

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL
JOINT BUDGET STUDY SESSION
HELD BY THE MOORE CITY COUNCIL
THE MOORE PUBLIC WORKS AUTHORITY
AND MOORE RISK MANAGEMENT BOARD
MAY 13, 2013 – 6:00 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Moore met at Moore City Hall in the upstairs conference room, 301 North Broadway, Moore, Oklahoma on May 13, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. with Mayor Glenn Lewis presiding.

David Roberts
Councilman, Ward I

Robert Krows
Councilman, Ward I

Scott Singer
Councilman, Ward II

Mark Hamm
Councilman, Ward II

Jason Blair
Councilman, Ward III

Terry Cavnar
Councilman, Ward III

PRESENT: Krows, Blair, Singer, Cavnar, Roberts, Hamm, Lewis
ABSENT: None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: City Manager, Steve Eddy; Assistant City Manager, Stan Drake; City Attorney, Randy Brink; City Clerk/Finance Director, Jim Corbett; Community Development Director, Elizabeth Jones; Deputy Fire Chief, Gary Bird; Economic Development Director, Deidre Ebrey; Emergency Mgmt/Communications Director, Gayland Kitch; Human Resources and Risk Management Director, Gary Benefield; Manager of Information Technology, David Thompson; Parks and Recreation Director, Todd Jenson; Police Chief, Jerry Stillings; Public Works Director, Richard Sandefur; and Veolia Water Project Manager, Robert Pistole.

ALSO PRESENT: Ashley Miller, Moore Public Library Branch Manager

Agenda Item Number 2 being:

DISCUSS THE PROPOSED 2013-2014 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET.

Steve Eddy, City Manager, began by thanking the City Council for their attendance at the meeting. He felt it was important to get their input on the budget. He also thanked the department heads, particularly Jim Corbett, for their work on the budget.

Mr. Eddy suggested that since he had gone over the budget individually with the City Council he felt it would be somewhat repetitive to go over it in the same detail. Mayor Lewis agreed since certain issues were also discussed at the Council Retreat held May 10-11, 2013. The budget study allows a forum for discussion and public input or questions.

Councilman Roberts asked how many positions were added to the budget. Mr. Eddy indicated that one part-time and nine full-time positions were proposed. He noted another big change to the budget was a recommendation to increase the sewer surcharge. Although the budget is \$89 million the majority of it includes routine items. Mr. Eddy asked Police Chief Stillings to advise Council of the new police officer positions. Chief Stillings stated that six positions were requested in order to keep pace with population growth. Three of those positions were for patrol officers and would be available July 1, 2013. The other positions would not be appropriated until January 2014 for special assignment positions such as an extra technical investigator, detective, and community service/crime prevention unit. He advised that this was part of a plan to increase the number of districts thereby reducing the size of each district.

Mr. Eddy asked David Thompson, Manager of Information Technology, to discuss the need for a new position for P.C. Technician. Mr. Thompson indicated that with the increasing number of employees there is a need for more desk top computer support.

Mr. Eddy stated that an Assistant position in Emergency Management was also included in the budget. Gayland Kitch, Emergency Management Director, advised that the proposed position would be funded January 1, 2014 and would allow round-the-clock on-call coverage and greatly reduce the work load as far as meeting attendance. It would also be the beginning of the City's Community Emergency Response Team.

A Building Maintenance Technician was also proposed. Richard Sandefur, Public Works Director, indicated that with the addition of new City facilities and the age of the existing buildings they found it was necessary to hire an additional employee. The employee would assist with Electrical, Heat/Air, and Plumbing, issues. The main purpose would be electrical issues.

Mr. Eddy stated that a part-time Sports Coordinator position was also included in the budget. Todd Jenson, Parks and Recreation Director, indicated that the position was for approximately 1,000 hours a year to monitor the athletic associations and be proactive rather than reactive to their needs. They would also be responsible for protecting the City against liability and safety issues, and attending various Board meetings.

Mr. Eddy introduced Ashley Miller as the new Branch Manager for the Moore Public Library.

Councilman Roberts asked how much money was budgeted for capital projects. Mr. Eddy indicated that they have not totaled the projects but anticipate it being more than \$20 million. Jim Corbett, Finance Director, advised that the new Wastewater Treatment Plant and the new Public Safety Center would account for approximately half of that amount. There are also water and sewer line improvements. Mr. Eddy added that two large streets projects were scheduled for Broadway and Telephone Road, and around \$10 million was allotted for Parks.

Councilman Krows requested the opinion of the other Council Members regarding the proposed \$8 surcharge increase. Mayor Lewis anticipated an additional \$8 increase next fiscal year. Councilman Krows stated that the proposed surcharge would increase water bills by over 10% and he wasn't sure he could justify it. He asked if 10% of the budget could be cut instead to fund the project. Councilman Hamm stated that when the sewer plant goes on line the City would assume the debt. Mr. Eddy stated that the City is currently paying interest only and after the plant goes online there would be a 20 year loan through OWRB with debt service around \$3.3 million. Not all of the debt service would start in the 2013-2014 fiscal year. The only possibility would be to delay the increase. However, that would result in the budget not balancing on the MPWA side due to the large amount of water we are purchasing from Oklahoma City. Mr. Eddy stated that he understood Councilman Krows' hesitation but he felt that the City simply did not have a choice but to increase the surcharge.

Mayor Lewis commented that several of the surrounding municipalities are hiring large numbers of police officers; he asked Police Chief Stillings if the City should think about hiring more patrol officers since there are only so many qualified candidates available. Chief Stillings indicated that staff would likely begin the testing process early in order to locate suitable candidates. Councilman Singer asked about the size of the applicant pool. Chief Stillings advised that during the last hiring process there were only two qualified applicants out of a pool of 100. He added that only half of the applicant pool passed both the written and physical tests. Councilman Singer asked when the Oklahoma City Police Department and the Oklahoma Highway Patrol planned to hold their police academy. Chief Stillings understood that Oklahoma City had to hold one academy per year just to keep up with attrition. He estimated they would need to hire 50 officers per year to keep up with attrition and, since they are down around 100 officers and plan to add 40 additional officers; they would likely need three academies per year until they catch up. Councilman Singer asked how many officers Moore would lose this year due to attrition or retirement. Chief Stillings estimated that approximately 20 officers were eligible for retirement although none have notified him of their intent to do so. The next scheduled retirement is Larry Love who plans to leave in approximately two years. Around eight to ten months later Scott Stuzman is scheduled for retirement. Councilman Singer asked if any of the remaining officers put in a letter for Plan B. Chief Stillings stated that no one has indicated they were interested in Plan B.

Councilman Roberts stated that he understood Councilman Krows' hesitation to increase the sewer surcharge. He agreed with him but felt there was not much choice. The Environmental Protection Agency issued a mandate that the wastewater treatment plant be constructed. Comparatively he felt that citizens of Moore were better off than citizens of other municipalities. He did realize that those that are hurt the most are the ones on fixed incomes; however, he just could not see a way around it. By taking the money out of the budget it would strip the City of its needed functions. Mr. Eddy added that it would take all of the capital equipment and new positions out of the budget. He agreed that it could be funded through the budget but only to the detriment of the City functions. Councilman Hamm felt that the City would receive phone calls when the surcharge goes into effect. He asked Community Development Director Elizabeth Jones if CDBG funds could be used to assist those on fixed incomes with utility bills. Ms. Jones stated that some grant funds could not be used for that purpose; however, she was uncertain about CDBG funds. She stated that she would be happy to investigate that possibility. Mayor Lewis reminded the Council that eligible seniors are able to get a discount on their water bills based on age and income levels. Mr. Corbett advised that in order to qualify someone in the home must be 62 years of age or over with an annual household income of not more than \$24,000. Around 500 accounts currently get 50% off their water bill. Those individuals must re-qualify each year and submit a signed affidavit to the City.

Councilman Roberts advised that there was also a provision that allows for qualifying seniors 65 and above to freeze the assessed property value on ad valorem taxes at the current rate. He was uncertain how the change in mills would affect that.

Councilman Cavnar stated that several years ago the federal government changed the arsenic levels on the water wells causing the City to purchase even more water from Oklahoma City. Therefore, he felt that some of the issues were not the direct result of something the City did. Mr. Eddy agreed stating that in his opinion none of this was the City's fault. The primary thing is the growth of the community which caused the need for a new wastewater treatment plant and additional water purchases. Sanitation, sewer, and water rates have not been raised in some time, other than the automatic increases.

Councilman Roberts asked when the budget would be on the agenda for approval. Mr. Eddy indicated that an item would be on the May 20, 2013 agenda for consideration.

Mayor Lewis asked if there were any comments or questions. Finding none he asked for a motion to adjourn.

Agenda Item Number 3 being:

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Cavnar moved to adjourn the special joint work study session, second by Councilman Singer. Motion carried unanimously.

Ayes: Krows, Blair Singer, Cavnar, Roberts, Hamm, Lewis
Nays: None

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

TRANSCRIBED BY:

RHONDA BAXTER, Executive Assistant

RECORDED BY:

JIM CORBETT, City Clerk

FOR:

DAVID ROBERTS, MPWA Secretary

These minutes passed and approved as noted this ____ day of _____, 2012.

ATTEST:

JIM CORBETT, City Clerk