

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DIXON, ILLINOIS
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL
MONDAY - MARCH 31, 2008
6:30 P.M.

ROLL CALL

The Council met in Budget Session on Monday, March 31, 2008 at 6:30 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 Bridgeman, Contreras, Kelly and Mayor Burke. Absent was Commissioner Blackburn.

PLACE ON FILE – ORD. – ISSUANCE OF
\$6,500,000 DEBT CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2008

Commissioner Bridgeman moved that an Ordinance authorizing and providing for the issuance of \$6,500,000 Debt Certificates, Series 2008 be placed on file until the next regularly scheduled Council Meeting of Monday, April 7, 2008. Discussion followed. Commissioner Bridgeman explained this is to cover expenses for major projects. Mayor Burke asked at what rate the City will be charged and Commissioner Bridgeman stated 4.05%, which is less than the last monies borrowed. After no further comments, the Mayor called for the vote. Voting Yea: Commissioners Bridgeman, Contreras, Kelly and Mayor Burke. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF STREET DEPARTMENT STREET SWEEPER

Commissioner Kelly moved that the Street Department Superintendent be authorized to purchase a new Street Sweeper. Discussion followed. Commissioner Bridgeman advised the current sweeper is 13 years old and the repairs would cost as much as purchasing a new one. After no further comments, the Mayor called for the vote. Voting Yea: Commissioners Bridgeman, Contreras, Kelly and Mayor Burke. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

BUDGET WORK SESSION

Mayor Burke turned the meeting over to Commissioner Bridgeman. Commissioner Bridgeman thanked everyone for mostly turning in the same figures on their budgets as last year. He advised the current deficit is \$1,192,086.20, which does not include most salaries increases. He advised the City just received income tax monies from the State for November, 2007. He then stated the real estate tax revenue figures are accurate in the budget and he hopes to have more than a \$50,000 cash-on-hand at the end of the budget sessions. He then advised if anyone has any major purchases in mind to please see your Commissioner first. Commissioner Bridgeman added that a shortage of funds would cause budgets to be drastically cut, as well as cutting staff. He then stated that gasoline, police overtime, snow removal and salt purchases will be a large factor in the budget this year. Commissioner Bridgeman advised that the local level gets hit the worst as federal cuts get passed down to us. He further explained that unfunded mandates cause budget constraints, such as Traffic Maintenance having to purchase a new signage machine this year. Commissioner Bridgeman advised there will be meetings with the Rural Fire Department regarding annexed properties but does not expect any action this year. He also advised that the Water Department and Wastewater Treatment Plant budgets come from special funds that cannot be transferred. He advised that monies collected from the Fire Department are lower than what we spend, as well as the Cemetery. At this time, Commissioner Bridgeman stated each department's budget would be discussed:

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PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Mayor Burke stated the Assistant City Attorney line item could be cut \$1500. He also advised that the line item for street lighting should be increased \$50,000, as we have no control over electrical costs. Commissioner Bridgeman advised other line items were increased slightly, such as travel and dues and subscriptions. He also advised the Main Street representatives would be at the next meeting to discuss their budget. Commissioner Bridgeman lastly stated this budget is over by \$92,740 from last year.

ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

Commissioner Bridgeman stated his budget is basically the same as last year.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Bridgeman advised that the overtime is an uncontrollable line item. He further advised the telephone line item expense should be lower this year due to the new service. He then advised that three new squads would be purchased due to a rotation process. He lastly advised this budget is slightly over from last year's but does include new salaries for the officers.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Bridgeman asked Chief Rhodes to explain the \$6,000 FEMA Grant line item. Chief Rhodes stated this is the City's 5% share for a Firefighter Assistance Program to purchase a new brush truck, costing \$110,000. He also advised that the Fire Department writes the grants. Commissioner Bridgeman advised this budget contains the new salaries for their personnel, less management salary figures.

STREETS & IMPROVEMENTS

Superintendent Mike Stichter advised the \$135,000 line item for salt is for 780 tons as the City's supply is about empty. He stated the price per ton next year would be \$45-\$46/ton and the current price is approximately \$40/ton. Mike also advised the \$50,000 budgeted for gasoline and oil is due to pricing. He also stated the \$185,848 under new motorized equipment is for the new sweeper (\$152,000) and monies requested for a couple of dump body boxes (\$7,000 each). He also added there is a request for a hot patcher. Commissioner Contreras advised he would like a curb maker machine, the cost being approximately \$70,000. Commissioner Bridgeman added that the city streets are in serious shape for repairs.

BUILDING & ZONING

Commissioner Bridgeman stated this budget remained the same as last year.

PUBLIC PROPERTY

Commissioner Bridgeman stated the \$180,000 for remodeling is for wallpaper and carpeting at City Hall. He also stated the estimated \$25,000 for snow guards on the Public Safety Building are a required item. Lastly, Commissioner Bridgeman advised this budget had an \$11,700 decrease and thanked Commissioner Kelly.

TRAFFIC MAINTENANCE

Commissioner Bridgeman advised the \$16,000 for New Property & Equipment is for the federally mandated new sign machine. Chief Coppotelli advised this cost includes all materials for the machine.

PUBLIC WORKS/ENGINEERING

Commissioner Bridgeman advised this budget is down from last year's.

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AIRPORT

Commissioner Bridgeman advised their budget was just received today and he did not have time to go over it. This will be discussed at the next budget session.

OAKWOOD CEMETERY

Commissioner Bridgeman advised that Shawn has some ideas regarding the maintenance at the Cemetery. He also advised the line item for telephone is up slightly from last year as this is a different telephone service.

WATER TREATMENT

Commissioner Bridgeman stated this budget is mandated costs from revenues received.

EMERGENCY VEHICLE FUND

Fire Chief Dean Rhodes explained the \$75,000 item under ambulance equipment is for replacement of monitors per new State mandates such as external pacing. He stated this is for improvement to patient care.

SEWAGE TREATMENT FUND

Commissioner Bridgeman stated this budget is all monies received from sewer user fees.

Commissioner Bridgeman advised there still needs to be more cuts. He asked that everyone go back over his or her budgets and see where cuts could occur. He then advised the next Budget Session would be Monday, April 14, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. He then thanked everyone again for keeping the spending under control.

At this time, Mayor Burke introduced Mary Hoffman, Lee County Probation Office, who was present tonight to request the City of Dixon to place her summer youths on their Workman's Compensation policy while working on her summer program. Mayor Burke suggested she contact the Illinois Arts Alliance Council, which Mary advised she had, and no assistance was given.

Commissioner Bridgeman stated all cuts should be turned in to Rita as soon as possible.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Kelly moved that the Special Council Meeting of Monday, March 31, 2008 be adjourned to meet in Regular Session on Monday, April 7, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Voting Yea: Commissioners Bridgeman, Contreras, Kelly and Mayor Burke. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.



Kathe A. Swanson, City Clerk