

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
CITY OF ARCADIA
TUESDAY, MAY 29, 2012
5:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

The workshop session was called to order at approximately 5:30 PM.

Arcadia City Council

Mayor Keith Keene
Deputy Mayor Alice Frierson
Councilman Robert Heine

Councilman Joseph E. Fink
Councilman Robert Allen

Arcadia City Staff

City Administrator Lawrence Miller
Assistant City Administrator Judi Jankosky
City Recorder Virginia S. Haas
Finance Director Jorge Santana

Marshal Charles Lee
Captain Matt Anderson
City Attorney Thomas Wohl

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Santana updated the Council on the General Government figures. He stated that as the budget stands now comparing revenues to expenditures there is a \$336,000 deficit. He continued that if the Council would like to balance the budget without utilizing the reserves many cuts to expenditures will be required.

1. Public Safety 2012/2013 Budget
 - a. Law Enforcement

Marshal Lee began reviewing the law enforcement budget stating that salaries remained the same and regular salaries decreased as some officers left and he and Captain Anderson entered the DROP program. Marshal Lee responded to Councilman Fink that the decrease in line item 10120 is a result of older officers leaving and new officers hired at the base rate. Regarding line item 10130, part time officers were hired to fill the vacant positions. Marshal Lee noted that the worker's compensation line item has decreased due in part to the reinstatement of the safety program. He responded to Councilman Heine that the Police Department utilizes a talented in house Officer to perform routine computer maintenance and repairs resulting in cost savings. Dr. Miller reported that he spoke with Anthony Klene who performs IT work for the City. Mr. Klene is currently utilized on an as needed basis and under no contract with the City. Dr. Miller stated that Mr. Klene is paid \$85 per hour and he asked Mr. Klene to provide him with a list of services he provides the City.

Marshal Lee reported that training is currently at zero because Officers currently complete free web based training. He stated that he was unsure about the postage budget request because of costs for Code Enforcement notice requirements.

In regards to maintenance and repairs to tires, Marshal Lee informed Council that Mr. Steve Underwood located a better deal for the purchase of tires for all city vehicles. He continued that budgets for the retired police dog and books and memberships now stand at zero.

Deputy Mayor Frierson noted that if you removed the police salaries that the budget presented is very lean. Mayor Keene stated he has worked with various entities on budgets and have seen where cuts may need to result from eliminating positions. He asked Marshal Lee how he

would feel if some positions were eliminated. Marshal Lee responded that the Police Department has been eliminating at least two to three positions each year and he is working in the field backing up Officers. He noted that in an extreme situation Officers would have to be called in and paid overtime. Deputy Mayor inputed that in addition response time would be effected. She explained the great response time at her business and home. Marshal Lee explained currently the department employs 17 full time officers, two part time officers and one volunteer Officer Mr. Mike Waller. He responded to Dr. Dixon that Mr. Waller completed the Police Auxiliary Program and has all powers except arresting. Dr. Dixon pointed out that Officer Joey Santos was very professional on Saturday however noted there were problems with the Code Enforcement Officer. Dr. Dixon reported that according to the City's population and the ratio of 2.5 Officers per thousand population, the Police Department could be operating with 14 Officers. He explained his concern with the full time Code Enforcement Officer with benefits and wasting gas to enforce the codes he felt randomly.

Mayor Keene welcomed County Commissioner Judy Schaefer and Mr. John Super.

Mr. Santana stated that after hearing the total number of Officers that the payroll numbers may require adjustment to reflect the total number of Officers, support staff and part time positions. Captain Anderson agreed to meet with Mr. Santana to review current staff and budget.

b. Fire Control

Mr. Santana stated that \$620,000 is paid annually to the County for fire services and offered a suggestion that should the City wished to extend the agreement four more years the annual cost would be reduced to \$310,000. Mr. Santana responded to Deputy Mayor Frierson that if the City could re-negotiate the contract that would be ideal however if not, a potential extension would assist in the budget constraints.

Mr. Santana reported that Department Heads will be requesting certain items not listed which has increased the budget substantially. Dr. Miller explained that the City owns aged equipment especially in the Streets Department. Mr. Cordes will be requesting a burn device in the amount of \$64,000. Currently the City pays \$96,000 in landfill fees to dispose of trees, brush etc. The new machine could easily pay for itself and also used to generate money for the City. Mr. Santana replied to Councilman Fink that payments for fire services drops annually approximately \$47,000 and if the remainder of the contract was paid that would be 2.2 million depleting reserves. Councilman Fink stated that if the city did not have a fire or police department the county would have to serve the citizens at the current rate. Deputy Mayor Frierson responded that the County is required by contract to build a new fire station within the city limits. Councilman Fink asked where the county would get the money to build the new station. Councilman Heine responded the money would come from taxes and the City. Mayor Keene asked what it would take to engage the county in negotiations of the current contract.

Dr. Miller stated that Chief Prescott would like to meet with Council to review new procedures for fire inspections and asked if a workshop would be in order. The Council agreed to schedule a workshop to discuss fire inspections on June 5, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.

c. Vehicle Grant – this grant is expired, no funds this budget.

d. COPS – CHRP Grant

Mr. Santana reported there are two officers under grant programs. The COPS grant position for a total of \$52,259 and the VOCA grant position in the amount of \$41,530.

Marshal Lee stated the budget presented is true and no additional money has been requested. He stated that the COPS Grant is extended for an additional year which is a \$31,000 matching grant.

- e. Rural Investigator Grant – Grant expired
- f. Police Cars and Equipment – Grant expired
- g. Victims of Crime

Marshal Lee stated the Victims of Crime is a matching grant totaling \$41, 530.

- h. Anti-Drug Grant

Marshal Lee reported \$12,000 grant funding for various equipment.

- i. School Crossing Guards

Marshal Lee stated there are four school crossing guards budgeted for next year that are reimbursed by the School Board. Dr. Miller requested a copy of the agreement with the School Board. Dr. Miller will speak with School Board Superintendent Adrienne Cline regarding reimbursement of funds for the four school crossing guards.

2. Political Signs (Mayor Keene)

Mayor Keene reported that he received several calls regarding political signs and stated his support for the current sign ordinances. Councilman Heine agreed. Councilman Fink stated that after reading the current ordinance he agrees and in other jurisdictions signs are not allowed on City property. Deputy Mayor Frierson stated that she is in favor of political signs because they stimulate and encourage voter turnout. Councilman Fink asked Attorney Wohl about amending the code to allow for special variances. Attorney Wohl replied that the code could be amended however you do have state and federal laws which regulate signs in the right of way due to public safety issues. Attorney Wohl stated that there are ways to regulate or limit signs however the current Ordinance only addresses political signs. He advised that the code as written is specifically categorizing political signs from other commercial signs which could be seen as discriminatory. Dr. Miller inputted there are currently signs on City property like the Rotary sign. He shared that Mrs. Jankosky pointed out there are other signs that make points regarding issues that could potentially be placed in the right of ways.

Mrs. Schaefer responded to Deputy Mayor Frierson that there is a County Ordinance addressing signs however the placing of signs is so limited that it is unable to be strictly enforced. Mrs. Schaefer stated that the two points mentioned at Memorial High School and the triangle at the entrance to the city she felt was acceptable for signs; however she did not feel signs were appropriate at McSwain Park.

Marshal Lee responded to Dr. Miller that candidates were contacted once the signs were removed and notified they could pick their signs up at the Police Department.

Councilman Fink asked if any of the Council wished to address the sign code. The City Council agreed to leave the sign code as written.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Pastor Mitchell Watson asked if codes were being enforced on overgrown properties located at and near 19 Tillis Street. He stated that snakes, rodents, bobcats, etc. are the result from these overgrown properties and children play in the area.

Dr. Dixon asked for clarification regarding section 34-111 food and beverage permits and stated that section 34-117 specifically exempts charitable organizations from code requirements. In addition, he stated that Florida Statutes 509 (b) excludes churches or non profits from state license requirements and only a health department review is necessary.

Pastor Watson responded to Deputy Mayor Frierson that he felt his church was singled out by Code Enforcement on Saturday. Councilman Fink stated that he was made aware that there was an altercation on Saturday with witnesses as to what occurred. Mr. Wohl responded that he would review the pertinent code and meet with Dr. Miller.

Pastor Watson stated that he was told "The Mayor and Council told me to close you down". Mayor Keene clarified that the Council did state at the last meeting for the codes to be enforced addressing unlicensed business; however he never directed any one person or organization be singled out by the code. The Mayor apologized for the misunderstanding.

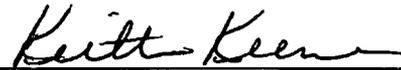
COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

ADJOURN

Having no further business, the workshop was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

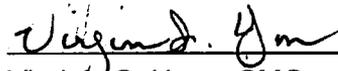
APPROVED THIS 19th DAY OF June, 2012

By:



Keith Keene, Mayor

ATTEST:



Virginia S. Haas, CMC
City Recorder