

## **BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**6/13/2025 at 3:00 pm**

### **Budget Committee Members Present**

Jackie Hoevenaar, Kirk Leff, John Evertson, Chad Rocheford

### **Absent**

Nash Shook, Chairman

Kevin Pierre & Nate Davenport

**Also present:** City Manager Rick Rudometkin, Finance Manager Tracy Richardson, Chief of Police Travis Grim, Public Works Supervisor Philip Price, City Commissioner Holly Bobrowski

### **1. Call to Order and Confirmation of Quorum**

Committee Member Hoevenaar called the meeting to order at 3:09pm

City Manager Rick Rudometkin confirmed a quorum

A motion was made by Committee Member Hoevenaar to excuse Committee Members Shook, Pierre, and Davenport

The motion was seconded by Committee Member Leff and passed unanimously

### **2. Citizen Comments – no citizen comments**

### **3. Agenda Items**

#### **a. Selection of Officers: Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary**

- City Manager Rudometkin opened the floor for nominations for the Chairman.
- Committee Member Evertson made a motion to nominate Committee Member Shook for Chairman. Committee Member Shook was not present, so the motion remains open
- Committee Member Evertson made a motion for nomination of Vice Chairman. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Rocheford, which passed unanimously
- Committee Member Hoevenaar declined renomination for Secretary.
- Committee Member Evertson nominated Committee Member Kevin Pierre for Secretary. Committee Member Pierre was not present, so the nomination remains open.

#### **b. Budget Calendar**

- City Manager Rudometkin provided a Budget Calendar for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget.
- City Manager Rudometkin opened discussion about several upcoming items for the budget.
- Flat-based budgeting is an option for the future.
- The City Planner position is currently being outsourced
- The current interim City Planner is April Fisher. Her schedule is 3 months plus 3 months, which ends in August 2025. Interim City Planner Fisher has agreed to continue through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025. This will be brought to the Council for approval by City Manager Rudometkin.
- Committee Member Evertson suggested acquiring approval from the Council to extend an 18-month term for the Interim City Planner Fisher.
- City Manager Rudometkin plans on requesting approval through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026.
- If approval is received, there will be salary savings. Interim City Planner Fisher is currently on a monthly pay rate.
- Committee Member Leff inquired about an increase in the pay rate. City Manager Rudometkin stated that the rate should not increase.
- The Draft Budget is expected to be provided by June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, however it may be a few days later. The goal is by June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- Committee Members requested that the Draft be provided a few days prior to the June 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.

- City Manager Rudometkin requested a commitment from the present Committee Members to attend the June 27th meeting. All present Committee Members agreed.
- City Manager Rudometkin suggested the Committee Member think about the following: normal increases, insurance, possible fire increase from appraised value, and budget for Class and Comp study
- Committee Member Evertson inquired if the 2% increase in property revenue would cover the fire increase

c. Storm Water Fee Increase

- City Manager Rudometkin informed the committee that there will not be a fee increase this year.
- The current study shows discrepancies in square footage, so a 5-year study will be performed.
- There is also a public hearing that is necessary prior to any changes. The hearing will be scheduled, and residents will be notified.
- The study should be completed by December 2025 with a 5-year plan
- Committee Member Rocheford inquired about the cost of the study, which is approximately \$52,000-53,000.

d. Revenue / Millage Increases

- City Manager Rudometkin stated that the millage increase of 0.6 is still under consideration. Other options are a 0.4 increase in the first year, then 0.2 and 0.2 the following 2 years.
- Ultimately the 0.6 increase will cover the County Fire increase
- Committee Member Evertson suggested it be kept simple. City Manager Rudometkin stated he would request what the Budget Committee suggests. The Committee Members all agreed and suggested offering the 0.6 increase for consideration.
- Member Hoevenaar inquired about the possible property tax reduction by Governor DeSantis that would affect the property tax revenue in the future. City Manager Rudometkin stated that this will be discussed in the legislative session in January 2026 for the 2026-2027 budget. The effects are unknown, and replacements are unknown.
- Finance Manager Tracy Richardson stated that the deadline to establish the maximum millage rate is July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
- A motion was made by Committee Member Leff for City Manager Rudometkin to recommend the 0.60 millage increase to the Council. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Hoevenaar and passed unanimously.

e. Class and Comp Study

- City Manager Rudometkin stated that there were 3 bidders for RFP for the study.
- Evergreen was the original choice, so they were chosen due to history. The cost will be \$21,000.
- City Manager Rudometkin requested approval at the previous meeting for funding for the \$21,000 from the Council so the study could commence the following week. The Council denied the immediate funding for the study, but requested it be included in the 2025-2026 Budget.
- City Manager Rudometkin stated that the study will commence on October 1<sup>st</sup>, the start of the Fiscal Year 2025-2026
- City Manager Rudometkin stated that the study will take 3 months to complete, which should be by the end of 2025.
- Committee Member Leff stated that classifications can be difficult since employees can have multiple roles.

f. Schedule Audit Committee Meeting

- City Manager Rudometkin stated that 2 audit proposal companies are under consideration, 1 larger company and 1 smaller company
- The Budget Committee will be provided with the details prior to the Audit Committee meeting
- The Audit Committee meeting will be on July 11<sup>th</sup> in combination with the Budget Committee meeting.

- City Manager Rudometkin requested that the Committee make a recommendation to the Council for the preferred Audit Company.
- Commissioner Partin will be included in the Audit Committee

#### **4. Next Meeting Schedule**

- The next Budget Committee meeting will be June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025, which will be the Draft Budget meeting
- July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 will be the final review of the Draft Budget as well as the Audit Committee Meeting
- August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 will be discussions about any changes to the Draft Budget
- City Manager Rudometkin requested that the Budget Committee continue to meet monthly
- City Manager Rudometkin discussed the Council being split about the acquisition of the property under consideration for the City. The study of the property was 200 pages and detailed.
- City Manager Rudometkin stated that the purchase of a portion of the land could be under consideration, however there are concerns among Council members
- Chief of Police Grimm discussed the addition of a second resource officer for Cornerstone Charter Academy. He will be absent for the July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss the details on the Draft Budget.
- There is a contract for the second officer, so there will be a significant increase in expenses for full-gear, vehicle, etc.

#### **5. Adjournment**

Committee Member Rocheford made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Committee Member Leff, and the meeting unanimously adjourned at 4:09pm