

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the Brainerd City Council Budget Workshop was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Council President Bevans.

Members O'Day, Stunek, Johnson, Stenglein, Erickson, Bevans, and Mayor Badeaux were noted as present. Also noted as present were City Administrator Bergman, Finance Director Hillman, City Engineer/ Public Works Director Dehn, Community Development Director Kramvik, Human Resources Director Schubert, Chief Holmes, Chief Bestul, and HRA Director Charpentier. Member Bieser was noted as absent.

2023 Parks Budget Presentation by the Park Board

The Chair recognized Troy Rushmeyer, Chair of the Park Board and City Engineer/ Public Works Director Dehn to present the Park Board Budget. Mr. Rushmeyer thanked staff for all the extensive work on the Park Budget. He stated that the Park Board has been meeting regularly to prepare the budget and masterplan for the parks. Mr. Dehn presented the overview of the Park Department, highlighting the Parks Capital plan and the improvements needed in the City parks. The Park Board requested \$1,905,507 for 2023 which is a 35.34% increase over 2022. Uses for ARPA dollars that are designated to the parks is still being worked out and the master planning of the parks will continue now that City Engineer/ Public Works Director Dehn has come on board.

Member Johnson stated that when \$25,000 is in the budget for trees, that it is an expectation that the Park Board spend it. He asked for clarification on whether the Park Board will continue to ask for such a substantial budget yearly in reference to the \$947,500 in proposed capital expenditures.

Chair Rushmeyer stated that he does not believe Park Board will continue to request such a large budget once projects from the master plan have been executed.

Council discussion took place regarding items in the Parks capital plan.

2023 Budget and Levy Discussion

Finance Director Connie Hillman explained that a city must adopt a budget for at least the General Fund but is not required to adopt a budget for all funds and outlined how a city develops a budget. The discussion of the workshop focuses on the Working Funds (General, Public Safety, Parks, and Streets), debt and capital which are the funds the City needs to levy for operations.

Finance Director Hillman stated that the preliminary budget must be set by September 30th, 2022, with the final budget being set by December 31st, 2022. Finance Director Hillman gave an overview of the proposed budget and levy. The current proposed levy for the proposed 2023 budget is 4.86% increase over 2022. The requested budget levy is \$6,559,982. Ms. Hillman highlighted the various revenue and expense categories, as well as the capital and debt needs for 2023, explaining the assumptions used in the budget and reasons for the changes between the proposed 2023 budget and the 2022 budget.

Finance Director Hillman also gave an overview of possible ways to pay the lawsuit settlement and showed the potential impact to the 2023 levy if the Council chose to levy for part of the settlement.

Council discussion took place.

Council Member Johnson stated that he would be asking the Public Utilities Commission for an interagency loan at the meeting on August 30th.

Council directed staff to meet with Personnel and Finance Chair Johnson and Chair Bevans again to discuss real possibilities for paying the settlement, including removing capital items.

Adjourn

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.



Jennifer Bergman
City Administrator