



CITY OF MERRILL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES • FRIDAY OCTOBER 16, 2015

Budget Session

City Hall Council Chambers

8:00 AM

I. Call to Order

Mayor Bialecki called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Chris Malm	Aldersperson - First District	Present	
Pete Lokemoen	Aldersperson - Second District	Present	
Ryan Schwartzman	Aldersperson - Third District	Present	
Kandy Peterson	Aldersperson - Fourth District	Present	
John Burgener	Aldersperson - Fifth District & President	Present	
Dave Sukow	Aldersperson - Sixth District	Present	
Rob Norton	Aldersperson - Seventh District	Present	
Tim Meehean	Aldersperson - Eighth District	Present	
Bill Bialecki	Mayor	Present	

Also in attendance: City Administrator Dave Johnson, Transit Director Rich Grenfell, City Attorney Tom Hayden, Utility Superintendent Kim Kriewald, Street Commissioner Richard Lupton, Enrichment Center Director Tammie Mrachek, Police Chief Ken Neff, Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Darin Pagel, Fire Chief Dave Savone, Library Director Stacy Stevens, Information Technology Manager Ron, Turner, Finance Director Kathy Unertl, Parks and Recreation Director Dan Wendorf, Maintenance Supervisor Nick Wszalek, Greg Hartwig, Mike Drury, Tadd Wegner, Patrick Glynn, Duane Pfister and City Clerk Bill Heideman

II. Public Comment Period

There was no public comment.

III. Presentation & consideration of Carlson-Dettmann Compensation Study

Representing Carlson Dettmann Consulting, Patrick Glynn gave a presentation on the compensation study that Carlson Dettmann conducted for the City.

Motion (Meehean/Schwartzman) to approve the compensation study, as presented, including the appeal process, and forward it to the Common Council. Carried.

IV. Update on 2015 fiscal status and future challenges/recommendations

Mayor Bialecki announced a recess at 9:14 A.M. At 9:25 A.M., he called the meeting back to order.

Finance Director Unertl gave a presentation on the City's current fiscal status, future challenges and pending recommendations.

V. Consideration of 2016 Budget Requests:

1. General Fund/Tax Levy Supported

City Administrator Johnson stated that the compensation amount for alderpersons should be increased. He suggested a minimum of \$200 more per month.

Alderman Lokemoen and Alderman Sukow responded that they see no need for an increase at this time. Alderman Norton remarked that he would prefer that the money for a pay increase be put into the General Fund. Alderman Schwartzman stated that an increase in pay might attract more candidates.

City Administrator Johnson will conduct research on surrounding municipalities to determine compensation levels for alderpersons in those municipalities.

Motion (Sukow/Norton) to increase the hourly wages for all election officials by \$1. Poll workers hourly wages would go from \$9 to \$10, chief inspector assistant's hourly wages would go from \$9.50 to \$10.50 and chief inspector's hourly wages would go from \$10 to \$11. Carried.

Motion (Lokemoen/Schwartzman) to include a maximum of \$25,000 in the 2016 Budget for the purchase of a vehicle for the Building Inspection department. Carried.

Motion (Meehean/Norman) to delete the "City Hall - Stucco Painting funding (\$25,000) from the 2016 Capital Budget. As an alternative, pressure washing will be handled as a 2016 building maintenance expense. Carried.

Motion (Schwartzman/Meehean) to move the Fire - Utility Vehicle (\$60,000) and the Fire Radio Replacements (\$180,000) from the 2016 Capital Budget to the 2017 Capital Budget, and approve the remainder of the Fire Department 2016 Capital Budget. Carried.

At 11:30 A.M., Mayor Bialecki announced a one-hour lunch recess. He called the meeting back to order at 12:30 P.M.

Alderman Lokemoen stated that he was not in favor of including the creation of a Fire Department Administrative Assistant position in the 2016 budget. He is not in favor of creating positions, based on the fact that Street Department has lost several positions. Alderman Norton replied by stated that the Fire Department should be given a minimum of one half-time Administrative Assistant at this time.

Motion (Lokemoen/Meehean) to remove the funding for a part-time Fire Department Administrative Assistant. Motion failed.

Motion (Meehean/Norton) to establish the position of Public Works Director. Carried.

Motion (Meehean/Norton) to delete the Stange's Park - Restroom (\$175,000) from the 2016 Capital Budget. Carried.

Motion (Lokemoen/Schwartzman) to delete the Stange's Park - Tennis Court Rehab (\$25,000) from the 2016 Capital Budget. Carried.

Motion (Meehean/Norton) to delete the Flower Watering Pickup Truck (\$5,000) and the Broom - Lawn Tractor (\$5,000) from the 2016 Capital Budget and instead fund them from the timber sales reserve fund. Carried.

Motion (Sukow/Burgener) delete the Tandem Alex Trailer (\$8,000) from the 2016 Capital Budget and instead fund it from the timber sales reserve fund. Carried.

Motion (Schwartzman/Peterson) to increase the allocation for the Merrill City Band in the 2016 Budget from \$13,000 to \$13,875. Carried.

Motion (Lokemoen/Peterson) to delete the Sidewalk/Path - 10' Wide (\$75,000) from the TID #3 - East Side section of the 2016 Capital Budget. Carried.

Motion (Lokemoen/Malm) to delete the "Pocket" Park Project (\$100,000) from the 2016 Capital Budget. Roll call vote resulted in a 4 to 4 tie. Voting No - Schwartzman, Peterson, Sukow and Meehean. Mayor Bialecki broke the tie by voting No. Therefore, the motion failed.

Motion (Meehean/Sukow) to reduce the funding for the "Pocket" Park Project from \$100,000 to \$90,000. Roll call vote resulted in a 4 to 4 tie. Voting Yes - Schwartzman, Peterson, Sukow and Meehean. Mayor Bialecki broke the tie by voting Yes. Therefore, the motion carried.

Motion (Lokemoen/Meehean) to eliminate all instances of "Waterfront Planning" funding in the 2016 budget. Carried.

Alderman Meehean requested that the record indicate that there is no funding for the River Bend Trail in the 2016 budget.

2. Utility - Landfill, Water and Sanitary Sewer

See General Fund/Tax Levy Supported section.

3. Tax Increment Districts (TIDs)

See General Fund/Tax Levy Supported section.

4. Infrastructure

See General Fund/Tax Levy Supported section.

5. Future Capital Plan Items

See General Fund/Tax Levy Supported section.

VI. Next steps/meetings on 2016 Budget and Proposed Borrowing

The next Committee of the Whole meeting was tentatively scheduled for November 10th, the same evening as the next regular Common Council meeting.

VII. Adjournment

Motion (Burgener/Schwartzman) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 3:34 P.M.