

WORK SESSION

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Norfolk, Nebraska, held a work session in the City Council Chambers, 309 North 5th Street, Norfolk, Nebraska, on Thursday, July 14, 2016, beginning at 7:00 a.m. to discuss the FY 2016-2017 budget.

Mayor Sue Fuchtman called the meeting to order.

Roll call found the following Councilmembers present: Councilmembers Shane Clausen, Corey Granquist, Jim Lange, Rob Merrill, Thad Murren, Dick Pfeil and Mayor Fuchtman. Absent: Josh Moenning and Dave Fauss.

Staff members present were City Administrator Shane Weidner, Public Works Director Dennis Smith, City Attorney Clint Schukei, City Clerk Beth Deck, Finance Officer Randy Gates, Risk Manager Lyle Lutt, Police Chief Bill Mizner, Human Resources Director Sheila Schukei, City Engineer Mark Dolechek, City Planner Val Grimes, Fire Chief Scott Cordes, Water & Sewer Director Dennis Watts, Wastewater Superintendent Todd Boling, Library Director Jessica Chamberlain, Housing Director Gary Hilkemann, Information Systems Manager Jim McKenzie, Operations Manager Jim Dooley, Senior Accountant Sheila Rios, Park Superintendent Pat Mrsny and Economic Development staff Candice Alder and Candace Bossard.

The media was represented by Mike Buhler, Norfolk Daily News.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication in the Norfolk Daily News, and notice of the meeting was given to the Mayor and all members of the Council prior to the meeting.

The Mayor informed the public about the location of the current copy of the Open Meetings Act posted in the meeting room and accessible to members of the public.

City Administrator Shane Weidner explained the City of Norfolk fiscal year 2016-2017 Level III budgets had a total shortfall just under \$900,000. The City budgets conservatively and operates on available revenues and funding sources, including sales tax and NPPD revenue, have been flat. The City generally operates on a Level III budget which is a 3.5% increase from the previous year; however, staff is proposing a Level II which is only a 2% increase. Weidner reviewed the proposed cuts and adds information with elected officials:

Group Health Fund – reduction from 3% to 2%

Transfers increase of \$69,727 for Administration fees (services provided by Administration staff for enterprise funds)

Administration – deletions of Quadcopter, \$4,000; Presentation Technology, \$12,000; Website Redevelopment, \$50,000; copier, \$30,000

Engineering – overtime, \$7,817; GIS mapping, \$15,332; and Levee certification, \$60,000. Engineering would like to add back \$15,000 for a CAD printer. Weidner explained the levee certification (review of entire levee surrounding Norfolk) will need to be done some time in the future because without FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) certification the flood control program is in jeopardy. Public Works Director Dennis Smith explained both FEMA and the Corps of Engineers have become more diligent about flood control levees since the New

Orleans flood in 2005. The City of Norfolk's flood control has received good annual reviews from the Corps but this would be for FEMA certification. Smith stated there would probably be a short two year window to complete the report to FEMA if it is requested.

Streets – heating & AC repair, \$2,500; snow ads, \$365; pickup, \$30,000; illuminated street signs, \$50,392; pedestrian crossing, \$14,000; steel door, \$4,000; sandblasting repair services, \$10,000; tablets, \$7,500; alley drag, \$25,000; and brine equipment, \$12,000.

Parks –total deductions of \$102,395.00 including Park/Playground upgrades, \$20,000; landscape/hardscape improvements, \$20,000; tennis court resurfacing, \$12,500; and infield groomer, \$10,000.

Recreation – total deductions of \$30,522 including personnel costs/recreation salaries, \$7,125; concession stand, \$3,869; referee cost, \$3,000; and program ads, \$15,000. Weidner stated the City's has partnered in the past with the Visitors Bureau and Sports Council to help support events coming to Norfolk, e.g. baseball tournament; however, this is deferrable.

Library – total deductions of \$23,080 including STEM Education, \$6,000; laptops (public), \$6,600; and public tablets, \$5,800.

Fire Division – total deductions of \$161,450 including property condemnation, \$100,000; power load cot, \$23,000; and nuisance mitigation, \$10,000. Weidner explained City staff works with property owners on condemnation issues as much as possible to make the owners accountable. Staff doesn't want to spend public dollars on property condemnation unless absolutely necessary. Cordes said City staff have only spend about \$35,000 in any one fiscal year on property condemnation. Cordes explained a power load cot is a hydraulic lift device used to pick up a stretcher and load it into an ambulance for the safe transfer of patient. Weidner explained the nuisance mitigation was put in place to address the starling and pigeon problems years ago but feels the item is deferrable.

Police Division – total deductions of \$85,667 including water softener, \$5,000; drug investigator car, \$12,000; detective unit car, \$12,000; Intoxilizer, \$6,500; Class A Honor Guard uniforms, \$9,000; 3A ballistic flex shield, \$6,000; investigative funds, \$5,000; IPTM Major case management training, \$2,525; and pedestrian bicycle accident training, \$4,800. Mizner explained the Nebraska Supreme Court recently ruled that blood testing for intoxication is not allowed without a search warrant, which is difficult to obtain at certain times of the day. Mizner has contacted other agencies to see about working with them to use equipment for the testing. Mizner said eleven police officers are interested in having Class A Honor Guard uniforms to bring honor and respect to individuals killed in the line of duty and/or used for presentations/flag raisings. Mizner also addressed major case management and felt it is important to provide training in this area particularly when other agencies are involved. The pedestrian bicycle accident training may not be used a lot, but it is important to get additional training for accident team investigators with bike collisions.

Councilmember Merrill questioned whether the lack of maintenance will cause total replacement of items in the future.

Weidner explained the reductions/deletions can be lost opportunity costs. Weidner explained that the ending fund balance for a Level II budget, with the cuts/adds, is \$4,271, which is only an increase in the ending fund balance of 2% as well.

Weidner reviewed other possible projects for Council consideration, as follows:

Improvements to the park by YMCA -- \$500,000
N Victory Road Trail -- \$170,000
Transfer to CPF for trail under Omaha Avenue -- \$260,000
Property condemnation -- \$36,000
Aquaventure pool repainting -- \$55,000
Levee certification -- \$60,000
Intoxilizer -- \$6,500

Weidner explained, however, each of the additional projects needs a funding source, e.g. property taxes, Council priority dollars, keno revenue. Funding the above projects with property taxes would add \$87.15 on a \$100,000 home.

Councilmember Clausen questioned the percentage of overall increase in budget and the difference in revenues from FY 2015-2016.

Gates stated the overall increase is slightly over 2% and revenues are down .18%. Gates said OCT Pipe should have a big impact on revenues, including NPPD revenue, when it is operational.

Clausen feels that, since the City receives only a small percentage of property taxes, an increase in property taxes would not help this budget.

There being no further discussion, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 8:19 a.m.

Sue Fuchtmann
Mayor

ATTEST:

Elizabeth A. Deck
City Clerk

(S E A L)