

CITY OF DEWITT
COUNCIL MINUTES
January 24, 2022

The special meeting of the DeWitt City Council was held on January 24, 2022. Mayor Steve Hasenmiller presiding. Council members present Smith, Chrones, Marcus, Ketelsen, Goldensoph. The City council meeting will also be open to the public electronically to join zoom meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85946858021?pwd=dUlrV1BG TkdicTl2RjY5YzdIaEdVQT09>
Meeting ID: 859 4685 8021 Passcode: 521448

Budget Workshop. Steve reviewed capital expenditure data for the water department provided by Matt. He used this data to calculate funds that are needed for typical capital expenditures and for preparation for future projects/debt service. After discussion council recommends 2.5% rate increase and may need additional increase next year. The capital projects budgets were discussed next. Budgeted projects include 2022 street/storm water project, pickleball project, and fire station expansion project. Planning for north 6th Avenue, street department facility and trail extension/bridge project are also included. The library expansion project has donations budgeted as we are collecting many pledges over 5 years. Nothing is budgeted for the industrial street extension but we will continue to look for appropriate grant funds to help this project happen. Deanna presented some spreadsheets in regards to upcoming debt payments. The total debt payments for FY23 is substantially higher than current year and future years. Next year is the 4th year of 5 that the debt service levy is to be \$.19/\$1,000 higher per the library vote. The upcoming year has just under \$800,000 of debt to be paid from the debt service levy and nearly \$2,600,000 that will be paid from other sources. One from sewer and most from TIF. Special revenue budgets were discussed next. Road use is mostly wages/benefits, street maintenance, and snow expenses. The snow budget includes a skid snow blower. Traffic safety expenses, including \$15,000 for a traffic study, will be moved from general to road use. Employee benefits levy is set to keep the total tax rate the same. There are \$216,424 of employee benefits not being taxed for. Municipal police and fire retirement contribution percentage is 24.41% for FY23. DeWitt does not use the emergency levy which could provide \$63,230. Local option sales tax deposit was next. Reimbursements and expenses are included for the sidewalk repairs based on this year's information. Much discussion was had about requiring new sidewalks for citizens and city. This will be discussed at streets and alleys meeting this spring. Some of the expenses included are re-decking a trailer, new tires, truck code reader, laser, and 85% of 1/3 of a loader and skid. TIF budget was next. It includes fees for amending the urban renewal plan as we typically need to do this each year. Rebate estimates are included. The TIF reserve is for the TIF LMI housing rehab program. It is budgeted to complete 3 houses. Nothing is budgeted for FEMA COVID disaster. We may have expenses and revenues but it is not known. The 100% reimbursement for this is currently thru April 1, 2022 but has been extended 2 or 3 times before. SSMID budget is for wages, plants and downtown improvement grant program. American Rescue Plan Act is budgeted for DeWitt to receive the second half payment next year and transfer that to the 2022 street/storm water project. Deanna provided a spreadsheet of estimated rebate amounts by year. General fund was discussed next. The budget as presented is showing a \$139,134 net loss. Police vehicle inspection revenue is

decreased due to a change in salvage vehicle law. This budget does not include an additional officer but calculation of that cost is included in the packet of information. Police department expenses include training (back to normal), in-car camera, power washer and garage curtain, increased ammunition costs, new vehicle and set up, and continuation of mobile computer replacements. Reserve police budget includes 4 bulletproof vests, increased ammunition costs and uniforms for 3 new reserve officers. Fire department budget includes several pieces of minor equipment totaling \$16,434, \$15,000 for new dress uniforms, portable hose rack & reel, cloth key hose, thermal imaging cameras and positive pressure fan. Discussion about the volunteer recognition policy was had about when the recognition is earned. Three sets of bunker gear is budgeted from the uniform reserve. The inspection budget includes both revenue and expense for potential engineering reviews. Also included is expectation of 2023 code update and \$5,000 for permit software. Compost budget includes contracted services for grinding and new entrance sign/gate. Much discussion was had about the information from the state auditor's office that does not allow governmental entities from making donations.

Chrones moved to adjourn 8:54 p.m.

Steve Hasenmiller, Mayor

Deanna Rekemeyer, acting City Clerk