

**WEIRTON CITY COUNCIL  
BUDGET WORKSHOP  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2016 3:30 PM**

A regular meeting of the Common Council for the Budget Workshop of the City of Weirton, Hancock and Brooke Counties, West Virginia was held on Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at 3:30 P.M. in Room 201 of the Weirton Municipal Building.

**Councilmembers in Attendance:**

Tim Connell	Councilmember Ward 1
Charles Wright	Councilmember Ward 2
Fred S. Marsh	Councilmember Ward 3
George E. Ash, Sr.	Councilmember Ward 4
Douglas L. Jackson	Councilmember Ward 5 <b>(Phone)</b>
Enzo Fracasso	Councilmember Ward 6
Terry Weigel	Councilmember Ward 7

**City Officials in Attendance:**

Rob Alexander	Police Chief
Travis Blosser	City Manager
Vince Gurrera	City Attorney
Thomas J. Maher, Jr.	Finance Director
A. D. Mastrantoni	Utilities Director
Rik Rekowski	Library Director
Rod Rosnick	Chief Code Official
Jerry Shumate	Fire Chief
David Smith	Public Works Director
Regina Anderson	Development Planning Director

**TOPIC:**

**Proposed Fiscal Year 2017 General Fund Budget and Coal Severance Fund.**

**OBJECTIVE:**

To provide to Mayor and Members of Council the proposed Fiscal Year 2017 General Fund Budget accompanied by the budget for the Coal Severance Fund. Also budget document is our Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Year 2017 and 2021. It is presented to Council with a budget that balances the needs of our departments, provides for the successful delivery of our services to the citizens or businesses of Weirton, and to develop budgets that provide our departments with the resources necessary to ensure their successful operation and functionality.

The proposed FY'17 budget document includes appropriations sufficient to meet our current annual debt service obligations. Consideration to the future needs of our departments will be discussed as we work out our Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) together. This Budget Document has taken into account the needs of our employees by providing a 5% increase for those non-union employees except for Department Heads.

**DISCUSSION:**

Tom Maher, Finance Director reviewed the General Fund Revenue Budget Current vs Proposed to Council Members for discussion. There was discussion on the City Sales Tax line as something to watch in the future. Travis Blosser, City Manager answered questions pertaining to this topic.

To work with Council and Department Heads with the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and have involvement from Council with laying out that funding for those specific items.

All Council has received a book outlining each Department and is built within terms of their request breakdown. Also in the book you will find every Department has provided a fleet listing of the current fleet that is already there. So you will find that in your book, as well so essentially this fiscal year 2016-2017, again there are additionally four years onto that to project all the way out to 2021. So essentially, this is the CIP that we started putting together in terms of laying out what equipment purchases and working capital purchases are necessary from the Departments that they put together on the equipment that they currently have.

Vince Gurrera – City Attorney wanted on the record Councilman Douglas Jackson has arrived to the meeting.

You are not budgeting for all five of those years you are looking at four of those years as projecting. These are the purchases that Departments are looking at that they are going to need in those years, but you are actually moving to try to appropriate the funding for fiscal 2016-2017. The 1,841,600.00 is for one year for Public Works, Police, Fire, Street, and Sanitation.

A question was asked what is the analysis process that the Finance Director and City Manager has established for the \$100,000 for the Park Board, unknown amount for the Library Board, the Redevelopment and Weirton Transit. Meaning the increase that is essentially requested?

The funded portion we left with question marks as through the CIP and through the outside Agencies request for Council to conversations with their Department to make recommendation as far as where they wanted to see that number. We provided their request the increase they wanted to see but the only thing we have budgeted what was previously budgeted the fiscal year before hand. Those Department Heads are the best people to talk with on those items. They are all here.

The Budget Workshop process of evaluating where you are at and where numbers are from strategic standpoint terms of what advice Tom and Travis can provide, as far as the budgetary side is concerned for those requests as looking at them. This is your time rolling out the Budget. It has to be voted on in March and this is the time to have this Workshop to go over these things.

Council Members elected to start with the Police Department.

Started with Police Department with the appropriate funding for the fiscal 2016-2017.

(3) Police Vehicles – Buy them outright

(1) Police SRT Team Van in Escrow

Add Body Cameras

Fire Department with the appropriate funding for the fiscal 2016-2017.

OK with Fire Department

Planning & Development with the appropriate funding for the fiscal 2016-2017.

OK with Planning & Development

Public Works with the appropriate funding for the fiscal 2016-2017.

Dam Site Funding – Give copy of the agreement to City Attorney – to see if funding is necessary.

Replace Fuel Tanks and Pump System – Outside entities to pay more for fuel. Also to look at purchasing gas at regular gas station instead of replacing fuel tanks. To be researched. Fuel Cards is being looked at. (Possibly to remove the \$150,000)

Streets with the appropriate funding for the fiscal 2016-2017

Take \$25,000 for the front loaders for repairs.

Take all the trucks that are poor condition and sell.

Sanitation with the appropriate funding for the fiscal 2016-2017

Part Time people

Recommendation to hire 6 out of the 10 of the employees we need and hire them as full time with the benefits – rate increase – sanitation is suppose to pay for itself. We cannot take any subsidies at all.

Recycling – Take a look to make it once a month. Seriously take a look also on the federal resources side to bump up education.

Weirton Transit Corporation with appropriate funding for the fiscal 2016-2017

Council would like to recommend we give Weirton Transit \$75,000 instead of \$57,000.00 and have the Board give monthly report of what they are spending that money on.

**DISCUSSION:**

City Manager stated the outside Agencies factoring those in and also your CIP Funding. Essentially the rest of your budget was sales because it is your regular recurring items. Just to touch base on the Coal Severance, last year everything was put aside, basically a recommendation that I had was in couple cities are doing this, you continue to see that Coal Severance to reduce not growing and I only think it is going to continue reduce because of the problems that the coal industry is having and the tax relief reduction that the state is giving them on Coal Severance Taxes. That the money be all appropriated to snow removal whether it be salt, cinders in that nature having that money appropriated for that.

Council would like to take the money for Coal Severance and pay some trucks off.

City Manager stated it will take some time for Dave Smith to go over his fleet to see which ones he can sell.

Council wanted to know how many vehicles and what he expects to get out of the trucks.

We will be scheduling another Budget Workshop to finalize the budget for 2016-2017 Fiscal Year in the next couple of weeks.

Meeting Ended