COUNCIL WORKSESSION, MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 2017

CITY HALL 2nd FLOOR
CONFERENCE ROOM

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M. by Council President Harrington with the following members present: Odom, Hamelink, Snell, Skutnik, Hoops, Eley, Beahm, Mayor Stutte. Absent: None

Other Staff Present: Joe Patterson (City Administrator), Dave Ptak (City Attorney), Peter Kortum (Police Chief), Amy Hafer (Library Director), Rebecca Matticks (Museum Director), Kent Gilbert (Fire Chief), Kimberly Jacobitz (City Clerk), Dave Wacker (City Engineer), Jeff Hassenstab (Park & Recreation Director), Roger Nash (City Treasurer), Allen Meyer (Interim Director HU)

Council President Harrington stated that the Open Meetings Act is posted on the wall of the 2nd Floor Conference room and that prior to this meeting a notice was posted on the bulletin board at the City Building, that each Councilmember and Mayor received a copy of the proposed agenda and that an agenda for such meeting, kept continuously current, is available for public inspection and that said meeting is held in open session.

Discussion of Proposed 2017-18 Annual City Budget

Joe Patterson presented the 2017-18 Annual City Budget to the group. Some of the highlights are below:

- Pay plan increase of 2.5% for all employees. Comparability Study was discussed, with a focus on updating job descriptions for accuracy of comparison. The study will be completed by an external source. An efficiency study was also mentioned.
- Discussion was held regarding the need for boards to have a significant voice on budget requests and guidelines on how to get involved in the process.
- Airport usage as an economic development tool and its long range plan was discussed.
- Future budget planning for large equipment purchases was requested.
- ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) software is being researched by the IT Department and should assist in many of the city processes. It will take a few years to get online with information.
- Telephone revenues are declining, as more citizens cease using landlines.
- Concern was voiced over increased call volume and non-emergency ambulance calls.
- Two police SUV's are budgeted.
- Increased cost of SRO (School Resource Officer) will be considered at the September School Board meeting for the Hastings Middle School. That decision will affect the city's budget request.
- The Information Technology (IT) Department has merged, with the next merge planned for Personnel.
- Combining phone systems in the future was mentioned.
- Discussion was held on the need of membership in the League of Municipalities and benefits of having a lobbyist. Joe Patterson will forward information from the lobbyist to members of the council.

- Museum will receive a transfer of $700,000 from city, which will be paid back to the general fund.
- A new full-time position, Recreation Coordinator, has been added to the Parks & Recreation Department, eliminating a part-time position.
- A new feature is planned for the AquaCourt.
- A book mobile replacement fund is in place.
- Pete Kortum, Police Chief, explained the reason for Police Corporal supervisory positions.
- Joe Patterson updated the group on the search for a new Police Chief.
- Don Threewitt, Development Services Director, is working on 2019 CDBG paving projects.
- The Street Department will purchase an asphalt recycler, which will replace the need for cold mix.
- The 42nd Street paving project will be discussed at a future worksession.
- Dave Wacker, City Engineer, explained that the landfill grinder concept is great, but there have been operational issues with the equipment.
- An additional electric vehicle will be purchased in next year's budget.
- Hike/bike trails were discussed, including looking at grants to assist in funding projects.
- Self-Insured Health Fund is continuing to struggle. Joe mentioned merging groups for health care cost. We will look at multiple options, including Health Spending Accounts (HSA).
- Councilmember John Harrington asked about getting the budget in electronic format starting next year.
- Recommendation was made to keep the levy the same as last year.

The City's budget will be placed on the September 11th Council Agenda.

Moved by Skutnik, seconded by Beahm there being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting be adjourned at 8:03 P.M. The motion carried.