



# Minutes

City Council Work Session

Oelwein Community Plaza, 25 West Charles, Oelwein,  
Iowa

September 28, 2020 - 6:30 PM

## Pledge of Allegiance

## Discussions

### 1. Discussion on Budget Process

Mulfinger talked about the tax rate and how staff works with City Council to keep the rate level each year. Mulfinger discussed valuations and the importance they play in Oelwein. Current increases in Oelwein are from the state equalization order and not the assessment from Van Guard. Mulfinger said that council can adjust funding between benefits and debt service but not the general fund. Mulfinger said that Oelwein is tough with budgets because the valuations are low especially compared to other cities.

Mulfinger talked about the upcoming loan timeline and how council will lock in the loan this year and go to market in January of 2022. Mulfinger said that council will have hard decisions to make and will need to prepare for multiple requests and several meetings to work through the requests.

Seeders voiced concerns about City Hall and putting money into the old building. Weber also asked what the plan was to get council back into the chambers. Seeders also wants to see city hall open to the public. Mulfinger said that the plan is and has been to use CIP \$30,000 to make minor improvements to get City Hall open to the public. Warren said that the city is using funding now because a new city hall is a large decision that will take time. Cantrell said staff has researched a new building and alternatives several times and it takes a lot to make the transition. Mulfinger assured council that he is following CDC guidance for personnel and council meetings.

Mayor DeVore asked Mulfinger to return to the budget discussion and schedule a city hall work session October 12. Mulfinger talked about franchise fee and the importance it plays in the CIP. Mulfinger said that local option sales tax goes into general fund and economic development. Mulfinger said that the general fund is supported by several other funds. The general fund is a steady fund and should be the base of most salary positions. Mulfinger is working on the budget to make sure that most positions are covered and that their revenues are not tied to their position. Mulfinger talked about the importance of reserves and how it is healthy for a city to carry 25 percent reserves. Mulfinger asked that council be specific in their requests this year and prepare themselves for important discussions with each department head.

## Adjournment 8:00

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Dylan Mulfinger, City Administrator