

**APPROVED MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL
BUDGET WORK SESSION MEETING
CITY OF WYOMING, MINNESOTA
JUNE 21, 2022
5:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Lisa Iverson called the Budget Work Session Meeting of the Wyoming City Council for June 21, 2022 to order at 5:30 P.M.

CALL OF ROLL:

On a Call of the Roll the following members of the Wyoming City Council were present: Councilmembers Lisa Iverson, Linda Nanko Yeager, Brett Ohnstad, Dennis Schilling and Claire Luger.

Absent: None

Also Present: Robb Linwood- City Administrator, Alex Saxe- Assistant City Administrator, Chuck Almhjeld- Public Works Superintendent, Fred Weck- Zoning Administrator/Building Official, Neil Bauer- Public Safety Director, Tom Loonan- Eckberg Lammers and Mark Erichson- WSB

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM:

Mayor Iverson determined a Quorum was present.

PLEDEGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 2023 Budget Considerations and Discussion

City Administrator Linwood- Presented the budget calendar for 2023 and explained the purpose of this second budget meeting is to hear high level discussions and priorities from department heads. Mr. Linwood ran through some general cost increases the city is seeing so far this year such as valuations, healthcare costs, fuel and utilities, asphalt and office supplies due to current inflation. He then walked through some continued priorities such as the public safety building, master park and trail plan and the capital equipment fund. He stated the Administration department is going to recommend hiring an outside consultant to host a strategic planning retreat for the Council next year. He then asked Council for any feedback on these areas before going to department heads.

Mayor Iverson- Stated she is in favor of having an outside person do strategic planning with the Council as it will help guide the future of the city. It is important to have the neutral party where the group can have open conversations.

Member Nanko Yeager- Wanted to make sure the session would be different than in 2011. During that session the process was a lot more guided and a direction was pre-determined. She rather see it more neutral to get more out of the experience.

Public Works Superintendent Almhjeld- Gave an overview on the Public Works 2023 budget. Fuel and utility costs will be about 50% higher due to current inflation. Contracted services will also be higher due to inflation.

Building Official Weck- Gave an overview on the Building Department 2023 budget. Training and travel are increasing to allow the new building inspector to get needed certifications. Fuel costs will be budgeted about 80% higher due to the increase in driving to different job sites and inflation.

Public Safety Director Bauer- Gave an overview on the Public Safety 2023 budget. They will also have about 50% additional fuel costs due to inflation. Next year the police department will be doing a body worn camera audit to make sure they are being used properly. The policy manual for police needs to be completely reviewed and redone. That has upfront costs to get started and then annual costs to maintain every year, which is crucial to comply with State and Federal policies and laws.

Mayor Iverson- Asked what is this policy manual and has it ever been updated?

Public Safety Director Bauer- It was last updated 10-11 years ago. Everything is in that manual from use of force policy to vehicle pursuit policy. All of those policies have to be updated and kept current with case law that has been updated.

Mayor Iverson- Asked what are the ramifications for the City if this manual does not get updated if something was not done right.

Public Safety Director Bauer- Informed Council that officers are held to what is in policy. If the manual is not updated then the city has not provided officers good guidance.

Mayor Iverson- Asked why is there annual costs?

Public Safety Director Bauer- Stated that the company Lexapold looks at things from a national level and checks for necessary and relevant changes as they happen.

Public Safety Director Bauer- Stated that he will be adding a wellness budget to take care of officers and firefighters by providing mental health assistance and to help prevent PTSD.

Mayor Iverson- Asked why the cost for Fire is less than Police?

Public Safety Director Bauer- Stated that it is still one Public Safety Budget, he has broken it out to see Fire versus Police costs easier. In general, the number of PTSD cases are higher among police officers.

Councilmember Nanko Yeager- Asked if the city has had PTSD claims in the past and what is the cost of them?

City Administrator Linwood- Stated that the city has had them, but it is tough to track the total cost. These claims have contributed to an increase in workers comp and insurance costs through the League of Minnesota Cities.

Councilmember Luger- Asked if the Union LELS provides resources to officers in terms of mental health?

Public Safety Director Bauer- Has not heard that they provide anything in terms of mental health. He expressed that this is a priority for officers.

Public Safety Director Bauer- Stated the need for a Community Service Officer (CSO) position. This position is not a sworn law enforcement officer they would be required to be enrolled in a law enforcement program. It's a great entry point into law enforcement and a 2-3 year interview process to become a police officer. They would be responding to incidents, provide traffic flows, running items down to the BCA in St. Paul, be involved in animal control, community outreach and assisting in code enforcement issues. Enrollment in officer training is down, this position can help fill future vacancies.

Mayor Iverson- Asked Chief Bauer how much he has increased his total budget for 2023.

Public Safety Director Bauer- Staff is still working through the capital budget, which he did decrease some costs in capital. He is looking at about a \$100,000 total increase in 2023.

City Administrator Linwood- Gave an overview of the Administration Department 2023 budget. There are no significant additions, but there will be some technology upgrades in the capital budget. On July 27, the first draft of the budget will be presented to the Council.

Councilmember Schilling- Stated that he has a conflict on July 27 and would request the budget meeting be moved.

Council came to a consensus that at the Regular Council Meeting they will add an agenda item to reschedule the budget meeting from July 27 to July 28 at 6pm.

City Administrator Linwood- Wanted to discuss with Council the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) the city has with Pinehaven Farm/Dead End Hayride. Currently, due to the high volume of traffic going to the farm, Kettler River Blvd. is the most expensive road for the city to upkeep. The total cost for the last three years is \$55,183.18 which includes adding gravel, grading and dust control. Staff have been exploring different solutions for the road.

Mark Erichson, WSB- Talked about traffic counts and what would justify paving the road. Only during the month of October is the road seeing super high traffic volumes. There are not a lot of options to help preserve the gravel road.

Councilmember Nanko Yeager- Does not want the residents living on that road to have to pay assessments to pave the road when the traffic is because of the dead end hayride. She wants to know if dead end hayride can do anything.

City Administrator Linwood- Stated that there is language in the CUP that says if intensity of the uses increases the city can reopen the CUP and talk to the vendor to see if things need to be added into the agreement. Staff wanted Council feedback to see if they would want to reopen to CUP to figure out ways to help with the costs of road maintenance.

Council came to a consensus to create an agenda item at a later Council Meeting to reopen the Conditional Use Permit with Pinehaven Farm.

Mark Erichson, WSB- Outlined two of the options that have risen to the top of the list for the long-term vision for the CSAH 22 and Kettle River Blvd. intersection. Traffic volumes are currently high and when the new development comes in, volumes will increase more. The first option is to realign the southern section of Kettler River Blvd. and bring it to a roundabout at the on and off ramps onto the freeway. The northern part will also be realigned and veers to the west and that will become the through road with the development. The second option is to realign the southern section of Kettle River Blvd. to bring it to the ramp onto the freeway.

**MAYOR IVERSON ADJOURNED THE JUNE 21, 2022 BUDGET WORK SESSION
MEETING AT 6:55 PM.**