

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
6/26/2024 at 3:00 pm

Budget Committee Members Present

Nash Shook, Kirk Leff, Nate Davenport, and John Evertsen

Absent: Kevin Pierre and Jackie Hoevenaar

Also present were City Manager Rick Rudometkin, Chief of Police Travis Grim, Deputy Chief Millis, City Clerk Yolanda Quiceno, Finance Manager Tracey Richardson, Finance Technician Heidi Peacock, and Public Works Supervisor Phil Price.

1. Call to Order and Confirmation of Quorum

Committee member Shook called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. City Clerk Quiceno confirmed the quorum.

Chairman Shook welcomed the Board's new member, John Evertsen.

Chairman Shook stated that the role of the Board is to make recommendations on behalf of the City of Belle Isle to the City Council, which is responsible for the voting. The Board makes recommendations based on suggestions by the staff and others.

2. Citizen Comments – no citizen comments

3. Approval of Minutes – May 31, 2024

Committee Member Davenport made a motion to approve the minutes.

Committee Member Leff seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

4. Review of FY 2024/25 Proposed Budget

City Manager Rudometkin discussed and spoke on the possibility of raising the millage rate and referenced the handout provided, which showed a 10-year synopsis. He noted that the City had not raised the millage in over 10 years, and expenditures had risen considerably. He noted that the City could not continue providing the same services without raising the millage. Mr. Rudometkin recommended a tier increase to be spread in three-year increments. Discussion ensued, and the Board agreed to start the discussion on the millage rate for 2025/2026 after the 2024/2025 budget has passed. The Board recommended that staff include for discussion a timeline for public discussion, a plan of action, and printed marketing information for community engagement. The Board also noted that consideration should also focus on comparing the total tax receipts and millage rates for each city and how they vary, as well as stormwater study and comprehensive plan updates with a 5–10-year capital plan.

The Board reviewed the draft budget and discussed the following for clarification,

- Deputy City Manager—The council approved this new position. CM Rudometkin said the car allowance reimburses mileage used on a personal vehicle for city functions.
- Bilingual Pay - Includes non-uniform staff. Last year's approval was for uniformed staff only.
- SRO Increase—15% salary increase per pay plan and vehicle allowance. An additional SRO Officer for the new year is possible if the student ratio goes above 25,000.

- Lobbyists—This line item is ineffective and has not shown a return, and the Council should consider removing the cost or conducting an RFP.
 - Red Light Cameras – The budgeted amount is modest for the “unknown” return on paid citations.
 - Election Expense – The City will not be able to piggyback on an election for 2024/25. In 2024/25, Districts 2, 3, and 4, and the mayor is up for reelection.
 - Building Permits – The increase is due to the build-out of the CCA campus.
 - 521 Repairs & Maintenance – PD patrol vehicles standard maintenance services before 3-year lease renewal.
 - Landscape – Currently, the staff is maintaining service until a new company is contracted. RFP out for Oct 1 start date.
 - Transportation Impact Study – Traffic Study Re-Budgeted
 - 521-3100 – Added 2% to cover for vehicle cameras attached to body-worn cameras for safety.
 - AXION – The Chief reminded us that the city implementation of the Axion Taser and Cameras System cost 70,000 last year. He noted that the initial cost was an annual fee paid through ARPA. There is no annual cost return, but it focuses on Officer and Public safety.
 - Tree Board Member: Request a budget for Tree Board and Solid Waste community events and purchase complimentary compost bins for residents.
 - Payroll Increase of 7% for non-uniform and 60% paid dental and vision for all staff.
 - Insurance – Currently, the city pays 50% for dental and vision care. Staff request 60% of dental and vision.
 - Salary Increase – 7% increase for non-uniform employees, including City Hall staff, Code Enforcement, and PD Clerk.
- After discussion, the Board asked staff to prepare the following cost analysis for consideration,
- Value of insurance – current vs. increase, as proposed for all staff
 - Salary increases summary cost by 4% and 7% for non-uniformed staff.
 - Uniformed staff will continue to receive increases approved by last year's pay plan.

6. Next Meeting Schedule

- The next Budget Committee is scheduled for July 12, 2024, to finalize the proposed budget review.

7. Adjournment

Committee member Davenport motioned to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Committee member Leff. The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 5:00 p.m.