

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 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2016 AT 6:00 P.M.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Gibson, Mr. Gardner, Mr. Brewer, Mrs. Moeller, and Ms. Milburn

Mr. McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mrs. Moeller passed out a budget for the council to review that includes the mayor, controller, city council, city attorney, flood control and the building department. Said review is on file with the City Clerk's office.

Mr. Gibson recapped for the new members how they have held these budget hearings in the past and explained that the most difficult part on their end is determining the revenue. He stated that he should be able to get it narrowed down in the next week or so but he thinks they are looking at a similar total budget with no major increases or decreases.

Mr. Blair asked about the gross multiplier.

Mr. Gibson stated that it is 3.8% so it had gone up substantially from last year. He stated that what is good about that number is that it shows how things are improving. He explained that the percentage tells them that they can budget for that amount of increase from your last year's levy amount.

Mr. Caesar explained that they didn't receive these numbers for a lot of years but since Mr. Gibson has been with them they have been kept updated and it is very valuable information for them to have.

Dr. Knable asked where they have historically been on commercial and residential.

Mr. Gibson explained that on the commercial they are usually slightly under but he would have to check on those numbers. He stated that it gets frustrating for him because it is never factored in by the DLGF. He explained that when it first kicked in it wasn't bad but then they had a couple of years where money that they thought would come in didn't because of the circuit breakers. He stated that it has slowly evened out over time.

Mr. Caesar stated that he is just trying to establish that with this growth factor and knowing the circuit breakers they could be really close to knowing exactly what they are getting.

Mr. Gibson stated that they are usually pretty conservative with those numbers when they advertise and they will see the numbers a little higher than what he thinks they will get because they can always come down but can't go above it.

Mr. Coffey stated that there are some times in the budget where one particular line item will be higher than it has been in the past and that is to cover for a shortfall. He explained that in the past the council has wanted to cut that out and then they don't have anything to fall back on.

Mr. Gibson stated that they have gotten better at this over the years and they have been pretty close in the last three years but he will continue to work with Mrs. Moeller and the rest of the staff. He explained that they always give them a budget-to-actual through June and the reason for that is because it is a good barometer of what they will pay in the last 6 months of the year.

Mayor

Mr. Gibson explained that the only difference in this is the 2% raise and stated that they are at 49% in his budget half way through the year so they are right on line. He explained that some line items may occasionally get out of whack because of a larger purchase but he looks at the big picture and Mrs. Moeller will work with the departments for more of the specifics.

Mr. Blair asked about the \$20,000.00 under economic development.

Mr. Gibson explained that it is for when the mayor gets invited to events related to this or is asked to sponsor these events.

Dr. Knable asked what falls under training

Mr. Gibson stated that they push this pretty hard for the employees and explained that it is continuing education and the goal is to help the employees make employees do their jobs better so it is really something they want to encourage. .

Mr. Barksdale asked if that is an accurate and sufficient because the number it is at 72%.

Mr. Gibson explained that if they need to they will pull from another training budget.

Controller

Mr. Gibson stated that again they will see the 2% increase in salaries and they have put the majority of insurance into this budget vs. under a specific department because it was difficult for her staff to do an accounting of the numbers. He explained that there are a few like police and fire that will stay in their respective budgets.

Mr. Caesar asked if the postage is a fluke

Ms. Moeller explained that they have a postage machine now that everyone uses.

Dr. Knable asked what falls under contractual services.

Mrs. Moeller explained that this pays for their software and the rest of it goes to the state auditor that they have to pay every year and the per-day rate went up considerably this year.

Dr. Knable asked if there was anything they could do to offset the office supply budget if they mandated that their reports are sent electronically.

Mrs. Moeller stated that the ordinance reads that she is supposed to provide that to them and she doesn't know if she can send a file that large over email.

Mr. Coffey suggested that they look into going to a laptop or a notebook. He stated that they budgeted that money before and they need to look into what happened with that.

Mr. Gibson stated that he would get with Mr. Walker and get his thoughts on it and see what options are available.

Dr. Knable asked if automatic deposit being mandated would help her postage budget.

Mrs. Moeller stated that they do continuously encourage people to go to direct deposit but they can't make them do it and she doesn't know that the ones that are holding out would make that much of a difference in the postage.

Dr. Knable stated that anything they could push electronically could help.

Mr. Gibson stated that they will look into it but the vast majority are already using direct deposit.

City Council

Mr. Gibson stated that he generally leaves this alone because it isn't one of the departments that he has influence over. He explained that Mrs. Glotzbach normally fills this out for them but they are open to whatever they would like to discuss.

Dr. Knable asked about other contractual services.

Mr. Gibson explained that this is for various things to hire assistance when they need it like the facilitator and overtime for Mr. Lorch.

Dr. Knable asked who has a travel budget.

Mr. Gibson explained that this is for if they want to go to conferences and it would pay for the fees, lodging and mileage.

Mr. Coffey stated that in the past it has always been first come first serve.

Mr. Blair stated that they previously talked about having anyone that wanted to use the travel expenses coming in to inform the rest of the council before they did it.

Dr. Knable asked about publication/legal.

Mr. Gibson explained that when ordinances are passed that require publication they use this fund to pay for it.

Dr. Knable asked if any of the money not used in these budgets goes back to the general fund.

Mr. Gibson explained that when they are under budget the money doesn't go anywhere. He stated that the line item goes away but the money isn't appropriated any longer until the new budget.

Dr. Knable asked the other members if they think their budget is sufficient or if they think they need other line items such as economic development.

Mr. Gibson explained that they have flexibility when they are in the same categories.

Mr. Coffey stated that they talked about adding something for economic development and he thinks Mr. Duggins wants to talk to them more about that.

Mr. Blair clarified that EDIT and Riverboat are not the same as the general fund.

Mr. Caesar stated that in the last couple of years they have had money left.

Mr. Gibson stated that their goal is to be under budget. He explained that if the departments need something they encourage them to get it but they don't want them to be spending the money just to spend it because they will mark that for the follow year's budget.

City Attorney

Mr. Gibson stated that the salary increase includes his administrative assistant and will also include interns that are hired throughout the year.

Dr. Knable asked where Mr. Gibson's salary shows up

Mr. Gibson explained that he is under contractual services.

Mr. Coffey stated that this is a huge savings over what they were paying all the separate attorney's in the past.

Flood Control

Mr. Gibson stated that Mr. Gardner is here to answer any specific questions. He explained that it includes the levy system and all flooding issues in the city as much as possible.

Mr. Aebersold asked if a 2% increase is in their budget as well.

Mr. Gibson explained that theirs is slightly different because they are their own taxing entity and they are not part of the general fund.

Mr. Blair asked about the capital outlays and if the work is still going on.

Mr. Gardner explained that they closed out the pump project but they are looking to do a restoration of all concrete structures associated with the levy system.

Mr. Gibson stated that the replacement of the pumps was a big project and long overdue. He explained that Mr. Gardner has done a good job of making sure they are staying on top of all the aspects of flood control and getting them ahead of the issues.

Mr. Barksdale asked how many employees he has.

Mr. Gardner replied 5.

Building Commissioner

Mr. Gibson stated that Mr. Brewer is here to answer any questions and explained that everything is the same with the exception of the salaries.

Mr. Caesar asked how many employees he has

Mr. Gibson replied 5

Mr. Blair asked if they should budget more for demolition.

Mr. Gibson explained that they do have money is the unsafe building finds for demo from money that comes back on the liens.

Dr. Knable asked about the travel budget.

Mr. Gibson stated that it is for the inspectors.

Dr. Knable stated that they have put a lot of energy in code enforcement and asked if he is adequately staffed because they have all said that they will support him and his needs. He explained that they are going to expect a higher level on this next year so they want him to have the resources to do it.

Mr. Brewer stated that they are in good shape right now but they would like to possibly come back next year after they have had some time and experience with the rental registration.

Dr. Knable stated that the mayor indicated that they would need at least one more person to do what they all thought needed to be done.

Mr. Gibson explained that they did budget a salary in the non-reverting for an eventual addition, they just don't have the space for that person right now.

Mr. Barksdale stated that he would almost rather see an addition in this budget than wait and until the last minute and not have the funds for it.

Mr. Phipps stated that they have come a long way but they have a long way to go and they want to help them out in any way they can.

Mr. Gibson stated that they will never turn down an extra person.

Dr. Knable stated that they would love to be able to tell the public that they budgeted for this extra help.

Mr. Blair stated that they need to look at the budget as a whole before they start adding things.

Dr. Knable stated that this is number one on his wish list.

Mr. Barksdale stated that they have had a lot of discussion about this and if it is going to take another employee he would like to see it in there.

Mr. Nash stated that another thing they heard from the public is that their software is out of date.

Mr. Brewer explained that the old system was out-of-date date but their new system was updated about two years ago and everything is accessible online.

Dr. Knable asked if retention is a problem for him or if they should consider giving them more of a raise.

Mr. Coffey stated that before they start throwing around money they need to see how the program is going to work out.

Mr. Gibson stated that it is tough to give out raises like that, especially when you have a group that is non-unionized and it could cause a lot of issues.

Mr. Caesar asked Mr. Brewer if the ordinances and laws that they deal with are adequate.

Mr. Brewer stated that they are always trying to be creative but a lot of what they have mirrors what the state law allows them to do. He explained that he thinks they have taken a major step with the rental registration ordinance.

Mr. McLaughlin asked if they could do some type of door hangers to remind people what the laws are to better help his office.

Mr. Gibson stated that the issues with things like grass clippings are very tough to police with the staff they have and Mr. Brewer has focused on structural issues. He explained that it could be part of the public outreach component.

Mr. Coffey stated that the biggest issues he sees in the community is that there is one set of rules for one neighborhood and another set of rules for a different neighborhood. He explained that it isn't equitable when you have an ordinance about leaf disposal but in some areas they will send a vac truck to dispose of them but in other areas the residents have to pick them up. He stated that they can talk about all they need to do but sometimes the burden falls on the people that own the properties and they need to enforce the rules for everyone.

Mr. Barksdale asked if they could send out notices about things like the grass clippings in the sewer bills.

Dr. Knable stated that unless it is enforced it doesn't matter how many mailers are sent out.

Mr. McLaughlin stated that at some point they can revisit the education and then start enforcement next year.

Mr. Coffey stated that if they want to educate the public, fine them.

Mr. Barksdale asked how many board members are on the building commission.

Mr. Brewer replied 7.

Dr. Knable asked about their main order of business.

Mr. Brewer explained that their main goals is to get people to get people to fix their homes up.

Mr. Gibson explained that their main duties focus on contractors licensing and the due process part of unsafe buildings.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Pat McLaughlin, President

Mindy Milburn, Deputy City Clerk