

**THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CIVIL CITY OF NEW ALBANY, INDIANA,
HELD A BUDGET WORK SESSION IN THE THIRD FLOOR ASSEMBLY
ROOM OF THE CITY/COUNTY BUILDING ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2015,
AT 6:00 P.M.**

The meeting of the **New Albany City Council** was called to order by President Pat McLaughlin at 6:05 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Caesar, Mr. Phipps, Mr. Blair, Mrs. Baird, and Mr. Gonder, Mr. McLaughlin. Mr. Coffey, Ms. Benedetti and Mr. Zurschmiede were absent.

OTHERS PRESENT: Shane Gibson, Linda Moeller, Scott Wood, Fire Chief Juliot, Mickey Thompson and Mindy Milburn

Fire Department

Mr. Gibson presented a handout detailing each budget on the schedule. He stated that there are no real changes in the Fire Budget with the exception of the salaries that includes 2% + longevity.

Mr. Caesar asked if anything had been deleted.

Mr. Gibson replied no.

Mr. Caesar asked about the total budget and if the increase was the salaries because the math doesn't work out.

Mr. Gibson explained that only the salaries are raised the 3% not the entire budget. He stated that as they can see Chief Juliot has been able to maintain and operate within his budget.

Mr. Caesar stated that he is really proud of the department.

Mr. Blair stated that he knows that they have talked about overtime and asked why it is better to pay overtime instead of hiring new personnel.

Chief Juliot explained that when you hire a new firefighter you are paying into PERF, pension, health care, clothing and holiday pay whereas overtime is straight time and a half.

Mr. Gibson stated that there is a magic number in there somewhere that it tips but they try to keep an eye on it and take that into consideration.

Mr. Caesar asked if the department is in good shape as far as man power.

Chief Juliot stated that they have six that have given their letters of intent to retire and one is already off the books so there will be some vacancies next year.

Mrs. Baird asked when they will hire new personnel.

Chief Juliot stated that they have hired 4 this year.

Mr. Gibson explained that a lot of it breaks down to the numbers and they have to keep looking at who is still on the books before they bring anyone else in.

Mrs. Baird asked if that would leave them short staffed.

Chief Juliot explained that it takes about 3-4 months to train new hires and it takes a while to get the retirees off the books so it is a balancing act.

Mr. Gibson stated that it does cause some extra overtime at times but they will overlap.

Mrs. Baird stated that she just doesn't want them to be short on personnel.

Mr. Caesar asked if the equipment was in good shape.

Chief Juliot explained that they received an air pack grant this year for 43 new air packs and he will be coming to them soon regarding that.

Mr. McLaughlin congratulated Chief Juliot on working towards getting these grants.

Mr. Blair asked if there were repairs being done on the new ladder truck.

Chief Juliot stated that about a month ago during a storm-run a high wind came through and a tree was leaning on another tree that they couldn't see, and the bucket hit the tree which did about \$20,000.00 in damage. He explained that they should have it back within the next week.

Fire Pension

Mr. Gibson explained that there is a slight increase of \$100,000.00 and stated that a majority of it is in the pension of the retirees with some additional retirees anticipated to come on board. He explained that this is the one time where they get the majority reimbursed by the state which is why they pay into it and they get reimbursed for anything pension related twice a year. He stated that there are some administrative costs but it isn't much at all.

Chief Juliot stated that they will have to address turn out gear at some point because it has to be done every five years.

Mr. McLaughlin stated that he thinks that falls under OSHA as well.

Chief Juliot stated that it does.

Planning and Zoning

Mr. Gibson stated that they have \$307,000.00 budgeted and they are at \$304,000.00 for this year and there aren't any increases. He explained that they do have some interns coming in working on the new GIS system that will hit the salaries so they will see that next year.

Mr. Blair asked if they pursue annexation do they have what they need in their budget for that.

Mr. Wood stated that he doesn't have anything budgeted for that.

Mr. Gibson stated that he can't think of anything other than some attorney costs and municipal costs that would be associated with that and they would update the financial analysis that was already done.

Mr. Wood stated that the General Assembly made annexation much harder to do this past year.

Mr. Phipps asked if they appropriated some money for the zoning code.

Mr. Wood stated that they are getting ready to start moving forward with that.

Mr. Gonder asked what the date is on the one they are using now.

Mr. Wood stated that the Comprehensive Plan was updated in 1999

Mr. Gonder asked if the age of the planning rules accounts for the fact that almost everything is done with a PUD.

Mr. Wood replied no and explained that he is trying to get away from PUD's as much as he can because they are no longer appropriate as they are no longer expanding.

Mr. Gonder asked about the cost of 39 Degrees North.

Mr. Wood stated that he doesn't know what the cost is because it is paid by the county.

Mr. Caesar stated that he thinks citizens need to have more say in reference to expanding or these items to come back before the council so that everyone is aware of what is going on.

Mr. Wood stated that when they updated the Comprehensive Plan they had 5-6 public meetings and they saw the same 8-10 people and now community engagement is more sophisticated and they plan to try and reach beyond to communicate to new voice in the city.

MVH

Mr. Gibson explained that the increase in salaries is the 2% raise which effects PERF and social security and they bumped up clothing by \$500.00.

Mr. Caesar asked how many employees he has.

Mr. Thompson stated 14 and 8 seasonal.

Mr. Gonder asked if he said something last year about adding employees.

Mr. Thompson stated that he could definitely use more but there hasn't been any other conversations about it.

Mr. Gibson explained that it was discussed but it never moved forward because it would have to be funded from somewhere else.

Mr. Gonder stated that Mr. Thompson is everywhere at all hours day and night and he thinks he could definitely benefit from more help.

Mr. Caesar asked how they could make that happened for him.

Mr. Gibson stated that they would just need to budget for it.

Mr. Blair asked how much a new employee would cost.

Mr. Gibson stated that off the top of his head for 3 it would roughly be \$150,000.00.

Mr. Blair stated that he would consider it and asked if that would be something helpful to Mr. Thompson

Mr. Thompson stated that if they have more people they can do more work.

Mr. Gibson stated that they would probably also need to purchase new vehicles.

Mr. Phipps asked how they are doing on the sign replacement and if they have a time table on that project.

Mr. Thompson stated that there is two components which included street signs that were in dire need of being replaced and stop signs that are going up now.

Mr. Phipps asked for the cost of both.

Mr. Thompson stated that the street name signs were about \$30 but he would have to look at the stop signs. He explained that the sign inventory identified 133 stop signs that were in dire need but there is a need for more.

Mr. Phipps asked about the four stop that were burnt out.

Mr. Thompson explained that a couple of them have electrical issues and they will take care of that.

LRS

Mr. Gibson explained that this is another budget that they get a calculation from the state for and it has increased slightly.

Mr. McLaughlin asked if it has been pretty consistent.

Mr. Gibson explained that it has been.

Mr. Caesar asked about “other capital outlays”

Mr. Gibson stated that it is used for street related items such as a small paving job that they wouldn’t come to the council for.

Mr. McLaughlin asked about naming alleys to be able to apply for a grant.

Mr. Thompson stated that he has heard that as well.

Mr. McLaughlin asked if there was something to that or if it would be worth looking into.

Mr. Thompson explained that extra cost would come along with that because they would have to have signs and paving and that would most likely be more costly than the benefit.

Mr. Blair asked if they want to look at the cost of adding some more employees to Mr. Thompson’s department.

Mrs. Moeller stated that she could get them the numbers for that.

West Haven / Fairview Cemetery

Mr. Phipps asked if they combined the two would it save money.

Mr. Gibson stated that it doesn’t save money because it is maintained by the same crew but it is just something that has been done this way for so long. He explained that ideally they should just merge them and he will look at that next year.

Mr. Thompson explained that at one point they did have different people running each one but it is maintained by the same crew and they use the same equipment on each.

Mr. McLaughlin asked if they are good on equipment.

Mr. Thompson explained that they just bought some replacement equipment.

Mr. Gibson stated that they are slowly getting the smaller vehicles replaced but they could definitely use some work trucks in the future.

Mr. McLaughlin asked how they are doing on salt trucks.

Mr. Thompson stated that they replaced three last year so they should be in good shape.

Mr. Blair asked about the revenue that is brought in.

Mrs. Moeller stated that it isn’t much.

Mr. Blair asked if there is anywhere else that brings in revenue.

Mr. Thompson stated that the street department doesn’t bring in any.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.