

CITY OF WYOMING, MICHIGAN
Minutes of City Council Work Session
Monday, March 14, 2016

PRESENT: Councilmembers Bolt, Burrill, Pastoor, Vanderwood, Ver Hulst, Voorhees and Mayor Poll

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Balfoort, Dooley, Holt, Isakson, Ooms, Stowell, VandenBerg and VanGessel

1. Call to Order

Mayor Pro Tem Bolt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

2. Student Recognition

None.

3. Public Comment on Agenda Items

None.

4. Budget Review

a. Public Works and Utilities

Dooley reminded Council of the sustainability principals used for decision making and provided an overview of the budgetary plans and infrastructure goals developed in this year's budget process.

Dooley detailed the water and sewer capital improvement program for years 2017-2025, noting the sewer side will see an investment of approximately \$8 million and the water side will see a higher investment of nearly \$52 million.

Ver Hulst inquired about water sampling done throughout the City. Dooley shared that water sampling is done on a 3-year cycle. Recently, with the situation in Flint, we have begun working with the schools to establish testing within their facilities. The City will bear the cost of this program and it will include all public and private schools throughout the City.

Dooley noted we expect to see additional fuel tax revenues due to recent action in Lansing, explaining there will be an increase of approximately 17% in 2017. Dooley noted that fuel tax revenues are expected to continue to increase for the next several years. These funds will be directed toward street maintenance and resurfacing. Dooley has estimated that currently the City needs approximately \$5 million per year to maintain

its existing streets. Other projects being planned include efforts to address congestion issues and some widening of streets. Because of the increase in revenues, additional funds will be spent from the fund balance on major and local streets. Dooley also detailed plans for vehicle replacements.

b. Public Safety

Holt noted Chief Carmody will be discussing the Public Safety efforts and Kate Balfort will follow up with budget related details.

Carmody presented details of the public safety budget, noting the department is nearing completion of a strategic planning effort. Carmody explained crime trends, detailing increases and decreases in various types of crime and the services provided by the department in both the police and fire service areas.

Carmody elaborated on new initiatives and opportunities during the past year on the police side, including the wellness program, the bike giveaway with Elves and More, an additional school liaison officer in Kelloggsville Public School and the ability to place a Wyoming officer on the Kent County Narcotics Enforcement Team and on a joint effort with the U.S. Marshal Service.

On the fire side, Carmody noted an increase in calls for service, noting medical calls still make up a significant portion of those calls. Carmody reviewed staffing, noting the continued effort to grow the department and modify the deployment model to best serve the City. Most of the time, we are now able to have a second station available to support the fire service. The department continues to provide a number of outreach events in the community, including the Elves and More event, National Night Out and a very recent initiative involving CPR education in the schools. Training is another major effort that has been prioritized with additional staffing.

Vanderwood inquired about the lab supporting the Public Safety Department and the status of that. Carmody explained the demand is there, we have the staff and they are doing amazing things here and for other jurisdictions. Technology is a challenge, as it evolves so quickly.

Balfort provided follow up on the water and sewer OPEB changes and also explained the impact of the general fund on the Department of Public Safety. Balfort displayed general fund and public safety millage amounts. Holt provided further explanation of the City's funding structure, noting tax dollars are combined with other funding sources to fund our operations. Public safety is supported by a combination of general fund, dedicated millage funds and other revenues.

5. Dispatch Agreement

Holt reminded Council of the desire to move Wyoming's dispatch functions from Grand Rapids dispatch center to Kent County's dispatch center. Six years ago, Wyoming moved dispatch functions from Wyoming to Grand Rapids. With recent changes and with the agreement with

Grand Rapids coming to a close, we now believe Kent County is able to provide this service to us. Kent County has approved this contract. The agreement in front of you is a short-term contract and is very similar to the agreement we currently have with Grand Rapids. All of Kent County's agreements will expire in 2018 and they wished to keep all parties on the same schedule and negotiate a new agreement collectively. We anticipate our first year savings to be approximately \$400,000. This dispatch discussion is completely separate from other dispatch discussions that are ongoing throughout the county, which relate to county-wide funding, radio systems and potential consolidation.

Voorhees asked for clarification on the reasoning for this change, and specifically if it was financially driven. Holt noted there is financial opportunity, but we also feel Kent County's service delivery and records process may be more aligned with the way we operate. There is also strategic opportunity given call volume distribution between the two systems and in having some redundancy in case either system were to fail. Holt explained these dispatch centers are the second largest centers in the State.

Council supports moving this item to the next regular Council meeting.

6. Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus and Fit Testing Machine

Fire Chief Lark provided background on the Fire Department's self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) program, explaining the current inventory will expire in July. Despite an attempt to secure a grant, we were disappointed that we were unable to secure that. Staff researched different equipment and made a recommendation.

Deputy Chief Bennett presented an existing SCBA and reviewed the features. Bennett also noted features that are available in new equipment that were not available when the existing SCBAs were purchased.

Holt noted this is a purchase of approximately \$400,000. We discussed funding this through Motor Pool and setting up a rental schedule for the Fire Department. We determined a better approach would be a direct purchase of these packs using General Fund dollars. Holt noted a budget amendment will come to Council to consider this purchase.

Vanderwood asked how many would be purchased. Lark noted there is a need for 51 packs. Vanderwood asked if we could purchase them incrementally. Lark explained all of our existing packs will expire on July 1 and we need to replace them all at that time.

Poll asked for clarification on how these are assigned. Lark explained they would be assigned to a fleet, they are not assigned to individuals. Because of how each piece of equipment is deployed, each unit needs a certain number of SCBAs. Poll asked why we are making this purchase within months of the expiration and not sooner. Chief Carmody explained this topic has been discussed for a couple of years and we tried to secure funding.

Council agreed to move this item to the next regular Council meeting.

7. Review of Tax Foreclosed Properties

Holt reminded Council of discussions with the Kent County Land Bank about tax foreclosed properties. At that time, Council chose not to engage with the Land Bank, but did ask that the tax foreclosed properties listed at that time be monitored. Stowell has been monitoring those properties and will continue to do so, adding any properties that come up this year as well.

Stowell explained that 18 properties went to auction in August 2015, 10 were residential properties and the others were vacant parcels. Two of the properties did not sell at auction. Stowell reviewed the current status of these properties, including ownership, occupancy, tax and utility payment status, inspection/code complaints and permits, as well as police and fire service calls.

Holt noted we will continue to monitor these properties and make you aware of their status.

Vanderwood asked about the two properties that did not sell. Stowell noted those are still held by the County.

8. Any Other Matters

None.

9. Acknowledgement of Visitors/Public Comment

None.

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Kelli A. VandenBerg, City Clerk