

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DIXON, ILLINOIS
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL
MONDAY - APRIL 26, 2010
6:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL

The Council met in Budget Session on Monday, April 26, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Burke and roll call was answered by Commissioners Blackburn, Bridgeman, Contreras, Kelly and Mayor Burke.

BUDGET WORK SESSION

Mayor Burke turned the meeting over to Commissioner Bridgeman. Commissioner Bridgeman stated he appreciates the cuts that were made, which totaled approximately \$1.5 million. He stated he met with Rita Crundwell and the decision to go with tax anticipated warrants was made. Commissioner Bridgeman advised that since the City is short on the monies owed to us by the State, this is our alternative but we will be paying out monies in interest. He also advised that the State and Federal governments have not cut back on any of the unfunded mandates posed to us. He then stated the City's goal is to prevent employee layoffs, which further cuts on budget items will help this, and there will be no replacement of employees. Commissioner Bridgeman then stressed to all department heads to be careful on future spending. Commissioner Bridgeman advised there has been good economic news such as profits for corporations are better than expected and jobs are being advertised. He also advised that car sales have been good, which, in turn, helps the City's income.

Commissioner Bridgeman then opened up the session for questions. Commissioner Contreras asked if an extra man for the Street Department was budgeted. Commissioner Bridgeman advised no more additional personnel, as it could be less. He also stated we must be careful on cuts on items that bring in revenue for the City.

At this time, Commissioner Bridgeman made a few statements for the media to assist on getting to the public. First, he advised that the Riverfront project is not an expense for the City. This project is through grant monies and private donations. Secondly, he stated a TIF district is not an increase in taxes, whereby the monies goes toward improvements for that specific area. Commissioner Bridgeman explained to the media the TIF district distribution is through a valuation increase.

Commissioner Bridgeman explained that we have to negotiate contracts, pay insurances and dues. He also advised water rates are going up for water and sewer areas, which these increases were passed by ordinance several months ago.

Commissioner Bridgeman advised he does not want to worry employees with layoffs. He advised that summer help would be at a minimum. He advised the department heads to look at every line item in their budgets and compare to it last year's figure.

Commissioner Contreras spoke on the Street Department's request of a new curb machine. He stated that since there is no budget for new curbing, this request could be deleted. Commissioner Bridgeman advised that the City could plan for this in the future. He also advised the capital equipment monies have been used up.

Commissioner Bridgeman stated safety of the public is a huge factor whereby the police and fire departments will have more calls this year, meaning more overtime to be paid out, as well as overtime for the street department for plowing.

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BUDGET WORK SESSION (CONT'D.)

Commissioner Bridgeman requested each department take their budgets and go back to last years amount for each line item and if the current year's figure is higher, there must be an explanation given. He also advised there are many items we have no control over such as the monies spent on chemicals for the water wells.

Commissioner Contreras added that new gas and diesel pumps would be required this year at the Street Department. Commissioner Bridgeman requested they get good estimates. Police Chief Langloss advised the City is doing a lot of business at DND and spending a lot of money on gasoline. Commissioner Blackburn suggested we request more monies from Lee County as they have asked for more from the City for dispatching.

At this time, Commissioner Bridgeman advised new budget figures should be back to Rita by May 7th and the next Budget Session will be Monday, May 10th at 6:00 p.m. He lastly added that if anyone has any ideas to please call him, Shawn or Rita.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Bridgeman moved that the Special Council Meeting of Monday, April 26, 2010 be adjourned to meet in Special Session on Friday, April 30, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Voting Yea: Commissioners Blackburn, Bridgeman, Contreras, Kelly and Mayor Burke. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Kathe A. Swanson, City Clerk