

THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CIVIL CITY OF NEW ALBANY, INDIANA, HELD A BUDGET HEARING IN THE THIRD FLOOR ASSEMBLY ROOM OF THE CITY/COUNTY BUILDING ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 2018 AT 5:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Council Members Mr. Coffey, Mr. Caesar, Mr. Phipps, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Nash, Mr. Aebersold, Mr. Barksdale, Dr. Knable and President Blair.

ALSO PRESENT: Shane Gibson, Linda Moeller, Police Chief Bailey, Deputy Fire Chief Joel Baylor, Scott Wood, David Hall, Alecia Meredith, Amy Stein and Ms. Milburn

President Blair called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Gibson stated that at the last meeting they had a discussion regarding the salary line item for the controller's office and explained that there were two employees being paid out of other funds that were being shown in her budget and that is why it was so high.

Mr. Coffey stated that they were told it was for raises and asked which it is.

Mr. Gibson explained that what they have in front of them is for \$216,000.00 and that is the cost of the controller's salary line item budget for next year.

Mr. Coffey asked if there is any other money coming from other employees in the same office.

Mr. Gibson explained that sewer pays for two employees in that office and it was originally keyed in to include these two employees.

Mr. Coffey stated that originally, they were told it was for additional raises above the 2%.

Mr. Blair stated that there is still money in the budget for raises just not the same amount.

Dr. Knable stated that it looks like it is 4% now.

Mr. Coffey asked what fund the other 2 come out of.

Mr. Gibson replied the sewer fund.

Mr. Caesar asked about the morale in the controller's office.

Mrs. Moeller stated that it is going well and they are getting to a really good place where they have a good handle on accountability and record keeping.

STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTS

Mr. Gibson stated that they passed out a copy of the most recent audit from State Board of Accounts and it is published for them to share. He explained that this is the cleanest and best one that he personally knows of in 15 years. He reported that there are zero comments, zero findings, and no recommendations. He stated that they are pleased with this and that is one of the reasons that morale is high.

Mr. Blair stated that he really appreciates the work that Mrs. Moeller and her office does and added that many of them were already aware of the good news but it is something to celebrate.

Mr. Gibson passed out a packet of information that was additional requests from the council and stated that it includes information that Dr. Knable asked about additional over the last few years. He stated that in the past he has given them different projection on EDIT, LRS and Riverboat and the sheet is a summary with the basic data behind it. He explained that it shows money that is being put into road projects, TIF projects and a yearly total of road construction projects. He added that it doesn't include any grants.

Mr. Blair asked if he is projecting \$1.75M in paving.

Mr. Gibson stated that it is \$5M next year with TIF and Riverboat

Mr. Caesar asked if they are committing \$2.6 for next year.

Mr. Gibson explained that they have that budgeted in EDIT but they would add TIF at \$2.4M

Mr. Blair asked if he is correct that this doesn't show anything from Community Crossing and other grants.

Mr. Gibson relied yes. He added that he didn't put that in because it is not in their control but they will be applying.

Mr. Blair asked if they wanted to put in \$1M from EDIT that was something they could decide to do.

Mr. Gibson stated that they could do that or do an additional appropriation.

Dr. Knable stated that he wasn't here in 2015 but he was under the impression that the first time that the Homeless Coalition came to the council was in 2016. He explained that there is an allocation showing in 2015 out of EDIT.

Mr. Nash stated that he thought they did pass it in 2015 but they had to reaffirm in 2016.

Mr. Gibson stated that they applied at the end of the year but DLGF wouldn't approve it because it was past their deadline so they had to re-appropriate the money.

Dr. Knable stated that he was told point blank by the Homeless Coalition that they didn't receive the money from 2018 and he would like to hear both sides.

Mr. Gibson stated that no one has approached him about this.

Mrs. Moeller stated that she can check each year for it.

Dr. Knable stated that she can check after budget season is over and let him know.

Mr. Gibson stated if they go through the handout it gives them more information on EDIT, LRS and Riverboard. He explained that he took a ten-year average of what EDIT has done to calculate the number. He added that he did the same thing for Riverboat. He explained that he did go a little higher on LRS than what it has been recently because it has been \$600,000.00 or more for the last three years.

Mr. Caesar stated that he would like to keep Rainy Day as close to \$1M as possible.

Mr. Gibson stated that at the end of the year it is a resolution transferring a certain amount to make the fund what they want.

Mr. Blair stated that they should understand what they need to keep in that fund for a city of their size and maybe there is some type of formula they can use.

Mr. Gibson stated that he can check into it but isn't aware of anything at the moment.

Mr. Blair stated that he does think it is something they can look at after budget season is over.

PARKS

Mr. Gibson stated that it isn't much different than last year and Alecia Meredith is here to answer any question they may have. He added that there are no major jumps in any line item and this has been a pretty consistent trend in all the budgets.

Mr. Caesar asked if the first line of salaries is all full-time employees.

Mr. Gibson replied yes and stated that it includes 17 employees. He stated that the next line is part-time and seasonal and that is just under 200 employees.

Mr. Caesar asked about moral at the parks department.

Mrs. Meredith stated that everything is going really good and overall they have a really strong team.

Mr. Coffey asked about the extra lines that also say part-time.

Mr. Gibson stated that the salaries at the top are full-time and the ones at the bottom are part-time or seasonal and they are broken down to each complex or where they are stationed.

Dr. Knable asked about the sports field complexes breakdown, indoor/outdoor rentals and if it is part of the combined revenue.

Mr. Gibson replied no and stated that it is SSP indoor rentals but they are income. He added that the combined income is for the soccer and baseball fields. He added that he might need another total for combined total.

Dr. Knable asked if the subsidy comes from the general fund.

Mr. Gibson stated that when they are doing the entire budget their incomes are estimated into the general fund to be able to do the budget.

Dr. Knable stated that for the record he has zero issues subsidizing those programs. He asked about other ~\$1,700.00 in other revenue in the pool performance summary.

Mrs. Meredith explained that this comes from the lockers.

Mr. Gibson stated that they also added the days where they were affected by inclement weather for their reference. He added that they are getting return employees so they are allocating staff better and reducing costs.

Dr. Knable stated that he toured Cherry Valley and he doesn't think it would be under this discussion but he would like to talk about it at some point because the bridges in the area are in serious need of repair.

Mr. Gibson stated that it isn't factored into this budget and it never has been for as long as he has been with the city, but they have contributed to help them out at times. He added that it is worthy of a discussion later because there is so much that goes into it.

Dr. Knable stated that he understands that he is just worried about the bridges and would like to find something to shore them up.

Mr. Coffey brought up the previous parking issues with Holy Family.

Mr. Gibson stated that they had signs printed up for them and Mrs. Meredith is in constant contact with their staff any time they have an issues.

Mr. Coffey stated that it seems to be one-sided in terms of communication.

Mr. Gibson stated that they will reach out to them and ask for further input because they have been a great neighbor.

Mr. Barksdale stated that the pool in an excellent faculty, very well managed and he is very impressed with it.

Mr. Gibson stated that as always, they put in a 6-month -to-actual so that the council could see where they are at this point in the year.

Mr. Barksdale asked if the Louisville pools closing had any impact on them.

Mrs. Meredith stated that she could look at it but she thinks their numbers have been fairly steady.

PARKS MAINTENANCE/SHELTERS/RECREATION

Mr. Gibson stated that they are all non-reverting funds and are monitored by Mrs. Moeller and her staff. He explained that Mr. Blair asked about park maintenance to make sure it is funded and the balance is currently at \$100,000.00. He stated that Mrs. Meredith did forward him some information on a lifetime of certain equipment but they don't have answers on what the magic number is yet and they are working on it.

Mr. Blair stated that he does think it is important to get a target and the maintenance is going to be on-going.

Mr. Barksdale asked if this also includes maintenance at the splash park.

Mr. Gibson stated that they haven't talked about that but he thinks that most of the splash park maintenance needs could be handled internally.

Mr. Blair stated that Mrs. Meredith is doing a great job and it is such a wonderful addition to the community. He added that a lot of people don't realize the number of latchkey kids that participate in these safe programs.

Mr. Nash stated that NAHA does these types of programs as well.

Mrs. Meredith stated that they program all four of their rec centers.

Mr. Blair stated that it is really important for the community.

Mr. Gibson stated that the parks has a much bigger reach than just these complexes and parks.

Mrs. Meredith stated that they also go into nursing homes and do programs.

Mr. Blair stated that it would be nice to get more revenue from the soccer clubs and baseball.

Mrs. Meredith stated that this is the goal.

Mr. Gibson stated that they are fighting a little bit with baseball but it is something they have been having conversations about.

Dr. Knable asked if they have any advertising or electronic boards.

Mrs. Meredith replied no.

Mr. Gibson asked if he is talking about selling sponsorship.

Dr. Knable replied yes.

Mr. Gibson stated that is something they can definitely look at.

Mr. Caesar asked about the \$100,000.00 in park maintenance and where it came from.

Mr. Gibson explained that they budgeted \$50,000.00 the last two years and he has another \$50,000.00 for this year.

PLAN COMMISSION

Mr. Gibson stated that the biggest item in this is the addition of extra employees because they need new personnel. He explained that they will have dedicated space at City Hall and they will look to hire them by the end of the year. He explained that the other change is \$90,000.00 for tree implementation which was adopted and approved by them and this is a start to implementing that plan.

Mr. Blair asked where annexation is in this budget.

Mr. Wood explained that it has never been in the planning budget

Mr. Gibson stated that it will likely come from board of works and legal.

Mr. Blair asked if they are still moving along with that.

Mr. Wood replied yes.

TREE BOARD

Mr. Gibson stated that Mr. Streips is the lead staff member on the tree implementation project and explained that they allocated \$26,500.00 for contractual service, which mainly covers Greg Mills.

Mr. Phipps asked why this jumped so much.

Mr. Gibson stated it is the salary that was added because it wasn't in their budget previously.

ANIMAL SHELTER

Mr. Gibson stated that they are budgeting for an increase of staff to fill his needs.

Mr. Hall stated that they have 5 full-time now and he would like to go to 7.

Mr. Caesar asked if this would cover the seven.

Mr. Hall stated that he thinks it will cover it.

Mr. Gibson explained that the capital outlays includes industrial washers and dryers and this is something that was never included.

Mr. Hall stated that they have an opportunity to purchase a cleaning system and those are the types of things that make the whole system more sanitary. He added that they have lobby furniture that is as old as the building and with the age of the building it is time to invest in upgrades.

Mr. Blair asked if he is going to present this to the county.

Mr. Hall stated that they have been warned that this is progression that they are going to make.

Mr. Gibson stated that they have board members and obviously they have to approve it as well as part of their budgetary process. He explained that the split is about 51%-49% and the city pays essentially half. He added that they received checks from the county quarterly

Mr. McLaughlin stated that this is to keep them going as a city-county animal shelter.

Mr. Coffey stated that everyone was talking up the parks department but David Hall and his staff does an amazing job and have completely turned this program around. He stated that the money that they are asking for is minimal compared to the returns that the community has received and he doesn't want to see them go backwards. He added that he can't say enough about what they have done over the years and he has seen it firsthand.

Mr. Blair stated that this is a partnership with the county and they have to work with them so they should communicate with them and not just shove a number at them.

Mr. Gibson stated that this is why they have a board and it will be their responsibility to review and approve it.

Dr. Knable stated that he was the only one that showed up at their meeting so it is a two-way street. He added that if the capital outlays are going to be that high he would like a little more detail on what that is.

Mr. Gibson stated that they can give him a breakdown of what he is looking at but it is building flexibility into their budget for improvements.

Mr. Caesar asked about moral.

Mr. Hall stated that they have gone through some difficult staff changes but overall the staff is pleased and are happy that they have gotten salaries to a reasonable level.

Mr. Coffey stated that he doesn't want the message to go out to the county that this board is worried about what they are going to do.

Dr. Knable stated that the meeting he went to a couple of years ago wasn't pleasant because no one else showed up and they had invited 10-12 people from the city. He added that they do have to work together so communication is key.

VETERINARY/ANIMAL CONTROL RUNS

Mr. Gibson explained that the other non-reverting funds under his budget are used for veterinary supplies, veterinarians and other operating/cleaning supplies. He added that these are income based so they are monitored throughout the year.

Mr. Coffey asked where most of the runs are concentrated.

Mr. Hall stated that the majority of the runs are concentrated in the city.

Mr. Nash stated that they have an ordinance before them tonight regarding fireworks and asked Mr. Hall to address the animals in regards to fireworks.

Mr. Hall stated that is the first year that throughout the country, and especially here, that they did not experience an increase in intake the day after the 4th. He explained that he thinks that one of the major reasons is the publicity that went out surrounding this issue so people are keeping a close eye on their animals. He added that microchipping is a big help and social media has become a phenomenal tool in his field to help locate lost animals.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Gibson stated that there are no major changes or increases.

Chief Bailey stated that there is a little bump in clothing allowance

Mr. Gibson stated that they have a NAPD SWAT team and that is the gear for them.

Mr. Caesar asked how many are salaried.

Police Chief Bailey stated 72 sworn officers.

Mr. Caesar asked about morale.

Police Chief Bailey stated that it is very good.

Mr. Gibson stated that they are seeing policing out on the greenway more and officers out on bicycles. He reported that the feedback that the Mayor is getting is that it is appreciated and has made a difference in the areas. He added that their gear is softer and less formal which makes it easier for interaction with the public.

Police Chief Bailey stated that it is very effective and explained that they have assigned officers on bike patrols in challenging areas that is supplemented by other officers in full uniform. He explained that this is community-oriented policing to get out and get to know the resident and it

is solving problems so it has been very effective. He added that New Albany is very easy to get around on a bike.

Mr. Caesar asked about growing areas of concerns or areas that are shrinking in concern.

Police Chief Bailey stated if they look at crime rates, New Albany is a safe community, but there are always small pockets of issues.

Dr. Knable asked if 72 his magic number

Police Chief Bailey replied yes. He stated that they have one officer set to retire in 2 years but he feels that right now they are the most stable with their staffing than they have been in a long time.

Mr. Phipps asked how many officers are on any given shift.

Police Chief Bailey explained that they have three patrol shifts and each shift has a minimum of 8 that are out patrolling at one time.

Mr. McLaughlin asked about resource officers and if they get anything from the school corporation on that.

Police Chief Bailey replied yes and stated that their program has been very successful and there is an education component to it as well as security.

Mr. Gibson stated that this is a miscellaneous income and they fund the salary and benefits.

Mr. Phipps asked if it is in all schools or just in the elementary

Police Chief Bailey explained that that both middle schools and the high school has an officer but they also respond to the elementary schools. He added that they also have an officer on shift that is assigned to the elementary school as a liaison.

Mr. Caesar asked about police cars and allocations for future equipment.

Police Chief Bailey stated that they are proposing an ordinance for appropriation for police cars at the next meeting but as far as other big expenditures, he doesn't expect anything out of the ordinary.

POLICE MERIT COMMISSION

Mr. Gibson explained that this is the board that does the hiring and firing and their budget looks to be a little less than last year.

Mr. Caesar asked why their social security is down.

Mr. Gibson stated that it looks like they refined their numbers from the earlier estimate.

Mr. Phipps asked why the telephone went down to zero.

Police Chief Bailey stated that everything they do with them is now online.

POLICE PENSION

Mr. Gibson stated that this number will fluctuate depending on the number of pensioners they have. He asked if they still have any on.

Police Chief Bailey stated that he doesn't think they do.

Mr. Gibson explained that now the city pays the retiree or dependents but the state reimburses them.

911 COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Gibson stated that the major difference is the allocation of \$400,000.00 to general fund. He explained that 911 used to be in the General fund and was moved to EDIT a few years ago and they have been looking at ways to pull that back in.

Mr. Blair asked where the savings were.

Mr. Gibson explained that the growth was better this year than in the past and he can get more details on that for them later.

Mr. Blair stated that another alternative would be to do police cars with that money.

Mr. Gibson stated that he has one pot of money at the end of the day to make it all work and his goal would be to get as much under one umbrella as he can. He explained that he anticipates that they won't move the expense from the general fund and they will allocate \$400,00.00 but he still wants to see what the 911 costs are.

ABANDONED VEHICLE

Mr. Gibson stated that this is driven by abandon vehicles and auctions.

LEO TRAINING

Mr. Gibson stated that is another non-reverting fund and it is used to buy bullets and targets for training.

INTEREST FEDERAL EQUITABLE SHARE

Mr. Gibson explained that if there is a big drug bust with forfeiture, it entitles the city to get some of the money. He added that this is one that they have to monitor to make sure they don't overspend.

FIRE DEPARMTNET

Mr. Gibson stated that this is the largest expense that they city has and the majority is personnel/benefits. He stated that the other services have changed and that includes the ambulance service.

Dr. Knable asked how long the current contract is valid.

Mr. Gibson stated that he will have to check.

Dr. Knable asked if it has been working well.

Deputy Fire Chief Baylor stated that there are peak times where they run a little short but they are getting what they are supposed to get.

Dr. Knable asked where the backup is coming from if they are maxed out

Deputy Fire Chief Baylor explained that they usually come from the Clark Floyd county line.

Mr. Caesar asked for the total number of firefighters.

Deputy Fire Chief Baylor replied 77

Mr. Phipps asked if that is where he wants to be.

Deputy Fire Chief Baylor stated that they would like to have more and that is why their overtime is what it is.

Mr. Gibson explained that they are budgeted for 82 and this is why overtime has been high. He stated a lot of times they find the break-even point and sometimes it pays to have a little overtime as long as it is done in a safe way. He added that the salary line item may seem a little low but it is offsetting the overtime.

Mr. Caesar asked about general moral and if they anticipate any major expenses.

Deputy Fire Chief Baylor stated that moral is really good. He explained that they would like to see two new pumper trucks and added that they just paid off the ladder truck.

Mr. Blair asked about the cost of a pumper truck

Deputy Fire Chief Baylor stated around \$550,000.00

FIRE CONTRACT RUN

Mr. Gibson explained that this serves as a backup to Horseshoe and they pay a yearly fee.

Mr. McLaughlin asked if they could renegotiate this if revenue goes up for Horseshoe with their expansion.

Mr. Gibson explained that the city was the main supply for a while but they have created their own internal department so they don't need the city as much.

FIRE PENSION

Mr. Gibson stated that the budget is very similar to Police Pension.

MEDICAL SUPPLIES

Mr. Gibson stated that this is to put supplies on the cars.

AMBULANCE

Mr. Gibson stated that

BOARD OF WORKS

Mr. Gibson stated that a substantial part of this is \$225,000.00 for paving. He reported that the salaries coming out of this fund is Mike Hall, Mickey Thompson, Brad Walker and a part-time receptionist.

Mr. Phipps stated that they have no rent because they will be in the new building.

Mr. Blair asked if the \$200,000.00 is rent or operating expenses.

Mr. Gibson explained that it is more or less operating expenses.

Mr. Blair asked if they have made an agreement to not be responsible for these expenses because the budget insinuates that they won't.

Mr. Gibson stated that he can't answer that because it hasn't been finalized.

Mr. Blair asked where they would get the funds if they have to pay for it.

Mr. Gibson stated that he would have to dig through and tighten up the budget.

Mr. Coffey stated that they do not pay rent for this building, they pay expenses because they are part owner of the building.

Mr. Aebersold asked if the rent was only for the third floor.

Mr. Gibson stated that it is for the third floor and the police.

Mr. Aebersold asked if it might be a good idea to put in some for the budget just in case.

Mr. Gibson stated that he would have to move it from somewhere else but he doesn't have an answer for them because he doesn't know where they will be with this because it is part of the litigation.

Dr. Knable asked if he thinks they will be here for a portion of 2020

Mr. Gibson replied no.

Mr. Barksdale asked about the jump in salaries.

Mr. Gibson stated that there are raises included in this.

Dr. Knable stated that it is about an 8% jump

Mr. Gibson stated that he would have to go back and look.

Mr. Barksdale asked Mr. Gibson to get that information for him.

Mr. Blair stated that there were two line items that he asked for specific details on and he appreciates that they were provided with that information tonight.

LOCAL INCOME TAX

Mr. Gibson stated that there are no changes up top but they will see changes in the capital outlays areas. He reminded them that they talked about this briefly in communications and it includes estimates for street department, paving, city hall, Scribner Place, police cars, tree board and reserved maintenance.

Mr. Blair asked what the street department is for.

Mr. Gibson explained that it was for a roll-off and a grappler truck

Mr. Blair stated that he thinks they need to look into leasing a roll-off.

Dr. Knable stated that he isn't in favor of a decrease in allocation for sidewalks and curbs.

Mr. Gibson stated that they have done a lot of work this year which is good but it has been a lot for the community to deal with. He explained that there is room if it is a priority.

Dr. Knable stated that he thinks they have more progress when it comes to roads than sidewalk.

Mr. Gibson stated that would be a fair statement.

Mr. Barksdale stated that they might want to try to start focusing a little more on sidewalks.

RIVERBOAT

Mr. Gibson stated that the only difference is the election expense will not be there.

Dr. Knable stated that there is \$250,000.00 allocated for projects/sidewalks which is the same as last year.

Mr. Gibson recommended that they play around with the projections to see where their priorities fall because there is room to do other things.

Dr. Knable asked for a breakdown on the \$250,000.00 for election.

Mr. Gibson explained that the city is responsible for the cost of elections and it covers staffing, license for the machines and any other expense. He added that they get an invoice from the county.

Mr. Caesar asked about an update on Grant Line Road

Mr. Gibson stated that it has been a nightmare for everyone and now they will see several more crews out and they are working on the weekends. He explained that fines were implemented pursuant to their contract after a request to INDOT for additional days were denied. He stated that they are finally getting the work done in a much more efficient manor and they finally got their resources focused on this area.

Mr. Caesar asked if the fines act as a deduct.

Mr. Gibson replied yes.

Mr. Blair asked who gets the benefit of those funds.

Mr. Gibson stated that it is an INDOT project so they administer it at an 80/20 split. He explained that if there are any monies left over, he is assuming that it would be prorated.

Mr. Caesar asked if they have a completion date yet.

Mr. Gibson stated that he hasn't heard but he will ask.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Scott Blair, President

Mindy Milburn, Deputy City Clerk