

Ralston City Council Budget Work Session  
Tuesday, September 4, 2018

The Ralston City Council met in special session on Tuesday, September 4, 2018 at 6:23 PM at Ralston City Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll was called with the following present: Mayor Groesser, and Council members Konwinski, Fidelity, Alberhasky, Krause, Sanchez, and Preis. The agenda was available at City Hall for public inspection and posted prior to the meeting. The legal notice for the meeting was published in the Ralston Recorder.

Klinker said the meeting is subject to the Nebraska Open Meetings Act and a copy of the Act is posted at the rear of the Council Chambers.

Groesser said the purpose of this meeting is to continue the budget work session. Bohling distributed a revised summary budget spreadsheet. With the donations for the fireworks and the savings on the insurance, adjustments include: \$25,000 for the fireworks, \$30,000 for the Fire Department reimbursement, \$15,000 for the FOP and Police promotions, \$15,000 for a used Parks vehicle, and \$6,000 IT increase. There were no adjustments to the Streets or Sewer Departments and a small adjustment to the Bond Fund due to bonding.

There was a CDBG request from Dairy Queen for remodeling and that amount has been budgeted. The request will have to go through the approval process but has been budgeted.

The amount for the Phase II Environmental Site Assessment agreement with Olsson Associates has been budgeted in the Community Development Fund. The Venue Solutions RFP assistance and new radios for Public Works have been budgeted in the Lottery Fund. The overall adjustments equal approximately \$260,000 and with the 779 turn back money, there should be about \$250,000 in the General Fund.

The arena adjustments include: \$40,000 savings due to the new insurance figures, \$25,000 for the purchase of radios and a \$15,000 increase in advertising. There was a brief discussion on the ticketing firm used by the arena and Forrest said the discussion can be held with Venue Solutions in the future.

Eischeid presented information on the hours and mileage of the 25-year old fire truck, For a diesel engine, it is very hard work on those engines and that is where the miles and hours come into play. Eischeid looked into a leasing option. There would need to be a resolution from the City Council to authorize the leasing. However long it takes to build the truck, the first payment would not be due until a year after the truck is received. The Fire Department currently has an ISO rating of 4. ISO does an audit every three years and an audit is scheduled for next year.

Eischeid commented on the liability and risk of running old equipment. If anyone were to get hurt or die, there would immediately be an investigation and he would be asked why the old truck is in service. Ultimately, it will come back onto the City that it has been brought up multiple times to replace the truck. The cost of a life is a lot more than the cost of an engine.

Alberhasky inquired what would be done with the trucks after being replaced and Eischeid said he will reach out to other departments to see what they would do with their trucks. If the Fire Department kept the truck, they would use it as a funeral truck or parade truck.

Groesser said it sounds like there is no impact on the budget this year and suggested Eischeid come up with the numbers and recommendations in the next couple of months. This request could be included in the budget for next year. Eischeid said he could get it spec'd out and the council will have to pass a resolution. Preis said realistically he is a year from getting a truck. Krause commented that the City Council will need to know the amount to pass the resolution and it may be cheaper to bond the truck. There needs to be an analysis done to give a better idea of the actual cost. Krause told Eischeid to get the specifications put together and to get the analysis done indicating the way to proceed.

Discussion was held on ownership of the fire trucks. Preis indicated if the truck is bonded, the City will own the truck until it is paid.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the work session was adjourned at 6:49 PM.

---

Rosemarie D. Russell  
City Clerk

---

Donald A. Groesser  
Mayor