

City of Mayer

City Council Workshop Minutes for April 8th, 2024

Present: Mayor Dodge, Council Members McNeilly, Heldt, Wegner
Absent: Vacancy
Staff: City Administrator Nicholas Johnson
City Clerk Alicia Menzel
Visitors: Don Wachholz, Samantha Fautsch, Scott Berscheid

Opening Items

The workshop was called to order by Mayor Dodge.

Workshop Discussion Items

Conduct Interviews for the City Council Vacancy – Mayor Dodge suggested removing questions #2 & #5 from the interview questions. Those questions were covered in their applications. Samantha Fautsch and Scott Berscheid were the two applicants interviewed.

Review Fund Balance Policy and Discuss Utilization of Funds – City Administrator Johnson reviewed proposed changes to the City’s Fund Balance Policy. The existing policy had last been revised in 2020. Johnson discussed how the existing policy was from a time when the City had not been properly levying for capital improvements. The Fund Balance Policy provisions dictated when the General Fund reserve balance exceeded the 50% policy threshold, those funds would be transferred to various capital improvement categories. The City has moved in a direction where funds are levied annually for capital improvements rather than depending on reserve balance surplus. The recommended changes to the policy would remove the requirement to transfer reserve balances over 50% and make it discretionary. Language provisions were also removed that dictated where the former required transfers would occur. The amendments to the policy create a far more flexible environment for the City Council to work in when deciding if and when funding would be utilized.

The conclusion of the 2023 Audit demonstrated a General Fund balance policy surplus of \$159,611 above the previously discussed 50% threshold. Johnson discussed potential uses for part of that surplus. The potential uses would be replacement of the windows at City Hall, replacement of the floor scrubber in the Community Center, and transferring funding to the Economic Development Authority ahead of the tax settlements. Johnson discussed the costs to be approximately \$15,000 for windows, \$6,000 for a used floor scrubber, and \$50,000 for the EDA. The existing windows at City Hall are from 1998 and have begun leaking. The existing floor scrubber, while still functional, has proven cumbersome due to size for use in some spaces. A replacement floor scrubber would be smaller and more maneuverable. The existing one would be transferred to the new Public Works building. Mayor Dodge requested additional information on resale value and use for Public Works. The transfer to the EDA would be replenished when tax settlements were received.

Discuss Classification of Booster Clubs, Youth Sports Groups, and the like regarding Community Center Use – City Administrator Johnson requested input on the use of the community center. City Staff have been receiving more inquiries from parents and youth that want to use the gym for extra practice. Currently, the schools are using it for free, but this would be in addition to school use. Council Member Wegner asked if there is a liability in case someone was injured. Johnson said the City had recreational immunity so long as there was no negligence on the City’s part. Mayor Dodge questioned charging outside districts to use the facility. Council Member McNeilly didn’t believe it to be an issue as long as revenue isn’t lost to paid rentals. Council Member Heldt believed if the facility is not being used and the parties are local they should use it for free. Johnson cautioned against allowing too many users of this type as it will decrease the amount of time available for Open Gym.

Adjournment

The workshop was adjourned at 7:26 PM.

Attest:

Mayor

City Clerk