

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2022 COLD SPRING CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dave Heinen at 8:00 a.m. The following City Council members were found to be present in person: Mayor Dave Heinen, Council Members Fran Ramler, Doug Schmitz, Mike Fall, and Ryan Hennen. Others present: Kris Dockendorf, Jason Blum, Jon Stueve, Jason Spoden, Dan Weber, Ardell Goebel, Mary Bruder, Rose Keul, Connie Rausch, Kris Heinen, Nadine Schnettler, Luci Sparby, Pat Evens, Chuck Merten, and Dave Konshok.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION WAS MADE BY SCHMITZ, SECONDED BY RAMLER, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA OF THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2022 CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

2023 PROPOSED BUDGET DISCUSSION

A. Public Works

Public Works Director Jon Stueve reviewed the Parks, Streets, Stormwater, Water and Wastewater budget requests. The Parks Department request included mill & overlay for trails at 14th Ave S & Frogtown and a new sign for the baseball park. The Streets Department included half the cost of a new maintenance shop, a used sweeper, and half the cost to straighten 3rd Ave SE in partnership with Wakefield Township. Luci Sparby was in attendance in place of Shirley Welter to request funding of the hanging flower baskets for 2023. There is still approximately \$4,000 left from the 2022 fund raising project, and the hanging baskets cost around \$5,600. The Council agreed to add \$2,000 to the streets budget to combine with the extra \$4,000 from fundraising to spend \$6,000 on flower baskets in 2023. The Water Department included a used scissor lift and rehab of wells 5 & 6. Discussion was held on raising the cost of turning water on, and it was decided to review this with the changes to the 2023 fee schedule. The Wastewater Department requests included construction and engineering expenses for the pre-treatment plant and costs to design a wastewater treatment plant expansion, including \$800,000 to build a new maintenance shop, which needs to be moved due to the proposed expansion. Also included was a new employee to be paid for half out of water and half out of sewer.

B. Police

Chief Jason Blum reviewed the proposed Police Department budget and requested to purchase two squad cars to get the Department back to the yearly rotation of one replacement squad per year. The Richmond City Administrator and members of the Richmond City Council were present to give input on the budgets. Discussion was held on the need for two new squads rather than just one, and members from Richmond Council questioned whether Cold Spring is billing Rocori for all the expenses of the SRO position.

C. Administration and EDA

Interim Administrator Kris Dockendorf reviewed the Administration budget. Members of the Senior Center were present to request a \$5,000 donation to help them with operating expenses. The City made donations to them in 2020 and 2021. Councilor Schmitz requested that we raise the garbage hauling licenses from \$1,500 to \$2,000 each, and the Council agreed to add this extra \$1,000 to the revenue budget. The EDA budget included costs to hire a consultant from CEDA.

D. Fire Department

Chief Weber asked to reinstate the 2nd Assistant Chief position and for a pay increase to \$14.50 per hour for the firefighters.

COUNCIL REVIEW OF THE PROPOSED 2022 LEVY AND BUDGET

The levy as presented by the Departments resulted in a 36% increase to the levy. The Council discussed items that could be cut. Half of the cost of the maintenance shop (\$400,000) was removed from the Streets budget and put into the Wastewater budget, since this is needed due to the wastewater treatment plant expansion. The used sweeper for \$225,000 was also removed from the budget, along with the \$30,000 revenue for the sale of the two current sweepers. Public Works Director Stueve requested an addition to the budget of \$6,500 for a trailer for hauling mowers, to be split between Streets and Parks, which was added to the levy. The Council removed the construction of the new sign for the baseball park and suggested we approach the Baseball Assn. to help pay for it with fundraising efforts.

Police Chief Blum asked to have \$1,000 added to his budget for a translation app for their phones.

The Council further agreed to draw \$30,000 from the Gambling Fund to go towards the purchase of the two squads, bringing the final increase in taxes down to 5.03%.

GENERAL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL

NONE

ADJOURN

MOTION WAS MADE BY HENNEN, SECONDED BY FALL, TO ADJOURN AT 1:48 P.M., SEEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

Dave Heinen, Mayor

Kris Dockendorf, Interim City Administrator