

SPECIAL COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF FLAT ROCK, MICHIGAN

MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2009

The regular meeting of the Flat Rock City Council convened at the Municipal Building on the above date at 7:00 p.m.

1. PRESENT ON ROLL CALL: Mayor Jones, Council Members Dropiewski, Martin, Gagne, and Painter.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the June 30, 2010 budget with the following Department Heads: Clerk, Treasurer, Building & Safety, and Department of Public Works.

Mayor Jones called the Treasurer, Debra Lambrix, to the podium. Debbie stated she has been reviewing phone bills to streamline how the phone system is working. A T-1 line was installed several years ago that has not been put to full use for our phone system. She said she is working with a company to get that straightened out and hopefully see some cost savings from it. Also, she said she is working with Fifth-Third Bank trying to reduce some bank fees and increase our investment and working with the water department to set up auto pay for water bills.

The Clerk, Lorene Butski, stated there will be fewer elections next year and other than that, there is not much else to cut out.

Mayor Jones stated the problem is if you are going to have a \$360,000 deficit one year and a \$350,000 deficit the next year that leaves you with a fund balance of \$150,000. What do you think will happen next year? Next year you will be in the hole. What you have got to do is stop it now. If there is a \$350,000 deficit in this budget, you have to get it to 0.

Treasurer said the estimate for this year is only thru October and she would like to go thru and revise it for the next meeting.

Discussion regarding layoffs: This budget includes two layoffs from the DPS and the Police Chief is proposing four layoffs which are not included in this budget. Mayor said it is not a question of how many you are going to layoff, but are you going to cut \$350,000 out of the budget.

Council Member Dropiewski asked if the budget reflects everyone being on the new insurance and the Treasurer said Clerical and Department Heads are all on. She said the budget reflects what other departments are covered under at the present time whether it be new insurance or Blue Cross.

Building & Safety Director, John Russ, was asked by Council Member Dropiewski how he cut 10% and Mr. Russ said he eliminated one position but it was put back in (meaning the Ordinance Officer). Mr. Russ said he only has one part-time inspector and he needs him. He said the rental program and sidewalk program should bring in some revenue.

Mayor Jones said the Building Director has cut his budget 4% and is already cut to bare bones.

Snow removal ordinance discussion re: sidewalks in front of commercials, residential, etc. Council Member Martin said businesses should include sidewalk snow removal in their snow removal contract. (Snow removal to be discussed at a later meeting).

Department of Public Services Director, Bruce Hammond, said he has combined the Public Works and the Ice Rink/Ball fields budget which comes out to \$2,225,000 (a cut of \$222,550). Total expenditures in the Mayor's budget are \$2,000,000 and my reduction is about 1.9M (14%). He said the reason he gets that is last year after we cut 12% then cut another 10%, all that is left is the employees. He said he cut one park maintenance worker and one special utility position. Mr. Hammond listed several CORE services that the DPS performs daily, weekly, monthly and annually.

Mr. Hammond listed some things he has been doing to save money: orders a lot of supplies from State Purchasing Cooperative such as paper products, road salt, fuel, janitorial supplies and light bulbs at a considerable savings. Also, the DPW Cooperative through the DCC we pay \$10.00 less a ton for cold patch, we will be ordering main break repair sleeves, traffic control supplies, upgrade of water meter radio reads is about 65% complete and we will be upgrading commercial meters.

Mr. Hammond suggested that future employee union contracts for new hires have a two tier wage schedule. He also suggested the overtime be changed. For instance, if they get called in at 3 am they work for 8 hours and go home for 8 straight hours instead of overtime. Next, he said from May 1st to October 1st all DPS work be 10 hours a day Monday thru Thursday and all off Friday. Mr. Hammond threw out a couple ideas, one being the possibility of merging with Rockwood for garbage pickup since both cities use the same company. Also, charge a 25% fee to transfer water bills to the tax rolls and charge \$100.00 for water turn on fee.

Mayor said the next Special Council Meeting will be with the Fire Chief, Police Chief and Recreation Director on January 26th at 7:00 p.m.

Council Member Dropiewski asked if it would be possible to ask the Historical Commission for a one year break on further development on the Smith Hotel complex. Mayor said Council could ask.

Council Member Martin said the only long term answer is if property values go up and development comes in.

Mayor Jones stated he would probably have a proposal at the next meeting. He said we need to explore some of the possibilities of what we can and cannot offer. Mayor said according to what he heard at the last council meeting that it is pretty unanimous that the zoning map will be changed for the Meijer property and he would assume that Meijer will be approved by this Council. He said he thinks they will bring a lot of commercial development with them. Whatever we can do as a City to help generate that development, we need to do.

01-12-01 Motion by Gagne supported by Jones to adjourn the Special Council Meeting at 8:20 p.m.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

RICHARD C. JONES, MAYOR

LORENE BUTSKI, CMC CITY CLERK

DATE: _____
approved