

Council Work Session Minutes
Saturday, May 3, 2007, 9:00 a.m.
Walton Building – Community Room
300 S. Providence Road

Council members present: Mayor Hindman, Chris Janku, Jerry Wade, Paul Sturtz, Barbara Hoppe and Laura Nauser

Absent: Karl Skala

City Manager Bill Watkins and other city staff members were present.

Mr. Watkins stated that today's presentation is broken into three areas: (1) general update – 6 months; (2) FY09 budget priorities; and, (3) review CIP projects.

Lori Fleming, Finance Director, provided an overview of fund types – proprietary funds (enterprise & internal service) and general government funds. She described the differences between the two fund types.

Ms. Fleming indicated that sales tax revenues were down, but the wireless settlements have made up for the shortfall in revenues. She stressed that departments have responded positively to the City Manager's request to delay discretionary purchases. Fleming pointed out that the general fund needs to general \$3-4M in carry forward funding for FY09.

Ms. Fleming explained that 2008 "carry forward" funds would be included in the 2010 budget and that carry forward funds are what we can spend to maintain a 16% general fund balance. .

Ms. Fleming explained that in the general fund only, the Council adopted a policy years ago establishing the 16% general fund balance guideline.

Ms. Fleming reviewed the general fund – forecast and pointed out the amount remaining to get to 16% is \$335,000. She pointed out that Council has discretion in two areas – personnel services and capital additions.

Mr. Watkins pointed out that we committed to hire 3 additional fire fighters to open Station 9 (Blueridge/Providence) which is currently being designed. Chief Markgraf explained that two areas being reviewed for future fire station sites include Stadium/I-70 and Broadway/63.

Mr. Watkins stated that the architect has updated the cost estimates for the Blind Boone Home and the exterior costs only are approximately \$300,000.

Mr. Watkins reviewed the budget process. He stated that the CIP is a list of needs and is not resource constrained. He restated the two areas Council has most discretion over and can have biggest budget impact are personnel and capital.

He stated that the budget process includes presentations to Council from the CVB Advisory Board, Cultural Affairs Commission, Community Services Advisory Commission, CDBG, and the newly formed Public Communications committee.

Mr. Watkins indicated that the CIP and water ballot issue would be discussion topics in July followed by budget work sessions in August/September.

The Council communicated their ideas for community priorities:

- City Manager Original Budget – 1-1.5% reduction - approx. \$750,000 Unallocated (GF: All departments); May get budgeted back into city departments – Council discretion
- Increase “Council Reserve”
- Identify Council priorities & incorporate into City Manager’s budget
- Schedule May work session and follow-up at retreat (June)
- Police Department (task force)
- Blind Boone Home – identify sources of funding
- Youzeum (funding – tourism)
- Increase C.A.R.E. funding
- After school/teen events programs
- Training (increase investment in training)
- Economic Development – comprehensive strategy vs. “singular”
- HR & Finance: neglected – staff positions & level of capability
- Small group engagement project - (pot of money) (facilitator)
- Volunteer Services – Neighborhood Leadership program
- Analysis of what kind of budget commitment to become NLC “family-friendly”
- Allocation of funding to modernize zoning code
- Consideration/discussion of Council pay
- Energy czar – shift to renewable energy/energy efficiency/sustainability
- Long-range land-use planner
- Affordable Housing Planner
- After school programs
- Incubate locally-owned/home businesses
- Employee wages (priority)
- Increase green bldg./energy efficiency
- Mass transit system – review hours of operation to better serve public
- Step up NRT activity
- Natural Resources Inventory
- Emphasize Affordable Housing & Implementation Plan
- Long-range tree plan, as recommended by E/E Commission
- Social service budget
(At Risk Youth, Crime, etc.)
 - analysis of existing funding (outcomes evaluation)
- Emphasize: social service programs:
 - tutoring program
 - safe, after-school tutoring/mentoring learning environment
- B/C budget requests/program priorities

Council then reviewed the street/sidewalk CIP priorities. Mr. Janku’s priorities include: project #28 and #29 be moved up since they are directly linked to two schools; connection on Broadway between Stadium and Fairview – add to design list FY09;

Vandiver/Providence road corridor – high priority. He indicated that he does not want the existing portion of the Bear Creek trail paved.

It was requested that we add to the retreat agenda the GAC program – trails/sidewalks update. Will need to schedule a May work session to further discuss budget.

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 12:30 p.m.