



CITY OF FLORISSANT
BUDGET MINUTES
OCTOBER 24, 2017



The City Council met on Tuesday, October 24th, 2017 for a budget work session on the FY 2017-18 proposed budget at 6:30 pm 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.

Mr. Mc Daniel prepared and distributed an updated report based on the changes made at the last two budget meetings. He explained the contents.

Councilman Lee asked if the general fund balance included the Watkins settlement. Mr. McDaniel answered yes.

Health Department

Lou Jearls, Public Works Director reviewed the changes in the Health Department budget.

**Council discussed fees the health department charges for picking up dogs. Mr. Jearls stated that he would get back to the council on recommended fee increases. Councilman Lee asked how long the dogs are kept. Mr. Jearls answered typically 7-10 days. Councilman Eagan asked about including an adoption page on the website. Councilwoman Pagano asked about potential volunteers to work with the animals. Mr. Jearls said that they communicate with the rescue organizations when they have dogs that need to be placed.

** Councilman Parson asked about an estimate on costs for caring for the dogs.

Councilman Caputa asked about mosquito fogging and overtime. He suggested scheduling hours differently to minimize the overtime. Councilman Lee reviewed the overtime budget for the Health Department. He feels that the overtime for the Health Department should be reduced substantially.

***Councilman Lee moved that the department head increases be removed from the budget and forwarded to the salary committee, seconded by Eagan, on voice vote motion carried.

Councilman Lee discussed the list of exempt employees that are paid overtime. He suggested allowing the same amount to time worked as straight time but not overtime. He feels that with the serious financial issues, more needs to be cut. Council discussed overtime reduction options.

***Councilman Lee moved to reduce all overtime except for police to 50% of what is proposed in the budget, 2nd by Jones. Councilman Eagan moved to amend the motion to reduce the

amount to 1/3 from the proposed budget, seconded by Henke, discussion: Parson suggested a reduction of 1/3 from the 2017 budget. Councilman Eagan withdrew his motion. Councilman Eagan moved that the overtime is reduce to 1/3 of the 2017 budget, on Roll the council voted: Eagan yes, Parson yes, Henke yes, Pagano yes, Siam no, Caputa no, Schildroth no, Jones no, Lee no. The amendment failed. On the original motion to reduce overtime by 50%, on roll call the council voted: Eagan no, Parson no, Henke no, Pagano yes, Siam yes, Caputa yes, Schildroth yes, Jones yes, Lee yes. Motion carried.

***Councilman Lee moved to ask the administration to reconsider treatment of the exempt employees be granted straight time off as they work but no overtime, Mayor Schneider stated that he would like an opportunity to study this proposal and respond to it. Council discussed the status of exempt and classified positions. Councilman Henke asked if this question is beyond the realm of the Council's authority. Motion fails for lack of a 2nd.

Break 7:46 pm

Councilwoman Pagano asked where the administration would make the cuts.

Mr. McDaniel stated that it is not his place but the council needs to look at larger pieces of the puzzle like programs and services and they cannot leave the police department out of the conversation.

Council discussed the issue of how to make cuts to get the city on the right path. Mr. McDaniel also mentioned the possibly of the property tax reinstatement.

Councilman Jones moved that the time and a half is eliminated for the exempt employees, seconded by Caputa, discussion: Councilman Henke recommended changing the rules for new employees in the positions in exempt positions. Councilman Parson stated that he feels that the Council should wait until the Mayor makes a recommendation. He also feels the 10% from the departments should be made mandatory. Councilman Jones withdrew his motion.

Councilman Parson moved to require the department heads to comeback with a recommendation for 10% cuts, seconded by Pagano, motion carried. Mr. McDaniel asked if that excludes the police department, Council answered yes.

Council discussed another date for a meeting. November 2nd is the potential next request.

Mayor Schneider stated that the service requests that are being handled have increased and are handled primarily by the public works department. He asked the council to be aware of this issue. He also commented on the internet sales tax issue.

Councilwoman Pagano asked about the information provided by Mr. McDaniel about the A&R fund. Mr. McDaniel explained the fund budget and the expected revenues. He also explained the staff assigned to the Property Maintenance fund. Councilwoman Pagano stated that there should only be one police officer out of this fund and one part time inspector and one part time

clerk. She wanted to clarify the numbers that were presented. Councilman Lee stated that the staff that was added should be part of the fund but not employees that were already employed.

Councilman Parson asked about the Capital Improvements in the Police department. 6 new vehicles are being purchased. He also feels the other items that were moved back to the general fund should be put back into the Proposition P fund.

Councilman Lee stated that there was a discussion about Health Insurance costs. He presented a list of other cities that charge a personal property tax. The discussion involved if and how a property tax could be assessed. Councilman Lee asked about the cost of a 5% increase in medical insurance. Council discussed the fact that they do not want to cut any medical insurance payments and they hope that potential cuts can offset that.

Retirement incentive proposal. Councilman Lee explained his proposal. (See memo). He reviewed two options. Council discussed the potential for the early retirement options. Councilman Henke asked Mr.McDaniel to do some research on 20 years. Council is interested in the proposals.

Council President Pagano opened the floor for the audience to make comments.

Kevin O'Donnell suggested looking into contract workers. The city would save the benefits.

John Engelmeyer – make due, use up or do without. He discussed the special attributes of the cities who have property tax. He feels the city is neglected by the county and state legislators. He says the city can't keep spending money.

Councilwoman Pagano stated that the next date for the continuation of the budget discussion will be on Thursday, November 2nd, 2017 at 6pm

There being no further business to discuss, Councilman Caputa moved to adjourn meeting, seconded by Siam. Meeting adjourned at 9:21 pm.

Karen Goodwin
City Clerk

***Motions made