

Budget Workshop Minutes May 22 | 2017

City of Center Line
Budget Workshop
Monday May 22, 2017

Budget meeting of the City Council of the City of Center Line, Michigan held on Monday, May 22, 2017 at 6:00 pm in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Present: Council Members Mary Hafner, Ron Lapham, James Reid, Nick Chakur and Mayor Binson. Also present were Dennis Champine, City Manager/Clerk, Mark Knapp, Director of Finance/Treasurer, Heather Hames, Parks & Recreation, Library Director, Gary McKinney, DPW Superintendent, Roger Pinch, Chief Building Inspector, Paul Myszenski, Public Safety Director, Sarah Mistretta, and Human Resource Director.

Absent: None

Mayor Binson led the Pledge of Allegiance

MOTION by Councilperson Chakur, supported by Councilperson Reid to adopt the agenda as presented

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

MOTION CARRIED

AUDIENCE COMMUNICATION

Resident had many comments regarding council – council makes policy, city manager implements. When council has questions regarding vouchers, the city manager shut her down. Concerns regarding DDA – What is DDA – improving facades and grant. Increase in pay was questioned. Mention of increases – not who or how much. \$200,000 for gateway signs. Partial salary coming from DDA.

Another resident stated she sat on the other side of the table for 24 years, knows how things should be run. It took an article in the paper to get everything out. Mayor and Council should know everything all at the same time. Re: DDA Funds – 2010 was the last time a DDA Report was done. Need stricter reporting on how monies are being spent. City Manager does not have authority to make decision for DDA. Violations of city charter. Very upset as to how things are being handled. Top heavy administration. Many new jobs created

Another resident commented DDA use of Van Dyke improvements.

Also comments regarding HR Director – how did we get to that point? How was that position created?

Budget Workshop Minutes May 22 | 2017

Another resident stated 35 years as city employee. Per contract, retiring employees get benefits when retiring – contracts were in place for retirees. Retirees cannot afford changes in prescription plan. Retirees devoted their lives to the city, cannot afford to pay. All that the city needed to do was contact the retirees and set up an appointment to discuss the changes.

Need additional DPW Workers – Safety of workers, more personnel. When are you going to replace the ones that retired?

Mayor

Reason for this meeting is because budget is not approved yet. Much discussion regarding the budget – there were a series of budget meetings.

In regards to the office/clerical contract negotiations – agreement of a lump sum payment that was approved, some council members heard different things – clerks were pushed into contract.

Several items are discussed at the council table.

HR Director needs to look into – have employees contact their union rep to get the contract reopened. Questions came up about the POAM Contract. Mayor asked HR Director to talk to clerical staff regarding their contract.

DDA Financial Report – needs to be check into, is the report being sent/done. Questions about money being taken back by the state. Cm explained in great detail what legislative is trying to get cities to do with DDA funds. This is in discussion only – about funds being used.

Mayor believes that there was a resolution making the City Manager the DDA Director. City Manager's in the past have been the DDA Directors.

Speculation regarding Gateway Signs – student from the high school came up with the design.

Council approved the design for the gateway signs. RFP for bids – bids came in under \$100,000 for 4 signs. DDA still has to approve.

Mayor wanted to make it perfectly clear, as far as the actual budget – 1st time he saw it. – There was no discussion between him and the city manager prior to meeting.

After much discussion with Mayor and council the following motion was made:

MOTION was made by Council Member Hafner to rescind the raise of the city manager, director of public safety and the treasurer, pull their raises because they could be done through evaluation and at a later date they could be evaluated and then be given a raise as it should be done. Council Member Lapham supported.

After discussion, the Mayor called for a roll call vote:

Hafner Aye

Lapham Aye

Binson Nay

Reid Aye

Chakur Nay

MOTION CARRIED Vote 3-2

After further discussion of raises to the Deputy Clerk and Deputy Treasurer the following motions were made:

Budget Workshop Minutes May 22 | 2017

MOTION by Council Member Lapham to increase the Deputy Clerk by 4%, Reid feels she deserves more than 4%, 6-8%, she does a lot.

MOTION by Council Member Reid for 6% increase for the Deputy Clerk, supported by Council Member Chakur – Chakur called for a roll call of votes:

Hafner – Nay
Lapham - Aye
Binson Aye
Reid Aye
Chakur Aye
MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Council Member Lapham to increase the Deputy Treasurer by 4% - Hafner said 6%. Council Member Lapham - Mary made the motion for 6%, I'll drop the motion of 4%.

MOTION by Council Member Hafner, for a 6% increase for the Deputy Treasurer supported by Council Member Lapham. A roll call was requested:

Hafner Aye
Lapham Aye
Binson Aye
Reid Aye
Chakur Aye
MOTION CARRIED

Mayor – My only question is why we could not have done that with the others and had a budget All other raises for the dept. heads stayed the same

Mayor – it was discussed about DPW needing somebody else and it not being in the budget
Council Member Chakur – I guess like Public safety – we make a motion for him to hire one more – maintenance 1 person

After discussion with the DPW Supervisor

Hafner had a question about the \$5,000 MERS defined benefit, per the Mayor – will be discussed after we finish with DPW.

MOTION by Council Member Chakur, to hire 1 new person for DPW at Maintenance 1 level, supported by Council Member Lapham to hire a new full time employee for DPW

Ayes 5
Nays 0
MOTION CARRIED

Budget Workshop Minutes May 22 | 2017

Discussion of Defined Benefit contributions – Hafner does not agree on vestment time. That is what was approved by council. Will have previous minutes pulled to verify what was approved.

Treasurer questioned council – wanted verification that the raises for the city manager, public safety director and treasurer are frozen at this time

MOTION by Councilmember Chakur, supported by Councilmember Reid to change the Humana Insurance option #2 5/5/5/

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Councilperson Reid, supported by Councilperson Chakur to adjourn at 9:00PM

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

Dennis Champine
City Manager/Clerk