

**CITY COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION
April 2, 2024**

ATTENDEES: Council members Arsanto, Smith, Bergerson, Anderson, Green, Burbank and Bender.

Also in attendance were Mayor Burkett, City Administrator Brunell, Public Works Director Banks, Fire Chief Skogen and Deputy City Clerk Clark.

Mayor Pro Tem Smith called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

EMS Levy:

City Administrator Brunell and Finance Director Hines prepared a memo and resolution for Council to review with a tool that would generate additional resources to maintain existing service levels, such as a property tax levy lid lift for the current EMS levy. City Administrator Brunell took the time to walk Council through the three different options that has been provided.

Council discussed and agreed they would like this to have the resolution brought forward to a City Council meeting and likes the flat rate option. All Council members agreed as long as this is not going to be passed on to Senior Citizens that are on limited income. Ms. Brunell gave RCW 84.36.38 that would exempt senior citizens and citizens with disabilities that would qualify.

Reserve Policy Draft:

City Administrator Brunell shared that she thinks the city is in a very fortunate position to have a cumulative reserve fund and that the city does not have a lot of debt which is a bonus. The contingency reserve is for unexpected costs such as an emergency that the city did not anticipate at the time of budget and set aside. To move the funds will require a majority vote from Council and whatever amount is approved could be transferred from the cumulative fund to another fund.

The city is currently experiencing a budget shortfall and imbalance in the general fund, which could cause a need for a portion of the cumulative reserve fund. Over the last two years Council has discussed using the cumulative reserve fund for such projects as: expanding city hall, building a splash park, hiring an additional firefighter, hiring a police officer and developing Miller Park. Considerations for Council are with the current deficit. The city will need an additional firefighter and police officer, and the general fund is below the recommended standard.

Council discussed how they will want to use the reserve fund to balance the budget, reestablish general fund or hire additional public safety officers. Council will discuss this further.

Mayor Pro Tem Smith adjourned the City Council Study Session to go into Executive Session at 6:53 PM for approximately 10 minutes to discuss pending litigation. At 7:03, PM Mayor Pro Tem Smith requested 10 more minutes. At 7:13, PM Mayor Pro Tem Smith requested 10 more minutes. At 7:23, PM Mayor Pro Tem Smith requested 10 more minutes.

Council returned from Executive Session and reconvened the City Council Study Session at 7:32 PM

With nothing further, the Study Session was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Courtney & Brunell

City Administrator

*_____
Mayor*

Prepared by: Jessica Clark, Deputy City Clerk