

MAYER CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 10, 2018

Call Work Session to order at 7:49 p.m. by Mayor Dodge.

PRESENT: Mayor Dodge, Council Members Boder, McNeilly, and Stieve-McPadden

ABSENT: Council Member Butterfield

STAFF: City Administrator McCallum, City Planner Anderson, Fire Chief Maetzold, Public Works Kuntz, and Deputy Clerk Gildemeister

ALSO PRESENT: Ivan Raconteur, Don Wachholz, Jason Hilgers, Mike Wegner, Chad Heldt, Kaye Timmers

1. **Discussion on Fire Department Building:** Fire Chief Rod Maetzold presented 3 future Fire Department options for Council consideration. The first option shows the cost to install an Exhaust System in the Fire Station located at 111 4<sup>th</sup> Street NE, in the amount of \$61,680.00. The second option proposes to tear down the current building and replace with a 50 X 82 foot two-story structure at a cost of \$2,456.00. The third option proposes to build a new Fire Station to be located at 409 Shimmcor Street at a cost of \$3,058,050.00.
2. **Update on 220 4<sup>th</sup> Street:** Chad Heldt asked Council to consider changing the City Code language to allow gravel for parking pads. Council voiced their willingness to discuss this topic further. Mr. Heldt presented two options to bring his property into compliance. The first option was to remove ten feet of gravel along 4<sup>th</sup> Street to comply with the 35% lot coverage. The second option was to pave the parking pad area. He stated he would like to avoid the second option because of the significant cost. City Planner Anderson re-stated that the driveway would need to be narrowed and the parking pad would have to start at the corner of the house and go back. The parking pad cannot extend past the face/corner of the garage along 4<sup>th</sup> Street and cannot connect directly to the driveway. After further discussion, Mr. Heldt asked for an extension. Council accepted his request. Council recommended Mr. Heldt applies for a variance for the width of the driveway. City Planner Anderson stated that a certified lot survey would have to be acquired and submitted with the variance.
3. **Snow Removal Operations Presentation:** Public Works Supervisor Kuntz presented a proposal on the costs and future cost savings to transition snow removal operations to City Public Works Department vs. contracting out snow removal. Kuntz enthusiastically educated the Council on the positive reasons why it is beneficial to keep snow removal operations in-house. Kuntz stated that the City would need to purchase new equipment such as a plow truck or loader, and a tractor/loader/backhoe. Kuntz stated that the operating cost to contract out snow removal services has increased significantly with fewer contractors offering services driving up the costs. Over the past 15 years the average cost for snow removal per year is \$18,452. Hourly rates from contractors have gone up over 70% since 2013. The City spent \$204,158 over the past 15 years for contracted snow removal compared to the projected cost of \$152,377 for in-house snow removal.
4. **2018 Preliminary Draft Budget:** McCallum reviewed the process of setting the preliminary budget for the General Fund by the end of September. She informed that the preliminary levy

can always be lowered after set, but not increased. She presented expenditure and revenue data from the 2018 budget year, as well as the proposed 2019 budget with and without capital expenditures. McCallum informed that the debt service budget would decrease 6.4% from 2018 due to changes in the amounts owed. She highlighted that last year's tax levy was 50.61%. She proposed for 2019 a preliminary tax rate of 49.8% with capital included, or another option of 43.9% without capital. The Council agreed that they need to start putting money aside for capital.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the work session was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

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Mike Dodge, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Janell Gildemeister, Deputy City Clerk