

MAYER CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES 6 November 23, 2015

Call Work Session to order at 7:05 p.m. by Mayor Thomas

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

ABSENT:

STAFF: City Administrator Ruch-Hammond, City Engineer Andrew Budde, Public Works Kuntz and Clerk Maetzold

ALSO PRESENT: Don Wachholz, Ivan Raconteur and Mike Dodge.

- 1. 2016 General Fund Budget:** The Council reviewed the preliminary 2016 General Budget. The preliminary tax levy of \$1,014,664 that was certified in September resulted in a tax rate of 60.318%. Administrator Ruch-Hammond proposed several changes to the budget for the Council to consider that included cuts made by departments. Mayor Thomas would like to get closer to the 2015 tax rate which was 59.57%. General consensus was to get the tax rate lower than 2015. Proposed cuts of \$30,000 were suggested and brought back to the next Council meeting for further discussion and final certification.
- 2. Discussion of Committee Assignments for 2016:** Mayor Thomas is suggesting that Council Members move around each year giving all a chance to serve on all committees. He would also like the Personnel Committee to change to the Council as a whole instead of two Council members, the City Administrator and the City Attorney. Staff will research the original resolution establishing the Personnel Committee to see how it needs to change. Staff will also get information from other cities to see how other Councils carry out committee liaison membership.
- 3. Discussion on Policy for Development of Private Developments:** The Council discussed the concept of using one engineering firm to reduce engineering costs due to double reviews on new developments. This can be done at the time the Development Agreement is approved. This process gets rid of conflict and assures the City gets the project they want.
- 4. Extension of Downtown:** MnDOT is going through their planning process for 2020. They anticipate doing a mill and overlay of State Highway 25 through the City of Mayer. They are asking if the City is looking expand urban sections of the downtown either to the north to the roundabout or south toward Co. Rd 30 to Waconia. Now would be the time for the City to look at their options.
- 5. Public Works Building:** Mayor Thomas and Public Works Kuntz review pros and cons of building a new public works building at the compost site or adding on to the current public works building at the Community Center with the Council. There was also discussion about the future need for additional public works staff. Redoing the current facility will be most cost effective. Expansion alleviates overcrowding of current equipment. There is cash on hand in the General fund to pay for the addition which is estimated to cost \$150,000. After 15-20 years when Public Works outgrows this site, the building could be renovated to accommodate Park needs such as a picnic shelter etc. Discussion included possibly building next year and budgeting for another public works employee in 2017. Staff will gather the tax impact on \$500,000 and obtain additional quotes for the addition.

6. **Other:** Mayor Thomas reported that Brunton Architects & Engineers will be conducting an entirely new Feasibility Study for a fire station project in response to the Fire Chief's dissatisfaction with their first study. Mayor Thomas met with the Fire Chief and Brunton last week to go over the scope of services and to review sites to be included in the new study. The Council decided to add the compost site to the study.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the work session was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Gerald W. Thomas, Mayor

Attest: _____
Lois A. Maetzold, City Clerk