

CLINTON CITY COUNCIL
1906 W 1800 N
March 4, 2010
Special City Council Work Session

The Clinton City Council was called to order at 7:06 p.m. to discuss budget issues. Councilmember Blair Bateman led the pledge of allegiance and Mayor Adams offered the invocation.

Present were: Mayor L. Mitch Adams
Councilmember David Pearson
Councilmember Anna Stanton
Councilmember Joanne Hansen
Councilmember Blair Bateman
Councilmember Cheri Reed arrived at 7:16 p.m.

Also present were: Ruth Collard, City Manager Dennis Cluff and Lisa Titensor recorded the minutes.

A. SPECIAL WORK SESSION FOR FY 2009-10 & FY 2010-11 BUDGETS:

Mr. Cluff explained that as the possibility of a loan from the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund to the Acquisition and Development Capital Expense Fund was discussed, he thought perhaps a history of the Solid Waste Fund's Balance would be helpful.

- June 30, 2010 = \$577,812 (estimate)
- June 30, 2009 = \$513,853
- June 30, 2008 = \$460,780
- June 30, 2007 = \$372,726
- June 30, 2006 = \$324,009 (used some funds for equipment/vehicle purchases)
- June 30, 2005 = \$362,699
- June 30, 2004 = \$328,407

He stated that the fund has been stable and growing. It is the highest fund account for the City and it has the least amount of drain.

Mayor Adams pointed out that one of the reasons this fund has experienced growth is because the gas prices came down.

Mr. Cluff clarified the funds are not going back to the General Fund but to the Capital Projects Fund.

He explained there is a need to set a public hearing and advertise it to the public.

Councilmember Pearson made a motion to authorize, set up, and advertise a public hearing for this transaction. Councilmember Stanton seconded the motion.

There was general consent from the Council.

Mr. Cluff then went on to address the Fiscal Budget. He explained the City has made cuts where possible and pointed out that job vacancies are not being filled in the City to help balance the budget and it is still not enough.

The Council discussed the following options presented by staff to resolve the budget issues:

\$63,240	***No replace Code Enforcement Officer
\$65,838	***Dispatch costs = \$.90 per month per customer
\$42,950	Animal/wildlife Control costs = \$.59 per month/customer
\$76,000	Street Light power costs = \$1.05 per month/customer
up to \$120,000	Motor Pool contribution reversal
\$51,175	decrease employee 401K to offset some retirement
\$67,600	Don't re-hire a police officer position (leaving 2 vacancies)
\$220,000	Sale of 5 improved lots West of FamilyCamp/ballfields

*****=staff's preferred options**

Mayor Adams clarified that if the Council decides to go with the proposed fees for Dispatch costs and Animal Control, they will only be pass through costs due to the significant increases recently imposed by the County.

Mr. Cluff identified that the County places a higher tax on residents than Clinton City does.

Mr. Cluff then informed the Council that the Recreation Department did a significant overhaul of their budget and were able to make a significant cut overall.

Mayor Adams commented that Recreation modifying their budget has helped the situation significantly.

He then went on to comment that he does not want a tax increase, but the fees may be necessary because the City cannot continue to cover the cost of the County increases.

Mayor Adams commented he is in favor of the Dispatch fee and said he feels it should take effect immediately.

The Council stated they would like it identified to the citizens where fees originate and how the fees will be utilized to pay County costs.

The discussion then turned to Animal Control fees.

Mr. Cluff identified Animal Control has always been a cost, just not as big of a cost due to a recent increase. He explained that the County reevaluated their methodology of billing and that is why there was an increase.

The Council discussed the proposed options.

They directed staff to bring forth two separate resolutions for Animal Control and Dispatch and to notify the public that these are pass through fees. They asked that the residents are informed of where the fees are going that they are pass through costs.

Mr. Cluff pointed out that the City has managed not to raise fees or taxes for many years.

Councilmember Pearson made a motion to authorize staff to draw up a Resolution for each proposed pass through fee in addition to directing staff to look into identifying on the City bill a breakdown of the costs and identify the reason for the fees in the newsletter. In addition they asked that the public is informed that the City is not filling personnel vacancies.

There was general consent from the Council.

Councilmember Reed commented she is still not in favor of taking the full amount of the loan from the garbage fund.

Councilmember Bateman stated for the record that the Council appreciates the effort City Manager Cluff has gone to in preparing and presenting this information to the City Council.

He also recognized the Recreation Department for their effort in cutting the Recreation Budget.

Ruth Collard commented as a citizen, that she would be okay with paying the fees because they are pass through costs from the County.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Bateman made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Stanton seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.