

**City of Marine City  
City Commission ~ Preliminary Budget Review  
March 26, 2015**

A Preliminary Budget Review of the Marine City Commission was held on Thursday, March 26, 2015, in the Fire Hall, 200 South Parker Street, Marine City, Michigan, and was called to order by Mayor Raymond Skotarczyk at 6:00 pm.

After observing a moment of silence, the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Skotarczyk.

**Present: Mayor Skotarczyk; Commissioners Avery, Hendrick, Lovett, Meli, and Turner; Acting City Manager Tillery; and, City Clerk Baxter**

**Also Present: Mary Ellen McDonald, Finance Director/Treasurer**

**Public Comment**

Bill Danneels, 206 Westminster, brought City of Marine City tax documents from the 1960's and forward and spoke about the multiple ways businesses and homeowners were taxed – sidewalk tax, sewer tax, and road taxes.

**Approve Agenda**

Motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Mayor Skotarczyk, to approve the Agenda, as presented. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

**Approve Minutes**

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to approve the minutes from the March 25, 2015 Preliminary Budget Review meeting, as presented. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

**Old Business**

***Budget ~ 2015/2016***

Mary Ellen McDonald, Finance Director/Treasurer, led discussion on follow-up items from the March 25, 2015 meeting.

Discussion took place of our water plant possibly contracting with the East China water plant, in an effort to reduce operating costs and, therefore, water rates. It was decided the task would be set aside for follow-up by the new City Manager.

### **WATER & SEWER FUND**

A rate increase of 5.15% was discussed, mirroring the increase set last year, which would be an approximate increase of \$60.00 for a family of four.

The need for the rate increase is due to dropped usage and the need for increased revenue for our aging water and sewer systems. Rates from neighboring communities were provided which showed that other communities were charging more for fees which, in turn, would set aside additional revenue for upgrades made necessary by DEQ guidelines.

A ready-to-serve charge, used by the majority of St. Clair County municipalities, was discussed at length with varying amounts suggested. The following charges were decided on by the Board:

- Ready to Serve Water Charge: \$10.00 quarterly
- Ready to Serve Sewer Charge: \$15.00 quarterly

A percentage increase for larger businesses to be determined at a later date.

### **GENERAL FUND**

The following items were discussed, with no decisions made by the Board:

- The need to add back the third shift at the police department, which was removed from the police budget on July 1, 2014. Without this essential shift, only one car and one officer is on duty at any given time, putting citizens and officers at risk.
- Increased Code Enforcement hours.

- Increased hours for Parks & Recreation Director from (2) to (3) days a week and increasing non-resident fees.
- The need for a PA-33 for fire protection services.

## **Adjournment**

Motion by Commissioner Meli, seconded by Commissioner Hendrick, to adjourn the Budget Workshop at 8:11 pm until April 7, 2015 at 6:00 pm. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kristen Baxter*

Kristen Baxter  
City Clerk