

**MINUTES
PAYETTE CITY COUNCIL
Work Session
August 6, 2014**

3:00 PM – Work Session

A work session of the Payette City Council was called to order at 3:06 PM by Mayor Jeff Williams in the City Council Chambers of Payette City Hall, 700 Center Avenue.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Jeff Williams, Mark Heleker, Nancy Dale, Ray Wickersham and Jeff Sands (via phone), Lee Nelson

Members Absent: Craig Jensen - excused

Staff Present: Mary Cordova, City Administrator, Mark Clark, Chief of Police, Jake Hust, Water Superintendent, Jamie Couch, Street Superintendent, Steve Castenada, Fire Chief and Bobbie Black, Deputy City Clerk

NEW BUSINESS

- A. FY 2015 Budget: Mayor Williams stated that the best use of time, he would like to go through the expenditure pages and have department heads comment if they would like to. Legislative - #812 The Council would like to keep Snake River Transit. Executive – it was commented that we didn't use any of the youth advisory this year, but it is an important line item. Councilor Heleker stated that there will be a more active group this year. Discussed economic development and if the City ever has to use this line item, we will need a lot more than what is in there. Administration – the Council was reminded that 75% of the building inspector is the increase in salaries. It is offset by Holladay's bills that can be invoiced to the developer. We didn't reduce the professional services amount coming from #340. Professional services are possible development within the City. #714 is Snake River Water Trails and the Kiwanis building; staff didn't include Heritage Byway, facilities at Centennial Park. Museum money comes from Legis. Councilor Sands stated if we don't have plan for capital, we shouldn't appropriate money. He would rather see more money next year for a specific project. Mayor Williams stated that we might be able to do engineering this year for a project and complete the project next year. The Council discussed that the Kiwanis building has some structural challenges. Right now to use the building for anything is unsafe. Code & Police. - Chief Clark stated that the body cameras are important to the officers and we would have a lot more liability to the City without them. He didn't add anything to his line items. He has more officers, but didn't raise the budget. The speed trailer is good for the citizens and good for public relations. Two citizens filed false reports on officers and they were exonerated due to the tape recordings. He has tasers in the budget, due to some of the ones they have are outdated. These have saved countless injuries to officers. Taser is phasing out models we have now, and he is trying to get out in front and replace outdated tasers. The one big item in his budget is the car. Cars reflect the condition of our department. He has officers still driving older vehicles, and we have to keep up on our fleet. It has taken a long time to get where we are today to have a professional looking police department. Chief Clark stated that he knows a 3% salary increase has been put in budget. He stated that our employees are mid-line in wages compared to departments our size. We are just below middle. He stated he could cut the speed trailer if necessary, but felt it is vital piece of equipment for the department. The Council asked if there was enough to purchase it this year. He stated right now is the biggest spending he does for his department; he will look and see if there will be any left to purchase it. Ms. Cordova stated that most departments wait till the end to make purchases. If they wait too long

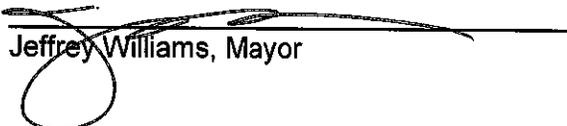
sometimes the items do not arrive under the new budget year. Councilor Sands asked how many years we get out of the speed trailer and tasers. Chief Clark stated that we get around 12 years on the trailer and that is a pretty cheap investment. We have had one upgrade on the tasers since getting them and we get at least 6-7 years out of the tasers. Councilor Dale asked if we have ever looked into leasing police vehicles and it was stated yes, but wasn't feasible. Ms. Cordova stated that Cities are technically not supposed to lease vehicles. We use to purchase used ISP vehicles, but now they don't rotate until there is excessive mileage on them. We would start rotating out right now. Councilor Nelson stated it would help to know how much of a dollar reduction we need to get to current levy. Ms. Cordova stated about \$125,000. Councilor Wickersham stated he has a hard time raising the levy again. Councilor Heleker stated we need to prepare our city for future years, and he would like to keep it the same, but sometimes you can't. People have come to Payette due to the golf course, airport, library, parks and pool. If we took away all the amenities, our levy rate would be lower than most surrounding cities. Mayor Williams stated the biggest thing in our budget is a new full-time fire fighter. Chief Castenada stated he has one word for needing an additional employee and that is stress. We respond to a lot of calls, and we are available 24 hours a day 7 days a week. We respond to all calls from 7am to 11pm, after that if it is not a heart attack or a child then we do not respond. He stated he recently lost some duty officers and needs some help or he needs to scale back the program. Mayor Williams stated this is where our program is, and do we want to support this. The Chief stated that this month most of the calls were after five. If he did get the extra employee then he would have staff on from 3 pm to 11pm to take the calls and that would allow him to take fire calls. He has talked to the duty officers about this program coming to an end and they are disappointed due to all hard work they have put in to it. The station is open 7 days a week from 8-5. Having someone there on a swing shift would alleviate some of the problems. Councilor Heleker stated he would like to maintain our first responder program, it is well worth it, and our community could suffer. Mayor Williams stated he is afraid that some of our key people will get burnt out. Chief Castenada stated that 62% of calls are medical and of that 5-6% are emergency calls. Councilor Dale stated we have to consider the emotional stress, two departments that do a life sucking job, messes worth your head. She has watched what happens to people and we need to take care of them and the reserves. The City is getting a good deal, and we have to protect and fight for this. Councilor Wickersham, understands the stress issue, everything has a budget line item. Jamie Couch stated that he didn't realize what these guys do until he got on the department. These guys are right there to help. It is all night long and they are always first on scene. Chief Castenada stated that in 2019 we will be replacing air packs, and we have put money aside. We found out both departments hit grant air packs that we applied with nine other departments. There will still be some we have to replace. Ms. Cordova stated we will have a financial match for this grant. Councilor Sands stated that as far as adding another fire man the council should keep in mind, will this guy solve the issues. First of all it is a fire department, and now we are branching into another division EMS. He can tell about the Council about the stress, and losing people. This will fix for right now, but it won't fix it for the long haul. We need to look at grant opportunities to get funding for the first few years. He stated the public safety committee needs to come up with a plan for the future. #261, asked why there is a \$17,000 increase in that line item, seems excessive for one guy and the same with the insurance. Councilor Sands asked about the reserve fund, it looks like it is in there twice, but it is not. Ms. Cordova stated that it does affect the final total, but it is not in the levy rate. Councilor Wickersham stated that by adding another body, do we have some overlap somewhere. This all started because of the poor response time from Payette County paramedics and has evolved from there. We get dispatched at the same time. The responders take patient information, they take vitals, and with doing that we are cutting out 5-6 minutes to get transported quicker. We are saving the

ambulance a step. If it is an emergency, they start right away. We are helping our citizens, what is a life worth, it is well worth the money spent. Parks – it was asked why the park by the Fire Department is greener than the one by the library. #120 - it was stated that we are looking at lowering part-time salaries. On workman's comp we didn't budget enough last year and it has gone up 38% this year. We are purchasing rock this year for the Greenway and getting permitting out of next year's budget. We can lower this line item it depends on what the council wants to do with the greenway. The permit had expired, due to water conditions so we could not do. #822 – this line item is for hazardous trees on our property and in the public right of way. Street – Jamie Couch stated his looks good, he would like to see the intersection of Iowa and Center completed. The jet truck is off-set from the sale of the dura patcher. Councilor Dale stated the question in the community is what is happening on Iowa Avenue, it was done over 3 years ago. Mr. Couch explained if we let a new street go too far and don't seal it, it won't last as long. It is a lot cheaper to seal it up now and it should last for 10-12 years. The City has received several letters from citizens on kudos on the streets. Library – Councilor Dale doesn't know what we can do with the library. The Library Board discussed not spending \$10,000 on book shelves. Capital books have always been \$25,000 and don't typically spend that much. Discussed cutting to \$15,000, but felt that \$20,000 was a better number. Pool – Ms. Cordova stated there is nothing to exciting in the budget for the pool, except line #300 which is for the assessment needs study for \$10,000. Councilor Nelson stated it would be nice to have some planning for down the road. The study would look at structural or mechanical items at the pool and this would just be a peak, it is not cheap to do something like that. Councilor Sands asked about #770 and it was stated that is for resurfacing the pool and asked if #761 is for something that breaks down or is it for a diving board. He stated that it should be designated for a specific project. It looks like here's \$20,000 to spend and he doesn't agree with that. We need to put a line item in for a specific item and he doesn't like slipping something half way through budget. Everyone is battling for the same pot of money. Councilor Nelson stated it needs to be somewhere due to the age of the pool. Ms. Cordova state we have a Capital improvement fund, but we have not been funding it. If we leave in recreation fund it stays in recreation fund. If we put into capital fund under pool, it will go into the general fund and be used as a as needed basis. The pool could be paying the general fund back. Staff will check with auditor and make sure we can move to capital for that purpose. Airport – The Council was explained what makes up the fuel expense. Water - #300 – is for engineering services that we might have to have designed and submitted to DEQ – Jake Hust stated he has a few lines he would like to get designed. If development comes into City we would need to get water to them. Some projects are in the work right now. #440, this is for above and beyond normal maintenance – we are due to have tanks cleaned and that happens every 5 years. #432 is for ongoing process of re-building our well houses and making them more aesthetically appealing. Part of this year was enclosing water shop and they will be finishing it next year. Specific buildings they will be working on are Iowa/Center and 21st Street. Those are his two main ones to get done. The well house by soccer fields needs to be re-built and enlarged. WWTP- the sewer's big expense is for the NPDES permit and #764 is for a used vac truck. #740 is for a TV unit that was budgeted in previous budget year and couldn't get delivered in time. Councilor Dale asked how we have been doing without it. Ms. Cordova, state the TV unit is \$100,000 and there is \$30,000 for declorination. TV unit will help us stay compliant with our collection system. Also identify a big blockage in the line. Councilor Wickersham asked if this is that something we can lease and it was stated yes, but very expensive. Jamie Couch stated one day rental is \$1,100 Councilor Sands stated that by camera lines, they can look at their long term replacement. Also they can locate a tap and not have to tear up a street. What is the life of this equipment?? The sewer dept is buying a used one. Sanitation speaks for its self. It was asked if we are taking out of unencumbered

funds. It was stated yes, in years past we never spent, so we transfer to admin & street now. Debt services #54 – is for the library bond payment. Councilor Nelson stated at the Admin & Finance Committee meeting, Kathy Dodson stated instead of 3% raise, 1.69%, cola is what we base everything else on. Councilor Wickersham stated we have huge benefits and huge costs associated with them. The Council was informed that it is not a huge jump for keeping the same insurance plan. Councilor Sands stated it is pretty critical to keep the insurance of what the employees have now due to changes to co-pays and deductibles. Does think that it is apparent to let the employee know that we are giving 2% to keep them with good insurance. Councilor Dale asked if code enforcement, is that just the Ordinance Officer. It was stated yes, the employee received a step increase this year. Some employees got step increases and some did not. Chief Clark wanted to reward her for an excellent job she performs. Councilor Dale asked if that since the HUD house sold are we limited to how those funds can be spent. It was stated yes, it has to be directed toward youth in community the Mayor believes. If we buy the Kiwanis building, HUD doesn't see a problem with that. We need to put into budget if there is going to be an expense. We do have to do an annual report, and we did check with them on using towards a youth facility. It was stated that we don't need to create another money pit. Do we want to tell them that the building is unsafe and not usable any more? Councilor Nelson stated he is comfortable with a 2.5% increase on wages. Ms. Cordova stated she will do whatever is going to make everyone happy. Councilor Nelson stated if we can come close that would be great, but we need to plan for the future. Councilor Heleker stated if we show the public what we need to keep the city running, he doesn't feel we have to hold the line. Councilor Sands agrees that he is not set on levy rate, but tax payers are getting something for their dollar. Councilor Wickersham stated if it gets to high, businesses will look for other places to go. Mayor Williams asked what is the unencumbered funds for each dept., are the funds growing? It was stated no, except general fund. The Council was asked when do they want to get together again and it was decided Thursday August 14, 4-5.

Meeting adjourned 5:26 PM

Signed this 18th day of August, 2014.


Jeffrey Williams, Mayor

ATTEST:


Bobbie Black, Deputy City Clerk