

City of Cosmopolis
Workshop
November 6, 2013

Mayor Vickie L Raines presided.

Councilmembers Present: Jonathan Fischer, Carl Sperring, Frank Chestnut, Jim Ancich and Debbi Moran

Staff Present: Finance Director Kathy Welch, Attorney Stephen Hyde, and Public Works Director Darrin Raines

The Council started a page by page review of the proposed 2014 budget with the exception of the Police and Fire budgets.

Jonathan asked about the animal control budget. Steve said that we have limited animal control, but do respond to dangerous animals.

Darrin said that he hopes to have some donated material from the Lion's Club that we can use in the parks next year. He hopes to be able to hire up to three summer crew.

Darrin explained that he increased the street repair budget from \$25,000 to \$40,000. The beacons for the flashing lights at the school should be working soon. They are in the process of getting their license so they can manage the lights from the shop by computer. He also said that the comprehensive water plan should be done sometime next year. He hopes to be able to supplement the water we buy from Aberdeen with our own water. Jonathan asked if we would need extra expenditures in 2015 to get it up and running. Darrin said the quality looks good and we should not have to do a lot to meet requirements. He said they are figuring how long it will take to recoup our cost.

Makarenko Park will not have enough interest earned this year to fund the maintenance, so the Current Fund will pay the difference. This is the first year that we have had to use the General Fund for the park. Interest rates are anticipated to stay extremely low for the foreseeable future.

The Planning and Community Development has been slightly reduced. Mayor Raines said that her and Darrin have spoken about some options and will let Council know. Darrin said that we might possibly reduce the budget even further.

Darrin said that the cost of liners for the cemetery went up so there is a slight increase in that budget.

The communications costs for Public Works increased slightly, these costs are apportioned out accordingly to the various funds. Jonathan asked if we just took all salaries for crew and divided them out. Darrin explained that they are charged to each fund according to where the crew works. Proprietary funds are charged for only work done in the funds (water and sewer). These funds are funded by rates charged to users and are monitored carefully. Darrin said the pumps at the sewer lift station are getting old and will someday need to be replaced. He explained that the electrical panels will need to be updated soon. Darrin explained that when it is working it is the best system there is, but because it is so old it is getting harder and harder to get replacement parts.

Darrin explained that some of the improvements to Mill Creek Park this year included a new electrical panel so that we can have more outlets and better reliable electrical hookups during events such as the Festival. We would like to try to get funding to resurface the tennis courts; this is not in the budget at this time.

Jonathan said that he did not see any increase for staff, other than police, for salary increases. Mayor Raines said that she typically does that after evaluating the proposed budget to see if there is enough revenue for it.

Debbi asked if Aberdeen was going to raise the ambulance availability fee. Mayor Raines said that normally we would have heard by now if they were going to increase it.

Mayor Raines asked if anyone had any other questions about the budget so far.

Park Planning

Darrin said that Tim Hume, HDR, was present to discuss the proposal, answer any questions and request funding for initial park planning to review our Comprehensive Park Plan with the idea of providing preliminary sketches for park improvements that will be beneficial for soliciting potential park improvement funds. We would develop a more specific plan concurrent with the dam construction and restoration. Money has already been budgeted for 2013 for this and an additional \$8,000 for planning for 2014 has been requested.

Darrin said at the last meeting we had discussed some items that may be funded by flood control money for dam construction. He said that we might be able to use some of the fill material that will have to be removed to improve an area that can be developed for recreation. Tim Hume, HDR, said that we could take advantage of this opportunity. This item is on the regular agenda as Unfinished Business.

Finance Director

Attest:

Mayor