

**City of Marine City
City Commission ~ Budget Workshop
April 8, 2015**

A Preliminary Budget Review of the Marine City Commission was held on Wednesday, April 8, 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

Charles Seigneurie, 224 N. Elizabeth, thanked the Board and Mary Ellen McDonald for doing a good job with the preliminary budget. He said that community is faced with problems with the city's infrastructure and the city was going to have to "bite the bullet" with a millage increase in order to move forward.

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 April 7, 2015 Budget Workshop, as presented. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Unfinished Business

Budget ~ 2015/2016

WATER & SEWER FUND

Mary Ellen McDonald, Finance Director/Treasurer presented revised meter fees that she and Department of Public Works Superintendent, Michael Itrich felt were the best option for the City of Marine City. The fees mirror the City of Port Huron and will base ready-to-serve fees on meter size. By doing so, businesses that use more water and put more strain on the water and sewer system will pay a higher fee. Combined with the suggested water increase of 5.15%, a family of four using approximately 24 units of water quarterly, will see an increase of approximately \$41.19 per quarter and \$164.76 annually.

Motion by Commissioner Avery, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to accept the water and sewer rate increase and revised fees, as presented. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

GENERAL FUND

Police Department

A discussion took place on whether the police department's third shift (4 pm – 4 am) should be added to the 2015-2016 Budget. Commissioner Avery said he wanted the shift added because it provided necessary coverage during increased activity time. Mr. Avery said we are fortunate to be generally crime free and he would like to keep it that way.

Commissioner Lovett agreed saying that in order to keep our crime down, we need the additional officer on the road. Mrs. Lovett said that the police department is a tremendous force and they should receive all the support we can give them.

Mayor Skotarczyk said the only reason he wouldn't support adding the third shift is because he wanted to soften the blow to citizens with increased water/sewer rates and increased taxes. He said the city has done okay during the past year without the third shift, but agreed that it was a risk having only one officer on the road at a time.

Commissioner Turner said he felt uneasy knowing that the on-duty officer would have to leave town at times, putting the uncovered city at risk. Mr. Turner said he supported the third shift.

Commissioner Simpson said he was conflicted about wanting to soften the blow to the citizens due to safety of home and people within the City of Marine City. He said the third shift would enable the police department to be more proactive in enforcement.

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to include the police department's 4 pm to 4 am shift in the 2015-2016 budget. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Avery, Lovett, Simpson, Turner. Nays: Skotarczyk, Hendrick, Meli. Motion Carried.

Increase Taxes

A 3.045 mils Special Assessment for Public Safety, PA-33, was discussed. The tax increase would balance the budget as well as providing tools to deal with the city's failing infrastructure and equipment.

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Avery, to propose a PA-33 for Public Safety for fiscal year 2015-2016. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Skotarczyk, Avery, Lovett, Simpson, Turner. Nays: Hendrick, Meli. Motion Carried.

Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to adjourn the Budget Workshop at 6:49 pm. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Baxter

Kristen Baxter
City Clerk