

The Rock Island City Council met in reconvened session on Saturday, March 3, 2012 at 8:00 am in Council Chambers of Rock Island City Hall. Present were Mayor Pro Tem Charles O. Austin III presiding, and Aldermen P.J. Foley, Stephen L. Tollenaer, Jason W. Jones and Joy Murphy. 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. Alderman Terry M. A. Brooks I arrived at 8:10 am and left the session at 9:35 am. Mayor Dennis E. Pauley and Alderman David A. Conroy were absent.

FOLLOW UP TO FEBRUARY 25th MEETING

Finance Director Cindy Parchert inquired as to whether Council had any questions in regards to last Saturday's budget session. Mayor Pro Tem Austin commented that this is a proposed budget at this time until it is voted on in several weeks. Mayor Pro Tem Austin added that this proposed budget reflects no property tax rate increase.

Ms. Parchert reminded Council of the Agenda that the various departments will follow during their budget presentations, which included; any changes in personnel; any changes in revenue; any changes in service levels or operations; any grant funding that they may be receiving; and the departments will give Council an outlook of any changes or issues that are on the horizon.

PARKS & RECREATION

Mr. Fred Dasso, Chair of the Park Board distributed a pamphlet and thanked Council for their cooperation and leadership over the years.

Parks and Recreation Department Director Bill Nelson presented the Parks and Recreation Department's Fiscal Year 2012-2013 proposed Budget to Council.

Mr. Nelson stated that the Parks and Recreation Department has the responsibility for Parks, Golf, RIFAC, Hauberg Civic Center, Sports Complex, Whitewater Junction, select municipal landscapes, Schwiebert Riverfront Park and numerous recreational programs that are held at schools, parks and local businesses.

Mr. Nelson offered that this year's budget includes 27 full-time, 53 part-time and 158 seasonal staff positions. It was noted that overall, there is an increase of 4.5 full time equivalents. Mr. Nelson added that one of the largest expenditures is parks and maintenance responsibilities. Mr. Nelson noted that the single greatest impact in the Parks and Recreation Department continues to be the State required increase in minimum wage.

Mr. Nelson discussed the administrative side of the budget. Mr. Nelson stated that the overall budget has dropped due to the completion of the expansion of RIFAC. Mr. Nelson indicated that the property tax support versus the value per capita continues to be outstanding with an average tax cost of \$43.80 per person, but the value of \$186.19 is provided to each citizen in the proposed budget. It was noted that personnel expenses are up as a result of the reallocation of time spent by the front office manager carrying out administrative duties. Mr. Nelson stated that transfers to the General Fund are up \$9,000.00 for administrative purposes. It was noted that the contingency and depreciation budget is up \$100,000.00 to reflect a true contingency for the parks. Mr. Nelson stated that a major concern for the future is the new ADA (American Disability Act) requirements. Mr. Nelson further discussed this item.

Mr. Nelson offered that in the parks maintenance area, a fee based support source of income, which is the rental of shelters, does not offset the overall maintenance of the parks. Mr. Nelson added that with golf down and personnel expenses up, additional funds are not available to offset those maintenance costs. Mr. Nelson added that as a result, the supply budget has been cut 33% and the services portion has been cut 41%. It was noted that the maintenance of the parks has been moved to a three tiered system identifying those parks that will receive maintenance every day, once a week and every two or three weeks. Mr. Nelson stated that total fte's will be cut by 1.31 full time equivalents. Mr. Nelson advised that the capital portion of the parks budget includes the grant funded construction of the Martin Luther King Center Park and the Douglas Park blueprint design. Mr. Nelson added that there is an outside grant for \$400,000.00 for construction of Douglas Park that must be matched by another \$400,000.00. It was noted that the total project for Douglas Park is approximately \$2,000,000.00. Mr. Nelson further discussed this item.

Mr. Nelson offered that in the recreational area, they continue to host softball, baseball and soccer tournaments. Mr. Nelson stated that this year, there will be cutbacks in seasonal maintenance assigned to ball fields used by sports associations. Mr. Nelson advised that with the increase in special events at parks and the addition of the liquor license option for Hauberg Civic Center and Schwiebert Riverfront Park, it is believed that this will likely be the revenue producer for the future.

Mr. Nelson discussed Whitewater Junction. It was noted that this upcoming fiscal year will be the 10th year of operation. Mr. Nelson stated that their goal this year is to identify a way to open up a secondary concession option for drinks in an effort to speed up the food line. Mr. Nelson added that a second goal is to identify a marketing plan that brings swimmers on days when it is below 75 degrees. Mr. Nelson commented that the only cost effective way of increasing additional revenue is to increase concession and attendance on certain days.

Mr. Nelson then discussed Highland Springs Golf Course, Saukie Golf Course and the Golf Pro Shop. Mr. Nelson stated that nationwide, golf play has fallen off for the last three years. Mr. Nelson stated that Illinois has had an 8.6% drop in play. Mr. Nelson

added that since 2002, there are fewer golf courses each year than there were the previous year.

Mr. Nelson commented that Highland Springs had a slight increase in rounds. It was noted that Saukie Golf Course ownership was transferred to the City, which released the City of approximately \$85,000.00 of yearly expense. Mr. Nelson advised that overall, the Pro Shop sales over the last 12 years have generated over \$100,000.00 in revenues over expenditures. Mr. Nelson stated that more and more customers are coming from Iowa and there is a retiring baby boom market that should boost the play month numbers in the very near future. It was noted that this year, funds will have to be taken from reserves to purchase a utility cart and a material spreader that is required to maintain the courses. Mr. Nelson advised that the overall budgets for golf show a decrease of 0.83 fte's. Mr. Nelson stated that the primary focus will be to reawaken the public on play opportunities at Saukie and repositioning special offers for both courses.

Mr. Nelson stated that RIFAC is beginning to show a positive impact on the expanded space. Mr. Nelson noted that participation, programming and membership is beginning to build. Mr. Nelson advised that currently, there are more members and memberships than any time in history of this facility. It was noted that the budget includes funds to repave the entry road and back parking lot as well as funding for an engineering study to identify ways of expanding the parking at the facility. Mr. Nelson stated that personnel expenses are down as a result of cutting the RIFAC manager position. However, part time fte's are up as a result of increased programming. Mr. Nelson added that overall, there is a drop of 0.84 fte's. It was noted that supplies are up 12% and service has decreased as a result of moving a roof replacement back a year. Mr. Nelson advised that overall, capital has decreased due to the completion of the expansion. Mr. Nelson stated that marketing will include a new family buddy membership. Mr. Nelson further discussed the family buddy membership.

Mr. Nelson indicated that Schwiebert Riverfront Park is both a tremendous success and a challenge. Mr. Nelson stated that this year, the budget has been built primarily on rentals of the facility, and the concerts and movies will be dependent on the department's ability to find sponsors to fund these events. It was noted that the decrease in this budget is a result of those events being paid for by the sponsors. Mr. Nelson indicated that the rentals of this facility are becoming very popular. Mr. Nelson further discussed the Parks and Recreation's 2012/2013 proposed Budget.

Council discussed ADA requirements as it related to Parks and Recreation facilities. Council discussed golf courses as it related to booking play times and manageability. Council also discussed funding as it related to Douglas Park. In addition, Council, discussed staff as it related to positions at Highland Springs and Saukie Golf Course. Council also discussed events as it related to Schwiebert Riverfront Park and RIFAC memberships as it related to new programming. Council further discussed the Parks and Recreation's 2012/2013 proposed Budget.

FINANCE

Finance Director Cindy Parchert accompanied by Budget Coordinator Don Reichert presented the Finance Department's proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2012/2013.

Ms. Parchert stated that personnel is down 0.25 (fte's). Ms. Parchert commented that the department is moving an intern position from a paid position to an unpaid position. Ms. Parchert advised that revenues do not really impact the Finance Department. Ms. Parchert indicated that the Finance Department does not anticipate any changes in service levels. However, service levels as well as operational levels will continue to be reviewed. Ms. Parchert noted that over the years, staffing levels have gone down approximately one or two full time equivalents.

Ms. Parchert indicated that it has been her observation that foot traffic coming into the Finance Department has increased over the years in terms of longer lines at the Finance counter. Ms. Parchert added that it has also been observed that people are paying with cash. It was noted that this could be a sign of the economic situation. Ms. Parchert commented that the Finance Department is also seeing more payment arrangements.

Ms. Parchert and Council further discussed payment arrangements as it related to utilities and cash payments.

Council and Ms. Parchert discussed various languages that are now being spoken as it related to customer service and communication.

Ms. Parchert advised that the banking services contract will expire this year and the Finance Department will seek request for proposals for banking services. It was noted that the audit contract will also expire this year.

Council further discussed the Finance Department's proposed 2012/2013 Budget.

CITY CLERK

City Clerk Aleisha Patchin presented the proposed City Clerk's 2012/2013 Budget to Council. Ms. Patchin explained that the 0.45 difference in staffing was contributed to the part time position being moved to employment services. Ms. Patchin advised that the significant increase in supplies is due to the anticipated costs for supplies of the new printer that was installed in the City Clerk's office as a result of the Bizhub printer being moved out of that area. Ms. Patchin added that the proposed purchase of office furniture has also contributed to the increase in supplies. Ms. Patchin indicated that the increase in services is attributed to the clerical assistant's salary previously being budgeted under personnel services. Ms. Patchin discussed revenues as it related to licenses and permits.

Council discussed the City Clerk's 2012/2013 proposed Budget.

FIRE

Fire Chief Jim Fobert presented the Fire Department's 2012/2013 proposed Budget.

Chief Fobert explained that the Fire budget reflects a 0% increase over last year's budget. Chief Fobert advised that the level of services is unchanged. Chief Fobert indicated that staffing levels remain the same at 59, which is 58 sworn and one civilian. It was noted that a three year agreement was signed with IAFF. Chief Fobert discussed the amortization of new vehicles as it related to cost savings. Chief Fobert stated that the Fire Department is looking at an Assistance Firefighter Grant for the purchase of the next vehicle replacement. Chief Fobert further discussed the proposed purchase.

Fire Chief Fobert advised that service levels will remain the same in regards to paramedics, ambulance and paramedic functions. Chief Fobert discussed costs for supplies and equipment as it related to providing that service.

Fire Chief Fobert discussed revenues. It was noted that the Foreign Fire Tax is a source of revenue. Chief Fobert commented that the Foreign Fire Tax is also mandated by a State statute on how the committee is structured. Chief Fobert noted that it is a working relationship between the firefighters and the Fire Chief. Chief Fobert further discussed the Foreign Fire Tax Committee.

Chief Fobert advised that the ambulance revenues continue to remain steady at \$1.2 to \$1.3 million dollars. Fire Chief Fobert commented that the department is looking in the future on how to work with bad debt. Chief Fobert further discussed this issue.

Council and Fire Chief Fobert discussed ambulance service as it related to mutual aid. Council also discussed the Foreign Fire Tax Committee as it related to the structure of the committee.

Council further discussed the Fire Department's proposed 2012/2013 Budget.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Administrative Services Department Director John Thorson and Assistant Information Technology Director Tim Bain presented the Administrative Services Department's 2012-2013 proposed Budget to Council.

Mr. Thorson stated that 11 employees are in this department. Mr. Thorson offered that seven employees are in the IT Division and four employees are in the Personnel area. Mr. Thorson stated that the department is looking at some changes for the upcoming year. Mr. Thorson advised that the IT Division will have an Information Specialist retiring and the Network Administrator will be leaving the area for personal reasons. Mr. Thorson added that there will be a couple of vacancies in the next fiscal year.

Mr. Thorson advised that overall, revenues will increase by about 8% due to increases in health insurance funding and self insurance funding. Mr. Thorson noted that funding comes from five or six sources, but the largest source comes from the employer. It was noted that the employer puts 77% of all the premiums into the health care plan followed by 23% from the employees. Mr. Thorson further discussed funding sources as it related to health insurance and self insurance.

Mr. Thorson advised that overall, the department's expenditures will increase approximately 9%, which is primarily due to increases in capital improvement funding and health care costs. Mr. Thorson indicated that service levels for the department are expected to remain the same. It was noted that the department is proposing to change the arrangement for the onsite clinic. Mr. Thorson indicated that the nurse practitioner and the onsite nurse each work 20 hours per week. However, there is a high demand for the nurse practitioner. It was noted that in the next fiscal year, the department will retain the 20 hours for the onsite nurse and increase the hours for the nurse practitioner to 36. Mr. Thorson further discussed this item. Mr. Thorson advised that no significant changes are being proposed for operations next year.

Mr. Thorson discussed several ongoing projects, some of which included; parking services software implementation; marina software; development of a fleet service RFP; and a printer RFP. Mr. Thorson then discussed several projects for the upcoming year, one of which included Google applications (replacement for Outlook e-mail system). Mr. Bain stated that this will be a cloud based solution in which the concept is to move the e-mail to a hosted solution. Mr. Bain added that the major benefit is to provide much greater capacity as well as a disaster recovery type of solution. Mr. Thorson advised that various projects that are set aside in capital included; fiber optic infrastructure that will occur between Highland Springs Golf Course, Fire Station #2 and the Library in the Southwest area and completing the loop between 17th Street, 24th Street and 31st Avenue.

Mr. Thorson stated that the City is looking to move the pharmacy benefit management services away from Catalyst RX (Walgreens -WHI) to CVS Care Mark. It was noted that this will be effective January 1, 2013.

Mr. Thorson discussed self insurance as it related to building the fund surplus. Mr. Thorson discussed reorganization of the IT Division as it related to replacement of several employees. Mr. Thorson also discussed health insurance as it related to premiums.

Council discussed the Administrative Services Department's proposed 2012/2013 Budget.

GENERAL DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION

Mayor Pro Tem Austin inquired about page 111 of the 2012/2013 proposed budget in regards to the increase in supplies of \$1,600.00 for the purchase of iPhones for use by the City Council and Mayor.

City Manager Thomas advised that this is part of his ability for ongoing communication with the Mayor and Council. Mr. Thomas indicated that on average, he communicates with Council approximately four or five times a day by e-mail or texting on various issues. Mr. Thomas stated the he considers this to be work related and it influences his ability to make decisions and considers this work even though Council may be at their other jobs. Mr. Thomas stated that he considers this to be a valuable technological investment for him to be effective in doing his job in helping to run the City. Council further discussed this item.

Council and Mr. Thomas discussed the Ferguson Group as it related to whether or not the City was still supporting this group. Council also discussed as to whether or not Council should be allowed access (free of charge) to some City facilities as it related to the inspection component concerning complaints or other issues in regards to doing their job.

RECESS

A motion was made by Alderman Jones and seconded by Alderman Tollenaer to recess to Monday, March 5, 2012 at 5:30 pm. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote: those voting Aye being Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer, Alderman Jones, Alderwoman Murphy and Alderman Austin; those voting No, none.

The meeting was recessed at 10:47 am.

Aleisha L. Patchin, City Clerk