

City of Marine City
City Commission ~ Budget Workshop
April 7, 2015

A Preliminary Budget Review of the Marine City Commission was held on Tuesday, April 7, 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, Simpson and Turner; Acting City Manager Tillery; and, City Clerk Baxter

Also Present: Mary Ellen McDonald, Finance Director/Treasurer

Public Comment

No residents addressed the Commission.

Approve Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Turner, 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 26, 2015 Preliminary Budget Review meeting, as presented. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Unfinished Business

Budget ~ 2015/2016

Ken Kingsley, of Tetra Tech, spoke to the Commission about the city's wastewater infrastructure plan and the requirements made by the Department of Environmental Quality. Mr. Kingsley explained that the State of Michigan requires Marine City to have a plan in place to maintain their current assets for wastewater. Mr. Kingsley said the plan will look at what needs to be done within next five years, what is critical and what isn't, what values are assessed and what funds are in the city's capital improvement plan to cover the costs.

At this time, Mary Ellen McDonald, Finance Director/Treasurer, provided follow-up items from the March 26, 2015 meeting, which included a revised general fund deficit of \$158,990.00.

WATER & SEWER FUND

At the March 26, 2015 budget meeting, ready-to-serve water & sewer charges were discussed with the Board deciding to increase residential fees using 5/8" meters. At that time, the Board said they would like to look at a higher increase for ready-to-serve fees for businesses who use more water, have larger meters and, therefore, put more stress on the water and sewer system.

The cost for meters (based on size) was also discussed. It was discovered that meter rates have not been increased for many years and, according to Department of Public Works Superintendent Michael Itrich, the current set meter charges don't even cover the cost of meters. Mary Ellen McDonald to obtain meter rates from local municipalities and present figures to the Board for discussion. In addition, the cost for meters will also be presented and discussed.

GENERAL FUND

After renegotiating a new contract with the City of St. Clair (Channel 6 - CTV) and saving the city \$30,000 annually, Acting City Manager Tillery presented two options to the Board:

- Approve the new contract whereby the City of Marine City would pay the City of St. Clair (Channel 6 - CTV) 50% of their annual franchise fees (in lieu of the 100% previously paid); or,
- Independently film the City Commission meetings and be aired by Comcast.

In addition to the City Commission meetings, Channel 6 – CTV also films and runs Marine City High School football games and local public announcements.

After a discussion, the Board decided to stay with Channel 6 - CTV due to it benefiting the community by offering the City Commission meetings to those who cannot make it to the fire hall, as well as supporting our local championship football team.

Motion by Commissioner Turner, supported by Commissioner Simpson, to approve the contract between the City of St. Clair (Channel 6 – CTV) and the City of Marine City with a franchise 50/50 revenue split. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Skotarczyk, Avery, Hendrick, Lovett, Meli, Simpson, Turner. Motion Carried.

Acting City Manager Tillery made the suggestion that a portion of the \$30,000 annual savings be used to purchase a new public address system and a new head table to house it with an amplifier, sound board and a trough to house the wires. Mr. Tillery said the new set up would increase the professional image of the Board and allow audience members to hear meetings. He estimated the cost of the public address system and table to be approximately \$10,000.

Commissioner Simpson supported the purchase saying that audience member’s ability to hear the meetings has been an ongoing complaint. In addition, he said a more professional image may attract prospective new business owners. No action taken by the Board.

Due to the General Fund budget deficit of \$158,990.00, the need for a PA-33 was discussed. Acting City Manager Tillery said, as a city, we have not been maintaining our infrastructure and we cannot keep “kicking the can down the road” on our capital improvement items.

Commissioner Simpson agreed and said the PA-33 would give the city the tools it needed to deal with the systemic problems that they have been dealing with for a long time and would provide a necessary solution.

No action taken by the Board.

Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Meli, seconded by Commissioner Hendrick, to adjourn the Budget Workshop at 7:56 pm until April 8, 2015 at 6:00 pm. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Baxter

Kristen Baxter
City Clerk

