

**WEIRTON CITY COUNCIL
BUDGET WORKSHOP
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2016 3:00 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 Monday, February 29, 2016 at 3:00 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
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
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. This is to finalize the proposed FY'17 budget.

DISCUSSION:

City Manager started the meeting with passing out revised sheets to all Council Members. We were able to get our Property Taxes back today from Brooke and Hancock. It did adjust the numbers a little bit over \$100,000, which was a 4.1% increase in property taxes. That money was put into stabilization.

City Manager touched based on looking at our operating revenue at about \$17,000,000. Our core operating needs are operating personnel, personnel other, and current equipment leases. These are your regular ongoing expenses. You have a million four left in operating revenue that is essentially the sales tax, which right now, as it stands, is put in a contingency which we are not spending it on anything. One of the recommendations I made to you, is not relying on fund balance budgeting anymore for this fiscal year, and projecting ongoing to use that fund balance money for core operating needs that are salaries, wages anything like that, we are not relying upon it at all.

City Manager also stated that there were couple additional changes that related to video lottery and gaming revenue. We have been able to further evaluate those revenues once some more. Returns came in this year and we are projecting those to go down from where they were at last year.

A Recommendation that we made, that was placed in your information with an updated version copies of the vehicles attached with that recommendation, that essentially the vehicles that will come off the road as we are purchasing the three new ones. We are taking more vehicles off the road than we are purchasing out of the Street Department.

So essentially, you have three vehicles a one ton dump, a two and half ton dump and a pick up. Those replaced vehicles will have more come off than go on. There are no other large adjustments that we placed in here other than the ones from the last meeting have all been accommodated within the budget that we sat down and talked about with regards to capital. What was left over has been placed into contributions of other funds, and that number now sits at \$417,353.00 approximately \$33,000.00 of that is Sanitation related and should only be spent for Sanitation needs. So the rest of that is placed in stabilization. I know there was a few requests that we received. One being the Library Board that we sent to you is contained in this information as well as far as the request was \$20,860.00, so essentially we balanced the budget for you. It does not take into account that increase or any increase for the Park Board or some of the other increases that were talked about that Councilman Ash had brought up.

Councilman Ash said to go ahead and give the \$20,860.00 to the Library. Almost everything is free so it is kind of hard not to support them the best way we can. Councilman Jackson asked for a need analysis from the Library Board is that enough, is \$20,000.00 really enough?

Rik Rekowski, Library Director had a discussion with Councilmembers explaining the analysis for the budget and his needs for the next three years. Councilman Ash stated that if more money is needed than a revision can be made to the budget down the road to be voted on.

Councilman Ash stated that his other suggestion was \$50,000.00 for the Mayor's Youth Program.

Councilman Wright brought up the Park Board which is the last item of topic for their budget. The concern was the number that was requested for the additional amount of \$122,095.00, and that the Councilmembers requested a breakdown for that additional amount. Councilman Jackson brought up a concession stand at the Millsop Community Center which would be a great source of revenue. Another topic was Councilman Ash stating if we are going to compare the Library with the Community Center compare the salaries. We cannot compare the two. Councilman Fracasso wanted to know what the \$122,095.00 was going to be used for? Discussion was between Executive Director Terry Weigel and the Councilmen with regards to Park Boards staff, employees, cleaning, maintenance, insurance, uniforms, etc., and other alternatives to reduce cost. The Councilmen were not in favor of the additional \$122,095.00.

Meeting Ended