

COUNCIL OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

Topic: Tax Budget

June 20, 2023

President Jerry Mazur called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and noted the topic was the City Tax Budget.

Bowers gave the invocation.

City Auditor Martha Balyeat discussed the proposed tax budget. She stated that due to her retirement at the end of 2023 she prepared a proposed budget for the next three years. She expressed that the only concerns she saw in the next three years are the Street Maintenance and Repair Fund plus the Water Fund but did not see a huge deficit over the next three years. She indicated that there may be a need for an adjustment in the rates for the Water Fund.

Balyeat also indicated that the budget was based on a 4% increase on income taxes for all three years.

It was discussed that it is unsure how many new jobs will be coming with new companies but it will not make a big impact on the general fund as it would take a big payroll to make a big difference.

Councilman Davis questioned the police general fund difference. Balyeat discussed how 100% of the wages were taken out of the general fund for 2023 which was prior to the police contract being settled and increases in their pay. It was also questioned the increase of operating costs of police and Balyeat indicated the expenses were less in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid and they were unable to do hardly any training and new officers will be coming to the force.

It was discussed that Economic Development has not seen an increase in their need for money since starting the program. It was indicated that they have their own resources and it was set up to be self-sufficient. They may see a decrease in their funds due to the Downtown Redevelopment and no longer independent merchants on Main Street. There may also be a decrease in the hotel/motel tax fund as Central Insurance will be leasing a number of the Downtown Redevelopment apartments in lieu of guests staying in hotels. It was indicated that it will take years before we collect anything from the Downtown Redevelopment District

A public meeting was scheduled for the tax budget for July 10, 2023 at 6:15 p.m.

Agler made a motion to adjourn at 6:32 p.m. Bowers seconded; all concurred.

Lisa K. Hartsock

Clerk of Council
Lisa K. Hartsock

Jerry Mazur

Council President
Jerry Mazur

June 26, 2023
DATE