

The Rock Island City Council met in reconvened session on Saturday, February 25, 2012 at 8:00 am in City Council Chambers of Rock Island City Hall. Present were Mayor Dennis E. Pauley, presiding, and Aldermen David A. Conroy, P.J. Foley, Stephen L. Tollenaer, Joy Murphy and Charles O. Austin III. Staff present included City Manager Thomas Thomas, Finance Director Cindy Parchert and Budget Coordinator Don Reichert. Other staff entered the room at various times of the morning pertinent to their presentations. Aldermen Terry M. A. Brooks I and Jason W. Jones were absent.

## **BUDGET OVERVIEW**

Finance Director Cindy Parchert opened the discussion by addressing Council and stating that any adjustments that Council makes will be incorporated into the final 2012/2013 Budget. Ms. Parchert advised that the Public Hearing on the budget is scheduled to be held on March 12, 2012 with the adoption of the budget and the amended property tax levy on March 19, 2012. Ms. Parchert added that this budget does not reflect a tax rate increase. Ms. Parchert noted that the section for the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is blank at this time because those documents were being prepared prior to last Monday when Council passed the Capital Improvement Plan. It was noted that the approved documents will be included in the final budget.

Budget Coordinator Don Reichert then presented Council with an overview of how the 2012/2013 Budget documents are organized. Mr. Reichert reiterated that the final budget document will reflect any changes made from today's discussion and next Saturday's discussion.

Mr. Reichert reviewed the Manager's Brief, which denotes the highlights and various changes in regards to the budget. Mr. Reichert then discussed the Budget Digest, which is the document that is put together to meet the requirements of the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). It was noted that the City has won the GFOA award for the past 18 years. Mr. Reichert commented that one of the requirements of the GFOA is to provide information to the public on how the financial systems are set up for the City of Rock Island. Mr. Reichert advised that the next section contains the Financial Summary, which includes the Financial Trend Monitoring System. It was noted that this document gives trends over the last several years. Mr. Reichert added that the City's financial policies are also included in this section. Mr. Reichert stated that the next sections are the main sections of the 2012/2013 Budget document, which identifies all of the departments. Mr. Reichert further explained the layout of the templates included in these sections. Mr. Reichert then stated that the last sections of the budget document include non-operating funds, capital improvements and a miscellaneous section.

Ms. Parchert pointed out that there is no increase in the tax rate and no significant changes in the local and state tax revenues for the General Fund. Ms. Parchert added that the Gaming tax is budgeted with an increase of \$500,000.00. Ms. Parchert commented that changes for services in the General Fund do include an increase in ordinance fines by

the Police Department. It was noted that there are no staffing cuts and services are being maintained.

After the overview of the 2012/2013 Budget, each scheduled department presented their budget to Council.

### **MARTIN LUTHER KING CENTER**

Martin Luther King Center Director Jerry Jones addressed Council and presented the Fiscal Year 2012/2013 King Center Budget. Mr. Jones stated to Council that the King Center will see reductions in Community Development Block Grant Funding (CDBG) and the Department of Justice Grant. Mr. Jones added that some cuts have been seen in United Way funding and state grants. Mr. Jones noted that this is a reduction of approximately \$170,000.00 in funding for the coming year, which results in a larger General Fund request.

Mr. Jones noted several small changes in personnel and services. Mr. Jones advised that a receptionist position will not be added and two summer youth workers will be eliminated. Mr. Jones explained that with the elimination of the two summer youth workers, the summer youth program will be impacted. However, to minimize the impact, there may be a possibility of grants and the option of reducing the number of weeks for summer day camp from seven weeks to six weeks.

Mr. Jones indicated that the King Center will approach major donors in the capital campaign in the coming year. Mr. Jones advised that the King Center will be exploring the possibility of expanding programming in the coming year due to having a larger building, and this will allow for the King Center to leverage more funds through fund raising efforts.

Mr. Jones stated that the King Center will aggressively market the new Ida Robinson Banquet Room. Mr. Jones added that \$10,000.00 will be targeted this year for the renting of the banquet room. Mr. Jones indicated that the King Center will also be more aggressive in applying for grants.

Council and Mr. Jones discussed the fundraising efforts as it related to the major donors. Council discussed grants as it related to funding. Council also discussed revenue and expenses as it related to rental fees concerning the new Ida Robinson Banquet Room.

### **POLICE**

Police Chief Scott Harris along with Deputy Chief Jeff VenHuizen addressed Council and presented the Fiscal Year 2012/2013 Police Budget.

Chief Harris discussed various Police Department successes over the past year. Chief Harris advised that last year, overall crime was down 5% and violent crime was down

7%. It was noted that in 2010, the State of Illinois changed the standard on how agencies report crime to the State. Chief Harris further discussed the process for reporting crime. Chief Harris pointed out that the narcotics unit for the year has seized over \$166,000.00 worth of drugs and \$268,000.00 in cash. It was noted that the Drug Fund utilizes a lot of that money to fund police operations.

Chief Harris stated that through the Leads online software data base, in regards to pawn shops, approximately two cases per month have been solved and it has resulted in 25 arrests and the recovery of \$23,000.00 worth of property. Chief Harris also discussed successes in other technology and education in the police department.

Chief Harris pointed out that there is no change in staffing levels, which is 110. It was noted that there are 83 sworn officers and 27 civilians. Chief Harris stated that the Drug Fund is being increased from \$25,000.00 to \$105,000.00. Chief Harris indicated that the police department is projecting an increase in revenue for the off duty hourly fee. It was noted that this is a fee that is charged for anyone that hires an off duty police officer. Police Chief Harris commented that various ordinance fines have been identified that need to be increased concerning possession of alcohol and liquor in public right-of way.

Chief Harris stated that the police department is projecting a small increase in crime laboratory analysis fees. It was noted that there are no significant changes in services or operations. Chief Harris commented that the police department will move forward with obtaining an accreditation certificate in regards to police department rules and regulations. Chief Harris discussed changes in grant funding as it related to the STEP grant, JAG grant and the ESO grant.

Police Chief Harris advised that the overall police department budget is \$12,347, 418.00, which is approximately a 2% increase to the General Fund. Chief Harris commented that personnel expenses are up 2% and there is a 10% decrease in supplies. It was noted that capital expenses are down \$100,000.00 due to the space needs analysis.

Chief Harris stated that the budget reflects good use of the State Drug Fund and the DUI Fund. It was noted that the State Drug Fund looks like it dropped by 17%. However, this fund included money for the space needs analysis. Chief Harris discussed the State Drug Fund and noted that the fund is restricted by the state on what the funds can be used for.

Council and Chief Harris further discussed the Police Department's proposed 2012/2013 Budget.

## **CED**

Community and Economic Development Director Greg Champagne addressed Council and presented the CED Department's 2012-2013 Budget.

Mr. Champagne stated that as part of the Community Economic Development Department's budget process, the department looks at Council's priorities that were

identified in the Goal Setting session to make sure that the items that Council has identified are included in the CED budget.

Mr. Champagne advised that the Community Economic Development Department is projecting the reduction of one full-time staff position. Mr. Champagne added that the Special Projects Manager position is being eliminated from the budget. It was noted that with the reduction of CDBG funds, the part-time intern position has been eliminated.

Mr. Champagne advised that overall, the budget shows a 5% increase primarily due to the Sustainable Business Park project in Southwest Rock Island. It was noted that this is a \$3 million dollar project. Mr. Champagne indicated that there are 21 different funds that are used to account for revenues and expenditures for the programs, activities and projects that are undertaken in the CED Department. Mr. Champagne advised that about \$6.4 million dollars is related to TIF funds, which is approximately 36% of the projected \$18 million dollars in expenditures. Mr. Champagne commented that \$6.6 million dollars is related to grants.

Mr. Champagne indicated that the budget includes the use of carry over funds to maintain services and staffing. Mr. Champagne further discussed Community Development Block Grant funding as it related to a reduction in those funds by the Federal Government and the challenges this will present in the future. Mr. Champagne offered that two other sources of support for the Community Economic Development Department's activities include Gaming and the General Fund.

Mr. Champagne discussed the proposed change in the rental inspection fees as it related to keeping the licensing fee at \$35.00 per building and adding a \$1.00 per month per unit fee. It was noted that this would generate approximately \$50,000.00. Council further discussed rental inspection fees as it related to costs concerning services, follow up visits and complaints. Council also discussed the Southwest Business Park project as it related to construction, marketing and costs.

Mr. Champagne advised that on the economic development side of things, there is an increase in development interest in the community. Council discussed economic development as it related to Quad Cities First concerning contributions and the marketing component.

Council and Mr. Champagne further discussed the Community and Economic Development Department's 2012/2013 Budget.

## **LIBRARY**

Library Director Ava Ketter along with Assistant Library Director Amy Penry presented the Library's Fiscal Year 2012-2013 proposed Budget.

Ms. Ketter indicated that there is a slight drop in full time equivalents (fte's) in which one full-time position (computer network administrator) has been reduced from 40 hours per

week to 25 hours per week. Ms. Ketter noted that furlough days have been eliminated for this coming year.

Ms. Ketter discussed revenue changes. Ms. Ketter indicated that the Library Board agreed to raise meeting room fees. It was noted that for non-profits, the fee would be \$10.00 per meeting and for other groups, it would be \$50.00 for a four hour time block. Ms. Ketter advised that the library has started assessing a \$25.00 equipment fee. It was noted that these fees will generate approximately \$5,000.00. Ms. Ketter advised that the library is starting to charge for some services that had been free in the past, such as a \$15.00 fee for mailed in research questions and \$5.00 for obituary searches. It was noted that a \$5.00 fee is being charged for Notary services. Ms. Ketter stated that the library doesn't anticipate any changes in service levels.

Ms. Ketter discussed the new Quad Cities library computer system consortium - RiverShare, which replaces the aging PrairieCat system. Ms. Ketter noted that this will provide significant cost savings. Ms. Ketter further discussed RiverShare.

Ms. Ketter discussed grants as it related to the Friends of the Library and the Library Foundation. Ms. Ketter noted that this is approximately \$100,000.00 in grants that support the library for books, programs, supplies and equipment.

Ms. Ketter discussed the development of the RiverShare consortium as it related to structure, services, programming and training. Council discussed RiverShare as it related an increase in electronic utilization.

Council further discussed the Rock Island Library's proposed 2012/2013 Budget.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

Public Works Director Bob Hawes accompanied by Assistant Director Michelle Martin presented the Public Works Department's 2012/2013 Budget.

Mr. Hawes indicated that in the area of staffing, the level for the department continues to remain the same at 112 positions. Mr. Hawes explained that there has been an adjustment to one full-time position; one of the assistants to the public works director has been converted to a water treatment plant supervisor. Mr. Hawes stated that this is neutral to the overall budget; it slightly reduces the General Fund budget and strengthens the technical capabilities in water and wastewater treatment.

Mr. Hawes advised that the budget includes 36 seasonal and part-time employees. It was noted that this is over 27,000 hours of work, which is approximately 13 full time equivalents. Mr. Hawes noted that this is down about 700 hours from the current budget and down about \$47,000.00 in cost.

Mr. Hawes stated that the administrative cost center includes approximately 10 different funds. Mr. Hawes advised that the difference in that area is the software that Council approved about a month ago for the motor vehicle parking system, which will be a hosted system. Mr. Hawes added that as a result, there will be a few more hours that the second targeted attendant will be able to be out on the street. Mr. Hawes advised that the budget also assumes an increase in the monthly parking permit fees from \$20.00 to \$25.00 per month, which is an annual increase of \$10,000.00. Mr. Hawes noted that in the electrical maintenance cost center area, 100 radios were bought due to the narrow banding in which the deadline for the switch is this coming January. Mr. Hawes indicated that in the refuse cost center, the budget assumes an increase in refuse fees from \$2.00 per month to \$4.00 per month. Mr. Hawes commented that most of the money in the street maintenance and repair cost center comes through Gaming and Motor Fuel tax. Mr. Hawes further discussed this item.

Mr. Hawes discussed several issues on the horizon. Mr. Hawes advised that one issue is changes in the Federal Drinking Water Standards. Mr. Hawes commented that there are changes coming in the Federal regulations where the City may have to change the filtration methods. Mr. Hawes stated that this coming fiscal year would not be affected. Mr. Hawes further discussed this issue. Mr. Hawes advised that there are also changes coming in the Federal Stormwater Management Standards. Mr. Hawes commented that the ones being considered concerns the amounts of effluent standards coming off of construction sites. It was noted that currently, Federal regulations are based on Best Management practices. Mr. Hawes further discussed this issue.

Mr. Hawes stated that there have been changes in the Federal Levee Maintenance Requirements. It was noted that the City has applied for a variance. This would require removing trees from the area on the water side of the levee within 15 feet of the toe of the levee. Mr. Hawes stated that this would be a \$400,000.00 cost to the City to take the trees down. It was noted that they are not taking any action on the variance because internally, they don't have the guidelines they need.

Mr. Hawes advised that the last issue is the dredging of Sunset Marina. It was noted that the entrance to the marina has been done, but now the marina itself has to be dredged. Mr. Hawes pointed out that this is a \$1 million dollar expenditure. Mr. Hawes commented that staff is working with the Boaters Advisory Committee to figure out if there is a financing plan. Council discussed this issue as it related to the cost of the dredging, what of type of dredging could be done and whether or not the whole marina should be dredged.

Council also discussed the construction of the boat docks behind Schwiebert Riverfront Park as it related to the future in regards to which City department would be responsible for maintaining those docks and what the costs would be to maintain those docks. After more discussion regarding this item, Alderman Conroy suggested that a Study Session should be held on this issue. Council also discussed fees as it related to launch areas at Lake Potter.

**CITY OF ROCK ISLAND  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING – BUDGET**

**February 25, 2012  
MINUTES**

**RECESS**

A motion was made by Alderwoman Murphy and seconded by Alderman Austin to recess to Monday, March 3, 2012 at 8:00 am. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote: those voting Aye being Alderman Conroy, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer, Alderwoman Murphy and Alderman Austin; those voting No, none.

The meeting was recessed at 10:55 am.

---

Aleisha L. Patchin, City Clerk