

**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 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2,
2015, AT 6:00 P.M.**

The meeting of the **New Albany City Council** was called to order by Vice President Greg Phipps at 6:00 p.m.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Matt Lorch, Shane Gibson, Linda Moeller, David Hall, Luanne Jensen, Police Chief Bailey, Mike Mills and Vicki Glotzbach

Mrs. Moeller stated that the budget for weights and measures is \$25,000.00 and is the same as last year which is the city's portion of what we share with the county.

Mr. Gibson passed out a summary sheet of the percentages for each department of the budget and stated that the second sheet is estimated general funds available.

Mr. Caesar asked if he feels very comfortable with these numbers.

Mr. Gibson stated that he feels comfortable right now but will obviously keep tweaking them as he goes through. He also stated that he feels comfortable with the income numbers now but we don't have assessed values yet because that usually takes a while and that's what a lot of this is ultimately based on. He said that he doesn't think we have the final numbers as far as financial institution tax and some of those. He added that we do have the MVH number and was able to project that and felt comfortable with it.

Mr. Caesar asked about the cash balance of \$944,601.00 as of June, 2015.

Mr. Gibson explained that was what the cash balance was in the general fund bank account.

Mr. Caesar asked if there is any reason that would be eaten up by the time December 31st gets here.

Mr. Gibson explained that it is an 18 month DLGF process that is used. He stated that he has formula that was given to him so he can nail down what we will get in the coming year.

Mr. Caesar asked about the PTRC estimate.

Mr. Gibson stated that he is comfortable with that. He said that it is the number in the 1782 Notices.

Mr. Caesar asked if the levy available includes the 2.6%.

Mr. Gibson replied yes, it is on the levy portion and not the entire budget.

Mr. Coffey asked if we factored in the arbitration in the police budget.

Mr. Gibson replied yes.

Mr. Zurschmiede asked if we have a breakdown on the estimated miscellaneous revenues.

Mr. Gibson stated that he could get that breakdown.

Animal Shelter

Mr. Gibson stated that the animal control budget is similar to what it has been in the past. He said there is a 2% increase in the salaries as we have been budgeting for all

departments so there will be a slight increase in PERF and Social Security as well. He also said that there is \$1,000.00 added in for Vets.

Mr. Caesar asked how many full-time salaries and how many part-time.

Mr. Hall stated that he has over 300 volunteers, eight to nine part-time people and six full-time people.

Mr. Zurschmiede asked if this is the full budget and then under miscellaneous revenue would be anything that we get from the county.

Mr. Hall replied yes.

Mr. Caesar asked Mr. Hall if all of the operations are going okay.

Mr. Hall stated that they are on target to continue reduction in intake and increase in return to owners. He said that he will be going from 13% returned to owner to a 17% increase this year because of micro chipping. He said that some of them are done in the field and it saves money at the shelter and is better customer service.

Mr. Caesar stated that he is really proud of everything that Mr. Hall does. He asked if the building is in good shape.

Mr. Hall stated the property behind them was donated and at some point he would like to see development for storage and more training space in the future. He said that he would like to see the drainage get fixed.

Mr. Gibson stated that their goal is to ultimately expand their operations ability and services.

Mrs. Benedetti asked who actually owns the animal shelter building.

Mr. Gibson replied that he is not sure but he can look at the deeds to see.

Mr. Blair stated that he is about 28% of the budget for part-time right now and asked if that is planned or being managed.

Mr. Hall stated that he always tries to save costs.

Mr. Blair asked what he expects the number to be at the end of the year for part-time employees.

Mr. Hall stated that it is hard to say because he may have an increase in the animals coming in and have to have part-time employees for more hours.

Mr. Blair said that he is just questioning if we need that much in part-time salaries if we are not using it.

Mr. Coffey stated that sometimes you over budget in one area that so that you can compensate for a possible need in another area.

Mr. Blair stated that sometimes you cannot compensate a line item for that one line item.

Mr. Gibson stated that he can take a look at last year's and see where we are.

Mr. Blair asked about wild animals.

Mr. Hall stated that DNR has the jurisdiction over all wild animals.

Mr. Blair asked if there is, for instance, an injured deer.

Mr. Hall stated that law enforcement will respond, the deer will be euthanized and then we deal with disposal of the body because DNR only handles live wild animals.

Mr. Gibson stated that he has asked Mr. Hall to just continue as things are. He said that he knows that the commissioners and the mayor have spoken and they are supportive of this program and the continuation of it.

Mrs. Benedetti stated that she realizes that the mayor and the commissioners have spoken but if you look at the interlocal agreement and the letter that was received by the president to have a meeting with the county council, it states that the respective bodies of the city and county councils shall meet in joint session for such purpose as long as a notice is published. She also stated that she thinks the councils should do that and asked if it has ever been done before.

Mr. Gibson said not in the last 18 years that he knows of.

Mrs. Benedetti stated that she thinks the two bodies can sit down and talk about the budget.

Mr. Coffey stated that his question is why because we went through this with county on the parks department and they cut the parks out of the budget and they are doing the same thing here.

Mrs. Benedetti stated that she feels each individual council member should vote on whether or not to sit down with the county council.

Mr. Zurschmiede stated that the whole reason to meet is to ascertain from both bodies as to whether they are going to have the money to provide the funding for what the budget has requested.

Mr. McLaughlin stated that his point is that the county council should be working it out with the commissioners because the commissioners are the stakeholders in this along with the mayor.

Mrs. Benedetti stated that the legislative bodies handle the money.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the county council and the city council sitting down together to discuss the animal shelter budget.

Mr. Gonder stated that his concern is for the animal control and asked if the city maintains an animal shelter funded strictly by the city, what does that do to the stray animals in the county.

Mr. Gibson stated that it depends upon how it is set up because, for instance, there is an agreement set up right now with Georgetown.

Mr. Hall stated that he can't suppose what would happen.

Mr. Gibson stated that the mayor has said that we will continue to fund whatever needs to be funded for the citizens of the city and hopefully that entails everything and everybody in the county.

Police Pension

Mr. Gibson stated that it has changed a little to allow for more retirees. He also stated that there is only one person on the old pension fund.

Mr. Caesar asked if there is going to be someone retire in 2015 or someone in 2016.

Mr. Gibson replied that there were a couple that retired this year.

Mr. Blair asked if pension is included in the estimated general fund.

Mr. Gibson replied no but it is one that is supported by levy aspects.

Mr. Mills stated that everything is reimbursable except the administrative costs.

Mr. Gonder asked if the pension to possible retirees is just a number that you are anticipating is going to go out in the next year.

Mr. Gibson replied that it is accounting for some that go in but it is not exact. He said that the ones that are retired are the easy ones and the ones that are expected to retire are little harder to figure out.

Police Merit Commission

Mr. Gibson stated that the only thing that was slightly different was Social Security.

Police Department

Mr. Gibson explained that this does account for the arbitration that we went through. He added that there are no budgetary items that we have to deal with for 2014 or 2015. He said that the other larger item you will see is in deferred compensation. He explained that is an addition of \$110,000.00 which is a cap that the arbitrators put on the match that the city is to pay and is the maximum amount.

Mrs. Benedetti asked if the buy back comp has always been at \$100,000.00 or did it used to be at \$200,000.00.

Police Chief Bailey stated that since he has been doing the budget it has been \$100,000.00. He added that through the year they usually try to keep comp time down and it's actually a contract issue where we can buy back down to 100 hours so we try to keep everyone at or around that number.

Mrs. Baird asked how many officers he anticipates retiring this year.

Police Chief Bailey stated that Officer Rick Denny will leave in April of 2016 and he expects a couple more.

Mrs. Baird asked if those officers will be replaced.

Police Chief Bailey replied yes.

Mr. Caesar asked if the arbitration numbers will not be part of the budget next year.

Mr. Gibson stated that is correct because these are for 2016. He added that the deferred comp is not but the other arbitration is a one time.

Mr. Blair asked if the arbitration award is for 2014 and 2015 too.

Mr. Gibson stated that it technically stands for 2016 but there were no changes in the contract for 2014 or 2015.

Mrs. Benedetti asked what about that was paid out of reserve liability.

Mr. Gibson explained that was for 2013 and was one of the last contracts.

Mr. Caesar asked if this takes care of all arbitrations that we have lingering.

Mr. Gibson stated this takes care of the 2016 FOP contract.

Mr. Coffey asked if there is any way that we can factor police cars in the budget.

Mr. Gibson stated that he thinks we are getting closer and closer to that point.

Mr. Blair stated that on the positive side the healthcare numbers are staying the same.

Mr. McLaughlin asked how gasoline looks.

Police Chief Bailey replied that they are doing well.

Mr. McLaughlin asked if the newer cars are helping it go down.

Police Chief Bailey replied yes.

Mr. Coffey stated that we also have to realize that we can't count on gasoline being \$2.50 per gallon.

Police Chief Bailey stated that we are very fortunate right now.

Mr. Caesar asked how many employees there are.

Police Chief Bailey stated that he has 67 sworn.

Mr. Caesar asked how many civilian.

Police Chief Bailey stated that he has had four full-time and four part-time. He added that they would like to get to five full-time and four part-time. He also added that he is short on police officers too because 67 is not what his manpower allotment is.

Mr. Caesar asked where we are looking to be in 2016.

Police Chief Bailey stated that his experience has been 68. He added that his goal is 70 and that he has aggressively been hiring police officers right now.

Mrs. Benedetti stated that she would really like to budget for 2016 for everyone to have a body camera.

Police Chief Bailey stated that is something that we administratively have to look at.

Mrs. Benedetti stated that she would like for him to start that search to appropriate money in the 2016 budget.

Mr. Gibson stated that it is not just the police department because they have to work with the prosecutor who decides whether they are useful or not.

Mrs. Benedetti stated that she believes they protect police officers and citizens.

Police Officer Bailey stated that he agrees that there are some pros to them but he also thinks there are some cons if the wrong system is in place and storage is a major issue. He also stated that there is a continuous amount of case law that is being developed and he thinks it would serve us well to watch that closely.

Mr. Gibson stated that we do have a K9 now so there is a line item for K9 supplies.

Communications

Mr. Caesar asked how we get this back into the regular budget.

Mr. Gibson stated that there are pots of money that are used to fund city operations. He also stated that there would need to be approximately \$750,000.00 additional in the general fund to be able to do that.

Mrs. Benedetti asked how much it would save to not have an ambulance service.

Mr. Gibson replied that he can't answer that off the top of his head.

Mr. Caesar stated that he doesn't understand why it was taken out of the budget.

Mr. Coffey stated that the increases were not enough to cover what our budget was going up and EDIT is allowed to be used for this. He added that it needs to be looked at being taken out of 911.

Mr. Blair asked when was communications taken out of the general fund and put into EDIT.

Mr. Gibson stated that he doesn't recall off the top of his head.

Mr. Blair stated that it was 2013.

ADJOURN:

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

Pat McLaughlin, President

Vicki Glotzbach, City Clerk