CITY OF DEWITT
COUNCIL MEETING
January 27, 2014

The special meeting of the DeWitt City Council was held on January 27, 2014. Mayor Donald J. Thiltgen presiding. Council members present Ketelsen, Marcus, Hasenmiller, Scheckel, Smith.

Budget Workshop. Council started with the capital projects budgets. Reimbursements for improvements made as part of capital projects by property owners for 11th Street widening project, 11th Street West project, and the 17th/18th project. The 2014 projects are 8th Street Reconstruction, police facility planning and completing the Silver Creek Trail bridge. 2015 projects include construction of the police facility, property acquisition/planning for trail extension, and a blight street reconstruction project for which the street has yet to be determined. Next a debt schedule was discussed that shows the 10 debt issues the City will have payments for next fiscal year. Of these 10 only 3 are paid for with debt service property tax revenue. All others are paid with TIF, road use taxes, water and sewer revenues. Deanna stated that next month in addition to bonding for new money for the 8th Street project it is the intent to refinance the existing 2008 GO bonds. Tim Oswald estimates the City can save approximately $250,000 over the life of the bonds by refinancing now. The debt service budget is prepared showing the use of $28,000 of existing fund balance to pay part of the 2012 GO refunding bond and reducing the amount transferred form the road use fund for this. Both the 2008 and 2009 TIF bonds will be paid off June 1, 2014. Budgets for the special revenue funds were discussed next. The road use budget includes ½ of the cost of a $130,000 plow truck and a plow for a new pickup. Road use fund budget is showing a new income of $22. The employee benefits levy was discussed next. DeWitt is only levying for some of the benefits that can be levied for. This amount was set to keep DeWitt's property tax rate the same. The 411 (municipal fire and police retirement system) percentage increased from 30.12% to 30.41%. The local option sales tax budget includes insulating the bathroom and tin over clay block, new flow belt for stainless dump truck, $400 for repairs on the JD4100, ECIA request for transportation planning support, $20,000 for tree removal, ½ of $130,000 plow truck, a new pickup, hot patch/asphalt heater, and a stump grinder. Deanna will evaluate existing funds that may be available if the council wants to raise the amount for tree removal due to emerald ash borer. The TIF budget was discussed next. Most of the rebate amounts are estimates as they are based on actual incremental taxes paid next year. Deanna explained that with the residential TIF rebate agreements the City is required to set aside 39.3% as an LMI set aside by state law. These funds must be used in some way to benefit low to moderate income households based on household size and county median income that year. At some point council will need to discuss and decide what type of program they would like to set up to use these funds. It can be used to do housing rehabilitation similar to federal housing grants or something as specific as furnaces, sidewalks, etc. SSMID budget is prepared similar to current year operations. The same transfer from general is budgeted. Next council was presented with the budget sheets that show the new commercial and industrial backfill due to the state rolling back the taxable values on these properties. The backfill is not considered tax revenue but a state reimbursement. The general fund budget was discussed next. The budget as presented a net loss of $139,040. Police department budget includes command board and UTV that grants were applied for and a new vehicle. The fire department budget includes various building repairs, stokes basket and webbing, heads up display, thermal imaging camera, and 4

sets of bunker gear. A chipper is included in the compost budget. The library money received from the county is expected to decrease significantly due to a change in the distribution formula. The library budget does include paperback shelving and furnishings. The parks budget includes $5,000 for a camping study, $2,000 for swing mats and $14,235 for picnic tables and garbage cans. Recreation budget includes revenue for a new youth basketball league. Included in expenses are $7,000 for field treatment, $4,500 for portable pitching mounds, and $10,000 for a water reel. The aquatic center budget includes replacing cleaning employees with a contracted service, $23,000 for 3 bronze check valves, $4,000 inflatable and $2,000 for deck chairs. The cemetery budget includes $2,515 for tilling and seeding the Pheasant's Forever area and $4,999 for a new mower. The community center budget includes $1,000 for replacing some of the tables. $100,000 is included for a possible building expansion on the fitness center. This was included for discussion only. This cost is estimated as high and would not be expected to be paid from the general fund. The fitness center budget includes several building improvements such as restroom partitions, duct cleaning, resurfacing courts, sinks/countertops and a repair to a gas line. Also included are 3 pieces of exercise equipment, software upgrade and $58,000 for replacement of the west air handling unit. Council discussed the requirements for the City to submit for future owner-occupied housing grants. The City would be required to do an income survey and the neighborhood selected would need to show at least 51% LMI households in that neighborhood to have a chance at funding. It is expected there will be fewer subdivisions next year. Hotel/motel budget includes Hausbarn roof repairs and purchasing DVD players/monitors for the video about the Hausbarn to be shown to visitors. Council budget includes $2,500 for the second half of updating the comprehensive plan and $1,000 for a new projector or monitor. The packet includes a letter from city attorney Bob McGee with a request for changing is monthly base rate and hourly fee. The budget is prepared with only the monthly base rate plus mileage and fees. City hall budget includes $4,000 to have back documents (resolutions, ordinances, minutes, deeds, etc) scanned into Laserfische. Interfund transfers requested include $25,000 for fire uniforms/SCBA, $75,000 for fire apparatus, $3,100 for future ADA improvements, $5,000 for future city hall building/HVAC needs, and funds to cover net operation losses in police reserves, recreation, aquatic center, cemetery and fitness center. Council will may necessary cuts at the next meeting. NIMS training was briefly discussed.

Scheckel moved to adjourn at 9:02 p.m.

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Donald J. Thiltgen, Mayor Deanna Rekemeyer, acting City Clerk