

Minutes of Budget Workshop held August 31, 2020

Budget workshop with the following present: Mayor Mark Bowen; Aldermen Erik Dahler, Jerry Stone, Sam Cortez, Ruben Gonzalez, Laura Reyna; City Secretary Josie Campa; Public Works' Director James McGrath; Police Chief Richard Priest.

Visitors: Charles Cate, Simon Garcia.

The Mayor opened the budget workshop at 9:22 p.m. and asked the City Secretary to review the proposed budgets for the utility funds for the 2020-2021 FY.

City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that in all the budgets she is proposing a 3 % cost of living increase for employees. She then explained the costs for city benefits like insurance and retirement had gone up for the next year.

The City Secretary then reviewed the sewer fund budget and explained that since this fund had paid all of its debt, this past year, this fund is now in a position to help the Public Works' department with more of its expenditures. She said last year it was mentioned that the Public Works department would need two (2) new trucks. She said she had talked to Mr. McGrath and he agreed that new trucks are needed as they are starting to have some problems. She reviewed the revenues proposed for the sewer fund and then the expenditures where the two trucks were listed for \$60,000.00. She told Council the proposed revenues for the sewer fund were \$367,100.00 and expenditures are \$366,900.00.

The City Secretary then reviewed the proposed gas fund budget and explained that since the required "Integrity" testing was moved to November, this needed to be added to the budget. She told Council she has added a transfer from the Gas Outage Reserve Fund for \$100,000 in the revenues and then added \$100,000.00 for Gas Outage fees into the expenditures. The total proposed revenue for the gas fund for 2020-2021 are: \$569,350.00 and the proposed expenditures are \$569,350.00.

The City Secretary then reviewed the proposed budget for the water fund with Council. She told Council she had added a transfer of \$200,000.00 for completing the well project into the revenues and then added \$370,000.00 into the expenditures for this project, and made some minor tweaks to the expenditures. Total proposed revenues for water fund were \$942,800.00 and total expenditures were \$942,450.00.

The City Secretary told Council that next Tuesday there will be a special meeting concerning the proposed PID, and she will ask Council to consider the tax rates that have been calculated for 2020. She asked Council's feelings on the rate, so she can get notices ready. She explained that the voter approved rate is \$ 0.4154 and if this is approved Council will have to have one public hearing, but no election will have to be called for November. She told Council if they choose to exceed the voter-approved rate an election will have to be called for November and the voters could vote against this increase, Alderman Gonzalez told Council he feels Council should go with the voter-approved rate to avoid having an election.

Budget workshop was closed at 10:22 p.m.