non-Operating budget.

On a 3-6 roll call vote, motion to amend the Fire Department Budget by the reduction of \$28,000.00 *failed* to pass. Councilors Lown, Spear and Thorsen voted in favor. Assistant Mayor Splaine, Councilors Shaheen, Kennedy, Dwyer, Morgan and Mayor Lister voted opposed.

Councilor Thorsen said the Collective Bargaining is usually exact numbers. City Manager Bohenko said when collective bargaining agreements are adopted the City Council needs to have the funds in the budget to fund the agreements. He said if there is not enough money the Council would need to do a special appropriation and fund them.

Councilor Thorsen moved to amend Collective Bargaining by the reduction of \$50,000.00. Seconded by Councilor Kennedy.

On a 4-5 roll call vote, motion to amend Collective Bargaining by the reduction of \$50,000.00 *failed* to pass. Councilors Kennedy, Morgan, Spear and Thorsen voted in favor. Assistant Mayor Splaine, Councilor Shaheen, Lown, Dwyer and Mayor Lister voted in opposed.

Assistant Mayor Splaine said the City Council should be very proud of what the City does. He said we could find ways to do things better but we are doing a great job with the budget process.

Councilor Thorsen said he believes that our budget is too high to begin with and he does not feel residents should be paying more money. He also stated we will not have a workforce living here because they will no longer be able to afford to live here. Councilor Thorsen said he would vote against the budget.

Councilor Kennedy said she would not support the budget because we are higher than \$100 million. She said 2 of her neighbors had to move out because they could not afford to live here.

Councilor Morgan said she would not support the budget this year. She said we need to compensate the employees and provide benefits but they could be less. She said in the budget process she was hopeful to make some changes to allow more discussion on issues.

Councilor Lown said he has heard every proposal to reduce the budget and if you are going to vote against the budget you need to provide specific cuts to line items that you feel need to be made to reduce the budget and participate in the process.

Councilor Shaheen said she agrees with Councilor Lown's comments. She said democracy is difficult, there needs to be give and take. She said she would have liked to see another police officer hired to deal with the heroin epidemic and more firefighters to deal with the overtime issue. She said if you vote against the budget say why and where you want to see cuts made.

On a roll call 6-3, voted to pass main motion as amended. Assistant Mayor Splaine, Councilors Shaheen, Lown, Dwyer, Spear and Mayor Lister voted in favor. Councilors Kennedy, Morgan and Thorsen voted opposed. The FY16 Budget as adopted is \$101,046,202.00.

| Department | Appropriation |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| General Government | \$17,635,940.00 |
| Police | \$9,617,688.00 |
| Fire | \$7,995,247.00 |
| School | \$43,236,310.00 |
| Collective Bargaining | \$490,000.00 |
| Transfer to Indoor Pool | \$150,000.00 |
| Non-Operating | \$21,921,017.00 |
| Total | \$101,046,202.00 |

- Resolution No. 13-2015 – Sewer Fund Expenditures

Councilor Spear moved to adopt Resolution No. 13-2015 – Sewer Fund Expenditures. Seconded by Councilor Dwyer.

On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.

- ***Appropriated sum of \$10,864,068.00 to defray expenses for the operations of the sewer system.***
- ***Cash Requirements of \$15,740,500.00 to defray expenses for the operations of the sewer system.***
- ***Sewer user rate effective July 1, 2015, is \$11.77 per unit and \$12.95 per 10 units or more used thereafter to yield a portion of revenue to meet the cash requirements for the operation of the sewer system.***

- Resolution No. 14-2015 – Water Fund Expenditures

Councilor Spear moved to adopt Resolution No. 14-2015 – Water Fund Expenditures. Seconded by Councilor Dwyer.

On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.

- ***Appropriated sum of \$7,931,272.00 to defray expenses for the operations of the water system.***
- ***Cash requirements of \$9,421,207.00 to defray expenses for the operations of the water system.***
- ***Water user rate effective July 1, 2015, is \$4.15 per unit and \$5.00 per 10 units or more used thereafter to yield a position of revenue to meet the cash requirements for the operation of the water system.***

- Resolution No. 15-2015 – Special Revenues, Debt Service Fund and Committed Fund Balances for Necessary Expenditures

Councilor Spear moved to adopt Resolution No. 15-2015 – Special Revenues, Debt Service Fund and Committee Fund Balances for Necessary Expenditures. Seconded by Councilor Dwyer.

On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.

- ***Appropriated any sums received from Special Revenue Sources, to a maximum of \$18,000,000.00 for the purposes for which such sums may be lawfully expended.***

- Resolution No. 16-2015 – Investment Policy

Councilor Spear moved to adopt Resolution No. 16-2015 – Investment Policy. Seconded by Councilor Shaheen.

On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Lister announced that the Rockingham County Commissioners have invited the City Council to attend a meeting on Thursday, July 16, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. to be held in the Hilton Auditorium of the Rockingham County Nursing Home.

V. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:05 p.m., Councilor Spear moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Shaheen and voted.



KELLI L. BARNABY, MMC, CMC, CNHMC
CITY CLERK