

MINUTES
WORK SESSION
WESTERVILLE CITY COUNCIL
October 10, 2006, 6:00 p.m., City Council Chambers

Council met in Work Session on October 10, 2006 with Council Members, Anne Gonzales, Craig Treneff, Damon Wetterauer, Jr., Kathy Cocuzzi, William Highfield, Michael Heyeck, Diane Fosselman, City Manager G. David Lindimore and Staff and Director of Law Bruce E. Bailey present.

2007 – 2011 BUDGET HEARING

General Fund Overview

Mr. Lindimore and Jack Winkel, Finance Director, reviewed the 2007 – 2011 Budget for the General Fund. Mr. Lindimore presented to City Council the revised versus original Five Year Projections, revenues versus expenditures and fund balance versus fiscal policy. Mr. Winkel reviewed the Capital Improvement Fund projects proposed in the budget. Mr. Winkel discussed staffing projections in the five year plan which includes a total of 16 new positions; six fire, eight police and one non-safety position. Mr. Winkel stated the Finance Department is requesting the purchase of an automated time and hour payroll software package for all city departments.

Karl Craven, Planning and Development Director, stated the negotiations for access to South State Street near Starbucks and Pan Era Bread have stopped. Mayor Fosselman encouraged staff to continue negotiations with the business owners. Mr. Craven presented diagrams of the proposed pedestrian crossings on County Line Road.

Mr. Heyeck proposed closing Otterbein Avenue at County Line Road and diverting to Old County Line Road with access County Line Road at McCorkle Boulevard.

City Council/City Manager's Office

Mike Wasylik, Assistant City Manager, presented the City Council and City Manager's Office proposed budget to City Council. Mr. Wasylik stated the Online Application/Recruitment has been launched and staff will continue to develop the program.

Finance Department

Mr. Winkel presented the Finance Department proposed five year budget to City Council. Mr. Winkel stated the department will continue to enhance existing system software applications to streamline and improve financial processing and will continue full implementation of the new financial reporting requirements. Mr. Winkel discussed the Regional Income Tax Agency (R.I.T.A) collection services for income tax collections.

Mrs. Gonzales stated she would like more information on the Regional Income Tax Agency and what they provide versus in house staff duties.

Mrs. Gonzales stated she is curious about the current timekeeping procedures and would like additional information. Mrs. Gonzales also requested a copy of the fleet maintenance schedule.

Chairman Wetterauer expressed his concerns with separate accounting systems when meeting the new reporting requirements being implemented.

Mayor's Court/Law Department

Mr. Winkel stated the Mayor's Court budget is flat with no significant changes. Mr. Bailey updated City Council on the proposal to abolish Mayor's Court.

Mr. Wetterauer requested the number of citizens who visit Mayor's Court who are not residents of Westerville. Discussion was held on the need and cost for providing security during Mayor's Court.

Police Division/Communications

Police Chief Joe Morbitzer reviewed the Police Division five year plan with City Council. Police Chief Morbitzer discussed the Recruitment Plan the division is using to better diversify the recruitment efforts. The Police Division is requesting one additional position in 2007.

Mrs. Gonzales requested additional information on the recruitment plan.

Mr. Heyeck stated he felt the one on one working relationship between the Chief and Deputy Chief does not work in the Police Division but he is pleased with the police force.

Mr. Highfield expressed concerns with the recruitment of officers and the distribution of information to small businesses.

Chairman Wetterauer requested a copy of crime statistics for the Police Division.

Holly Wayt, Communications Supervisor, reviewed their portion of the budget and updated City Council on the wireless 9-1-1 cell phone calls the department is implementing. Ms. Wayt stated Phase One and Phase Two will continue to be a priority initiative for the Communications Division.

Chairman Wetterauer expressed concerns with coverage of the wireless 9-1-1 calls.

Planning and Development

Mr. Craven discussed the five year budget for the Planning and Development with City Council. Mr. Craven stated the department is proposing the replacement of a Field Coordinator with a Civil Engineer in 2007.

Mayor Fosselman stated she would like more efforts concentrated on building maintenance as development in Westerville slows.

Mr. Highfield requested a checklist be included in the new permitting software so residents are aware of the requirements for a building permit.

Mr. Heyeck suggested the city register HVAC contractors and plumbers who provide services in Westerville.

General Capital Improvements

Mr. Craven reviewed the proposed Capital Improvement projects. Discussion was held on the replacement of curb ramps.

Electric Fund

Andy Boatright, Electric Utility Manager, presented the Electric Fund budget for the next five years. Mr. Boatright stated the department is proposing one new position in 2007. Mr. Boatright stated power costs are expected to plateau throughout the five year forecast.

Mr. Heyeck expressed concerns with the meter software and the loss of benefits after initial availability.

City of Westerville City Council

October 10, 2006

Page 3

Mr. Heyeck stated the age of substations in Westerville is an issue in the five year plan.

Chairman Wetterauer thanked staff and City Council for being prepared tonight.

The Work Session adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Mary J. Johnston, MMC
Clerk of Council

Damon E. Wetterauer, Jr.
Chair of Council