

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, October 16, 2023
6:00 PM –Budget
Common Council Chambers

I. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Steve Hass with the following attending:

Paul Russell – District 1 - excused
Michael “Gus” Caylor – District 2
Nathan Meyer – District 3
LaDonna Fermanich – District 4
Dick Lupton – District 5
Mike Rick – District 6
Mark Weix – District 7
Steve Sabatke – District 8

Other’s present: Mayor Hass, Finance Director Unertl (remote), City Attorney Hayden, City Clerk Anderson-Malm, Police Chief Bennett, Public Works/City Engineer Akey, Facilities Maintenance Manager Wszalek, Fire Chief Klug, Library Directory Ollhoff, Enrichment Center Director Mrachek, Park & Recreation Director Wendorf, Street Superintendent Bonack, Transit Director Brummond, Utility Operations Manager Steinagel, Steve Osness and Merrill Community Media.

II. Roll Call was taken.

III. Public Comment: There was no public comment

IV. Minutes from previous meeting:

Aldersperson Rick made a motion to approve the minutes from September 26th.
Aldersperson Lupton seconded and the motion carried.

V. General Agenda Items:

1. Sewer Utility – 2024 Budget Request – Utility Operations Manager Steinagel discussed the changes and increases to heat, electric and chemicals. There were no additional questions.

2. Consider potential 2.5% sewer rate adjustments (2024-2028) – UOM Steinagel explained the reason behind the rate increase. Following a brief discussion, Aldersperson Caylor made a motion to approve the 2.5% sewer rate adjustment for 2024-2028.
Aldersperson Sabatke seconded and the motion carried.

3. Water Utility – 2024 Budget Request – UOM Steinagel went over the budget request. All information was included in the packet. There were no additional questions.

4. Landfill Remediation – 2024 Budget Request – UOM Steinagel discussed the request from the information that was included in the packet. There were no additional questions.

5. 2024 Capital Budget Requests – updated after 09/26/23 COW:

a. Utility Capital – there were no additional questions

b. Infrastructure Investments – there were no additional questions

c. City Capital – Alderperson Caylor suggested increasing the Police vehicle on page 36 by \$8,000. Police Chief Bennett stated this amount would be offset by the sale of the existing vehicle. Alderperson Caylor made a motion to increase the police vehicle request by \$8,000 from \$40,000 to \$48,000 for the purchase of a truck instead of a SUV. Alderperson Rick seconded. The motion carried on a 7/1 voice vote. Alderperson Sabatke voted no.

6. General Fund – Tax Levy Operations – 2024 Budget Requests – Mayor Hass asked Finance Director Unertl for the number of net new growth. Finance Director Unertl indicated she did not have that information and will have the numbers by Wednesday. No further action was taken.

7. Update on overall City Fund – Tax Levy 2024 Budget – Mayor Hass stated he requested financial information from Haven, City Gardens and City Band. Information has been received from the Historical Society and Humane Society. No further action was taken.

VI. Establish next budget meeting – Tuesday, October 24 at 6:30 PM following Personnel & Finance.

VII. Adjournment – Alderperson Rick motioned to adjourn. Alderperson Meyer seconded and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:26 PM.

Minutes prepared by: Lori Anderson-Malm