



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
September 5, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 pm.

Present: Mayor: Marty Schneider; Council: Tim Hultmann, Tom Skjaret, Jahn Dyvik, and Michelle Jerde

Staff Present: City Administrator: Scott Weske; City Attorney: John Thames; and City Clerk: Jeanette Moeller

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVE AGENDA

A motion was made by Jerde, seconded by Skjaret, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: all.

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Schneider mentioned that he reached out to Steve Robinson of 2153 Watertown Road because he has had concerns about the road project and how it has affected his driveway. Mayor Schneider reminded him of the ability to discuss with the Council under open correspondence but letter received a text that Mr. Robinson wasn't able to attend the meeting.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Closed Session

A motion was made by Skjaret, seconded by Jerde, to close the open work session meeting at 5:06 pm. Ayes: all. The Council moved into a Closed Session for further discussion of Agenda Item No. 4.

Discuss a Counter Offer for Property Located at 445 Willow Drive (American Tower Corporation Lease)

The City Attorney explained the details of the counter proposal that was put forth by American Tower Corp. Staff felt it was a good offer and the final contract will be worked on for a future Council work session.

A motion was made by Skjaret, seconded by Jerde, to reopen the work session meeting at 5:36 pm. Ayes: all.

2018 Preliminary Levy and Budget Discussion

Staff presented a PowerPoint highlighting the a few basic factors that should be looked at for 2018 budget.

Local Government Aid budgeted to be received:

2017-\$5,085 and 2018- will be \$6,581 which results in \$1,676 increase

Police Contract

2017-\$285,000 and 2018- \$290,700 results in \$5,700 increase

Health Insurance

2017- \$63,425 and 2018- \$69,821 results in \$5,296 increase or 10.09% but Administrator changed base coverage for employees and lowered the increase to \$1,100 or \$64,525 and results as a 1.75% increase with a savings of \$4,195.

Employee Wages

A 2% COLA increase is budgeted for all employees. The 2 public work employees received a 2% increase in the middle 2016 along with a 2% increase in 2017. Most COLA increases in the area are at least 2.5%.

LL History

2006-2009 were 3% increases

2010-2011 were 0% increases

2012 was a 1% increase

2013-2017 have been 2% increases

Area communities such as Orono and Corcoran have done rate studies costing around \$10k, and most employees have received additional adjustments because of being below market rate for pay.

Taxable Market Value

2016-\$2,660,682

2017-\$2,909,771 which resulted in a \$249,089 increase.

2018-\$3,134,773 which results in an increase of \$225,002

Bond Debt Service

2016-\$58,541

2017-\$100,737 which resulted in a \$42,196

2018-\$146,853 which results in an increase of \$46,116

Debt Levy

2016-\$1,064,579

2017-\$1,064,579

2018-proposed \$1,138,223 which results in an increase of \$73,645 (6.9%) which provides a 0% increase in tax level and also \$27,528 surplus as a buffer for 2018.

OTHER BUSINESS

Hanging Plants for Light Poles Downtown

Council member Dyvik mentioned that he is interested in pursuing Council consideration of installing hanging flower baskets in the downtown district once the construction is complete.

West Lakes Community Guide

Mayor Schneider asked the Council if they would be supportive of working with Kristy Pexa of the Laker-Pioneer to include a map of the Long Lake business district in their West Lakes Community Guide publication. The plan would be to use the BDI grant money for reimbursement. Council members were in favor of the proposal.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Schneider adjourned the work session meeting at 6:20 pm by general consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Weske
City Administrator