Breezy Point City Council August 19, 2024 – 6:00 pm City Council Workshop Minutes

A workshop of the Breezy Point City Council began at 6:00 PM. Councilmembers present were Rebecca Ball, Steve Jensen, Michael Moroni, and Mayor Angel Zierden. Councilmember Brad Scott was absent. Staff present included City Administrator David Chanski, Assistant City Administrator Daniel Eick, Public Works Supervisor Joe Zierden, Planning & Zoning Administrator Peter Gansen, Police Chief Brian Sandell, and Finance Specialist Janette Rust. Nick Peterson representing Widseth was also present.

Preliminary 2025 Budget Discussion

City Administrator Chanski walked the City Council through the draft Preliminary 2025 Budget & Levy. Specific items of discussion by the City Council included the filling of the Assistant City Administrator position following Assistant City Administrator Eick's resignation, human resources assistance, acquisition of additional speed signs, funding for the 2025 Night to Unite, 2025 road improvement funding, and future projects funding.

Regarding the Assistant City Administrator position, Administrator Chanski recommended reorganizing the position into a Finance Director/Clerk position. The City Council did not immediately accept the recommendation, requesting further information about what options for additional finance assistance are available. Administrator Chanski stated that he will gather information for discussion at future budget workshops.

The Council discussed that they would like to look at acquiring HR consultant services to assist with human resources processes and personnel issues. City Administrator Chanski stated that he has looked into the matter in the past when the topic was discussed by City Council but would do further research. The Council stated that they would like to see the \$12,000 General Government Professional Services budget be used for HR services.

Mayor Zierden requested that funding for Night to Unite be included in the 2025 Budget. The Council was in agreement and increased the Police Department's General Operating budget by \$500 for Night to Unite expenses.

Administrator Chanski walked the City Council through the proposed capital investments for 2025, and the City Council discussed the acquisition of two additional speeds signs for the Police Department. Chief Sandell stated that he is not against the signs but is concerned with the amount of staff time involved to respond to data requests related to the speed signs. The Council agreed to keep the speed signs in the capital budget but that staff should look into speed signs that do not record data.

Public Works Supervisor Zierden requested that the City Council allocate funds for the Ad Hoc Streets Committee to use for road improvement in 2025 above and beyond regular annual streets maintenance. He stated that staff shared general repaving costs of \$300,000 per mile with the City Council a few years ago. He shared those numbers with the City Engineer, who stated that they are still good numbers. The City Council agreed that it would be good to get going on road improvements even while working through the Streets CIP development process. The Council agreed to budget \$300,000 for road improvements, using \$150,000 in existing levy dollars and \$150,000 in capital funds.

City Administrator Chanski stated that staff will take the feedback given by the City Council and implement them into the Preliminary 2025 Budget and Levy, which will be presented and adopted during the regular City Council Meeting on Tuesday, September 3.

The workshop was adjourned at 8:07pm.

David Chanski, City Administrator/Clerk