

MINUTES

BUDGET COMMITTEE WORK SESSION
OF
DECEMBER 15, 2014
5:30 P.M.

THE DALLES CITY HALL
313 COURT STREET
THE DALLES, OREGON

COMMITTEE PRESENT: Chair Gary Grossman, Russ Brown, Corliss Marsh, Barbara Pashek, Tim McGlothlin, Linda Miller, Dan Spatz, Carolyn Wood

COMMITTEE ABSENT: Bill Dick, Mayor Steve Lawrence

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Nolan Young, City Attorney Gene Parker, City Clerk Julie Krueger, Police Chief Jay Waterbury, Finance Director Kate Mast, Public Works Director Dave Anderson, Librarian Jeff Wavrunek

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting came to order at 5:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Spatz and seconded by Wood to approve the November 17 meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously, Dick absent.

DISCUSSION REGARDING STREET FUND

Revenues

City Manager Young explained the Street Fund revenues were dedicated for the operation of the street system and was comprised primarily of State motor vehicle taxes and local three cent fuel tax. He noted the Northwest Natural Gas franchise fees had been included as Street Fund revenue in the current fiscal year, adding approximately \$81,000.

Pashek asked if the City and Wasco County could partner to purchase crack seal products, to get a better price. Public Works Director Anderson said they City and County did partner for purchase of crack seal materials.

Brown provided a copy of the street maintenance projects that had been included in the Capital Improvement Plan. He said the dollar amounts listed on the paper seemed to be incomplete. There was a discussion regarding how staff could provide a complete picture of actual costs. Brown noted that the chart indicated materials cost, but in order to determine the true cost of a project, they needed to include labor and equipment costs as well. He said it was impossible to answer citizen questions regarding project costs, when only materials costs were made available.

City Manager Young said the current software program did not allow full cost accounting of the projects, but that staff could track the costs and provide the information if the City Council asked for it.

There was a discussion regarding possible partnerships with the County to develop a funding source for street maintenance. City Manager Young said he hoped to schedule a meeting in January with Wasco County to discuss alternatives.

In response to a question regarding revenues compared to expenditures, City Manger Young said the revenue was approximately \$2 million, with \$718,000 in personnel costs, \$605,000 in materials and services, and the remaining dedicated to capital projects.

Expenditures/Services Provided

Public Works Director Anderson reviewed his staff report regarding services provided by the Street Funds, explained staffing, funding challenges, and special needs in the next five years.

There was a discussion regarding techniques for crack sealing projects, Brown noting the County was able to do crack sealing with fewer staff. Anderson said they used different methods with the City needing an additional person to sweep sand as the crack seal was laid down. He said this was to avoid transfer of wet crack seal on vehicles.

Spatz asked how it was decided to use current staff or contract out a project. Anderson said it mostly depended on the size of the project and available staffing. Brown asked if it was more expensive to get asphalt product on weekends. Anderson said the City had a contract for purchase of asphalt and the price was the same regardless of the timing.

Brown questioned why the cost of street lights was included in the Street Fund. City Manager Young said it was considered as the safe operation of streets, but that other cities did pay for it out of their General Fund.

McGlothlin asked about the impact of federal mandates to install ADA ramps. Anderson said it was more expensive to install the ramps based on the new federal guidelines.

In response to a question regarding puncture vine, Anderson said the Street Department budgeted to have puncture vine sprayed in City rights of way, such as alleys.

Anderson said funding had improved for the Street Department in the past few years, but now the City was far behind schedule for maintenance and repairs. He said if the City Council wanted to catch up fast, additional revenue sources would need to be identified.

In response to a question regarding tracking of projects and staff time, it was noted that the City was planning to upgrade its software program in the near future and that a Request for Proposals was being developed to move that project forward. It was suggested that the Public Works Department use an accounting or job cost program in the interim.

In response to a question regarding the Webber Street Interchange Area Master Plan (IAMP), Anderson said Oregon Department of Transportation was reluctant to fund another IAMP project at this time and it was not believed to be necessary at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Submitted by/
Julie Krueger, MMC
City Clerk

SIGNED: Corliss Marsh
Corliss Marsh, Secretary

ATTEST: Julie Krueger
Julie Krueger, MMC, City Clerk