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CITY COUNCIL
BUDGET REVIEW SESSIONS
FEBRUARY 10, 1992
CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM

City Council budget session was called to order at 4:30 PM. Present were Council Members Fitzgerald, Phillips, G. Gray, D. Gray, Moench, and Freese. Also present were City Administrator A.J. Johnson and Finance Director David Casstevens.

The first item for review was Park and Recreation maintenance. Questions were asked concerning the construction of the proposed greenhouse. It was noted that the greenhouse will be completed by June 30, 1992, or the material that has already been purchased for its construction will be sold at auction.

This was followed by discussion of Park Maintenance. There was discussion concerning the dredging operation at the lagoon in Weed Park. Council also took action to reinstate \$700 from the budget which had been cut for a lagoon aerator.

There was also discussion concerning the downtown planters and the possibility of a "adopt a planter" program. City Administrator stated he felt there was already a program such as this but would check for sure. There was also a question as to the cost that may be associated with fencing on Isett Avenue next to Oak Park. Discussion then turned to the swimming pool operations which are comprised of Weed Park swimming park (outside) and the Carver Swim Center (inside). There was discussion of whether or not we could phase out our involvement in the Carver Swim Center. Council was concerned about the amount of money paid each year and the poor level of service we receive from the school, especially in scheduling.

There was discussion concerning participation in the Carver Swim Center which lead to a discussion concerning the DARE program at the Police Department. The individual participating in the DARE program at this time is a certified teacher and we were looking at how we may be able to receive funding from the Carver Trust to support this program.

Conversation continued concerning recreation activities. It was noted that the recreation side of Parks and Recreation generated fees from users. The fees do not cover all the costs associated with the programs but cover a great deal of them. The fees are

also structured to allow everyone in the community to participate regardless of income.

The next discussion turned to wellness activities. It was noted that the Wellness activities are now covered by Parks and Recreation administration with a new employee being added last spring.

The final discussion under this entire area was cemetery operations. There was discussion concerning the need of increased promotion of our services available to the public and also discussions concerning the use of temporary/seasonal people hired through temporary agencies. There was also discussion concerning how much room was left at the cemetery versus our competitor, Memorial Park.

The discussions then turned to Community Development administration. It was noted that if the City is not successful in obtaining its grant for the Community Development Block Grant program for the East Hill project, the City would have to take a hard look at laying off some people from this area. Approximately \$60,000 will be generated through administrative fees if the grant is approved.

The discussion then turned to Building and Zoning administration. There was discussion concerning the type of paperwork generated through the inspections of various projects ongoing. There seemed to be a concern about the lack of follow-up on some projects that members of Council had personal experience with. There was also concern to make the system more responsive with an aggressive callback procedure to keep track of activities. A question was raised as to whether or not a resident engineer on a project negated our inspection services or made for them to be less.

Council then began discussion of the Public Works administration. There was also discussion of the engineering operations as well. This was followed by a discussion of Roadway Maintenance and the concept of privatization for certain activities. There was a question as to the cost per linear foot versus what we might get done in privatization for the Curb and Gutter Program. A question was raised as to why the staff felt Hershey had to be completed from Clinton all the way to the bypass, why not just a portion of it in connection with the transfer station.

Traffic Control and Snow and Ice were then reviewed. It was noted under Snow and Ice that the City may want to look more at using cinders and salt versus just salt to help cut down on the cost. There was also question as to the cost associated with the rotating plow/directional. Final discussion concerned street cleaning. A question was raised as to the life cycle of a street cleaning vehicle.

Under general discussion, there was a question as to whether or not the city could identify property within the city limits which the city owned but had no further use of and could make available to individual citizens. They thought this would help the city get rid of unwanted property, put property back in the tax rolls, and eliminate maintenance costs.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'A.J. Johnson', written in black ink.

A.J. Johnson
City Administrator