



CITY OF FLORISSANT
BUDGET MINUTES
OCTOBER 14, 2017



The City Council met on Saturday, October 14, 2017 for a budget work session on the FY 2017-18 proposed budget at 9:00 am in the Council Chambers at 955 rue St. Francois. Council members in attendance included: Schildroth, Henke, Pagano, Parson, Siam, Lee, Eagan, Caputa and Jones. Also in attendance were Mayor Thomas P. Schneider, Director of Finance Randy McDaniel, Assistant Finance Director Barb Weiland and City Clerk Karen Goodwin. Council President Pagano stated that a quorum was present and the meeting was brought to order.

Mayor Schneider made opening remarks to the Council regarding the budget presented to the Council.

Police:

Councilman Eagan made note that the council continues to get complaints on the speeders in the city. He would like to have a speed sign for every ward. He feels this could come out of the Proposition P money.

***Councilman Eagan moved to add 3 additional digital speed signs, seconded by Jones. Council discussed the benefits of the speed signs and types of signs. They discussed the cost of the signs with batteries and service contracts. Council discussed the effort it takes to place the signs compared to the benefits. On voice vote the motion carried.

Councilman Caputa asked the Chief to look into solar powered units.

Councilman Schildroth discussed the police motorcycles. Chief said they now have 5 officers qualified to ride motorcycles. Councilman Schildroth asked about the state bid.

***Councilman Schildroth moved to add another motorcycle for the Police department, Councilman Caputa asked about the training involved in qualifying to ride the bikes. Chief Lowery outlined the training necessary to qualify. Motion was seconded by Henke, Councilman Caputa asked if another bike is actually needed. Captain Boden stated that it would be good to have another bike if one goes down they have one. On voice vote the motion carried.

**Chief Lowery stated that he would like to change the position of the secretary to the Chief from a Clerk Typist position to an Administrative Assistant position. He is also proposing a change in the custodian position to a class C position based on the work that he does.

The police department is asking for additional hours in dispatch as well as moving the parks police and bailiff to the police department budget. Chief Lowery stated that they are requesting additional overtime. Council discussed overtime.

Councilman Jones asked about the Health Department being placed under the Police Department. Chief Lowery stated that it is not unusual to have the health department under the police department. Councilman Jones stated that if there are problems in the Health Department the problems need to be dealt with. Councilman Caputa agreed with Councilman Jones that the personnel problems need to be handled prior to switching the leadership. Councilman Eagan stated that he does not have a problem with the dog catcher or animal control being under the police department. He asked why the city is running a kennel. He does not think the entire department needs to go under the police department. Councilman Henke agrees that the problem should be fixed first. Councilwoman Pagano asked if this would improve the communication between the departments. Councilman Parson stated that if St. Louis County could handle the Health Department functions, it needs to be investigated. The discussion involved the responsibilities of the health department. Councilman Lee stated that none of the cities that were mentioned have a health department. He said that many of the cities use St. Louis County for vector control etc. He asked why the code enforcement officers assigned by the police department do not write up grass violations. Councilman Lee also addressed the employee issues that have been known in the Health Department. He asked about the supervision of the health department. Chief Lowery stated that it will most likely fall under Captain Boden. Chief stated that he would take the time to figure out what the Health Department does and see if there are ways to make things better. Councilman Henke agreed with Councilwoman Pagano's point about communication. Councilman Henke asked about fees charged by the health department. Councilman Jones stated that the issues need to be dealt with and if things do not change by next year then the transfer could be looked at. Councilman Schildroth would like to see the Health Department stay where it is. Councilman Caputa stated that he is concerned about turning over the responsibilities of the animal control to St. Louis County.

*** Pagano moved to remove the Health Department out of the Police Department budget, seconded by Jones, Discussion: Councilman Eagan would like more information. On voice vote the motion carried.

Chief Lowery reviewed the remainder of this budget proposal. He reviewed the capital additions requested as a result of the proposition P money. Councilman Eagan discussed the Citizens Academy. Chief explained the license plate reader.

Councilman Parson asked about the legal fees that are in the police department budget. Mr. McDaniel explained the cross charging of the legal fees. Councilman Lee stated that he does not feel that this cross charging is appropriate for the Prop P money.

Councilman Lee discussed the raises that were for the uniformed employees only. Should that include the dispatchers and corrections officers. Chief stated that he did not address the park police and bailiffs in the original request for the increase but feels they need to be added.

Councilman Lee asked if a drone would be helpful to have for crime scenes and missing persons. Chief Lowery stated that he does feel that would be useful. Discussion concerned the benefits of using drones and the regulations.

*** Councilman Caputa moved to add one more speed camera, seconded by Schildroth, on voice vote the motion carried.

10:45 am... Courts:

Judge Boyle reviewed the proposed budget for the Courts. The budget for the court and prosecuting attorney budgets have been split so they are independent of each other.

Councilman Caputa asked about the salary breakdown

*** Councilman Lee moved, seconded by Pagano, to increase Office Supplies by a total of \$2,000. Motion carried. Councilman Parson asked about scanning documents. Judge Boyle stated that CDs are not approved for permanent storage.

Council discussed the prosecuting attorney hours and how they are billed.

Councilman Lee suggested a requirement that if an assistance court clerk is trained they are required to stay for a period of time. Judge Boyle stated that he would consider that. Judge Boyle asked if the court clerk could be move to pay grade 9 from 8.

Councilman Lee asked the administration to look into the requirement to stay after training.

11:20 Golf.

Todd Schmidt and Andy Sprunt reviewed the proposed budget for the golf course.

Mr. Schmidt explained the changes in personnel. Council discussed the grade level changes and the equipment requests. Councilman Lee is concerned about increased spending and the increase in revenue to keep up. He is concerned that they might be giving away too many rounds? He is not concerned with discounts, just free rounds.

Councilman Jones asked about replacement of the tractors. Andy Sprunt explained the reason for the replacement of the equipment. Councilman Lee stated that he is not in favor of replacement of the tractors every year if they are not being maintained properly. Councilman Schildroth stated that the equipment needed was reduced to two pieces of equipment. Councilman Caputa asked the age of the equipment. Mr. Sprunt answered that one was 17 years old and one was a 2004. He feels that the preventative maintenance has not been good in the past. Councilman Henke stated that whatever happened in the past, does this equipment need to be replaced? Mr. Sprunt explained why it did. Councilwoman Pagano asked about trade in value of the mowers. She suggested that we might get more out of them if they are sold outright. Councilman Caputa would like to see any vehicle purchase from American made manufacturers.

12:08 Parks and Recreation

Todd Schmidt, Bob Laramie, Cheryl Thompson presented their proposed budget.

Mr. Schmidt stated that he wanted to point out that they have been diligent in the past and they have cut close to ¼ million dollars out of the budget.

They are recommending some changes in hours for the civic centers and for the Nature Lodge. The anticipated closing of Koch pool is a significant change.

Councilman Parson asked about any security concerns with removing the hours for the Nature Lodge. Mr. Schmidt answered that it was not a security issue, just an effort to allow people to view the building.

Park Improvement fund:

Mr. Schmidt stated that they are recommending discontinuing the cart services in St. Ferdinand and Koch park.

***Councilman Lee made a motion to put \$300,000 in the budget for dredging of St. Ferdinand Lake, seconded by Henke. Motion carried.

Council discussed the replacement of Koch pool.

Mr. Schmidt stated that the city has subsidized summer playground for many years. Fees were increased but is still being subsidized. He would recommend the fees are increased by \$30 and \$45 for two kids. He stated that with those figures they could increase the revenue by \$20,000. Nonresident fees are higher already but there are not as many. He said he would share the 5 year outlook with the Council.

Mr. Schmidt stated that Florissant is the only municipality that does not charge for the initial issuance of the ID cards. If the City could charge for the issuance of the cards, \$36,000 could be generated. Councilman Eagan does not like the idea of charging for the initial issuance of the ID card. Councilman Jones agreed.

Mr. Schmidt recommended changing the hours of the parks. Florissant is the only municipality open until 11pm. Most parks are open from sunrise to sunset.

Councilman Schildroth suggested adult events at the ice rink.

Councilman Lee asked about the fees for the snowmobile. Council discussed the fee for use of the pools.

1:54. Theater

Sean Robertson presented the Theater budget. He proposed a potential battle of the bands to allow for new bands to get in the mix for the summer concert series.

Mr. Robertson gave an overview of the shows being offered and the breakdown of the seasons.

Councilman Jones asked if there is enough money in the budget for promotion.

2:24 Information Technology

Kim Emerson presented her proposed budget.

Councilman Lee asked about proper backups. Mrs. Emerson stated that they implemented 3 different backups as well as a cloud backup issue. She explained the email screening servers.

2:30 Media

Kerry Luster presented his budget. Overtime was cut last year, he asked that it be put back in the budget.

Mr. Luster explained the equipment that is being requested.

Councilman Eagan asked Mr. Luster to explain how the Focus is delivered. Mr. Luster said that the city pays the post office to have them deliver the focus to each household and business.

Councilman Henke stated that he has already spoken to the post office about delivery problems.

Councilman Lee asked when they are running low on overtime. Mr. Luster stated that it is mostly for Chris Pullium to take care of other shoots that need to be done out of regular hours.

2:43 Senior Department

Peggy Hogan presented her budget to the City Council. She said they are going to reduce the days for the dining center for the lunch program. The program has been struggling. They will raise the price for the lunch from \$5- \$7 which pays for itself.

2:54 Economic Development

Bob Russell presented the Economic Development budget. Mr. Russell read a prepared statement and would like to be reduced to a part time position and is willing to train his full time replacement. He discussed his qualifications for his position. Travel budgets and city car.

Councilman Henke asked if Mr. Russell wants to stay full time or wants to go part time. He said that he can do full time for another year but would want to find a replacement and need to have 3-4 months for training a new person for the position. Mr. Russell explained the process of what an economic development director needs to do. A government cannot market property, that is the job of the property owners or developers.

Councilman Parson asked if there would be any changes with regard to the criticisms that have been voiced in the past such as a report. Mr. Russell said that he would be willing to do so but stated that they are in discussions of 10-12 million in investment that are happening now.

Councilman Siam asked about expanding the confidentiality agreements to the entire council.

Councilwoman Pagano stated that they need someone to market this city.

Council discussed how they feel the city should be marketed.

3:49 Public Works

Lou Jearls presented his budget. Reduce number of clerks by 1 and add a lead inspection clerk. Eliminate one Class C position.

Mr. Jearls stated that they are asking for \$220,000 to rebuild the public works database system.

The mayor explained that there will be a 4 person IT department. They are looking into a new service. The city will send a RFP for a solution to the problem. The system will be owned by the city and staff will monitor and maintain the new system. It is going to take at least 6 months to transition to a new system. Council discussed what the database will contain and the sharing of the information. Councilman Lee stated that security features will be available.

Capital Additions

Mr. Jearls reviewed any significant changes in the budget. He said that they will have to start looking at the replacement of one of the busses.

Councilman Parson asked about the street lights. Mr. Jearls stated that the budget number is for all of the streetlights in the city and the maintenance of the decorative street lights.

Council discussed the salt storage and the need for additional salt.

Sewer Lateral

Mr. Jearls stated that the sewer lateral account is primarily the same. They are requesting two capital addition items.

**Mr. Jearls stated the funding for the back flow preventers need to be put into this budget.

Council discussed the vehicles in the Sewer Lateral Program. Mr. Jearls stated that not all of the equipment being requested are vehicles.

Councilman Siam asked for a progress report on what has been done with the MSD issues in the problem areas.

Council discussed the process of sewer laterals.

Street Fund

Mr. Jearls reviewed the street fund projects planned for 2018. Council discussed the benefits of the street fund tax. Councilman Lee asked for a list of the street projects for 2018. Councilman Caputa asked about the prioritization of the street repairs.

Justice Center

Mr. Jearls referred to a memo that was sent to the council about the progress on the justice center. He distributed a timeline chart for the work to be done.

Councilman Lee stated that in the past two weeks the city has sent \$45,000 bills to St. Louis County.

Councilman Lee questioned the number of staff needed to cut grass. Council discussed the use of the contractor to cut grass for vacant homes.

Code enforcement - Councilman Lee discussed some numbers for inspections for code enforcement. With more people, there were fewer inspections. Mr. Jearls stated he would look into it. Council discussed code enforcement and the process that takes place.

Councilwoman Pagano made a motion to move the discussion of administration to Tuesday, October 17th. 6pm.

Councilwoman Pagano opened the floor for public comment.

Kevin ODonnell stated that he disagreed with the health department under the police department.

Councilwoman Pagano stated that the next date for the continuation of the budget discussion will be on Tuesday, October 17, 2017 at 6pm

There being no further business to discuss, Councilman Eagan moved to adjourn meeting, seconded by Caputa. Meeting adjourned at 5:09 pm.

Karen Goodwin
City Clerk