



CITY COUNCIL

Work Session Meeting Minutes October 9, 2023

Mayor Drotzmann called the work session meeting to order at 6:00pm. Present were Councilors Hardin, Peterson, Linton (6:04pm), Barron, Myers, Duron, and McCarthy. Councilor Peterson was excused. Staff in attendance included: City Manager Byron Smith, Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan, City Attorney Rich Tovey, Captain Eynon, Planning Director Clint Spencer, Parks and Recreation Director Brandon Artz, Assistant City Recorder Heather La Beau, and City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong. The pledge of allegiance was given.

Introduction of Youth Advisory Council

Aaron Davis, Hermiston High School Social Studies Department, stated the Youth Advisory Council is in its third year and has welcomed many new student participants this year. The goal of the Youth Advisory Council is to encourage youth to get involved in their community now and continue to stay engaged in the future.

Youth Advisory Council members Manuel Salazar, Flor Silva Chavez, Recca Godoy, Yaneisy Perez, Leslie Mendoza Romero, and Jeannine Heredia introduced themselves.

Mayor Drotzmann thanked Mr. Davis for his work and leadership with this program, thanked the students for their desire to be involved, and spoke regarding the students who participated in the City's logo and tagline Visioning Process who came up with the City's tagline.

Administration & Finance Departments Budget

City Manager Smith presented information (PowerPoint presentation attached) and answered questions from the Council regarding each department: personnel, including the addition of an in-house Human Resources Specialist and Attorney; staff duties; operating costs; and more.

City Manager Smith also asked the Council to give feedback on whether or not they would like him to start working on exploring and gathering information on a local sales tax similar to what the City of Ontario had proposed but the community voted down. City Manager Smith stated he is not advocating for local sales tax, he is just asking that the Council give staff direction on how to proceed with this option.

There was Council discussion regarding the implementation of local sales tax and how people are already heavily taxed at the state level while cities and counties continue to struggle, the hardships it could create for local businesses and community members, and how this topic is very difficult to discuss and would not be perceived well by the public. After further discussion, the Council stated they have directed staff to explore all revenue creating options and should have an open mind regarding all ideas, and therefore staff should work to gather information regarding implementation of a local sales tax to present at a future meeting.

City Manager Smith stated staff will wrap up the budget discussions with the Municipal Court presentation at the next City Council meeting, followed by an overall budget overview. City Manager Smith stated the budget discussions are to look more in-depth about the relevance of what the City does, help find revenue sources, and see where the City can make cuts.

Adjournment

Mayor Drotzmann adjourned the work session meeting at 6:53pm and stated the Council will take a short recess before starting the regular council meeting.


Administration/Finance Budget

October 9, 2023




Outline

- Administration (City Manager/Legal) Department
- Finance Department




Budgets

- City Manager/Legal (\$1,059,519)
 - City Manager
 - Assistant City Manager
 - Public Works/Buildings/Airport/Economic Dev.
 - City Attorney
 - City Recorder/Admin. Assistant
 - HR Specialist



Budgets

- City Manager/Legal (\$1,059,519)
 - Added to this department
 - Additional HR work
 - Accessible Legal Advice



Budgets

- Finance Department (\$697,192)
 - Finance Director
 - Senior Financial Analyst
 - Customer Service Representatives (3)



Budgets

- Finance Department (\$697,192)
 - This staff serves the customer service needs of ~6000 accounts.
 - Accounts Receivable/Payable
 - Budget Preparation
 - Grant Administration
 - Credit Card Tracking
- Adding technology options



Questions?

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