

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole was called to order by Chairman Penterman on Wednesday, November 2, 2022 at 6:30 P.M.

Members present: Antoine, Coenen, DeCoster, Eggleston, Kilgas (via Zoom), Moore, Schell and Thiele.

Also present: Mayor Penterman, Attorney Davidson, DPW/Eng. Neumeier, Finance Dir. Van Rossum, Staff Accountant Roehl, Planning Dir. Stephenson (via Zoom), Library Dir. Thiem-Menning, Police Chief Graff, Fire Chief Carrel, HR Dir. Swaney, Naturalist Nowak, Com. Enrich. Ser. Dir. Vosters, Street Super. VanGompel, and IT Dir. Krause.

1. Correspondence – none.

2. 2023 Budget presentation.

Mayor Penterman read his letter dated November 2, 2022. The proposed 2023 budget reflects a tax increase of \$0.84 per thousand of assessed value, which is a 10.17% increase in the assessed tax rate. The City's tax levy increased \$1,452,090 or 14.05%. Under state law the levy is allowed to increase 14.24% plus increase debt service requirements. This levy increase is less than the maximum increase allowed under state law. Budgeted general fund expenditures for 2023 are \$17,344,388. An increase of 10.1%. This will allow the city to continue to qualify for the state expenditure restraint program aid. The general fund balance is projected to be \$4,981,838 on December 31, 2022. This fund balance exceeds the Council's objective of \$2,601,658, which will allow the City to continue to receive excellent bond rating resulting in low interest rates when issuing further debt.

Motion by Thiele, seconded by Schell to receive and place on file the Mayor's 2023 Budget Letter to the Common Council.

All members voted aye.

Motion carried.

Mayor Penterman presented his 2022-2023 Goals and Objectives.

Fin. Dir. VanRossum presented various schedules showing a 2022 levy for city purposes of \$11,788,244.69 with an assessed tax rate of \$9.04674. He reviewed the levy limit calculation for 2022, the expenditure restraint calculation, and the City's debt service. The increases and decreases in the revenues and expenditures were highlighted and updates on the tax increments were given. An explanation was given on unused levy capacity and the option to use it for Capital Improvements in the 2023 budget with a slight increase of \$0.38 on the tax rate from what was mentioned in the original proposed budget. He also gave insight into future planning of the values and decreasing tax rates when aging TIF 6 comes back online. The Storm and Sanitary utility fund and a plan from staff was given. The plan will control the user rates with modest increase over the next 5 years to sustain capital infrastructure improvements. Discussion was held on the proposed budget.

3. 2023 Budget deliberations.

Alderspersons asked several questions of staff during the deliberation process. Discussion items included future borrowing rates, utilizing the levy capacity, department goals, objectives and accountability, and possible needs for increased staffing in the future for the street, police, and fire departments with new subdivisions being built.

Alder Antoine thanked Mayor Penterman, Fin. Dir. Van Rossum and City staff for all for all the hard work and coordinating efforts put into 2023 Budget.

4. General Matters – none.

Motion made by Coenen, seconded by Moore to adjourn.

All members voted aye.

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Christina Nelson, Deputy Clerk