

MAYER CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES – AUGUST 22, 2016

Call Work Session to order at 8:16 p.m. by Mayor Thomas

PRESENT: Mayor Thomas, Council Members Osborn, McNeilly, and Stieve-McPadden

ABSENT: Council Member Boder

STAFF: City Administrator Ruch-Hammond, Public Works Kuntz, Greg Kluver of Kluver Consulting, Deputy Clerk Gildemeister, and City Engineer Martini

ALSO PRESENT: Don Wachholz

1. **Discussion on 2017 General Fund Budget:** City Administrator Ruch-Hammond presented the 2017 budget to the Council for review. The preliminary debt budget reported to be \$1,347,247.29 which is a reduction of \$41,400.41 from last year's total budget of \$1,388,647.70. The property tax levy for 2016 was \$949,294.00 and the proposed total property tax levy for 2017 would be \$884,699.00. The City's 2017 debt service fund budget is \$458,096.00 which is a reduction of \$46,969.00 from 2016. After some discussion, Council agreed to take a closer look at adjusting the property tax rate with hopes that residents will see some tax relief for 2017. In collaboration together, Council and Staff will adjust the budget to include an additional Public Works employee, new pump and lift station upgrade, and adding an additional Deputy Sheriff for night patrol. Council request Staff to present a preliminary budget with requested changes. Information on water and sewer rates at the next Council meeting.
2. **Discussion on Roundabout Landscaping:** Council reviewed rendered plans and requirements used for Watertown's roundabout improvements and agreed that landscaping in the roundabout would improve the scenery along Hwy 25 coming into town from the north. Council asked Staff to acquire base quotes for landscaping in the roundabout. Public Work Kuntz stated that he would be willing to take on the landscaping improvements and maintenance to save money for the City.
3. **Discussion on Landscaping requirements for new homes:** Staff informed Council that the current ordinance states that the back yard shall be sodded to a distance of 50 feet from the rear of the house and all remaining unsodded areas shall be seeded with grass seed appropriate to the climate area. Council discussed adding additional language to the current ordinance to include stabilizing the remaining unsodded area with blanket seeding but to leave the 50ft requirements.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the work session was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Attest: _____
Janell Gildemeister, Deputy City Clerk

Gerald W. Thomas, Mayor