

CITY OF DEWITT
COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 28, 2013

The special meeting of the DeWitt City Council was held on January 28, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Donald J. Thiltgen presiding. Council members present Smith, Scheckel, Ketelsen, Hasenmiller, Marcus.

Budget Workshop. The capital projects budgets were discussed first. On the schedule for 2013 are South 6th Avenue reconstruction, planning for new police facility, feasibility study for combined public works facility, and replacement of the pedestrian bridge on the trail. Also included is the continuation of the 2011 housing grant with an estimated 3 houses to be completed in the upcoming budget. East 8th Street reconstruction is scheduled for 2014 so it is also included. The long-term debt schedule was discussed next. Including the new 2013 bonds to be issued this spring the City will have 11 bond issues of which debt service tax levy is only used to pay 3 of these. All others are paid from TIF, road use taxes, water revenue and sewer revenue. Proposed debt service budgets were reviewed and left as presented. Special revenue fund budgets were discussed next. Road use fund budget includes estimated snow expenditures. Salt/sand expense has been decreased due to expectation of supplies on hand at the end of the current winter season. It also includes ½ the cost of a new loader less trade and ½ the cost of a new skid loader with trade. These result in a proposed net loss of \$22,208. The options for the trust and agency employee benefits levy were discussed. The proposed budget is prepared without a tax increase. The levy for police retirement system was discussed. The City contribution percentage is increasing to 30.12% of wages. This is increasing from 26.12% in the current year, 24.76% in FY12 and 19.9% in FY11. This is expected to continue to rise dramatically. This fund is proposed to spend \$7,782 of existing fund balance to keep the levy rate as low as possible. The emergency levy was discussed next. The proposed budget does not include utilizing this levy. The local option sales tax fund was discussed next. Included in the proposed budget are overhead doors, Filer lease, tree & stump removal and the second ½ of both the loader and skid loader with trades. The budget as proposed has more than \$35,000 more for street maintenance next year as in the current year. Council had much discussion about emerald ash bores and what an infestation could cost. Council also asked several questions about the loader, skid loader, and available reserves for street equipment. Ultimately Council decided to move \$22,208 of the equipment costs from road use fund to local option tax fund and reduce street maintenance line item by the same to balance both budgets. The TIF fund was discussed next. Some of the rebates have annual not to exceed amounts while others are estimated because the agreements only have lifetime not to exceed amounts. The TIF fund shows a \$241,473 net loss. However next year's debt payments are high and there is more than that in currently available fund balance. The SSMID is again budgeted for part-time employees to maintain the planters and baskets. The general fund was discussed next. Police department requests include increase reimbursement from the school for the School Resource Officer, part-time coverage for new hire during schooling/training, new vehicle, and rifles. Police reserves budget includes the purchase of hand guns. The fire department budget includes a forcible entry prop, bunker gear and wireless headsets. The inspections budget includes costs for electrical certification.

Traffic safety budget includes upgrading to audible crosswalks to comply with ADA, a battery backup for 11th/11th traffic light and new batteries for backups. Matt had pricing on the solar signs with flashing lights for the St. Joe's crosswalk. The compost budget includes money for grading and roadwork, grinding 3 times and \$10,000 for a grapple bucket. The library budget includes some new computers. Parks department budget includes two shelter roofs, new picnic tables, new garbage cans, swing mats and a new mower. Recreation budget includes mother/son or dad/daughter event revenue and expenses. The aquatic center budget includes 3 bronze check valves at \$1600 each, landing pads, laptop computers and a new pool vacuum. The fitness center budget includes Body Pump twelve months instead of six months, NuStep and \$54,000 air handling unit. All five park & recreation departments include the request for Dale to be made full-time. \$2,500 is requested in planning and zoning to update zoning regulations. The city administrator is requesting a car allowance. The city council budget includes updating the comprehensive plan and Ipads to have paperless council packets. The city hall budget includes a new phone system, updating office software, and a new website. It was discussed that part-time employees in multiple departments including library, parks, fitness center and cemetery must work under 30 hours per week to comply with healthcare reform. General fund as proposed has a \$72,544 net loss. Cuts to balance the general fund will be discussed next week.

Scheckel moved to adjourn at 9:16 p.m.

Donald J. Thiltgen, Mayor

Deanna Rekemeyer, acting City Clerk